

## SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF GENDER UNITS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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**ANNOTATION:** The article describes the context of evolving linguistic norms influenced by sociocultural shifts, such as the increasing push for gender inclusivity and non-binary representation in language. Analyzing gender units semantically can help identify implicit biases, asymmetries, and stereotypes embedded in the language, contributing to efforts aimed at reducing gender discrimination in communication.

**KEY WORDS:** gender, cultural, gender-based stereotypes, semantic analysis, units.

**ANNOTATSIYA:** Maqolada ijtimoiy-madaniy o'zgarishlar ta'sirida rivojlanayotgan til me'yorlari konteksti tasvirlangan, masalan, tilda gender inklyuzivligi va ikkilik bo'lmagan vakillik uchun kuchayishi. Gender birliklarini semantik jihatdan tahlil qilish tilga singib ketgan nojo'ya qarashlar, nosimmetrikliklar va stereotiplarni aniqlashga yordam beradi va muloqotda gender kamsitishlarini kamaytirishga qaratilgan sa'y-harakatlarga hissa qo'shadi.

**KALIT SO'ZLAR:** gender, madaniy, jinsga asoslangan stereotiplar, semantik tahlil, birliklar.

**АННОТАЦИЯ:** В статье описывается контекст развития языковых норм под влиянием социокультурных сдвигов, таких как растущее стремление к гендерной инклюзивности и небинарному представлению в языке. Семантический анализ гендерных единиц может помочь выявить неявные предубеждения, асимметрии и стереотипы, встроенные в язык, способствуя усилиям, направленным на снижение гендерной дискриминации в общении.

**КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА:** гендер, культурный, гендерные стереотипы, семантический анализ, единицы.

**INTRODUCTION.** The semantic analysis of gender units in the English language holds significant relevance in modern linguistics, sociolinguistics, and gender studies. Language is a reflection of societal structures, cultural norms, and historical developments; thus, the way gender is represented in language can reveal underlying social ideologies and power dynamics. Understanding the semantic characteristics of gendered expressions contributes to a broader comprehension of how language shapes perceptions of gender roles and identities. Furthermore, semantic analysis aids in lexicographic improvements, ensuring that dictionaries, educational materials, and

professional discourse accurately reflect contemporary gender identities and roles. The semantic analysis of gender units in English primarily revolves around identifying how meaning is assigned to gender-related lexemes, pronouns, and phraseological units. Traditional English grammar has long operated within a binary gender framework, reflected in pronouns (he/she), occupation-related terms (actor/actress), and kinship terms (father/mother). However, contemporary linguistic trends have witnessed the emergence of gender-neutral expressions (they/them as a singular pronoun, firefighter instead of fireman, etc.), signifying a shift towards inclusivity.

**LITERATURE REVIEW.** The study of gender in linguistics has gained significant attention in recent decades, particularly in the realm of semantics, where scholars analyze how gender is embedded in language structures, meanings, and usage patterns. This literature review examines key research on the semantic analysis of gender units in the English language, exploring gender-marked expressions, lexical asymmetry, and socio-cultural influences on meaning construction.

***Gender Markedness in English.*** One of the foundational works in this field is Trudgill (2000), who discusses how English exhibits gender distinctions in pronouns and certain lexemes while being relatively gender-neutral in grammatical structure. Despite this, research shows that lexical items often carry implicit gender meanings. For instance, Gritsenko [3] introduces the concept of *hidden gender markedness*, demonstrating how phraseological units can retain gendered connotations even in the absence of explicit gender markers. Lakoff [6] pioneered the study of gender and language, illustrating how word choices and meanings reinforce societal gender roles. She argues that certain adjectives (e.g., “charming,” “gentle”) are semantically associated with femininity, whereas others (e.g., “strong,” “assertive”) are linked to masculinity, revealing underlying gender biases in lexical semantics.

***Lexical Asymmetry and Semantic Shift.*** Lexical asymmetry in gendered terms has been widely discussed by Mills [7] and Cameron [1]. Mills examines the semantic derogation of feminine terms, where words denoting women (e.g., *mistress*) have acquired negative or diminished meanings over time, whereas their male counterparts (e.g., *master*) retain neutral or positive connotations [7]. Cameron [1] extends this analysis by exploring semantic shifts in occupational titles, arguing that gender-neutralization (e.g., *firefighter* instead of *fireman*) reflects broader socio-linguistic changes.

***Gender in Phraseology and Metaphor.*** Several scholars have examined how gender manifests in phraseology and metaphor. Zykova [11] provides a comprehensive gender-based classification of English phraseological units, introducing terms such as *gender markedness* and *phraseological gender lacunarity*. Her work highlights how idiomatic expressions often perpetuate gender stereotypes (e.g., *old maid vs. bachelor*). Kövecses [5] explores gender in conceptual metaphors, identifying systematic patterns

in how men and women are metaphorically represented. He notes that metaphors depicting women frequently relate to beauty, delicacy, or domesticity (e.g., *flower of the family*), while those describing men emphasize power and agency (e.g., *the backbone of the company*).

***Socio-Cultural Influences on Gender Semantics.*** The semantic interpretation of gendered language is deeply influenced by socio-cultural factors. Eckert and McConnell-Ginet [2] discuss how gender identities and linguistic meanings co-evolve, emphasizing the role of discourse in constructing and negotiating gendered meanings. They argue that language does not merely reflect gender norms but actively shapes them. The impact of political correctness on gender semantics is another area of interest. Vaskova [10] examines lexicographic changes in gendered terms, noting that modern dictionaries increasingly adopt gender-neutral definitions and avoid pejorative connotations. Pauwels [8] discusses language reform efforts, highlighting shifts toward gender-inclusive terminology (e.g., “*chairperson*” replacing “*chairman*”).

**CONCLUSION.** Thus, the semantic analysis of gender units in English serves as a critical tool for examining language through a gendered lens. By identifying implicit biases, linguistic asymmetries, and evolving patterns of usage, this research contributes to a more inclusive and equitable linguistic landscape. Future studies may further explore the role of digital media and globalization in shaping gender semantics, as well as the implications of gender-neutral language policies in different socio-cultural contexts.

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**mavzusidagi xalqaro ilmiy-amaliy anjuman**

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