

speakers. In addition, the quality of comic effect is ensured by adequately organized means and strategies for reproducing comic effect at different language levels.

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SEXISM IN THE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Language is the reflection of every part of society, namely its culture, traditions, and history; there is no exception for English. The Western world, despite promoting equality and democracy, still upholds the tradition of sexism. So what is sexism? Let's look at the definition from the Cambridge Dictionary. Sexism is the belief that the members of one gender are less intelligent, able, skilled, etc. than the members of the other sex, especially that women are less able than men [2]. How is sexism revealed in the English language and literature?

As we know, throughout history, women and men have faced double standards. When a man is often described as charismatic, a woman is often described as bubbly or vivacious. She is an airhead; he is just simple. He is assertive; she is bossy. Studies conducted by various feminist researchers in the field of English have shown that:

- In English, the concepts of "man" and "human" coincide, defined by the single word man in the sense of "a person of either sex": Every man is the architect of his own fortune (proverb);

- Feminine nouns are usually derived from masculine nouns and not vice versa (especially professions): actor – actress, host – hostess, waiter – waitress;

- Many composites in English are formed with the word man: mankind, man-made, manhunt, etc. Even the word woman in English is derived from the word man;

- Lexical items that describe women and their qualities are mostly negative. For example, slut, slattern, tramp, drab, dowdy, raggle, tail, trollop;

- The phraseology in the language has a pronounced focus on the dominant position of men: "Men are the stronger sex. Men should be bosses, and women should work for them. A woman's place is in the home. It's a man's world."

Often, words that contain masculine features have a prestigious status and serve as the basis for the formation of complex words and phrases: mankind, brotherhood, Irishman, Frenchman, Scotsman, spokesman, fraternity, and fellowship.

Many neutral words have acquired negative sexual connotations in connection with the attitude to women only as objects of sexual relations: tart, slut, harlot, mistress, housewife, lover. That is, the language reflects the Puritan tradition that destroyed all other relationships between men and women, except for marriage.

Thus, all these facts allow us to assert that femininity and masculinity in English are opposed to each other both in qualitative (positive and negative evaluations) and quantitative (dominance of the masculine as universal) terms, which proves the existence of gender asymmetry and, as such, the reproduction of sexism in the language.

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