

The influence of gender on speech behavior

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Annotation. This article discusses the effect of gender differences on the speech of male and female speakers. The article examines various aspects of gender differences in speech, including lexical, phonetic, and semantic. The article is distinguished by the fact that gender differences are manifested in different ways and these aspects can be interpreted in the form of a unified structure on the basis of generality.

Key words: Dialogical speech, Conducting Conversation, Status Positions, Sphere of Communication, Topics of Discussion, Semantic Differences, Phonetic Differences, Lexical Differences

Gender differentiation is a pressing issue because men and women have a whole range of biological, psychological and social characteristics. Dialogue interaction is the most successful object for considering gender characteristics in the field of speech behavior.

Dialogical speech is understood as a special type of speech activity, characterized by situationality, the presence of two or more communicators, usually a quick response, personal orientation or targeting. D. Tannen proposed the following characteristics of female and male speech communication:

- conducting a conversation;

Men and women see the purpose of communication differently. Conversation for men serves as a means of exchanging information. For women, conversation is interaction with the interlocutor. Women tend to pay attention to details because they consider it a sign of interest. For men, on the contrary, this can be annoying.

- status positions;

Men tend to manipulate status; at the beginning of a conversation, they establish their position (usually dominant) and strive to maintain it. Women are characterized by conversations in a close circle or among people with the appropriate social status.

- sphere of communication;

Women will prefer a personal conversation to speaking in public, men vice versa.

- topics of discussion.

Women prefer conversations of a personal nature; they are more inclined to gossip and discuss personal life or appearance. The most common topics for discussion among men: football, politics, stock market conditions. Conducting a personal conversation is not typical for men.

- listening style of men and women.

Men are focused on receiving information; for women it is more important to establish contact with the interlocutor. The study of gender and its relationship with language and speech is aimed at identifying semantic, syntactic, phonetic differences in the implementation of speech acts by women and men. Thus, first of all, it is necessary to outline the line of speech behavior of both sexes, which is often understood by us as a □communicative strategy,□ as well as the rules and norms that they follow or adhere to in a given situation.

Semantic differences

It is considered a generally accepted phenomenon that men make a choice in favor of □communicative cooperation□. From the point of view of sociological knowledge, in the analysis of a woman□s speech behavior, the dominant factor is her status in society, a social group, namely: participating on an equal basis with men in social production, a woman realizes herself in another area related to her special social role as a mother in raising a growing child generations. Therefore,

she, a woman, does not always have the opportunity to fully realize her capabilities and rights, on an equal basis with a man.

Taking into account this non-theoretical, but actual inequality, E. M. Bakusheva believes that this explains some of the "lag" of women from men, not only in terms of professional qualifications and the degree of social activity, but also in the field of linguistic communicative competence. All of the above is due to the following facts:

- 1) low social status does not allow a woman to use the dominant communicative strategy;
- 2) in order to achieve high efficiency of communication, a woman is forced to resort to a more flexible manner of communication, the opposite of dominance, namely: respecting and supporting the interlocutor, carefully convincing him of the correctness and correctness of her thoughts, of the desirability, and not the obligation, of fulfilling her desires.

Consequently, in a specific speech situation, many aspects of gender research are implemented. A clear designation of the status of the speaker makes it possible to explain the reasons for speech behavior in a given situation.

Phonetic differences

To achieve certain goals of communication or a separate speech act, the phonetic aspect is of great importance, because it is the main indicator of the positions of "superiority" and "subordination". As you know, women demonstrate special sensitivity and, so to speak, "sophistication" in the field of pronunciation tendencies. Male speech is mainly characterized by the basic tones of the scales - descending, sliding, ascending. In them, the direction of development of the melody is maintained throughout the entire preterminal section. For female speech, the most commonly used are descending tones with a preceding rise or fall. The sound of their speech is changeable, the use of a combination of elements of different types of scales can be traced - sliding + level, descending with disturbed gradualness + sliding, etc., which is quite explainable by stereotypical ideas about the behavior of women, including speech.

In the article, which is devoted to the linguistic differentiation of men and women, two important statements were made:

- 1) With stable linguistic stratification, men use a larger number of non-standard forms than women;
- 2) In most linguistic changes, women use new prestige forms more often than men.

