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LINGUISTIC MEANS OF EXPRESSING GENDER IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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The active study of gender began in the 1960s in countries such as the USA and Germany, from where it spread to other countries thanks to the flow of feminism. In Ukraine, the study of gender became more active from the mid-90s of the 20th century, but it did not have such a significant importance for society as it did abroad. The relevance of this work is due to the increased interest in the study of gender in the light of political correctness and tolerance. The object of the work is the linguistic means of gender expression that exist at the current stage of language development. The subject is the question of ways of expressing the gender of a noun in modern English. The purpose of the study of universal means of gender expression, the identification of features of the expression of gender in the modern English language, the analysis of changes in the expression of gender from the middle of the 20th century to today in the English language. The realization of this goal involves solving the following tasks: to define the notion of gender; to determine the universal characteristics of gender in the modern English language; to establish the linguistic means of expressing gender in modern English; to identify changes in the expression of gender in the English language, which occurred due to the current of political correctness from the middle of the 20th century until today. The research methods used are complex in nature. The work uses descriptive, comparative methods, the method of component analysis and the method of comparison. Gender is a very broad concept, but from the point of view of linguistics it has a clear meaning. Gender (usually masculine, feminine, neuter, common) of nouns and pronouns, which differ in the different endings have and require syntactically related words to them. Grammatical gender is usually very weakly related to natural gender differences. Beyond linguistics, gender has the broader meaning of social and cultural differences between men and women. The main indicators of gender in the English language are personal pronouns of the third person singular. Linguistic means of gender expression in English are represented by morphological, grammatical and lexical means.

Keywords: *gender, expressive means, expression, modern English.*

Introduction. In connection with the rapid spread of the ideology of political correctness, the gender factor has been one of the most important in the life of the English-speaking society since the middle of the 20th century. In the light of political correctness, a statement that emphasizes gender stereotypes or gender asymmetry is tantamount to insulting and initiating conflict. The language in which there are manifestations of sexism has become unacceptable in society, so it is so important to know how to express gender correctly.

The problem of identifying gender markers in the English language has a rather remarkable and long history, since it is gender markers in the theory and practice of linguistic development that are the most cognitively indicative example of the structuring of knowledge about the world from some minimal conceptual units corresponding to the cognitive dismemberment of reality.

The problem setting. Masculine in English is traditionally considered a sign of normativity in the use of both lexical and grammatical items,

while feminine markers have been on the periphery of research attention until recently. This thesis can be confirmed by the reasoning of the author of a treatise published in 1751 on the axiological advantages of the masculine gender in comparison with the feminine gender in the practice of language communication. According to James Harris, "the supreme Essence / Being ... is identified with the Masculine in all languages, just as maleness is considered a higher and more perfect characteristic."

The relevance of this work is due to the increased interest in the study of gender in the light of political correctness and tolerance. The object of the work is the linguistic means of gender expression that exist at the current stage of language development. The subject is the question of ways of expressing the gender of a noun in modern English. The purpose of the study of universal means of gender expression, the identification of features of the expression of gender in the modern English language, the analysis of changes in the expression of gender from the middle of the 20th century to

today in the English language. The realization of this goal involves solving the following tasks: to define the notion of gender; to determine the universal characteristics of gender in the modern English language; to establish the linguistic means of expressing gender in modern English; to identify changes in the expression of gender in the English language, which occurred due to the current of political correctness from the middle of the 20th century until today. The research methods used are complex in nature. The work uses descriptive, comparative methods, the method of component analysis and the method of comparison.

Derived feminine forms are usually marked with a suffix or some other morphological or lexical feature that distinguishes the feminine gender from the common gender and in some cases often duplicates the form of the original masculine gender. For example, *man – woman, author – authoress*. Some researchers interpret the "s" in the English feminine pronoun "she" as a prefix that joins the masculine pronouns "he", which appears to be a false statement in the light of etymological data about the origin of these linguistic units. A similar misinterpretation is also evident in the relationship between the seemingly related nouns "male" and "female": despite the fairly transparent orthographic similarity, the feminine noun is by no means a derivative of the masculine noun, because it came into the English language from Latin "femella", the diminutive form of the corresponding Latin noun "femina" (Bernaisch, 2020; Lilley, 2023; Mondorf, 2004).

