

DEVELOPMENT OF GENDER STUDIES IN LINGUISTICS

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ABSTRACT

The article provides an overview of works on the study of gender in linguistics. The works are described in chronological order: from the earliest naive-linguistic observations to modern scientific research in various aspects of the study of gender in domestic and foreign linguistics. The history of the gender issue is shown and further development prospects are indicated.

Keywords: gender, gender, feminist linguistics, asymmetry, gender stereotypes, masculinity, femininity, social roles, polarity.

АННОТАЦИЯ

В статье представлен обзор работ по изучению гендера в языкознании. Работы описаны в хронологическом порядке: от самых ранних наивно-лингвистических наблюдений до современных научных исследований по различным аспектам изучения пола в отечественной и зарубежной лингвистике. Показана история гендерного вопроса и обозначены дальнейшие перспективы развития.

Ключевые слова: гендер, гендер, феминистская лингвистика, асимметрия, гендерные стереотипы, маскулинность, женственность, социальные роли, полярность.

INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, new areas of research have been intensively developing in linguistics, based on an anthropocentric approach to the study of linguistic phenomena. A special place in such linguistic areas is occupied by gender studies, to which there is currently an increasing interest in our country. The basic concept of gender studies is gender, which is understood as a specific set of cultural characteristics that determine the social behavior of women and men, their relationship with each other.

Gender studies focus on cultural and social factors that determine the attitude of society towards men and women, the behavior of individuals in connection with belonging to one sex or another, stereotypical ideas about male and female qualities - all that translates the issue of sex from the field of biology into sphere of social life and culture. Culture and language are permeated with gender relations, and gender as

a socio-cultural superstructure over biological reality and as a system of socio-gender relations reflects an internally contradictory and at the same time dynamic ratio of male and female substrates.

The study of gender issues in this perspective involves the involvement of data from other sciences in its study. Psycholinguistics, ethnolinguistics, cognitive linguistics, intercultural communication, pragmalinguistics, sociolinguistics and other sciences provide material for the linguistic analysis of gender. Gender is considered in linguistics as a cognitive phenomenon, which manifests itself both in language clichés and in the peculiarities of the speech behavior of communicants.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

In the article "Gender Issues in Linguistics" E.I. Goroshko notes that the concept of "gender" entered the modern linguistic paradigm much later than in other humanities, namely in the second half of the last century. Initially, work in this area originated in the West, and the first systematic descriptions of male and female speech features were made on the basis of languages from the Germanic and Romance language groups:

The fact that women and men speak differently, mankind noticed a very, very long time ago. The results of the earliest observations in this area are reflected in proverbs and sayings:

A woman's tongue wags like lamb's tail. (Women's tongue "dances" like a sheep's tail) (England)

Ou femme y a, silence n'y a (Where, woman, there is no silence) (France).

The North Sea will be found wanting in water than a woman at loss for a word.

In the examples given, some features of female speech are emphasized, in particular, excessive talkativeness and "sharpness" of the language. As will be seen below, these and other examples formed the basis of the stereotype of female speech.

Later, notes and observations on the differences in male and female speech are found in diaries, letters, literary works and in the works of early grammarians.

For example, in the newspaper "The world" from 1754 to 1756, a number of notes were published on the new vocabulary of the English language of that time. Many authors of these articles noted the special role of women in this process, attributing to them a word-creative function. R. Cambridge wrote: "What we owe to the ladies is the numerous decorations of our language" (December 12, 1754). Lord Chesterfield remarked: "The point is not to enrich our language with completely new words, my village women go even further, changing the word, using and expanding the old meanings to different and very dissimilar senses" (December 5, 1754).

The female manner of speaking, including female talkativeness and idle talk, is ridiculed and parodied in many works of art (The "Roman of the Rose" criticizes the excessive use of euphemisms by women; the hero of W. Shakespeare's play "King Henry IV": Hotspur scolds his wife for the use of vernacular expressions, J. Austin "Northanger Abbey": Isabella's speech contains many of the "empty" adverbs that were so characteristic of the manner of speaking of many women of that time).

The German linguist and philosopher F. Mautner (1913) studied male and female speech behavior in various social groups. He correlated the appearance of the female language with the historical traditions of the ancient theater, where female roles were performed by men, that is, a real female language appeared only when a woman was allowed to go up on stage.

