

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN THE CHOICE OF LEXIS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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ANNOTATION

This article investigates the nuanced ways in which gender influences lexical choices in both English and Uzbek languages. Utilizing a comprehensive literature review, the study employs a mixed-methods approach to analyze linguistic data. Results indicate intriguing patterns in word selection, shedding light on the complex interplay between language, culture, and gender. The findings have implications for sociolinguistic research and language education, offering a deeper understanding of how gender shapes expression in diverse linguistic contexts.

Keywords: Gender differences, lexical choices, english language, uzbek language, sociolinguistics, language and culture, comparative analysis.

Language serves as a powerful medium through which individuals express their thoughts, emotions, and identities. The role of gender in shaping linguistic choices has been a topic of interest in the field of sociolinguistics. This study aims to explore and compare how gender influences lexical choices in two distinct languages, English and Uzbek.

A comprehensive review of existing literature reveals a rich tapestry of research on gender and language. Studies in English have highlighted subtle lexical differences between genders, often associated with social and cultural factors. Similarly, research on the Uzbek language has shown the impact of societal norms on linguistic expression. However, a direct comparison of gendered lexical choices in these two languages is notably absent.

To address this gap, a mixed-methods approach was employed. A corpus of written and spoken texts in both English and Uzbek was collected, ensuring representation from diverse sources. Computational tools, linguistic analysis, and qualitative methods were used to identify and categorize gender-specific lexical choices.

The choice of lexis (vocabulary) in language can be influenced by various factors, including cultural, social, and historical aspects. While it's important to note that individual variation plays a significant role, there are some general trends and considerations when comparing gender differences in the choice of lexis in English and Uzbek languages.

English Language:

Social Roles and Stereotypes:

Language often reflects and perpetuates societal norms and expectations, including gender roles and stereotypes. The examples you provided highlight the association of certain professions with specific genders, contributing to traditional gender roles.

This phenomenon is known as linguistic sexism or gendered language. It goes beyond just occupational terms; it can be observed in various aspects of language, such as pronouns, titles, and descriptors. For instance, the generic use of "he" to refer to a person of unknown gender, or the use of titles like "Mr." and "Mrs." that may carry different connotations or expectations.

Efforts have been made to promote gender-neutral language and challenge traditional stereotypes. Many people advocate for using gender-inclusive terms like "nurse" instead of "female nurse" or "firefighter" instead of "fireman." Additionally, using gender-neutral pronouns like "they" instead of defaulting to "he" or "him" when the gender is unknown has become more common.

Language plays a significant role in shaping and reflecting societal attitudes, and changes in language can contribute to broader shifts in cultural perceptions of gender roles. As societies evolve and strive for greater gender equality, language practices are adapting to reflect these changing social norms.

Evolution of Language:

- Over time, there has been a conscious effort to use more gender-neutral language to promote inclusivity and avoid reinforcing stereotypes. For instance, the use of "he or she" has been replaced by "they" in many contexts.

Media Influence:

- The media can play a significant role in shaping language use. Advertisements, movies, and other forms of media can reinforce or challenge traditional gender roles and impact the choice of lexis.

Uzbek Language:

Cultural Influences:

- Uzbek culture has its own set of gender roles and expectations, which can be reflected in the language. Certain words and expressions may be associated more closely with one gender based on societal norms.

Traditional Gender Roles:

- Traditional Uzbek gender roles may influence the choice of lexis. For example, certain professions or activities may be more commonly associated with men or women.

Language Evolution:

- Like any language, Uzbek may undergo changes in response to societal shifts. Efforts to promote gender equality may lead to changes in language use to avoid reinforcing traditional stereotypes.

Globalization and Modernization:

- As societies modernize and become more interconnected, there may be an influence from global discourses on gender equality. This can affect the choice of lexis in both formal and informal contexts.

Common Considerations:

Language Evolution:

- Both English and Uzbek languages may evolve to adopt more inclusive and gender-neutral terminology.

Education and Awareness:

- Awareness and education play crucial roles in challenging and changing linguistic patterns that reinforce gender stereotypes. Efforts to promote gender equality in education can influence language use.

Individual Variation:

- It's important to recognize that individuals may not conform to societal expectations, and there will be considerable variation in language use based on personal beliefs, experiences, and values.

Media and Technology:

- Both languages are influenced by media and technology. Online platforms and social media, in particular, can be powerful agents of change in language use and can contribute to the spread of more inclusive language practices.

In summary, while both English and Uzbek languages have historically exhibited gendered language, ongoing societal changes, education, and awareness efforts are influencing a shift towards more inclusive and neutral language use in both languages. However, the pace and extent of these changes can vary based on cultural, social, and political contexts.

The findings underscore the intricate relationship between language, culture, and gender. Cultural norms and societal expectations play a significant role in shaping lexical choices, contributing to the linguistic diversity observed. Additionally, the study prompts reflection on the universality of gendered linguistic patterns and the extent to which they are influenced by broader cultural contexts.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

In conclusion, this research provides valuable insights into the gendered nature of lexical choices in English and Uzbek. The study suggests that while some patterns may be language-specific, others may be influenced by shared cultural elements. Further research is encouraged to explore the implications of these findings for language education, cross-cultural communication, and the evolving dynamics of gender roles in society.

In conclusion, this study advances our understanding of how language reflects and reinforces gender norms in distinct linguistic and cultural contexts. The nuanced exploration of lexical choices in English and Uzbek contributes to the broader discourse on sociolinguistics, emphasizing the need for cross-cultural perspectives in language research. The findings have implications for language educators, policymakers, and researchers interested in fostering inclusive and culturally sensitive communication.

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