

A Brief Overview of Gender Feministic Linguistics

Qarayeva Mavjuda Yoqubjonovna¹

¹ A teacher at Denau institute of Entrepreneurship and Pedagogy

Abstract:

Feminism - the rights of women with historical experience a broad social movement aimed at. The main purpose of this direction was to expose the patriarchy that ruled in society. The development of the social and material culture of society in the late 60s and early 70s, the gradual emergence of new changes in the life of women, the rights granted to them, as well as the expansion of their activities ensured equal rights for men and women.

Along with class discrimination, the emergence of gender discrimination has led to women's dissatisfaction. This protest is in Europe women in the late nineteenth century, which found expression in the countries of Google reflected in the revolutionary-oriented "*feminist movement*". Proponents of the feminist ideology began to analyze the situation of discrimination against women in society from a broader socio-cultural perspective.

As a result, a new branch of linguistics called "**feminist linguistics**" has emerged. Feminist linguistics was founded by American women in the early 1970s, during which time it spread to other countries. Feminist linguistics has existed in Germany since 1978 and today deals with language and speech issues, the study of characteristic strategies in the speech of women and men.

The works of the following scholars (R.Lakoff "Language and Woman's Place"¹ (Til va unda ayolning o'rni), M.R.Key "Male/Female language"² (Erkaklar va ayollar tili), Tromel-Ploetz "Linguistic und Frauensprache"³ (Lingvistika va ayollar tili), L. Push "Das Deutsche als Manner

¹ Lakoff R. Language and Woman's Place. – New York, Evanston, San Francisco, London: Harper Colophon books, 1975 – P. 3-50.

² M.R.Key, Male / Female Language. - New Jersey, Metuchen, Scarecrow Press, 1975.

³ Tromel-Ploetz S. Linguistic und Frauensprache // Linguistische Berichte. 1978. – P. 186-196.

sprache”⁴ (Nemis tili erkaklar tili sifatida) have been recognized as having played an important role in the development of the ideas of feminist linguistics.

With the general growth of feminist work in many academic fields, it is hardly surprising that the relationship between language and gender has attracted considerable attention in recent years. In an attempt to go beyond "folklinguistic" assumptions about how men and women use language (the assumption that women are "talkative", for example), studies have focused on anything from different syntactical, phonological or lexical uses of language to aspects of conversation analysis, such as topic nomination and control, interruptions and other interactional features. While some research has focused only on the description of differences, other work has sought to show how linguistic differences both reflect and reproduce social difference.

And someone can share an opinion that the feminist language reform movement originated the idea of language rebuilding, though it is not an exact statement. References to gender can be found much earlier, the use of the plural after an indefinite antecedent, for instance (cf. Bolinger 1980). However, they popularized it to wide audiences. For example, Crawford (2004: 228) means that after this social movement "language has been a battleground". Feminist linguists have tried to achieve the language reform, they have struggled for natural gender and denied the generic usage of the masculine. Their effort has been intended to create gender-balanced language. Till that time, "male language was taken as a norm" (Bolinger 1980: 90), Spender (1980: 13) specifies it as "the white man's language". Sexism dated from the 1960s, originated as a parallel to racism. This flow has affected mainly English as a language, not its speakers who actually use and form it. It has opened a lively debate about inequalities between the opposite sexes, it was a sexuality is a wide area of study denoting an individual's sex, gender identity and sexual orientation. Moreover, it also includes the effect of prejudice and discrimination. Sexism is a kind of discrimination led against one sex, usually men against female.

Feminist language reform movement designated three key points which has been put under critique (cf. Curzan 2003):

- ✓ The usage of generic 'he' should be eliminated and exchanged for new expressions (e.g. 'they' or completely new pronouns).
- ✓ Specific female suffixes '-ess' and '-ette' should be left out.
- ✓ There is also a requirement to avoid the use of 'man' referring to all human.
- ✓ beings and replace it by 'person' if possible.

On the same basis, independent organizations have pressured on reassessment of existing language and created new language codes which would reduce sexist expressions. It has involved occupational titles (e.g. 'early man', 'stewardess',

'foreman', 'the fair sex', etc. have changed into 'early human', 'flight attendant', 'supervisor', 'women'), school materials, and partial changes in grammar (primarily nouns and pronouns). It has proved a degree of variability in English.

In contrast, some idioms which contain 'man' are difficult or even impossible to replace, *as one man, man's best friend* for instance.

Plenty of new terms have been introduced, e.g. male chauvinism, date rape, sexual harassment, battered women, feminazi (cf. Crawford 2004). On the contrary, nonsense words such as 'herstory' instead of 'history'⁵, 'malestream' as a parallel to 'mainstream' or 'freshperson' corresponding to 'freshman' has never come into use.

