PSYCHOLINGUISTIC FEATURES OF GENDER FACTOR IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK COMMUNICATION

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Abstract: The present thesis explores the psycholinguistic nature of gender differences in English and Uzbek communication. It focuses on how gender identity influences linguistic behavior, emotional expression, and cognitive strategies in interaction. Drawing on recent psycholinguistic research, the paper examines how social expectations, cultural norms, and gender roles shape language production and perception. The study emphasizes that gender not only affects the way people use language but also how they interpret meaning and construct social relationships through communication.

Introduction. In modern linguistics, gender has become a key category in understanding the relationship between language, mind, and culture. Psycholinguistic studies view language as a reflection of individual cognition and social experience. Gender-based differences in speech behavior are shaped by cultural traditions, emotional perception, and communicative goals. In both English and Uzbek, male and female speakers demonstrate distinct cognitive-linguistic patterns that reflect their communicative priorities and cultural orientations. This thesis aims to identify the psycholinguistic mechanisms that underlie gender differences in English and Uzbek communicative behavior.

Gender-related differences in communication are most visible at the lexical, pragmatic, and paralinguistic levels. According to some researchers [1; 2], women tend to employ more affiliative language that builds empathy and connection, whereas men use language to assert status and control. This reflects the distinction between what is called ‘interactional alignment’ and ‘positional talk’ [3]. From a psycholinguistic point of view, these differences arise from the ways in which men and women process and respond to emotional stimuli during interaction.

In English discourse, female speakers often use evaluative adjectives, intensifiers, and tag questions such as 'really', 'so beautiful', or 'don’t you think?', which indicate emotional engagement and cooperative communication. Male speakers, however, tend to use more factual and directive expressions, prioritizing efficiency and clarity over empathy. In Uzbek, similar tendencies are observed: women prefer expressive

constructions like 'voy', 'jonim', 'ha, juda chiroyli', while men often rely on concise and assertive forms such as 'bo‘ldi', 'kerak emas', or 'xavotir olma'. These differences demonstrate how emotional cognition and linguistic encoding are intertwined with gender identity [4].

Some scholars [5; 6] highlight that gendered communication styles are culturally constructed through socialization processes. In Uzbek culture, female communication is associated with modesty and affective warmth, while male communication is linked with rationality and authority. In contrast, Western English-speaking contexts promote gender equality and individual expression, which allows for more flexibility in emotional self-presentation. Thus, while English-speaking women might use assertive or humorous tones, Uzbek women tend to prefer polite and reserved forms reflecting traditional norms of respect and decency [7].

From a psycholinguistic perspective, these tendencies align with differences in cognitive-emotional processing. Studies in cognitive psychology show that women are generally more attuned to relational cues and emotional nuances in conversation, while men exhibit stronger goal-oriented linguistic planning [8]. This cognitive asymmetry affects not only language production but also perception: women tend to interpret indirectness as empathy, while men may interpret it as ambiguity.

Conclusion. The comparative psycholinguistic analysis of English and Uzbek communication demonstrates that gender plays a significant role in shaping linguistic, emotional, and pragmatic behavior. Female speakers in both cultures exhibit a higher degree of emotional sensitivity, empathy, and cooperative communication, while male speakers emphasize logic, brevity, and directness. These contrasts, however, are not universal but culture-bound. In English contexts, gendered patterns are gradually converging due to social change, whereas in Uzbek communication traditional values continue to shape gender-based linguistic expectations. Future studies should apply experimental psycholinguistic methods—such as reaction time analysis and discourse perception tests—to examine how gender identity influences speech processing and communicative efficiency across languages.

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