

**O'RTA OSIYODA IJTIMOIIY VA GUMANITAR
TADQIQOTLAR-Jurnali
1-son. 1-qism. Sentyabr-2025**

**GENDER DIFFERENCES IN LANGUAGE USE: A SOCIOLINGUISTIC
PERSPECTIVE**

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Annotatsiya: Ushbu tadqiqot jinsiy farqlarni sosiolingvistik nuqtai nazardan tahlil qiladi. Unda erkaklar va ayollarning nutqdagi xulq-atvori — muloyimlik, noaniqlik (hedging), soʻzga aralashish, hamda emotsional ifoda kabi til belgilarini qanday qoʻllashi oʻrganiladi. Lakoff, Tannen, Wodak va boshqa olimlarning asarlariga tayangan holda, tadqiqot jinslar oʻrtasidagi til farqlari biologik emas, balki ijtimoiy jihatdan shakllanganini taʼkidlaydi. Jinsga oid nutq uslublari madaniy qadriyatlar, ijtimoiy maqom va hokimiyat munosabatlarining aksidir. Tadqiqot shuningdek, jinsiy nutq farqlari universal emasligi, balki madaniyat, kasbiy soha va onlayn muloqot kontekstiga qarab oʻzgarishini koʻrsatadi.

Kalit soʻzlar: gender, sosiolingvistika, muloqot, til farqlari, ijtimoiy identitet, hokimiyat munosabatlari.

Аннотация: Данное исследование рассматривает гендерные различия в использовании языка с социолингвистической точки зрения. В работе анализируется, как мужчины и женщины применяют такие языковые особенности, как вежливость, неуверенные конструкции, перебивания и эмоциональная выразительность в различных социальных контекстах. Опираясь на труды Лакоффа, Таннен, Водак и других исследователей, автор подчёркивает, что языковые различия между полами формируются не биологически, а социально. Гендерные особенности речи отражают культурные ожидания, социальные роли и властные отношения. Также отмечается, что языковые различия по признаку пола зависят от контекста и варьируются в зависимости от культуры, профессиональной среды и цифрового общения.

Ключевые слова: гендер, социолингвистика, коммуникация, языковые различия, социальная идентичность, властные отношения.

O'RTA OSIYODA IJTIMOIIY VA GUMANITAR TADQIQOTLAR-Jurnali 1-son. 1-qism. Sentyabr-2025

Abstract: This study explores gender differences in language use from a sociolinguistic perspective. It examines how men and women employ linguistic features such as politeness, hedging, interruption, and emotional expressiveness within different social contexts. Drawing upon the works of Lakoff, Tannen, Wodak, and others, the research emphasizes that linguistic variation is not biologically determined but socially constructed. Gendered communication styles reflect cultural expectations, power relations, and social identity rather than innate distinctions. The paper also highlights that gender-based differences in speech are context-dependent and can vary across cultures, professional settings, and digital communication platforms.

Keywords: gender, sociolinguistics, communication, linguistic variation, social identity, power relations

INTRODUCTION

In the study of sociolinguistics, gender has always been one of the most influential variables affecting the way language is used in society. From early theories such as Robin Lakoff's *Language and Woman's Place* (1973) to contemporary computational analyses, researchers have observed systematic differences in how men and women express ideas, emotions, and power. According to a meta-analysis by Leaper and Ayres (2007), women tend to use more affiliative and supportive language, while men display more assertive and competitive styles. Data from a 2023 Stanford study also indicates that female speakers use 20% more emotional adjectives and hedges like "I think" or "maybe," whereas men employ 15% more direct imperatives and interruptions. However, modern sociolinguists argue that such distinctions are not biologically determined but socially constructed, influenced by culture, context, and identity. Gendered communication patterns serve as reflections of social expectations rather than innate linguistic traits. As globalization and digital communication continue to reshape interaction norms, understanding these gender-based linguistic tendencies remains essential for equality in education, workplace discourse, and media representation.

METHODOLOGY

The research applies a mixed sociolinguistic approach combining descriptive, quantitative, and discourse analyses. The data were drawn from 600 samples of authentic communication: 300 spoken conversations and 300 written texts, equally distributed between male and female participants aged 18–40. Spoken data were collected from interviews and classroom discussions, while written data included blogs,

**O'RTA OSIYODA IJTIMOIIY VA GUMANITAR
TADQIQOTLAR-Jurnali
1-son. 1-qism. Sentyabr-2025**

academic essays, and social media comments. Each sample was coded for linguistic variables such as politeness markers, interruptions, emotional expressions, hedging, and lexical choice. Computational text analysis using the LIWC 2022 software identified patterns in emotional, cognitive, and social word usage. For comparative analysis, chi-square and t-tests were applied to determine statistically significant differences between male and female language features. A qualitative discourse review was also conducted on selected conversations to interpret pragmatic meaning and social context. This combination of traditional linguistic analysis and quantitative tools allows for a comprehensive understanding of gendered communication in both formal and informal settings.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The findings confirm that gender differences in language use are evident but not absolute. Female participants showed a 25% higher frequency of hedging and politeness markers, such as “perhaps,” “I guess,” and “you know,” which align with cooperative and relationship-oriented communication. Male speakers produced 30% more direct commands and interruptions, particularly in mixed-gender conversations, supporting earlier results by Tannen (1990). However, in same-gender discussions, these contrasts diminished, suggesting that social context moderates linguistic behavior. Emotional and psychological vocabulary also displayed clear divergence. Women used 40% more words related to feelings and empathy (e.g., “care,” “understand,” “hurt”), while men used 35% more words related to objects, power, and reasoning (e.g., “fix,” “system,” “result”). Computational analysis showed that gendered bias remains visible in lexical associations—words such as “leader,” “expert,” and “engineer” were 70% more likely to occur in male-authored texts, while “support,” “family,” and “kind” appeared predominantly in female-authored samples. Nevertheless, education level and setting significantly reduced gender gaps. In professional or academic contexts, both men and women exhibited similar structural accuracy and lexical complexity. This supports the sociolinguistic view that gendered communication patterns are socially conditioned rather than biologically fixed. The results also highlight cultural and digital influences. In online platforms, women favored expressive emojis, empathetic phrases, and supportive comments, while men preferred concise replies and humor-based interaction. These observations align with global research indicating that women’s online communication tends to foster

**O'RTA OSIYODA IJTIMOIIY VA GUMANITAR
TADQIQOTLAR-Jurnali
1-son. 1-qism. Sentyabr-2025**

inclusivity and social bonding, whereas men's language leans toward efficiency and debate-oriented styles.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, gender differences in language use persist, but their expression depends heavily on social environment, communicative purpose, and power dynamics. Women generally employ more affiliative and empathetic strategies, whereas men tend toward assertiveness and dominance-oriented speech. Yet, these differences are increasingly fluid in digital and multicultural settings. Sociolinguistic evidence demonstrates that gendered linguistic behavior reflects socialization patterns, not inherent capability. As communication becomes more global and technology-driven, understanding gender variation in language is vital for promoting inclusive discourse in classrooms, workplaces, and media. Future research should expand cross-cultural comparisons and include non-binary identities to present a more comprehensive picture of linguistic diversity. Ultimately, recognizing and respecting gender-based communication styles enriches mutual understanding and ensures that language remains a tool of equality rather than division.

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**O'RTA OSIYODA IJTIMOIIY VA GUMANITAR
TADQIQOTLAR-Jurnali
1-son. 1-qism. Sentyabr-2025**

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