To prove the first statement, researchers cite several facts:

- Variability of [n] and [ŋ] in unstressed-ing is the most studied characteristic for identifying differences in speech. Men use the colloquial form [ɪn] more often than women;
- Men are more inclined to use non-standard variants (affricates and stops);
- It was determined that school-age boys were much more likely to use stigmatized vowels more often than girls;

However, not only European studies can prove the first statement. W. Labov believed that this factor exists everywhere in isolated, rural societies of Latin America, as well as in large cities in the Caribbean and South American languages.

The second statement has been proven by scientists using the following studies:

The earliest language change was observed in Switzerland.

The study found that women were more likely to use palatalization, aspiration, monophthongization, and diphthongization of the open sounds /o/ and /e/; Further linguistic changes over recent decades have also confirmed these gender differences. Women were ahead of men in New York by raising the sound /ɜh/ to /oh/, as in moving backward /ah/ or moving /aw/ forward;

This situation was confirmed by phonetic changes that took place in the United States. There has been a dramatic increase in the diphthongs /uw/ and /ow/ by women in the Berkeley area;

In two Canadian cities—Vancouver and Toronto—the diphthong /aw/ was promoted among women. Women were again innovators.

However, from the research data, Labov concludes that women can behave very differently in different sectors of society and that there is significant interaction between gender and other social categories.

Thus, the phonological aspect was at the center of U. Labov's research, within which it was found that women prefer to use more prestigious forms of pronunciation, that the frequency of differences in pronunciation between men and women in English significantly decreased with an increase in their social status and level education.

Lexical differences

The speech of men is characterized by the following features: frequent use of terminological and professional vocabulary, a tendency to use jargon and slang, abstract nouns, adjectives defining quantitative and parametric relations, verbs in the active voice. Men are more likely to use neologisms in their speech. However, it has been noted that women also tend to use neologisms and "fashionable" words, but only in everyday speech and not in formal conversation.

According to D. Tannen, men are more receptive to new things in language; neologisms and terms are more common in their speech. A woman's speech can be called more neutral; outdated words and phrases are more common in the vocabulary.

Researchers usually attribute decreased speech to men; it is considered an indicator of masculinity. Women can also use swear words or, for example, terms - this is considered a woman's desire to assimilate into a male team. However, it is known that today the terms have ceased to be specific vocabulary and have become commonly used. This is due to technological progress, Internet influence and the expansion of people's interests.

A woman is more focused on her inner world than a man, which is why the frequency of use of words that touch on feelings, emotions, experiences, and thoughts is high. Women are characterized by a more polite style of speech, adapting to the conditions of the communicative situation in general and the personal qualities of the partner in particular. On the contrary, men tend to use words from a stylistically understated vocabulary (slang, vernacular and jargon), which in turn demonstrates a desire to show "indifferent" masculinity (so to speak, "pseudo-masculinity", since such a tendency is not direct evidence of it) in any communication conditions. Women's speech is replete with emotive sentences, which indicates the emotivity of women's speech, both at the lexical and phonetic levels.

In the speech of men, simple sentences, lexical repetitions, and a large number of verbs are more common. They try to use active voice, simpler and stylistically neutral vocabulary, and, whenever possible, direct word order.

O. Yu. Gukosyants notes the following typical features for "female" speech:

- rhyming adjectives;
- adverbs ending in "-ly";
- use of gerund;
- modal words (clearly, obviously, apparently, certainly, surely, well, only, simply);
- preterite forms of modal verbs (might, could, would);
- evaluative adjectives;
- metaphors;
- partially desemantized intensifiers that contribute to hyperbolization of the statement: awfully pretty, awfully jolly, terribly nice, terribly tired, verbs in the passive voice.

In conclusion, we can say that in male and female speech there are cardinal differences at the grammatical and lexical levels. This is due to the fact that women and men have different conversation styles and they pursue different goals during communication.

Men are more receptive to new things in the language; their speech is characterized by a more frequent use of neologisms, terminological and professional vocabulary, as well as reduced vocabulary. Men rely on facts and rarely use emotionally expressive words.

Women's speech is softer, it contains means that soften the categorical nature of the statement: hedges, appeals, dividing questions, emotionally charged vocabulary. Women's speech is distinguished by correctness and accuracy in grammar and pronunciation.

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