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## INFORMATION ABOUT THE JOURNAL

“KLAD” is a student journal first published at M. Narikbayev Kazguu University School of liberal arts. This journal is aimed at enhancing students’ involvement into science and research.

«KLAD” journal admits for publication various types of articles: original research, review articles, short reports or essays, reflections, case studies, methodologies and cases in english; containing the results of fundamental and applied research in the field of philosophy and identity, history of kazakhstan, pedagogy, linguistics and methods of teaching languages, translation, and tourism.

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PART 01

KAZGUU LIBERAL ARTS DIGEST

**RESEARCH  
PAPERS**





# GENDER PECULIARITIES OF THE USE OF THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE IN VERBAL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE

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## INTRODUCTION

Verbal communication is one of the common ways of communication between people. However, there are gender features in languages, study considers the features of the Russian language. The study of gender aspects in the use of the Russian language in verbal communication between men and women is important because it helps to understand how linguistic expressions and gender-related stereotypes affect communication and their relationships. The study of gender communication patterns helps to identify and combat gender-based stereotypes. Stereotypes are preconceived notions that apply to people of a certain category, in this case, gender (Hilton, 1996). In communication between men and women, stereotypes can lead to misunderstanding and limited opportunities. The study of linguistic differences between genders can contribute to understanding whether there are differences or not and how this affects communication. This study examines the issue of the difference in communication between genders in Russian in terms of verbal communication.

Research question: what are the key differences between male and female use of Russian language in terms of verbal communication patterns?

Subsidiary question: How do men and women differ in their use of verbal communication patterns, such as sentence structure, and vocabulary.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Communication is one of the basic needs according to Maslow's pyramid (McLeod, 2007). Communication is responsible for the stage of socialization, undoubtedly, communication is important at every level of the pyramid. Thus, it confirms the relevance of this topic in research, because only through communication and openness can one build healthy harmonious relationships. It is very important how information is conveyed, and how knowledge or the ability to express emotions is transferred. Communication is important not only for building various kinds of relationships but also for how to behave and what to talk about at the intercultural level. Many researchers such as Tannen (1994), Lakoff (1975), Holmes (2007), and others decided to study this topic, thus, revealing that there is a difference between genders in communication. In this section of the literature review, the aim is to review the study differences between the use of language in terms of verbal communication patterns between male and female.

Common research often incorporates the works of Deborah Tannen as a reference point (1994). She argued that men build and follow hierarchies and that women are more inclined to build relationships and try to strengthen ties. In addition, women use soft, non-assertive language when asking and clarifying, as well as using tag questions and hedge language. Also, Tannen argues that the opposite men speak clearly and to the point. Speaking

of “women’s language”, they tend to use a larger vocabulary, based on emotions and feelings, and to share experiences from life. Since the relationship between linguistic features and gender interests has been fixed, more communication and the use of words are used. If we talk about «male» interests, then in the «male» language they talk a lot about sports, politics, or work. Going back to the topic of her research above and talking about the desire of men to dominate her work confirmed that men tend to interrupt women, perhaps as a way to control the conversation. And women tend to be politer in communication and send more non-verbal signals.

Lakoff (1975), like Tannen (1994), argues that there is a difference between female and male in use of language in communication. She identified several items that characterize “women’ language”, such as the tag questions, for instance, «it’s nice weather, isn’t it?» or a hedge language that doesn’t give a precise definition like «probably; sort of». This lack of confidence in language is rooted in a patriarchal culture that has been around for a very long time and has been affected by the way women speak. However, after all, there are different individuals, not all of them correspond to the foundations of society, and criticism has not bypassed this work. Is it true that there is an exact difference of use language between genders? However, despite all this, her work is a valuable source.

Janet Holmes (2007) in her study wrote that cultural and social factors are of significant importance and influence the language. In what context to use one of the types of register, but also how rich is the speech of different genders, and what vocabulary is used despite the situation? What grammatical structure is typical for both sexes or what is the difference? How to develop in a professional environment if the language and formulations are different. She argues that in work there is a difference between genders and is not a neutral environment. As the author notes,

when a female speaks it is equated to low because of the length of the sentences and the hedge of the language, and the softer intention. This is related to Pragmatics; hence women are more likely to use vocabulary to maintain social relationships. At work, this is perceived as a lower rank, but it still requires assertiveness in the work area to move up the career ladder.

