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# CHRONOLOGY OF GENDER LINGUISTIC RESEARCH IN LINGUISTICS

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## Abstract

In this article, the development of gender linguistics as a branch and direction of modern linguistics is discussed. Apart from that, the historical development of linguistic research on gender aspects, particularly in the investigation of phraseological units, and the analysis of scholars' scientific views on the same issue have been scrutinized.

**Keywords** Gender, gender linguistics, phraseology, phraseological unit, gender semantics, androcentrism, stereotype, gender metaphor.

## INTRODUCTION

Language learning encompasses both practical and theoretical aspects, shaping an individual's inner world. Simultaneously, it broadens the worldview in terms of linguistic concepts and phenomena. In this regard, the study, investigation, and analysis of phraseological units derived from phraseology and its fundamental concepts hold particular significance. Indeed, each phraseological unit encapsulates a unique set of characteristic features, deeply intertwined with the cultural, societal, political, and historical contexts, as well as traditions, social norms, and general perceptions of the respective community or society.

While the emergence of phraseological units dates back to ancient times, their study and exploration as a lexical unity of language are relatively recent. Investigating phraseological units has always been an intriguing area for linguists. Until the 19th century, they were mainly studied within the framework of lexicography, focusing primarily on their meanings and etymology.

From the 1930s onwards, phraseological units began to be scientifically studied as linguistic units within the field of linguistics. In the 20th century, particularly in the 1920s, Russian linguists emphasized the necessity of examining phraseological units as a separate branch of linguistics. For instance, E.D. Polivanov emphasized the importance of integrating phraseology into linguistic literature alongside phonetics and morphology, stating, "In the future, phraseology must take its place among linguistic disciplines, such as phonetics and morphology"[12].

The gender study of phraseological units also attracts attention from linguists as it is considered one of the important aspects of language, drawing focus on the cultural and social factors that define societal attitudes towards masculinity and femininity, as well as specific gender-related characteristics in the linguistic tools used. Conceptualizing gender, describing its layers and constituent elements, and identifying the factors

and parameters that form the basic gender concepts, taking into account national, cultural, etymological, and historical features, is also crucial. Exploring deeply into the process of identifying these factors and parameters within the framework of linguistics is vital in understanding the gender conceptualization.

## **METHOD**

The materials and methodology employed in this study are used to comprehensively investigate the historical development of linguistic research on gender aspects, particularly within the realm of phraseological units. The followings are the types of used materials and applied methodologies in this research: literature review, primary sources, analysis of scholarly views, comparative analysis, methodological framework, conceptual framework, qualitative analysis.

The materials and methodology employed in this study are used to provide a comprehensive understanding of the historical development of linguistic research on gender aspects, particularly within the context of phraseological units. By systematically analyzing scholarly views and employing a multidisciplinary methodological framework, this research aimed to contribute to the growing body of knowledge in gender linguistics and related fields.

## **RESULTS**

Gender linguistics is one of the modern trends in linguistics, emerging towards the end of the 20th century. Initially, American psychoanalyst Stoller explored gender as a conceptual concept. He suggested dividing the concept into two categories: biological (sex) and sociological (gender)[1]. It is known that biology and physiology study sexual characteristics, while psychology and sociology deal with gender characteristics. Stoller's interpretation and proposal paved the way for the formation of a

separate field named gender linguistics within contemporary humanities.

Various studies are being conducted in the field of world linguistics to explore the active development of gender linguistics and its characteristics. For instance, research focuses on highlighting gender assignments from a lexical-semantic and thematic perspective, illuminating gender characteristics from a speech communication viewpoint in terms of psycholinguistics and sociolinguistics, and categorizing gender-specific units in various languages from a linguistic-cultural perspective. These issues constitute important subjects of research in linguistic studies.

Gender linguistics focuses on studying the unique characteristics of language in male and female speech, aiming to explore each gender's specific traits and similarities with a positive approach, and the differences and similarities between male and female speech are the subject of this field. This field is centered around the investigations of many linguists, including E.A. Zemskaya, A.P. Martinyuk, R. Lakoff, and Dj. Koats, among others[2]. Currently, exploring phraseology from all perspectives is a relevant issue. Therefore, researching phraseological units with gender semantics is one of the phenomena eagerly awaited for its solution.

R. Lakoff's works, which laid the foundation for gender research in the world linguistic landscape, emphasized androcentrism (the prioritization of male orientation and the marginalization of the female image) in the human language. She highlighted that in English, in addition to the mentioned characteristics, women tend to use questioning intonation instead of declarative intonation, lexicons that lack deep semantic meanings, special slang words describing ordinary female activities, linguistic tools and modal constructions to express strong emotions and

meanings. Men, on the other hand, tend to avoid uncertain words, use a lower stylistic level, and employ jargon with derogatory meanings[4].

