

4. *Пронкин, С. В.* Государственное управление зарубежных стран / С. В. Пронкин. – М.: Аспект Пресс, 2004. – С. 222 – 224
5. *Рубинский, Ю. И.* Франция. Время Саркози / Ю. И. Рубинский. – М.: Междунар. отношения. – 2011. – 320 с.

LANGUAGE AS A MEANS OF NEUTRALIZING GENDER INEQUALITY

П. Л. Маршин, А. С. Хиони

Nowadays there exist two diverse conceptions of the notion of gender. According to the narrow approach provided by the World Health Organization, *gender* refers to socially constructed characteristics that define men and women [1]. This approach is also known as a binary concept, with two rigidly fixed options: either male or female. Under the broad definition, gender is a complex interrelationship among an individual's sex, gender identity, gender expression and gender role. Together, it produces one's authentic sense of gender, which is not obligatory to be exclusively male or female. The broad approach is more and more getting popularity as it covers all individuals who do not fit binary concept of gender.

An innermost concept lying at the heart of the broad approach also known as "non-binary model" is gender identity. Basically, it denotes the perception of self as male or female or both or neither – how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves. The list of variety of identities is well elaborated and extensive. This can be demonstrated by the fact that a year ago Facebook gave its users the opportunity to choose from 51 options to define their gender [2]. The social network in its own contributed into the extension of possibilities to express one's gender.

In this regard another term should be mentioned. Gender expression generally indicates the ways in which people externally communicate their gender to others through behavior, clothing, haircut, voice, and other forms of presentation. However, today people are supplied with many opportunities to express their gender, and the latest novelties always cause lots of publicity and public discussions. For instance, "The National Geographic" celebrated the freedom of gender expression by putting a transgender girl on the cover of this January issue which resulted in profound and emotional online arguments about gender [3].

The disturbance caused by the issue of the world famous magazine illustrates that people are prone to hostile reactions towards gender identification and expression of people who do not fall under the nowadays outdated binary system. Simultaneously the substance of gender problems is underestimated. People all over the world face discriminatory practices and inequality in education, healthcare, at work regardless of the fact whether they "fit" established

“male-female” model or not. Such practices prevent people from equal and adequate exercise of the rights arising from the very human nature.

One of the crucial instruments of eliminating prejudice against people who face discrimination based on their gender identity is the promotion of gender neutral language.

Theoretically, gender-neutral language, or gender-inclusive language is the language that avoids bias toward a particular sex or social gender. In English, this includes use of nouns that are not gender-specific to refer to roles or professions, as well as avoidance of the pronoun he (including the forms him and his). A gender-specific pronoun such as he may be avoided by using a gender-neutral pronoun – possibilities in English include he or she, s/he, or singular they. For example, the words *policeman* and *stewardess* are gender-specific; the corresponding gender-neutral terms are *police officer* and *flight attendant* [4].

In 2016 the Oxford Dictionaries website added a title “Mx”, defining persons who wish to avoid specifying their gender or prefer not to identify themselves as male or female [2].

An increasing number of US universities are making it easier for people to choose to be addressed by other pronouns. There are people who say: “Hi, I’m /name/. I use they/them pronouns (instead of he/she).” They explain that neither end of the [male/female] spectrum is a suitable way of expressing the gender they are [2]. Moreover, Princeton’s Office of Human Resources has developed recommendations and examples how to write and speak about people in a gender neutral manner. For instance, instead of: “Each participant presents his ID badge at the door.” the recommendations advise to use the alternative: “Participants present their ID badges at the door” [5].

One of the most advanced countries when it comes to gender neutral language is Sweden. In April 2015 the official dictionary of the Swedish language introduced a gender-neutral pronoun. “Hen” was added to “han” (he) and “hon” (she) [6].

What concerns the Russian-speaking environment, the issue of creating and implementing gender neutral language is increasingly discussed. Activists see this process as an attempt at feminist reform of the language and change the usual masculine oriented structure of the language [7, c.138]. For instance, activists and researchers use names of professions with an underscore: “блогер_ка”, “дизайнер_ка”, “студент_ка” in order to avoid binary form of gender identity.

These tendencies show that language does not stay static. It reacts to any changes in the social life of the society. The secret why linguistic means are so flexible is explained by the simple fact that any language is the combination of symbols we agreed upon. While being utilized on a daily basis, it constructs our perception and attitude [8, c. 199]. The meaning embedded in eve-

ry symbol and any combination of these symbols form our understanding what 'normal' and 'abnormal' is.