A special place in the creation of the cognitive gender module is occupied by markers of the feminine gender of English nouns, which denote people in the field of their professional activity. First of all, in this subgroup, we should note the traditional suffixes that form nouns corresponding to their semantics: "-ess", "-ette", "-ine". Despite the numerous interpretations proposed for these suffixes, the most convincing and reliable are the definitions that contain a description of the semantic components from the standpoint of cognitive linguistics. Of undoubted interest in this regard is the suffix "-ess", which owes its origin to the Greek language. The "transition point" for him was Latin and Old French, where it had the function of a usual indicator of derived names of the feminine gender. After the Norman conquest, the nouns countess, hostess, mistress were borrowed into the English language, and starting from the fourteenth century, this suffix was added to the bases of original nouns, forming a series: *danceress, dwelleress, teacheress*, etc. In the fifteenth century, the popularity of the "feminine" suffix grew so much that it began to

be added to nouns that already contained a suffix of similar semantics: *operatress, interlocutress* (Козачишина, 2003; Колосова, 2003).

In American slang, similar trends are revealed: *crimestress, actress, bankeress*, etc., and the need to specify gender in the context of artistic works or in oral communication expands the gender range due to the parallel coexistence of the forms "woman doctor", "she-doctor", "doctress". The receptiveness of the American version of English to suffixes, with the help of which lexical units are created for the nominations of professions, is gradually attracting female personnel.

In lexicographic practice, when discussing the status of gender markers in the English language, it is emphasized that in order to identify the gender of English nouns, along with explicitly expressed grammatical features, lexical correlates play an important role. However, at present, researchers' opinions are limited to the fact that nouns of the so-called neutral gender status or units with zero gender marking should not perform a double burden, spreading their influence on the semantic cognitive domain of gender markers. As observations show, the cognitive mechanism of the formation of the system of gender markers in the English language is determined by the degree of their interaction with linguistic reality and with reference volumes, and in modern conditions such an extralinguistic factor as the development of the feminist movement in English-speaking countries can serve as an additional argument, which significantly expands potential social and professional opportunities for women, and therefore objective prerequisites are created for the active use of explicitly expressed gender markers in the English language (Siemund, 2013).

Although many scholars do not agree that the gender category exists in the English language at all, there are still manifestations of nouns belonging to certain genders. The problem of identifying gender markers in modern English has a rather remarkable and long history. The category of grammatical gender – masculine, feminine, neuter – was once characteristic of nouns in the Old English period.

The gender category of nouns finally disappeared in the second half of the 17th century. The masculine gender remained only for men, the feminine for women, and all concepts and objects and even animals came to be considered neuter nouns, which are conveyed by the pronoun it.

In the English language, the gender category is meaningful for the entire class of nouns, because it reflects the real gender features of the designated referent (or their absence/irrelevance). The gender category is implemented through the mandatory correlation of each noun with the personal pronouns

of the 3rd person singular *he, she or it: man – he, woman – she, tree, dog – it.*

In addition, the category of gender is implemented through the paradigmatic correlation of two oppositions that form a hierarchy. The first opposition is general and contrasts personal nouns that distinguish between masculine and feminine genders (man – he, woman – she) and all other, impersonal nouns that belong to the neuter gender (tree, dog – it). The second opposition is formed only by personal nouns: masculine and feminine nouns are opposed.

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The realization of this goal involves solving the following **tasks**: to define the notion of gender; to determine the universal characteristics of gender in the modern English language; to establish the linguistic means of expressing gender in modern English; to identify changes in the expression of gender in the English language, which occurred due to the current of political correctness from the middle of the 20th century until today.

The analysis of the investigation and published works. The active study of gender began in the 1960s in countries such as the USA and Germany, from where it spread to other countries thanks to the flow of feminism. In Ukraine, the study of gender became more active from the mid-90s of the 20th century, but it did not have such a significant importance for society as it did abroad.

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The presentation of the main material. The gender category is a category of a permanent feature: it is expressed not through the change of word forms, but through nominal classification, and each noun belongs to one of three genders. In addition, in the English language there is a group of nouns that, depending on the context, can indicate either male or female gender, and can be replaced by the pronouns he/she, for example: president,

professor, friend, etc. Such nouns can be divided into a special group – common nouns. For them, the genus category is a variable characteristic category.

Linguistic means of gender expression in language are represented by morphological, lexical and grammatical gender markers.

The role of morphological markers is suffixed morphemes – *ess, – trix, – use, – ette, – ine, – enne, – ene, – en, – e, – a*, which form feminine derivatives from generic nominations, for example: *coiffeur – coiffeuse, doyen – doyenne, debutante – debutante.*

The most common in the English language is the gender suffix – *ess* to express the feminine gender.