Gender phenomena in language have also been studied by Russian linguist-genderologists. For instance, O.A. Vaskova conducted scientific research on the main concept of gender language culture, revealing the communicative functions of language as a distinct feature[7].

E.I. Goroshko demonstrated that linguistic characteristics not only influence gender but also affect the socio-economic ladder, age, level of education, and social activity using direct observation and modeling, analysis of written texts, and free associative experimental methods. The scholar expressed the following idea regarding this matter: "Gender characteristics contradict the societal models of speech, behavior, and attitudes adopted by men and women"[9].

V.V. Potapov[13] developed numerous analytical strategies in linguistic genderology. Scientific work co-authored by D.O. Dobrovolskiy and A.V. Kirillin[10] provided detailed and systematic analysis of existing issues in linguistic genderology, concluding that authors classified the materials they studied conceptually and methodologically into five main directions.

Furthermore, K.S. Voloshina explored the conceptual aspect of the issue in her scientific work, investigating the gender mechanism of language through the actualization and representation of phraseological phenomena. In her linguistic studies, she examined the unique features of phraseological units with gender lexicon components, exploring their unifying and differentiating aspects and realizing them from a lexical-semantic and functional perspective[8].

Another Russian scholar, A.A. Sharova, analyzed zoomorphic phraseological units to reveal the gender aspect in phraseology. She conducted

contextual analysis of zoomorphs in both English and Russian languages as expressions of the gender concept, examining the similar and differing aspects of zoomorphisms used as means of expressing gender perceptions in Russian and English cultures[16].

I.V. Zikova conducted in-depth analysis of the realization of gender semantics in phraseological units structured with the concept of a cunning fox in her scientific research. Additionally, she investigated the gender aspect of phraseological units based on components related to kinship semantics, considering the analysis of phraseological units featuring fox cunning as a fundamental issue in research[11]. She also explored phraseological units containing onomastic components and anthroponymic units related to the concept of cunning fox from a structural-semantic and linguo-cultural perspective.

Cognitive and gender linguistic issues have also been researched by a number of Uzbek scholars. For instance, G.Sh. Atakhanova examined the concept of "human age" and its national-cultural characteristics based on materials from English and Uzbek languages[6].

Furthermore, I.M. Tukhtasinov extensively explored the linguistic-cultural and gender characteristics of additional words in literary texts in both English and Uzbek languages. According to the scholar's opinion, culture and language have deeply intertwined with gender relations, serving as a social-cultural and socio-gender relations system, reflecting the internal opposition of male and female substrates and their dynamic relationship[14]. G.I. Ergasheva[17], on the other hand, identified the linguistic and extralinguistic factors in the formation of gender terminology, elucidating them in her scientific works. M.K. Khalikova identified the lexical-semantic, grammatical, and stylistic characteristics of

describing human and their mentality in Russian and Uzbek phraseological units as examples[15].

Additionally, N.Z. Nasrullayeva explained the process of conceptualization of the semantic gender in English and Uzbek phraseological units in her scientific works, identifying their main stages. Moreover, she revealed the gender component etymology in the structure of phraseological units and elucidated the cognitive-conceptual, national-cultural, and historical-etymological characteristics of gender semantics in phraseological units. Through gender metaphorical reinterpretations in the semantics of phraseological units, the conceptualization process transcends, resulting in the emergence of gender metaphors. Gender metaphors create vivid and distinctive images of men and women[5].

## **DISCUSSION**

It is evident that the influence and observation of stereotypes, gender asymmetries, and connotations in English and Uzbek phraseological worldviews create a foundation for the lexical description of gender signs. Quoting the phraseological units under analysis in the context of usage, and considering their adequacy in various contexts, all contribute to delineating the gender construction within phraseological materials, displaying the formation of gender concepts, and depicting the traditional stereotypes of masculinity and femininity in English and Uzbek language cultures with genderological insights[3].

Scientific research in gender linguistics emerges as one of the most fruitful and meaningful directions in linguistics. Through this field, the gender-specific characteristics of language and culture, gender semantics, and the expression of gender aspects in phraseological units are better understood. Furthermore, gender linguistics serves as a significant means of studying the similarities and differences between men and women in verbal communication.

## **CONCLUSION**

The scope of linguistic-cognitive and gender research on phraseological units continues to expand, addressing a variety of issues, yet some aspects remain unexplored, such as the degree of opposition and equivalence of male and female stereotypes within the English and Uzbek linguistic worlds, component analysis of gender-indicative phraseological units in English and Uzbek languages for lexicographic purposes, classification of gender-indicative phraseological units based on cognitive, semantic, linguistic-cultural, and thematic considerations, investigation of these phrasemes in a comparative aspect, and differentiation of their isomorphic and allomorphic characteristics.

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