

Taboo in Lexicography: The Status of Gender and Gendered – "Lexicological Principles in Lexicographic Practice (Application)" (Gender Revisited) Discussion

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ABSTRACT

Taboo in Lexicography: the status of gender and gendered - "Lexicological Principles in Lexicographic Practice (application)" (gender revisited) is an insight into "Taboo-motivated lexical replacement". A taboo classification is a direct link to Freud's "Totem and Taboo" which is a historical and current insight into gender issue among primitive tribes as a group in society. If gender is not being mentioned it can augment to taboo (cf. "White Mythology: Metaphor in the Text of Philosophy" – Derrida! The paradox: the myth is not written, only the euphemised is being written, etc.) What is the current status of a taboo unit? Are they really always re-evaluated? What about neologisms? Are the neologisms marked as a taboo? Are we really at the end of a taboo era? Is taboo "silent omission" or transfer? What about the old dictionaries? In the era when a "Bologna student" has no idea what a headword is, uses a cell phone as a tool, what is to be done? Is gender in language a social component then? Did the change happen? Is a discourse analysis the only solution? Who records the findings? When? How often? For native speakers? Everyman knows that discourse is to be analyzed and then reanalyzed! Is gender variation to be recognized? When is the end of the hidden phase? Is "gender-sensitive" the only option? Does brutality happen in society due to gender? Is it always named? What is the current status of euphemised variation? How can unnative notice the change? What is the aftermath of cell-phone tradition – oral tradition?! If gendered is not written it is to become a myth again!

Keywords: Taboo, gender, Lexicography

INTRODUCTION

"[L]anguage change" in the form of "Taboo-motivated lexical replacement" can be summarized as follows [1]:

Taboo-motivated lexical replacement is a cross-linguistic phenomenon where the avoidance of taboos' lexical items by speakers can motivate the creative use of language. The tabooed terms are eventually replaced, causing language change. This taboo-driven change can lead to the remodeling of language, or create semantic shift due to the use of figurative language in euphemisms. [1]

The taboo is being described as follows:

Taboo language can be regarded as a means to censor, or at least avoid the mention of taboo topics, for fear of incurring the cost of violating the taboo itself.

[...]

A linguistic taboo is any element of a language bearing a quality that renders it intrinsically impolite or forbidden.

[...]

[t]his sometimes results in the acceptability of their use varying relative to the register that a culture considers appropriate when conversing within a given implicit stratum of social interaction. [1]

Corpus Analysis: Headword Sample (Illustration)

The interdisciplinarity of Lexicology and Lexicography could be associated with computational advances and gender and gendered language lexicographical dilemma... The basic concept that each and every lexicographer should eliminate bias could be seen as follows (cf. Majetic, 2007):

O A T S. *n.s.* [*aten*, Saxon.] A grain,
which in England is generally given to
horses, but in Scotland supports the
people.

Figure 1: (Johnson, 2005: 403)

Words do change meaning, "the attitude" towards almost each and every lexical unit is being changed. The problem described by the headword in Figure 1 illustrates a personal judgment on the issue where the headword "oats" is being classified as eaten by Scotts as a nation (all of them) whiles in England is generally given to horses and is only occasionally eaten by people could, historically speaking, be almost correct description of a "field work" headword definition, however, the very fact that a "generalization" is being made and no other descriptive analogy had been presented is questionable currently as well as historically and could be linked to a long present tention(s) between the two which could be inadequate because the headword definitions are to be as objective as possible and without "personal descriptions". The change and the constant demand for the most basic household item in each and every household everywhere today could be used as a warning to every lexicographer and his/her team!