This suffix owes its origin to the Greek language. In Latin and Old French, this suffix had the function of an indicator of derived feminine names. After the Norman conquest, such nouns as *countess, hostess, lioness, mistress* were borrowed into the English language, and starting from the 14th century, this suffix is attached to the bases of nouns, forming a series: *danceress, dwelleress, teacheress*, etc. In the fifteenth century, the popularity of the "feminine" suffix grew so much that it began to be attached to nouns that already contained a suffix of similar semantics: *operatress, interlocutress.*

In the 18th century the rapid dying out of the suffix – *ess* begins, and in the textbooks of the 19th century. it is recommended to avoid designing nouns using this formant. However, the suffix – *ess* turned out to be quite viable, which can be illustrated by examples of both standard and slang usage of such nouns as: *murderess, writeress*, etc. The English nouns *authoress* and *poetess* deserve a special comment, since they almost always had correlates author and poet, respectively, and denoted representatives of both the male and female genders: *giant – giantess, enchanter – enchantress, sorcerer – sorceress.*

The expansion of the professional range for representatives of the female gender contributed to the appearance of nouns with the suffix – *ette*, for example: *farmarette, pickette* (woman striker), *copette* (woman police officer).

In addition, the suffix – *ess* often shows not so much gender as lexical meaning: *mayor – mayoress* (mayor's wife, not a female mayor), *priest – priestess* (priestess in a non-Christian church).

This is also true for the suffix – *ette*: a drum major (an officer in charge of a percussion group in a military band) – a majorette (a girl who leads the march of the band).

So, morphological markers include suffixes that carry information about the gender of the object/person they denote.

Pronouns are grammatical means of expressing gender in the English language.

The choice of a pronoun, with which one or another noun can be correlated, is determined by the semantics of the noun. In the English language, thus, it is not the words themselves that are classified by gender, but the very objects or beings that are denoted by these words. Thus, the noun dragon is related to the male pronoun not directly, not formally, but because both dragon and he mean persons of the male gender.

In the English language, in addition to inanimate objects, animals and children up to one year are also included in the neuter gender. However, not all animals tend to belong to the middle genus. Pets are named according to their gender. Or wild animals, in those cases where it is necessary to know their sex.

Moreover, there are reverse exceptions, as some inanimate objects in stylistically colored or emotional language can be personified and replaced by the pronouns he or she, like this:

1. Different types of ships are associated with the female gender, for example:

"He only noticed, how well the skiff sailed. 'she's good,' he thought".

The fact that ships belong to the feminine gender can be explained by the fact that the word ship comes from the Scandinavian *skip* – something related to a woman's womb was called that. According to an ancient belief, the burial of a Viking in a boat meant rebirth in the mother's womb.

2. Names of countries used in mythological and poetic contexts are also associated with the feminine gender:

"Greece surpasses mankind in her exalted concepts".

3. Nouns denoting different means of transportation are feminine:

"Getting out of the car. he said. 'Fill her up, please".

Some researchers note the fact that if the owner of the machine is a woman, she can talk about her in the masculine gender.

4. The feminine gender sometimes has the names of ancient cities and city-states. In ancient times, cities were often named after goddesses (Athena), they were considered patrons and founders of these cities: *"Babylon, mother of all sins".*

5. The nouns nature, earth, world are often associated with the feminine gender:

"Nature seemed to hold her breath".

However, the noun sun is sometimes masculine.

6. Science and the names of other sciences are also often associated with the feminine gender. *"The sweet nymph Algebra".*

7. In cases where abstract concepts are personified, the masculine gender is used to convey such concepts as strength, rage, etc., while the feminine gender conveys the idea of tenderness, beauty, for example: *Masculine – angel, death, fear, war; feminine – spring, peace, kindness, dawn.*

"Death is the only freedom I will know. I hear his black wings beating about me!"

The generic characteristic of an inanimate object is an example of creating a stylistic effect. Any object that belongs to someone can be named using the feminine gender to emphasize the special value of this object to a particular person: *"My lady guitar".*

So, pronouns belong to grammatical gender markers. The pronouns he, she, it indicate the lexeme's belonging to a certain gender. But even they do not always show the real gender of the subject/person they mark.

The lexical means of expressing gender in the English language include the use of a corresponding noun belonging to one or another gender:

boy – girl husband – wife son – daughter horse – mare monk – nun king – queen cock – hen drake – duck gentleman – lady.

In some cases, the feminine noun can also be obtained by replacing the masculine marker in the word with the corresponding feminine marker (in compound and complex nouns): *peacock – peahen, cock-sparrow – hen-sparrow, he-bear – she-bear.*

From the above, it can be concluded that lexical gender markers include words that in their meaning carry information about the gender of the object that they denote.

