

LANGUAGE & GENDER

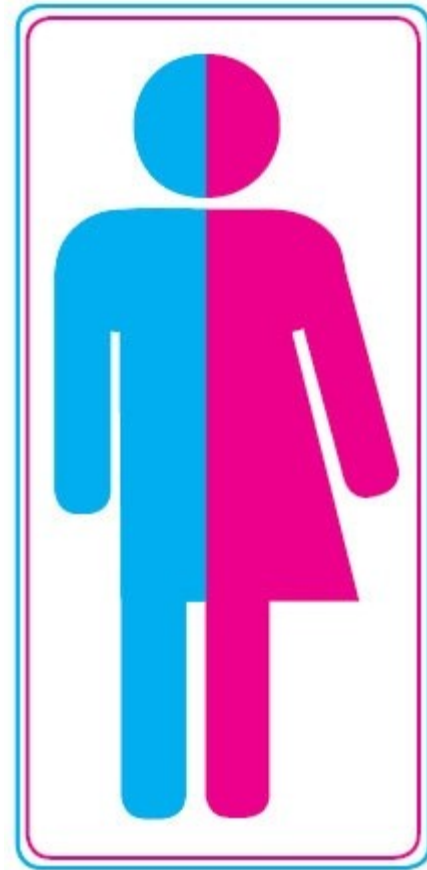
how differently we use it

BY

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Who is possibly talking

- Oh dear, honey, you put the ice-cream into the refrigerator, again!?
- Damn! You've put the ice-cream into the refrigerator, again?
- What a lovely idea! I'm so excited!
- An awful idea. I'm done!



Why do we call it Gender?

1980s:

Language and

Nowadays:

Language and gender



is not biological sex
of speaker, it's social
identity.

(Miriam Meyerhoff)

How does the language affects our thoughts?

German

A KEY

Spanish

- Masculine

hard, heavy, jagged,
metal

- Feminine

golden, little, lovely,
shiny, tiny

Gender Differences in Language

MALE

- Avoid eye contact
- From decision to discussion
- Talkative in public, quiet in private
- Trouble talk avoided, would not put status in risk

Physical orientation

Directness/Indirectness

Public/private talk

Conversation style

Gender Differences in Language

FEMALE

- **Uses eye contact** Physical orientation
- **From discussion to decision** Directness/Indirectness
- **Quiet in public, talkative in private** Public/private talk
- **Troble talks used to create rapport** Converstion style

George Keith and John Shuttleworth

In “Living language” (p.228) they suggest that:

- **Women** – talk more, than men, talk too much, are more polite, ask more questions...
- **Men** – swear more, don't talk about emotions, talk about sport/women, machines (in the same way) more...

Reasons for communication

Female

- Most common theme – Empathy:
‘To know you’re not alone’.
- To establish and maintain relationships:
‘Talking is the essence of relationship’.

Male

- To get practical tips
- Direct at practical, straight to the point.
- Conversations are fast-paced

Why women are more chatty?

- Researchers found the so called 'language protein' that makes women more talkative
- Women have higher levels of Foxp2 protein
- Girls learn to speak earlier and more quickly than boys
- Daily **women** speak about 13000 words, **men** – 7000.

Summary

1. There are differences in men's and women's speech:
 - they brought up differently;
 - have different social tasks/roles.
2. A possible explanation – evolution

Literature

- Jeniffer, C. (1993). Women, Men and Language (originally published 1989, 2nd edition 1993) Harlow: Longman.
- Keith, G and J Shuttleworth (2008). Living language and Literature, 2nd ed. Hodler Education
- <http://www.linguisticsociety.org/resource/neurolinguistics>
- **Why are women more chatty?**
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2281891/Women-really-talk-men-13-000-words-day-precise.html>
- [**http://www.popsci.com/article/science/different-ways-men-and-women-talk-facebook**](http://www.popsci.com/article/science/different-ways-men-and-women-talk-facebook)

Thank you for your attention



a a a
correlation strength

relative frequency

b b b
prevalence in topic