Coates (2015), like the previous authors, believes that there are differences in communication, but she also noted that the environment influences, that is, the difference is not innate. Cameron (2007), also, believes that it is not innate in his writing «women are from Venus, men are from Mars» men and women do not fundamentally burn in a particular gender language. She approaches the study of this topic more subtly, thereby getting rid of biases, and stereotypes.

In conclusion, it is possible to say that there are differences in communication between genders, but cultural and social conditions and equally important individual differences should be taken into account. Therefore, in the future, research on this topic should be continued, exploring different contexts and reducing gender biases and stereotypes. After reading several articles, I agree with the opinion that men and women manifest themselves differently in communication, but I believe that not everything is so different. I think that some women, on the contrary, are more assertive than men. And also men, may not be accurate in the wording, gradually approaching the topic.

## METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this study is to study in depth whether there are any features and differences between male and female in use of Russian language. Namely, how men and women convey information, what meaning they put into their sentences and through what content; how male and female build relationships with each other and with the opposite sex, and separately find out the

features of languages during negotiations.

A qualitative method was chosen to study social phenomena such as the difference between genders in communication. Using this method, I can easily collect language features, communication styles verbal cues that men and women use in different contexts (Payne, 2007). In addition, the qualitative method has a flexible approach to collecting information to understand the complex structures of human communication. Through a semi-structured interview that includes this method, based on the experience of people in communication

### **SAMPLING**

Participants were chosen randomly, age over 18 years of age, any nationality or ethnicity, or socioeconomic status is not considered in this study.

There are 6 participants: 3 males and 3 females

The main criteria that will be included in the interview are: the participants position themselves as male and female. Another important piece of information is that the first thing the participant will be familiar with is the consent form for participation and further provision of information. The participant has the right to stop the interview and leave the participation.

The research occurred in both face-to-face settings and through internet platforms, including WhatsApp and Instagram, via video call. The face-to-face interview took place on the territory of the university, in a quiet environment so that the participant did not tense up and answered calmly. There was no interference in the form of noise. In addition, some interviews will be conducted through online platforms via video call and on Instagram and telegrams for those participants who are not students of KAZGUU or are located far away. Online platforms make it convenient for those with a busy schedule and interviews can be

scheduled.

### **DATA COLLECTION**

The interviews are semi-structured, i.e. there is a certain list of questions, but in the course of the conversation, clarifying questions were asked in order to obtain accurate and in-depth information. These interviews were conducted in a private location, where participants could share data on gender differences in communication. Interviews were recorded on a Dictaphone, then transcribed to ensure accurate interpretation based on responses. Questions in the interview are be open-ended in order to gain deeper knowledge through this flexibility.

Questions include topics such as experiences in communication, then specifying genders, what is their perception of gender and its role in communication, and whether they adapt communication style in different contexts.

### **DATA ANALYSIS**

Data was collected and transcribed, then key themes were identified that would answer the main questions and sub-questions. Once the topics have been categorized, each topic accompanied by quotes from interviews for confirmation.

### **ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

First of all, anonymity was ensured, all names were replaced with pseudonyms, and all information in a folder with a password. Also, participation is voluntary, and the participant must confirm their consent before the interview. When asking questions, the researcher should make sure that there is no psychological harm to the participant. Interview format official language.