Conclusion. The linguistic means of expressing gender in the English language are represented by morphological, grammatical and lexical means. Morphological means include suffixes denoting gender. Grammatical devices include the use of pronouns that indicate gender. Lexical means of expressing gender include semantically marked words referring to the masculine or feminine gender. In the course of writing, the linguistic means of expressing gender in the English language were investigated. The concept of gender was defined, the characteristics and features of gender expression in the English language were considered. Changes in its expression that have occurred since the middle of the 20th century were also analyzed. Gender is a very broad concept, but from the point of view of linguistics it has a clear meaning. Gender (usually masculine, feminine, neuter, common) of nouns and pronouns, which differ in the different endings have and require syntactically related words to them. Grammatical gender is usually very weakly related to natural gender differences. Beyond

linguistics, gender has the broader meaning of social and cultural differences between men and women. Gender is not an innate difference, but an acquired one. The main indicators of gender in the English language are personal pronouns of the third person singular. Every noun in the English language can be replaced by the pronoun he, she or it. Linguistic means of gender expression in English are represented by morphological, grammatical and lexical means. Morphological means include suffixes denoting gender. These include morphemes that carry information about the feminine gender: – *ess*, – *trix*, – *use*, – *ette*, – *ine*, – *enne*, – *ene*, – *en*, – *e*, – *a*. Grammatical devices include the use of pronouns that indicate gender. The pronouns he, she and it indicate the lexeme's gender, but do not always show the real gender of the referent. Lexical means of expressing gender include semantically marked words referring to the masculine or feminine gender. Currently, certain changes are taking place in the system of gender expression, reflecting the

social restructuring of society. Since language is a mirror of reality, when a new phenomenon appears in society, the phenomenon is reflected in language. The emancipation of women, the change of the usual professions for men and women – all this is reflected in the language in the form of new words – politically correct not only from the point of view of gender, but also from the point of view of politeness and tolerance. It is important to know that an important impetus for the study of gender was the emergence of the current of feminism, which, in addition to everything, also fought for equality in language. Language shows the world from a male point of view, shows women as something foreign, bad, low, or even completely ignores women. Since the 60s of the 20th century, a number of changes have been made in the language in order to make the language more politically correct. Therefore, the perspective of further research is to develop, study and develop methods of expressing gender in the English language.

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МОВНІ ЗАСОБИ ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯ ГЕНДЕРУ В АНГЛІЙСЬКІЙ МОВІ

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Активне вивчення гендеру почалося в 1960-х роках у таких країнах, як США та Німеччина, звідки воно поширилося на інші країни завдяки потоку фемінізму. В Україні дослідження гендеру активізувались із середини 90-х років ХХ ст., але воно не мало такого суттєвого значення для суспільства, як за кордоном. Актуальність даної роботи зумовлена підвищеним інтересом до вивчення гендеру в світлі політкоректності та толерантності. Об'єктом роботи є мовні засоби вираження гендеру, що існують на сучасному етапі розвитку мови. Предметом є питання про способи вираження роду іменника в сучасній англійській мові. Мета дослідження універсальних засобів вираження гендеру, виявлення особливостей вираження гендеру в сучасній англійській мові, аналіз змін у вираженні гендеру з середини 20 століття до сьогодні в англійській мові. Реалізація поставленої мети передбачає вирішення таких завдань: визначити поняття гендеру; визначити універсальні характеристики роду в сучасній англійській мові; встановити мовні засоби вираження роду в сучасній англійській мові; виявити зміни у вираженні гендеру в англійській мові, які відбулися внаслідок течії політкоректності з середини 20 століття до сьогодні. Використовувані методи дослідження мають комплексний характер. У роботі використано описовий, порівняльний методи, метод компонентного аналізу та метод порівняння. Гендер – поняття дуже широке, але з точки зору лінгвістики воно має чітке значення. Рід (зазвичай чоловічий, жіночий, середній) іменників і займенників, які відрізняються різними закінченнями, мають і вимагають від них синтаксично пов'язаних слів. Граматичний рід зазвичай дуже слабо пов'язаний з природними гендерними відмінностями. Окрім лінгвістики, гендер має ширше значення соціальних і культурних відмінностей між чоловіками та жінками. Основними показниками роду в англійській мові є особові займенники третьої особи однини. Мовні засоби вираження роду в англійській мові представлені морфологічними, граматичними та лексичними засобами.

Ключові слова: стаття, експресивні засоби, експресія, сучасна англійська мова.