**Merza O.Yu.**
*Student,*
*Supervisor:* **Karamysheva I.D.**
*Associate Professor,*
*National University «Lviv Polytechnic»*

## GENDER ASYMMETRY AND GENDER STEREOTYPES IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The main task of the feminist language criticism is a thorough study of a language system for the purpose of identification and subsequent elimination of linguistic facts of «sexism» [5, p. 352]. The term «sexism» refers to the structure of a language reflecting gender discrimination: the language is not only anthropocentric (human-centered), and androcentric (focused on man): it fixed predominantly a male perspective, a male identity, a male picture of the world, while women are given a secondary, marginal role and a status of an object [3, p. 86]. According to A. Kirilina [6, p. 23], the concept of «sexism» in scientific usage may be replaced by a more neutral term «gender asymmetry», which refers to the features of males and females reflected in a language, gender stereotypes, etc. The concept of «sexism» implies an intentional discrimination which is not characteristic for a language. Opponents of sexism claim that a language does not adequately reflect the presence of women in society, and highlight a number of key issues, such as:

1) the use of gender-specific pronouns (*he*);

2) the identification of concepts of a person and a man («*man*»);

3) the presence of gender-specific names of professions;

4) the use of addresses related to marital status: *Mrs and Miss.*

5) the use of non-parallel nouns denoting persons, male and female, for example '*a man and a wife*';

6) the use of words that reflect gender stereotypes (*virile, ladylike*)

7) the use of gender-specific pronouns (*he, she*).

In many languages (Ukrainian, French, etc.) every noun has a meaning of gender which is fixed and can not be changed. In Slavic languages like Ukrainian and Russian the belonging of a noun to this or that gender is expressed by endings. In English nouns have no any manifestation of gender category [4, p. 86].

As there is no pronoun of the third person singular which may denote a person and is neutral to the gender there appears a problem of the use of pronouns '*he*', '*his*', '*him*' in the English grammar. According to A. Bushev [1], both native-speakers and learners use the masculine possessive pronoun in constructions like that: *Anyone can do it if _____ tries.*

According to D. Spender, the pronoun '*he*' makes men 'linguistically visible', and women – 'linguistically invisible'. It promotes a masculine way of thinking in everyday life at the expense of women's one: «It seems reasonable to assume the world is male until proven otherwise» [7, p. 86].

J. R. Redfern [6] proposes the following system to replace the gender specific pronoun '*he*':

a) not to use the pronoun in sentences; avoid conditional sentences requiring its use: (*If a person has witnessed a robbery, he should call to the police immediately. – Call to the police immediately if you have witnessed a robbery*.);

b) use nouns and pronouns in the plural, if they do not change the sentence meaning: (*Repeat the question for each subject so that he understands it.– Repeat the question for each subject so that they understand it*.);

c) use double pronouns: *s/he*, *he or she*, *he/she*, *him and her*: (*Ask the first shop assistant you find whether he can tell you the price. – Ask the first shop assistant you find whether he or she can tell you the price*.);

d) use a definite article instead of a possessive pronoun as a modifier: (*After finishing his test-paper, the student should give it to the teacher. – After finishing a test-paper, the student should give it to the teacher*.);

e) use a passive voice: (*If a person wishes to avoid sex bias in his writing, he should examine these alternatives. – These alternatives should be examined by any person who wishes to avoid sex bias in writing*.).

One solution to the problem of gender-specific pronouns use was proposed by the mathematician M. Spivak, who created his own system of gender-neutral pronouns ('*e*', '*em*', '*eir*', '*eirs*', '*emself*') [8].

According to several English linguists (such as C. Jacobson, J. Redfern, B. Sorrels, D. Spender), the word «*man*» in English has two meanings: it can mean «a human being» or «a male human being». It is believed that according to the earlier changes in a social sphere the use of the word «*man*» as a generic term has led to the low frequency of use of the word «*woman*», which was the result of a distorted view concerning an underestimated role of women in the English society. As an example, illustrating this fact, they give a statement which to a certain degree contravenes to reality: «Man is mortal». (Here «*man*» means «a person» but above-mentioned linguists think it to be contrary to the common sense) [4, p. 89].

Although in its original sense, the word «*man*» meant not only an adult male person, but any adult person. Proponents of gender correctness advise to make the following replacement of words containing «male markers»:

*man, mankind → humanity, humankind, human species, human race;*
*best man for the job → best person for the job;*
*gentleman's agreement → unwritten agreement, agreement based on trust;*
*man in the street, common man → average/ordinary/typical citizen/person;*
*man-made → artificial, manufactured, synthetic, etc.*

Therefore, only light inevitable gender connotations remain (*masterpiece*, *manhandle*, *manhole*). Researchers of gender linguistics call such words «inherent sexist».

As for names of professions, it is proposed to avoid names with a part «-*man*»:
*businessman/businesswoman → businessperson;*
*fireman → firefighter;*
*mailman → mail carrier;*
*steward/stewardess → flight attendant;*

*policeman/policewoman → police officer;*
*cavemen → cave dwellers, prehistoric people, etc.*

So, the efforts made by the representatives of the feminist language criticism concerning the language reform are streamlined into the following area: replacing «sexist» words and concepts by gender-neutral ones, creating the positive perception of femininity and women in a language.

## References:

1. Бушев А. Б. Риторика и проблемы гендера / А. Б. Бушев [Электронный ресурс]. – Режим доступа: http://www.auditorium.ru

2. Васина А. В. Сексизм или гендерная асимметрия в языке (на материале английского языка) / А. В. Васина // Культура народов Причерноморья. – 2006. – № 76. – С. 85-88.

3. Кирилина А. В. Гендер: Лингвистические аспекты / А. В. Кирилина. – М.: Изд-во Институт социологии РАН, 1999. – 180 с.

4. Потапов В. В. Попытки пересмотра гендерного признака в английском языке / В. В. Потапов // Гендер как интрига познания. Сборник статей. – М.: Рудомино, 2000. – С. 84-92.

5. Федотова М. Е. Роль феминистической субкультуры в становлении системы наименований женщин по профессии в современном немецком языке / М. Е. Федотова // Гендер: язык, культура, коммуникация: Матер. Первой международной конференции 25-26 ноября 1999 г. – М.: МГЛУ, 1999. – С. 351-358.

6. Redfern J. R. Gender Fair Language / J. R. Redfern [Online]. – Available at: http://www.rpi.edu

7. Spender D. Man Made Language / D. Spender. – London: Pandora Press, 1985. – 272 p.

8. Spivak pronouns [Online]. – Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spivak_pronoun#Publications_employing_Spivak_pronouns

**Мороз А.Ю.**
*студентка,*
*Науковий керівник:* **Карамишева І.Д.**
*кандидат філологічних наук, доцент,*
*Національний університет «Львівська політехніка»*

## СТАЛІ СЛОВОСПОЛУКИ У НАУКОВОМУ ТЕКСТІ ЯК ОДНА З ЙОГО ХАРАКТЕРИСТИК

Науковий стиль будь-якої мови має свої особливості. Його основна функція – інформативна (повідомлення, пояснення, з'ясування, обґрунтування, класифікація понять, систематизація знань, аргументований доказ); завдання – передавання інформації.

Для наукового тексту притаманні велика кількість термінів, схем, таблиць, графіків, абстрактних (часто іншомовних) слів, наукова фразеологія (стійкі словосполучення або ж колокації), цитати, посилання; відсутність емоційно-експресивних синонімів, суфіксів, багатозначних слів, художніх тропів, індивідуальних неологізмів.