⁴ Pusch L. Das Deutsche als Männer Sprache. Edition Suhrkamp.SV. 1984, – 2015V

Nevertheless, exactly these terms have alerted to a hidden androcentricity⁶ inside English.

Naturally, other main European languages have been also attacked by the language reform, therefore, the starting point began in English due to US feminists (cf. Crystal 2002). By the 1990s, a new influential line, political correctness (PC) has appeared. It emerges from sexism and gender egalitarianism and it is closely wedded to feminism.

The word history is not derived from two English words his+story; rather it comes from Greek words ,historia', from a root meaning 'know (Lakoff 1975: 46).

The expressions "androcentism" or "androcentrity" have been firstly mentioned in Ann Bodinne's article *Androcentrism in Perspective Grammar: Singular They Sex-indefinite He and He or She*. It refers to the opinion that the masculine is superior to the feminine and that there is a tendency to put men's view to the center.

Firstly, it had pejorative connotations, PC was believed to be represented by orthodox members of the far left. Nowadays, as Crystal (2003: 177) states, "political correctness has become one of the most contentious issues on the US socio-political scene in recent years, and attitudes continue to harden". PC is interested also in age, sexual orientation, confession, race, ecology, physical or mental personal development. A non-native speaker must be careful which words to choose. It is totally inappropriate to say 'mentally handicapped', 'disabled people', 'third world countries'. It has become people with learning difficulties' or intellectually challenged; differently abled, and developing countries. A very long way has undergone naming of African-Americans. Negro black Afro-American were its predecessors. We never know when simultaneously used expressions will be redefined. However, PC has not been seen only as a positive issue, critical reactions and opponents have showed shortly after that. For example, Lind (2000) compares PC with Marxism, he calls it cultural Marxism. And he defines its typical features as following: It is a kind of ideology which started on college campuses. PC has developed a philosophy that our history is determined by power where two groups are standing against each other (feminists, Afro-Americans, Hispanics, and homosexuals versus white men, non-feminist women and heterosexuals).

Next features are expropriation (the western society tends to prefer minorities to white people with superior qualifications) and deconstruction (e.g. there is a pressure to rewrite all existing books or texts according to the new feminist principles).

The second half of the 20th century was a turbulent period in the history of human beings. Never before have women been so powerful and gained so much prestige as now. As it has been mentioned several times here, language and society develop hand in hand. Groups which have fought for minority rights (from white men's perspective) have a big share on it. It has helped to uncover social problems which were hidden and started public discussion on them. The derogatory connotation of these groups has disappeared and the western population gets to learn and respect their intentions.

Contemporary grammars condemn generic he as sexist and advises how to rewrite it (cf. Curzan 2003):

- use both he or she, which could be inconvenient if often repeated
- convert the sentence into plural
- try to rewrite the sentence without any pronouns

Some publishing companies, newspaper corporations and other associations have drawn up guidelines which regulate the usage of inappropriate words; some governments have authorised antidiscrimination laws. These changes usually deal with writing, the coordination of every-day speech is going to face a challenge to the future.

Accordingly, Coates (1988) suggests that research on language and gender can be divided into studies that focus on dominance and those that focus on difference. Much of the earlier work emphasized dominance. Lakoff's (1975) pioneering work suggested that women's speech typically displayed a range of features, such as tag questions, which marked it as inferior and weak. Thus, she argued that the type of subordinate speech learned by a young girl "will later be an excuse others use to keep her in a demeaning position, to refuse to treat her seriously as a human being"⁵.

While there are clearly some problems with Lakoff's work - her analysis was not based on empirical research, for example, and the automatic equation of subordinate with weak is problematic - the emphasis on dominance has understandably remained at the Centre of much of this work. Research has shown how men nominated topics more, interrupted more often, held the floor for longer, and so on⁶.

The chief focus of this approach, then, has been to show how patterns of interaction between men and women reflect the dominant position of men in society. Some studies however, have taken a different approach by looking not so much at power in mixed-sex interactions as at how same-sex groups produce certain types of interaction. In a typical study of this type, Maltz and Borker (1982) developed lists of what they described as men's and women's features of language. They argued that these norms of interaction were acquired in same-sex groups rather than mixed-sex groups and that the issue is therefore one of (sub-)cultural miscommunication rather than social inequality.

While some of the more popular work of this type, such as Tannen (1987), lacks a critical dimension, the emphasis on difference has nevertheless been valuable in fostering research into gender subgroup interactions and in emphasizing the need to see women's language use not only as subordinate but also as a significant subcultural domain. Although Coates' (1988) distinction is clearly a useful one, it also seems evident that these two approaches are by no means mutually exclusive. While it is important on the one hand, therefore, not to operate with a simplistic version of power and to consider language and gender only in mixed-group dynamics, it is also important not to treat women's linguistic behaviour as if it existed outside social relations of power.