In the course of analyzing the directions of gender issues, we found out that the three main approaches to gender studies in the West had a serious impact on the development of Russian linguistics. Among these areas, researchers distinguish the following:

1. The first approach boils down to interpreting the exclusively social nature of the language of women and men and is aimed at identifying those linguistic differences that can be explained by the peculiarities of the redistribution of social power in society. At the same time, "male" or "female" language is defined as a kind of functional derivative of the main language, used in cases where speech partners are at different levels of the social hierarchy.

2. The sociopsycholinguistic approach scientifically reduces the "female" and "male" language to the peculiarities of the linguistic behavior of the sexes. For scientists working in this direction, statistical indicators or the determination of average parameters are of fundamental importance and form the framework for building psycholinguistic theories of male and female types of speech behavior.

3. Representatives of the third direction generally emphasize the cognitive aspect of differences in the linguistic behavior of the sexes. For them, it turns out to be more significant not only to determine the frequency of differences and operate with its indicators, but also to create holistic linguistic models of the cognitive foundations of language categories.

It is also important that in the modern scientific paradigm all three approaches are considered complementary and only in their totality they have explanatory power.

From this kind of instructions and recommendations, a naive-linguistic idea of the model of a woman's speech behavior is formed, that is, a certain stereotype that

prescribes how a woman should and should not speak. Here are the main provisions of this model.

- The feminine gender is marked, therefore its use should always follow the masculine.
- Women are semi-literate, therefore their language and speech (written and oral) is a priori poorer and more stingy than men's.
- A woman is by nature talkative and therefore she is ordered to remain silent (at the same time, the very fact of a woman's speech is often already considered as an excessive communicative act).
- A woman should not use rude and obscene language in her speech.
- In her speech behavior, she should be guided by the male (exemplary) communicative model and should not go beyond the prescribed topics.

This stereotype is aimed at forming the image of an ideal woman who will be engaged in her main social function - maintaining the hearth and educating the younger generation.

Differences between female and male languages have been noted in anthropological literature since the 17th century. Missionaries and pioneers in their diaries and notes talk about peoples whose speech behavior of men and women is quite different from each other, which makes it possible to speak of the presence of male and female languages. The differences relate to different layers of the language. Later, these data are confirmed by the scientific research of anthropologists.

By the middle of the twentieth century, the problem of the interaction of gender and language began to be discussed in scientific research not only by anthropologists, but also by dialectologists. In their works, the study of female speech was not a primary task, but the data obtained had undoubted scientific value and evidence, in contrast to the naive-linguistic postulates of an earlier time.

Second half of the 20th century was marked by a significant expansion of actual linguistic problems, which was due to a change in the approach to language as an object of study. Language began to be regarded as an anthropologically oriented phenomenon, which contributed to the growth of an interdisciplinary component in linguistic studies.

Systematic gender studies began to be carried out by linguists relatively recently. The growth of interest in the issues of the interaction of language and gender is associated with the formation and development of sociolinguistics as a direction of linguistics.

The interaction of language and gender is considered by scientists as part of the study of the social variability of language. Unfortunately, the study of this dependence attracted the attention of linguists relatively recently, because even after sociolinguists abandoned the subjective selection of informants, typical of traditional linguistics, women as a special social group were not taken into account for a long time.

CONCLUSION

In addition, one of the signs of the strengthening of the position of linguistic gender studies as an independent scientific direction can be considered the emergence of a number of methodological works that raise the question of applying a gender approach in teaching intercultural communication, consider the problems of developing general scientific approaches to the study of gender in linguistics, and formulate particular scientific research objectives. gender aspects of language and communication and prospects for further scientific research.

The analysis revealed the following feature: the gender approach in science is based on the idea that it is not the biological differences between men and women that are important, but the cultural and social significance that society attaches to these differences. Their sociocultural assessment and interpretation are important, as well as the construction of a system of power relations based on these differences.

Analysis of the category "gender" made it possible to present the stages of its formation as a term with a special status and structure. Gender reflects the complex socio-cultural process of formation (construction) of male and female roles by society, emphasizes differences in behavior, mental and emotional characteristics of a person of one sex or another. The result of this process, its theoretical understanding is also the social construct "gender". Important elements in creating gender differences are the opposition of "male" and "female" (the opposition of masculine and feminine) and the subordination of the feminine to the masculine, which has a long history.

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