DISCUSSION

What is the direct association to Linguistics? (Cf. "the wiki findings") Is it possible to reach innovation without interdisciplinarity:

- a) Since linguistics is complex and *interdisciplinary*¹, [...] its composition and structure². [2]³
 Budući da je jezikoslovlje složeno i interdisciplinarno, [...] negov sastav i strukturu⁴. [2]
- b) **Sociolinguistics** is the descriptive study of the effect of any or all aspects of society. Sociolinguistics' historical interrelation with anthropology^[1] can be observed in studies of how language varieties differ between groups separated by social variables (e.g., ethnicity, religion, status, gender⁵, level of education, age, etc.) and/or geographical barriers (a mountain range, a desert, a river, etc.). Such studies also examine how such differences in usage and differences in beliefs about usage produce and reflect social or socioeconomic classes. [3]

¹ Emphasis S. M.
² Emphasis S. M.
³ Translation S. M.
⁴ Emphasis S. M.
⁵ Emphasis S. M.

c)

What is the basic premise of sociolinguistics?

The idea behind sociolinguistics is that language is highly variable and that it is impacted by complex social factors. Sociolinguistics approaches language with the idea that all kinds of speech are equally correct and valuable, even though some are stigmatized⁶.

What are the types of sociolinguistics?

Sociolinguistics is not generally divided into sub-groups, but there are several kinds of variation that sociolinguists study, including:

- Variation by social class
- Variation by region
- Variation by gender
- Variation by racial group
- Variation by relationships

What is sociolinguistics and examples?

Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics that studies how social factors impact language use. Examples of sociolinguistic⁷ study include **gendered language differences**, regional differences, and how social class impacts language use.⁸ [4]

Due to:

d)

Noam Chomsky [...] a biological standpoint, [...] [F]rom the 1950s, American linguistic tradition [...] diverg[e]ing(s)⁹ from the de Saussurian structuralism¹⁰ taught in European academia. [5]

According to:

e)

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"[i]nterdisciplinary study" means a study that goes beyond the usual and traditional boundaries of individual disciplines and in which an integrative approach is used in building knowledge. [6]¹¹

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"interdisciplinarni studij" znači studij koji prevazilazi uobičajene i tradicionalne granice pojedinih disciplina i u kojem se koristi integrativni pristup u izgradnji spoznaja. [6]

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Are they really always re-evaluated? What about neologisms? Are the neologisms marked as a taboo? Are we really at the end of a taboo era? What about the old dictionaries? In the era when a "Bologna student" has no idea what a headword is, uses a cell phone as a

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tool, what is to be done? Is gender in language a social component then? Did the change happen? Is the discourse analysis the only solution? Who records the findings? When? How often? For native speakers? Everyman knows that discourse is to be analyzed and then reanalyzed! Is gender variation to be recognized? When is the end of the hidden phase? Is gender-sensitive the only option? Does brutality happen in society due to gender? Is it always named? What is the current status of euphemised? How can unnative notice the change? What is the aftermath of cell-phone tradition – oral tradition?! If gendered is not written it is to become a myth again! (Cf. Majetic, 2019/20; Majetic, 2023a; Majetic, 2023b; Majetic, 2023c; Majetic, 2023d; Majetic, 2024a; Majetic, 2024b; Majetic, 2024c; Majetic, 2024d).

CONCLUSION

The structuralism-inclined so-called armchair approach transfer into lexicography is a strong opposition to the demand for the unsterile language used not only by the lexicographer. When/If transferred to gender variation as the most neglected variation, the problem could be summarized as a total neglect where elements of gender linguistic variable could be seen as a taboo and are a direct link to Freud's "Totem and Taboo" which is also a historical and current status of gender in lexicography.

Taboo silence is a context of almost every headword. The inclusion of "euphemised" is an extreme leading towards a sterile language "unvariationism". However, the use of "unsterile" as the sociolinguistic standard of favourable urges the need for interdisciplinary change and action!

NOTES

- [1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Word_taboo#:~:text=Taboomotivated%20lexical%20replacement 3rd Oct. 2024
- [2] <https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jezikoslovlje14.3.2024>
- [3] <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sociolinguistics>
- [4] <https://study.com/learn/lesson/sociolinguistics-types-variations-examples.html>
- [5] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linguistics_in_the_United_States 3rd Oct. 2024
- [6] ZAKON O VISOKOM OBRAZOVANJU. (2022). Sarajevo: S L U Ź B E N E N O V I N E Broj 36 - Strana 2.

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