As Cameron, McAlinden and O'Leary (1988) ask, "Can it be coincidence that men are aggressive and hierarchically-organized conversationalists, whereas women are expected to provide conversational support?"⁷.

Clearly, there is scope here for a great deal more research that

- is based on empirical data of men's and women's speech;
- operates with a complex understanding of power and gender relationships (so that women's silence, for example, can be seen both as a site of oppression and as a site of possible resistance);
- looks specifically at the contexts of language use, rather than assuming broad gendered differences;
- involves more work by men on language and gender, since attempts to understand male uses of language in terms of difference have been few (thus running the danger of constructing men's speech as the 'norm' and women's speech as 'different');

⁵ Coates, J. and D. Cameron (Eds.) (1988) *Women in their speech communities*. Harlow: Longman. Coates, J. (1988). Chapter 6: "Introduction." In J. Coates and D. Cameron (op. cit.) P. 63-73.

⁶ Lakoff, R. (1975) *Language and Woman's Place*. New York: Harper and Row Maltz, D.N. and R.A. Borker (1982). "A cultural approach to male-female miscommunication." In J. Gumperz (Ed.), *Language and social identity*. Cambridge: Cambridge U.P.

⁷ Cameron, D., F. McAlinden and K. O'Leary (1988). "Lakoff in context: the social and linguistic function of tag questions." In J. Coates and D. Cameron (op. cit.). P. 74-93.

➤ aims not only to describe and explain but also to change language and social relationships⁸.

Historical feminology is associated with the creation of women's study, the awakening of social self-awareness, primarily the study of the creativity and status of women themselves and their predecessors⁹.

Feminists fighting to eradicate linguistic sexism and self-justifying men cannot come to an agreement on the following (concerning noun and pronoun):

- ✓ words denoting professional names, including man *fireman, policeman, salesman, mailman* often exchange gender neutral words
- ✓ firefighter, police officer, sales representative, letter carrier so on.

The reason for this is that women are gradually becoming the owners of all these professions rotating. At the same time, the terms of professional positions for women are being changed.

For example: *stewardess- flight attendant, chairwoman - chairman, Anchorperson - also - man, - woman.* Broadcaster usually on television in

charge of a news broadcast. Chairperson - *chairman or chairwoman*. Spokesperson - *spokesman, spokeswoman* - person chosen to speak officially for a group.

O.A. Vaskova Some language in working with lexicographic sources The gender differences of the units are of an enlightening nature.monitors compliance with the principles of political equality.

For example: "Man and mankind are sometimes used to refer to humans in general, including both men and women. However, many people think that this use suggests that women are not included, or that men are more important than women. To avoid causing offence, you can use words and expressions such as humans, human beings, people, humanity, or the human race"¹⁰

According to The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology: Man - 1) human being; 2) adult male O.E, 3) vassal, manservant, 4) husband ; 5) progenitor of mankind.

According to The Concise Oxford Dictionary: Man - 1) *human being*; 2) *the human race*; 3) *human being of specified historical period*; 4) *adult human male*; 5) *husband*; 6) *vassal*.

According to Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary of Current English (1974): Man - 1) *adult male human being*; 2) *human being; person*; 3) *the human race, all mankind*; 4) *husband*; 5) *manservant of valet*.

In general, instead of giving up the general meaning of the word human, human being and person can be used, but my humanity can use it is not possible, because also uses mankind in the general sense criticized by protesting feminists

caused a relatively strong debate, because in modern English, humanity means only humanity. **Here we gave some examples:**

Princess	prince
Clerkess	clerk
Actress	actor
Doctress	doctor
Mistress	master

⁸ Dent.Zimmerman, D. & C. West (1975) "Sex roles, interruptions and silences in conversation." In B. Thorne & N. Henley (Eds.) Language and sex: difference and dominance. Rowley, Mass: Newbury House.

⁹ Пушкарёва Н.Л. От «His story» к «Her story» // Адам и Ева. Альманах гендерной истории. – Санкт Петербург: Алетейя, 2003. – С. 367-389.

¹⁰ Васькова О.А. Гендер как предмет лексикографического описания: на материале фразеологии: Дис. канд.филол.наук. – М., 2006. – 177 с.

Authoress	author
Duchess	dulce
Priestess	priest
Waitress	waiter
Huntress	hunter
Countess	counter
Lioness	lion
Goddess	god
Songstress	singer
Hostess	host
Stewardess	steward

As can be seen, the feminine gender pointer is formed by adding the -ess suffix to the masculine gender pointer-eg suffix to the words.