Still, gender neutral language today goes beyond linguistics. Gender neutral language can take form of any action or any institution which are designed in such a way as to promote gender neutrality. And it is quite fascinating that traditionally orientated way of upbringing manages to co-exist with an open-minded approach. For instance, the British Royal Family demonstrates conservative attitude towards the nurturing its beloved children. George and Charlotte are shining examples of traditional boys' and girls' upbringing: they are usually dressed in clothes of gender specific colors (blue and pink), George plays with cars while Charlotte's toy is fluffy doggie. Additionally, the birth of heirs was celebrated by illuminating local sights in blue (George's birth) and pink (Charlotte's birth) with accompanying signs 'It's a boy' and 'It's a girl' [9].

At the same time there is a demonstrative example provided by Sweden. The Egalia pre-school in Stockholm says its goal is to free children from social expectations based on their sex. Children are addressed as 'friend'. The books have been carefully selected to avoid traditional "pink-blue" presentations of gender. Most of the usual toys and games are placed deliberately side-by-side to encourage a child to play with whatever they choose [10].

The very existence and topicality of gender neutral language proves that adhering to binary concept with two rigidly fixed options: either male or female – is becoming less and less possible as we may encounter people who do not fall within the 'male' or 'female' model. Gender neutral language should be utilized as a means of eliminating the distinction in people's rights on the basis of gender. Even though it is incapable of solving all problems, gender inclusive language, expressed both by the linguistic and upbringing means, represents the contribution to the changing of people's mindset. This social experiment possesses a potential to promote gender equality and eliminate stereotypes connected with gender roles, provided that the society gives the symbols of gender neutral language a new form of laws and regulations which safeguard the rights and freedoms of people who prefer not to identify themselves within the binary system.

Литература

1. Интернет-адрес: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs403/en/>.
2. Интернет-адрес: <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-34901704>.
3. Интернет-адрес: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2017/01/editors-note-gender>.
4. Интернет-адрес: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender-neutral_language.
5. Интернет-адрес: <https://www.princeton.edu/hr/progserv/communications/inclusivelanguage.pdf>.

6. Интернет-адрес: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/24/sweden-adds-gender-neutral-pronoun-to-dictionary>.
7. *Hellinger M., Bußmann H.* Gender across languages: The linguistic representation of women and men. Vol. 1 / John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2001.
8. *Макаревич И. И.* Конструирование языкового сознания на уровне гендера / И. И. Макаревич // Межкультурная коммуникация и профессионально ориентированное обучение иностранным языкам: материалы IX Междунар. науч. конф., Минск, 29 окт. 2015 г. / Белорус. гос. ун-т, фак. междунар. от-ний; редкол.: В. Г. Шадурский (пред.) [и др.]. – Минск, 2015. – С. 198-201.
9. Макаревич, И. И. Семиотический и лингвистический подходы к анализу гендерного поведения молодого поколения британской королевской семьи / И. И. Макаревич // Языковая парадигма и инновационные технологии в профессионально ориентированном обучении иностранным языкам в высшей школе: к 20-летию образования факультета международных отношений: сб. науч. ст. / под общ. ред. И. Н. Ивашкевич. – Минск: Колорленд, 2015. – С. 74–87.
10. Интернет-адрес: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-14038419>

АНАЛИЗ НОМИНАТИВНЫХ ЕДИНИЦ С КИТАЙСКИМ ЗНАКОМ 吃[CHĪ] ‘ЕСТЬ, ВКУШАТЬ’

Ю. В. Мацевило

Прежде всего, обратимся к терминологии данного исследования. А. Н. Гордей дает следующее определение номинативной единицы. Номинативная единица – это устойчивая последовательность знаков, в которой один знак (модификатор) определяет другой (актуализатор). Номинативная единица отличается от сочетания номинативных единиц репродуктивностью, затемненностью внутренней формы, наличием свертки в пользу модификатора [2, с. 33].

В данном исследовании мы также используем термины «ядро и периферия семантики языкового знака», указывающие на его неопределенно-значность. Данная идея была впервые выдвинута Кеннетом Пайком [5] и развита в работах В. В. Мартынова [3] и А. Н. Гордея [2].

Объектом данного исследования является знак 吃 [chĭ] ‘есть, вкушать’, а также номинативные единицы, в состав которых он входит. Задача данного исследования состояла в том, чтобы выяснить, как изменяется периферия семантики знака 吃 [chĭ] в составе различных номинативных единиц.

Большинство примеров предложений взято из корпуса китайского языка Пекинского университета [6], перевод выполнен нами.

吃耳光 [chĭěrguāng] – «съесть пощечину», получить пощечину [1, с. 571].

耳光 [ěrguāng] – пощёчина, оплеуха, затрещина.