### **LIMITATIONS**

There are limitations in gathering information

through online platforms, such as internet connection or interview interruption. To solve the problem, inform the participants in advance to ensure good internet and prepare a quiet environment so that nothing interferes.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

From the answers to the question about the difference in communication between men and women in verbal communication in Russian, the following findings can be distinguished:

- General difference:

Based on how they answered, the following conclusions can be drawn: the difference in intonation, tonality, and volume of the voice of men and women; guys tend to speak in a calmer intonation, while girls, on the contrary, express their emotions more vividly, with greater intonation and tonality, however, when guys, communicating with guys, tend to show emotionality, which was not described in previous studies. An example from an interview:

“...girls often talk more emotionally than guys. Also, guys say something more calmly...” (girl’s answer)

“... men are more expressive. When happy, they can beat each other in a friendly way. Yes, and hit each other lightly, it’s quite normal for guys” (guy’s answer)

- Conversation Topics:

Based on the interview responses, it seems that there are no stereotypical topics that guys and girls talk about. The conversation topics can range from getting to know each other better, recent life situations, and even something as futuristic as space travel to Mars. The variety of topics discussed ultimately depends on the individual’s sociability and openness toward the person they are conversing with. These findings

refute the speculations made by Tannen (1994) regarding stereotypical topics in conversations, for example, men talk about sports and cars. In response to a question about the topics of conversation, it was said: “About everything interesting or uninteresting.”

- Sentence structure:

Women, according to half of the respondents, speak more clearly and tend to comply with the standards of the language. Also, during interviews, girls tend to describe events and situations in more detail and in detail, which leads to longer conversations and sentences. However, this is not a strict rule and depends on the individual and the situation. Based on how male participants respond and what they say, it can be said that they tend to be specific on the topic, reporting only the facts, which can lead to shorter conversations and sentences.

From the interview answers, we can conclude that, in general, there is a difference in the length of conversations between men and women. Here is an example of a girl’s response:

“I very rarely swear myself, perhaps when I tell some stories and quote someone, in other cases never. But from my circle of friends, guys are inclined, but it was my friends from school, from male friends from the university that I heard a couple of times...”

The guy’s answer: “With friends, I can swear more often when I’m joking”

- Vocabulary:

Based on the interview responses regarding the use of hedge language, it appears that both men and women use hedge language, but women tend to use it more frequently, which is in line with Lakoff’s (1975) observations.

— Both guys and girls use words such as “um” “like” and “you know”, but the specific

words they use tend to differ. Guys tend to use “supposedly”, which says guys tend to use words that mean specifics. While girls tend to use “well» and “kind of.” Also, guys were silent when they thought and the girls used such phrases as “well...”, and “generally...”. There have been studies before, and I lean more towards the studies of Coates (2015) and Cameron (2007) that in general there is not such a significant difference in the conversation.

One more finding about the difference in vocabulary: Guys tend to use slang terms such as “bro”, which are used both with close friends and acquaintances. Girls, on the other hand, tend not to use these terms. For example, the guy’s answer:

“What’s up, bro, how are you?”

— Swearing is more common among guys than girls, with guys using more profanity in their speech, which was noticed when participants were talking about their experiences. However, this can also vary depending on the person and the context of the conversation. But, all participants mentioned that males are more like to use swear words.

“But from my environment, guys tend to swear...”

Thus, we can conclude and answer the question that there are some differences in communication between men and women in the Russian language. Some of them relate to patterns such as the degree of clarity and adherence to language standards, most often it speaks of formal communication or ordinary communication without abbreviations. That is, women speak in full sentences, thereby speaking more than guys.

The general impression is that guys tend to speak in a calmer intonation, while girls express their emotions more vividly, with more intonation and tonality. But when guys talk to guys, they also show their emotionality. It was noted that there are no

stereotypical topics that are spoken only by men or only by women. It was also noted that men are more likely to use slang terms and swear words, which was not previously mentioned in studies. In general, the study showed that although there are differences in verbal communication between men and women. The nature of conversation topics is not straightforward and varies based on individual characteristics and specific contextual factors. This observation aligns with the research conducted by Cameron (2007) and Coates (2015), which also highlights similar patterns.

## CONCLUSION

Overall, it possible to say about the differences in the speech communication of men and women in Russian that allow us to identify several key points. First, there are general differences in emotional expression, sentence lengths, and vocabulary use. Men tend to speak with a calmer intonation, while women express their emotions more vividly, with more intonation and tonality. However, it has also been observed that when men interact with other men, they also show emotionality that has not previously been considered in studies. In terms of topics of conversation, research shows that there are no stereotyped topics specific to a particular gender. The range of topics for conversation is very diverse: from personal interests and recent life situations.

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