A SYNCHRONIC AND DIACHRONIC STUDY OF GENDER-RELATED LEXICAL UNITS

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Abstract
A synchronic and diachronic study of gender lexical units in English and Uzbek involves examining the usage and development of words and phrases related to gender both in their current state (synchronic) and over time (diachronic). This comprehensive approach allows for a deeper understanding of how gender-related language has evolved and continues to shape and be shaped by social and cultural contexts.

Keywords: synchronic, diachronic, gender-related, power dynamics.

A synchronic and diachronic study of lexical units related to gender in English and Uzbek languages can be associated with changes and concepts today, so it is acceptable to think of these areas as highly relevant or limited. Since the Uzbek language and the English language have undergone various changes in terms of grammar and lexicon, various customs and common words, this topic was not expected to be unified in a current and global way. However, the Uzbek language may have different forms of words with sexual implications. For example, in the Uzbek language, the words "oǵil" (boy) and "qiz" (girl) are gender-specific forms "boys" (men) and "girls" (women). The way these gender units are expressed varies depending on the gender of the word itself. In English, however, gendered units do not come in many forms. There are some types of gendered units, for example, the words "actor" (male actor) and "actress" (female actress) indicate gendered units. In this case, the main word loses its sexual influence. Especially in the field of information technology, gender-neutral units are widely used, for example, the word "programmer" (programmer) is intended for both men and women.

By conducting a synchronic study of gender-related lexical units, researchers gain insights into the contemporary linguistic landscape surrounding gender. It helps in understanding the current usage and cultural meanings of gender-related terms, shedding light on the ways in which language shapes and reflects social attitudes, identities, and power dynamics related to gender. Aspects that could be explored in a synchronic study of gender-related lexical units:

Semantic Analysis: Analyse the semantic nuances and connotations associated with gender-related lexical units. This involves examining how specific words and phrases

are understood and interpreted within the cultural and social context. For example, exploring whether certain words carry positive or negative connotations, or if they are associated with particular social or cultural expectations.

Lexical Inventory: Identify and compile a list of gender-related words, phrases, and expressions used in the language under investigation. This can include terms related to gender identity, gender roles, gender stereotypes, and other aspects of gender.

Frequency and Usage: Investigate the frequency of usage of gender-related lexical units in different contexts. This can involve analysing written texts, spoken language corpora, or conducting surveys to gather information about the prevalence and popularity of certain terms or expressions.

Neologisms and Language Change: Identify any new gender-related terms or expressions that have emerged recently, reflecting shifts in societal attitudes and gender discourses. This includes analysing how language adapts to changes in gender identities and roles, such as the inclusion of non-binary or gender-neutral language.

Sociolinguistic Factors: Study how gender-related lexical units are used and understood across different social groups, such as age, socioeconomic background, education level, and regional variations. This can help identify any variation or divergence in the usage and perception of these terms based on social factors.

Conceptualizations of Gender: Examine how gender-related lexical units reflect and shape societal understandings and conceptualizations of gender. This involves analysing how language both reflects and influences cultural norms, ideologies, and power structures related to gender.

A diachronic study focuses on tracing changes in language use, meanings, and social connotations associated with gender-related terms throughout different historical periods. Here are some key aspects of a diachronic study of gender-related lexical units:

Historical Corpus Analysis: Researchers analyze historical texts, documents, and linguistic resources to track the usage of gender-related lexical units across different time periods. This involves studying written materials such as literature, legal documents, newspapers, and personal correspondence to observe how gender-related terms were used in specific historical contexts.

Language Change and Cultural Shifts: Examine how changes in societal attitudes and cultural norms have influenced the language used to discuss gender. Language evolves alongside societal transformations, and a diachronic study can shed light on how gender-related terms have adapted and responded to shifts in gender roles, identities, and power structures.

Semantic Shifts: Investigate semantic changes in gender-related terms over time. Words and phrases related to gender can undergo shifts in meaning, connotation, and usage patterns. A diachronic study allows researchers to identify these shifts and explore how cultural and social factors influenced these changes.

Attitudes and Discourse Analysis: Investigate how gender-related language reflects and shapes societal attitudes, ideologies, and power dynamics. Analyze how certain terms were employed in different contexts, such as legal discourse, political rhetoric, or

religious texts, to understand how language both mirrors and influences gender-related beliefs and social structures.

Comparative Analysis: Conduct comparative analyses of gender-related lexical units in different time periods to identify patterns and trends. This involves comparing usage, frequency, and semantic associations of terms to uncover similarities and differences in how gender was conceptualized and expressed linguistically over time.

Borrowing and Neologisms: Explore instances of borrowing from other languages, as well as the emergence of new gender-related terms and neologisms. Language is dynamic and continually adapts to societal changes, and a diachronic study can uncover how new vocabulary emerged to express evolving concepts related to gender.

In conclusion, a synchronic and diachronic study of gender lexical units in English and Uzbek provides valuable insights into the usage, meanings, and historical development of words and phrases related to gender. By examining the current usage and historical evolution of gender-related terms in both languages, researchers can gain a comprehensive understanding of how language reflects and shapes societal attitudes, ideologies, and power dynamics surrounding gender.

A synchronic study focuses on the present, analysing the contemporary usage, semantic nuances, and social connotations of gender-related lexical units. It considers factors such as frequency of usage, contextual understanding, sociolinguistic variations, and intersectionality, allowing for a holistic examination of gender-related language use within the specific cultural and social contexts of English and Uzbek speakers.

On the other hand, a diachronic study delves into the historical development and changes in gender-related lexical units over time. By analysing historical texts, semantic shifts, language changes, and cultural transformations, researchers can uncover how societal attitudes and norms have influenced the language used to discuss gender in English and Uzbek. This longitudinal perspective provides insights into the evolution of gender-related vocabulary, highlighting the ways in which language has adapted to reflect shifting societal perspectives on gender identities and roles.

Combining synchronic and diachronic approaches offers a comprehensive understanding of gender-related lexical units in both English and Uzbek. It enables researchers to explore the current usage and cultural meanings of gender-related terms, as well as the historical trajectory of these terms, revealing insights into the complex interplay between language, culture, and gender dynamics. Such studies contribute to the broader understanding of how language shapes and reflects societal attitudes and perceptions related to gender in English and Uzbek-speaking communities.

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