THE NOTION OF "GENDER" IN LINGUISTICS

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By developments in every sphere, there are further questions and novelties in that areas including science. Due to the issues that are arisen in linguistics, sociolinguistics, philosophy and by having democracy in each sphere of the developing world, nowadays the term "gender" or "gender equality" uses more often than before. The word "gender" refers to characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed [8]. To understand what linguists mean by "gender", a good starting point is Hockett's definition: "Gender are classes of nouns reflected in behavior of associated words" [1:2]. The word "gender" is not used for just a group of nouns but also for the whole category, thus we may say that a particular language has, say, three genders, masculine, feminine, and neutral, and that the language has the category of gender [7]. Gender characterizes not only biological differences between male and female but also it has further meaning and definitions in linguistics according to their usage, especially in phraseological units and proverbs. This lead to blossom new branch in linguistics as gender linguistics and formation and active development of which falls at the end of the XX century [2:53].

Furthermore, the concept of "gender" is widely considered as a socio-cultural, discursive and psycholinguistic phenomenon. When studying the gender factor in language, a linguo-cultural approach is put forward, involving the study of masculinity and femininity as basic cultural concepts [3:112]. When there is a talk about the position of men and women or of which have upper IQ, it associates with the culture and society of that language. Because the usage of gendered words or categories of gender each language has own definitions and explanations, especially when it comes to phraseological units and proverbs that contain gender concept. For instance, karakhalpak language has a great number of saying, phraseology and proverbs related to female position, both positive and negative meanings.

1.   Anasın kórip qızın al – (get marry after seeing the girl's mother). It means if the mother of the future bride is good then her daughter is also, and visa versa.

2.   Qızım saǵan aytaman, kelinim sen tıńla – (I tell you my daughter, but listen my bride). This means in karakalpak culture, bride is a new member of the family so that anybody tells disgusting things to the bride and shows the family rules in actions by doing themselves.

But in English language, there is almost nothing about the bride and mother- in-law. In English speaking countries it is up to the man to be good wife, mother or not. To illustrate:

1)   A good husband makes a good wife;

2)   Caesar's wife must be above suspicion [6:1744].

Moreover, gender is a syntactic phenomenon because the agreement targets through which it shows up can only be defined in terms of their syntactic category (adjective, verb, etc.) and their syntactic relationship to the controller noun. It is however morphological phenomenon, because gender agreement is marked by inflectional devices [1:3]. For many decades, linguists have asked themselves why, and how, gender system have come into existence, why and how these system change over time, and why, in the end, some languages lose their gender system again. Although the story is far from complete, it seems that gender system arise from the use of nouns with classificatory possibilities, such as "woman", "man", and "animal".

Gender is not a linguistic category, but its content can be revealed through the analysis of language structures, which explains the need for a linguistic study of the cultural representation of gender. L.Gordon considers gender to be a basic dimension of the social structure of society. Having compared different points of view of linguists, we can define gender as a concept or

phenomenon of cognitive nature, manifested in the means of language and features of people's speech activity in connection with belonging to a certain gender [6:114].

Once a gender system is in place, it is of course not immutable. For various reasons, a language is always on the move, and there is no reason why its gender system would be an exception. As a language develops, its gender system can expand in terms of getting an extra gender, and morpho-syntactic markers upon which the system depends might be renewed or reorganized [3:5]. According to Bates and MacWhinney, for example, it is not a language- specific biological instinct that makes languages all over the world converge on a similar repertoire, but the fact that there is simply a limited set of "solutions" to the human communication problem. Researchers who subscribe to linguistic functionalism have actually tried to explain the existence of grammatical gender within that framework. To Bates and MacWhinney, gender is a good example of a grammatical device that has (culturally) evolved to support the communicative process itself, rather than to express some communicative content. The particular function they have in mind here is referent tracking: "gender markers may be crucial in helping the listener to keep track of referents across a complex passage of discourse" [1:8].

In the works of Russian linguists, long before the introduction of the term gender into the scientific apparatus, the idea of gender as a socially conditioned phenomenon begins to form. "Within the framework of the scientific paradigm, the gender factor was studied in the aspects of pragmatic analysis of language" by S.I.Dobrova, M.V.Mudra, was considered in the works of M.Y. Nemirovsky, R.A. Budagov, N.A. Yanko-Trinitskaya, M.V.Kitaygorodskaya, etc [2:53].

Along with feminist linguistics, new directions for the study of gender representation in language are merging in European countries and in Russia. Since the 70s of the XX century, sociolinguistic, psycholinguistic, and linguoculturological studies have been conducted, the purpose of which was to analyze the specifics of written and oral texts created by men and women. The results of the sociolinguistic analysis indicate the influence of social factors on the choice of language means in the situation of communication, which serves as a refutation of the hypothesis of natural/ biological conditionality of speech of men and women [4:187].

Within the framework of linguistic and cultural studies, Tannen proved the specificity of gender traditions and rituals of communication between men and women in each culture. One of key areas of analysis of the gender factor in language is the linguistic research of the semantics of the category of gender, as well as the nomination of male and female persons [2:54].

In conclusion, gender is a paradigm which states a social status of gender that are accepted by the society. Furthermore, gender paradigm is defined as analyzing verbalization of male and female parameters within the lexica—semantic field of "gender". A language is on move including development of technology and innovations and this leads to further research on linguistic field.

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