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## **GENDER-NEUTRAL PRONOUNS AS A WAY TO TOLERANT SOCIETY**

Gender is a characteristic of a person that defines belonging to the concept of "male" or "female". In 2014, Valeria Jones filed a lawsuit against her employer Bon Appetit Management Company in Oregon for \$ 518,000 after colleagues referred to her as a woman. Because Jones did not consider herself to be one of the conventional genders [5].

Gender-neutral language is a language that avoids gender stereotypes and prejudices. The purpose of using gender-neutral language is to keep away from words that may be perceived as discriminatory. The aim of introducing and disseminating gender-neutral language is to reduce the number of gender stereotypes rooted in traditional language and culture and to bring changes to society [3].

Moreover, Google Translator has developed a gender-sensitive translation. For example, if you enter the word beautiful, there will be two options when translated into Italian – bellissima (feminine) and bellissimo (masculine). Currently, this does not work with all languages, but only when translated from English into French, German, Italian, and Spanish [2].

The spread and rapid development of gender-neutral language can be traced in the connection with the emergence and institutionalization of gender and feminist studies. In the 1980s, women's studies were recognized as a separate discipline and included in the curricula of higher education [3].

In some countries, the active introduction of gender-neutral pronouns has already begun. For example, American universities, when conducting orientation for first-year students, asked to indicate a preferential gender pronoun. Several universities even allow you to register the desired pronouns in the official computer database. Students can choose from the pronouns "he", "she", "they" and "ze" - or the option "name only" [1].

However, there are slightly different development trends in Europe, because the official EU languages are divided into three categories: natural gender, grammatical gender, and non-gender languages. The most difficult is to use gender-neutral pronouns in grammatically gender languages because each noun has grammatical gender, and the gender of personal pronouns corresponds to the referenced noun. In the case of such languages, it is difficult to create new gender-neutral terms, as this violates their grammatical structure [2].

It is worth noting that since childhood, we do not realize that gender division already exists around us. If we talk about professions such as firefighter, and police officer, then we usually think that it is men's work. At the same time, a nurse, a nail designer, is associated with female work. A simpler example is pink for girls, and blue for boys [4].

This is a rather controversial topic, the majority of the population does not take it seriously and considers people of uncertain gender to be mentally ill. I believe that this opinion is more typical of older people who do not accept innovation. As for the younger generation, it does not cause sharp indignation. On the contrary, they

understand the desires and needs of others. If it is difficult for someone to identify themselves with the male or female gender, then why not create a separate pronoun for them to denote gender. Respect for others should be in communication with all people, regardless of their worldview.

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