

LANGUAGE AND GENDER HANDOUT

1. What do you know about **language and gender**? Brainstorm some ideas.
2. What are the **three constructions** of gender?
3. Who proposed the **DOMINANCE THEORY** and what does it state?
4. What does the **CROSS-CULTURAL MISCOMMUNICATION APPROACH** state?
5. What are some of the examples of **sexist language**?
6. What does some of the research into **classroom interaction** point to?
7. Vocabulary: brainstorm **insult terms** that are used **for men only**, insult terms that are used **for women only**, and insult terms that are used **for both men and women**
8. Complete the following **definitions**:
_____ : terms used to represent males get equal usage and scope of use as terms used to represent females, e.g. horse (adult generic), stallion (adult male), mare (adult female)
_____ : terms used to represent males and females DO NOT get equal usage and scope of use, e.g. human (adult generic), man (adult male and human generic), woman (adult female)
_____ : terms **without** specific endings used for males or females, e.g. waiter
_____ : terms **with** specific endings for males and only females, e.g. waitress
_____ : a word that is normally positive takes on a negative connotation in specific situations (especially for women), e.g. bachelor vs. spinster
_____ : strategies and words that we use in order to decrease the power of what we're saying, e.g. hedging (sort of), modals (could), adverbials (possibly), etc.