

GENDER PECULIARITIES OF CHINESE COMMUNICATION

Discourse is to be understood as the violence we do to things - at least as a certain practice we impose on them.

Gender is seen as one of the parameters by which the social identity of the speaker is constructed in communication.

V. Labov refuted the hypothesis that differences in language use by men and women are naturally determined. There is only a greater or lesser probability that one option will be preferred by women and another by men. The preference depends on the social group, social expectations and other social, not natural, factors.

Under the influence of society's different requirements for men and women, they develop different motives for behaviour, different strategies and tactics of communication.

The language behaviour of men is usually aimed at achieving and maintaining independence and high status.

Society expects women to be non-conflictual, compliant, and emotional.

Trends in male and female speech

- Women tend to include topics in the course of conversation that are generated by the circumstances of communication or the actions of the speakers;
- Men have a harder time switching to extraneous topics, getting carried away by the topic under discussion and not responding to unrelated remarks;
- Women are more likely to be influenced by the factor of "personal life" in their speech, giving examples of specific cases from the experience of their acquaintances;
- Men's speech is characterised by greater terminology, a desire for precise nominalisation, and a greater influence of the "profession" factor;
- A characteristic feature of women's speech is the intensification of positive assessments;
- Men are more likely to express a negative assessment using stylistically reduced and invective vocabulary: (invective vocabulary (Latin *invectiva* - swearing) - offensive words, curses, swearing, verbal or non-verbal (indecent gestures, postures) substitute for physical aggression, a kind of emotional release that people resort to during strong psychological stress).

The issue of cross-gender voice imitation

T.V. Gomon believes: "To come to a conclusion about the fact of imitation of the speech of a person of the other sex, it is necessary to establish which set of classification features (identification characteristics) of female and male speech is bright, frequent and easy to imitate, and which features are more difficult to imitate, which is due to the deep processes of speech generation and cannot be hidden, disguised"

Deep features of women's written language:

Lexical and grammatical level:

- use of abbreviations, abbreviations and approximate designations;
- a tendency to hyperbolic expression: frequent use of emotionally evaluative words and interjections;
- use of euphemisms;
- special emotionally coloured words, adjectives denoting shades of colour, such as pistachio;
- language clichés of politeness;
- avoidance of neologisms.

我纵不欲死,病魔亦将缠我至于死呵!死神还不降临我,实在等不得了!这时我努力爬下床来,抖战的两腿,使我自己惊异!这时窗子外面,射进一缕寒光来,湖面上银花闪烁,我晓得那湖底下朱红色的珊瑚床,已为我豫备好了!云母石的枕头;碧绿青苔泥的被褥,件件都整理了!...我回去吧!唉!亲爱的母亲!嫂嫂! KY... 再见吧!

(庐隐《或人的悲哀》)

Deep features of male written language

Lexical and grammatical level:

- a tendency towards precision, terminology, and the use of professional jargon;
- active use of professional knowledge outside the sphere of professional communication;
- the tendency to use expressive, stylistically reduced means; the uniformity of lexical means of reproducing emotions;
- use of stylistically neutral evaluative vocabulary, neutral adjectives and abstract nouns;
- use of neologisms and newspaper clichés

大爷(回头望): ...一说来了“大前门”,得,那队就排到马路上来了,还拐几个弯儿。一个人限购两盒。您眼看排到了,售货员一掉脸,走了。您再问,答理都不答理你。这就叫“为顾客服务”?装装门面!那“大前门”其实都从大后门走啦!就跟这坐车一样,您这不是规规矩矩排着队,他一出溜,前面去了,朝司机一招手,前门开了。人家是“关系户”,哼,尽这词儿。等您赶过去,它扑哧又关上了。这就叫“为乘客服务”,您还不干瞪眼?谁都看着,就是没治!(朝台侧一望)得,来人了,您头里站着,我排您后面,待会儿车一来,就乱套了,谁力气大,谁抢先占座儿,就这风气!

(高行健《车站》)

Deep features of women's written language

Syntactic level:

- sentences and texts are extended, detailed and expressive;
- frequent use of inversion;
- use of exclamatory and interrogative (rhetorical) sentences;
- use of modal constructions expressing different degrees of probability and uncertainty看来,说不定,也许,在我看来;
- the prevalence of simple and compound sentences;
- "incomplete" sentences, ellipsis;

- excessive repetitions;
- use of clichéd book vocabulary;
- frequent use of punctuation marks;
- emotional colouring of the language.

但这仅仅是昙花一现般的遇合,这是谁支配的命运?我对于这命运,应当低头,还是应当反抗到底? ... 人们给我的嘴脸太难看,我是否有勇气承受下去?难道是我的错吗?为了爱情,而爱一个有地位、有妻子的男人,是罪恶呢,还是灾殃? 唉,还是一些我到死也难解的迷哟!

(庐隐《一个情妇的日记》)

Deep features of male written language

Syntactic level:

- the advantage of using complex sentences;
- "logicality" of statements;
- individual sentences and texts are laconic, substantive and less dynamic;
- uniformity of techniques for conveying an emotional state;
- use of introductory words with the meaning of a statement 显然, 当然, 自然;
- Inconsistency of punctuation marks with the emotional intensity of the speech

大爷: 这是站队扶手用的, 不是座儿。

愣小子: 坐坐怕什么? 又不是麻秆扎的。

大爷: 你没看见这栏杆都歪了吗?

愣小子: 我坐歪的?

大爷: 都坐上去摇晃, 能不歪吗?

愣小子: 这是你家的?

大爷: 就是因为是公家的, 我才管!

愣小子: 你贫什么? 回家去, 跟你老娘们臭贫去吧! (摇晃得更加厉害)

大爷(耐着性子, 好不容易没发作, 转身对沉默的人): 您瞧瞧.....

(高行健《车站》)

We can conclude that gender differences in Chinese communication exist and can be traced at different levels of speech.

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