

СТРУКТУРНІ ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ІМЕННИКІВ  
ЧОЛОВІЧОГО, ЖІНОЧОГО, СЕРЕДНЬОГО ТА  
ЗАГАЛЬНОГО РОДІВ В АНГЛІЙСЬКОМУ МОВОЗНАВСТВІ

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Чернівці (Україна); fedorkiv017@gmail.comSTRUCTURAL PECULARITIES OF NOUNS OF  
MASCULINE, FEMININE, NEUTER, AND COMMON  
GENDERS IN ENGLISH LINGUISTICS

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**Скрицкая Н.В. Структурные особенности существительных мужского, женского, среднего и общего родов в английском языкознании.** Каждая часть речи, в том числе существительное, имеет собственную словообразовательную парадигму. Отметим, что категория грамматического рода – мужской, женской, среднего (кроме общего) была присуща существительным древнегреческого периода. Однако историческое развитие морфологической структуры английского языка привело к тому, что категория грамматического рода существенно модифицировалась и на разных этапах развития по-своему характеризует предметы и явления. **Целью исследования** является раскрыть особенности существительных мужского, женского, среднего и общего родов и особенности их перевода на украинском языке на примере англоязычных художественных произведений. **Актуальность темы** заключается в исследовании особенностей использования существительных мужского, женского, среднего родов, а также принадлежность некоторых из них в общий род. **Объектом** исследования выступают существительные современного английского языка, использованные в англоязычных художественных произведениях. **Методы исследования:** аналитический, описательный, исторический. **Научная новизна** заключается в исследовании словообразовательной парадигмы родов в английском языкознании на примере отдельных произведений, а также изучение рода как отдельной морфологической категории. **Выводы:** результатом исследования стали особенности и закономерности принадлежности тех или иных существительных к мужской, женской, среднего и общего родов в английском языкознании.

**Ключевые слова:** мужской род, женский род, средний род, общий род, существительное, культурно-семантическая парадигма.

**General statement of the problem and its connection with important scientific or practical aims.** While grammatical gender was a fully productive inflectional category in Old English, Modern English has a much less pervasive gender system, primarily based on natural gender.

The category of gender is oppositional. It is formed by two oppositions related to each other on a hierarchical basis. One opposition functions in the whole set of nouns, dividing them into person (animate, human) nouns and non - person (inanimate, non-human) nouns. The other opposition functions in the subset of person nouns only, dividing them into masculine and feminine gender.

**Laying out of the main research material.** As a result of the double oppositional correlation, a specific system of three genders arises, which is represented by the neuter (inanimate, non-human) gender, the masculine (masculine person) gender, and the feminine (feminine person) gender.

There are a few traces of gender marking in Modern English:

some foreign nouns inflect according to gender, such as *actor/actress, author/authoress, jew/jeweless, peer/peerless, instructor/instructress, emperor/empress, traitor/traïtress, conductor/conductress, manager/manageress, poet/poetess;*

a glint of gender endings live on the cultural memory of novel terms such as *fella* from "fellow" or *blonde* from "blond". Neuter genders tend to end in *t:that, it, might*. But

these are insignificant features compared to a typical language with grammatical gender.

The English nouns that inflect for gender are a very small minority, typically loanwords from non-Germanic languages (the suffix *-ress* in the word "actress"/ for instance, derives from Latin *-rix* via French *-rice*). In language with grammatical gender, there are typically thousands of words which inflect or gender.

The third-person singular forms of the personal pronouns are the only modifiers that inflect according to gender.

It is also noteworthy that, with few exceptions, the gender of an English pronoun coincides with the real gender of its referent, rather than with the grammatical gender of its antecedent, frequently different from the former in languages with true grammatical gender. The choice between "he", "she", and "it" invariably comes down to whether they designate a human male, a human female, or something else<sup>1</sup>.

A great many animate nouns in English are capable of expressing both feminine and masculine person genders. They are referred to as nouns of the "common gender". Here belong such nouns as *person, parent, friend, doctor, president, cousin, teacher, architect, supervisor, cleaner*, ect. The sex of the referent is marked by the personal pronoun:

*I went to see the doctor about my cough but she said*

<sup>1</sup>Crystal David. The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language, Cambridge UP, 1995, P. 73 [in English].

there was nothing wrong with me<sup>2</sup>.

As days turned into weeks, Ned's **owner** began thinking that **his** dog had developed an unhealthy obsession with his lump of rock<sup>3</sup>.

The majority of men say that sex makes no difference to them when it comes to choosing a **doctor, surgeon, lawyer, MP or boss**<sup>4</sup>.

... his nephew (but conventionally styled his "**cousin**" in the will); and Julian, his wife – had the function of approving rather than initiating<sup>5</sup>.

Smart's nephew and **biographer**, Christopher Hunter, records the fact that "After an interval of little more than two years, Mr. Smart appeared to be pretty well restored"<sup>6</sup>.

When there is no special need to indicate the sex of the referent of these nouns, they are used neutrally as masculine.

... hemade the following annotation: "Change the **animal**: make it a **dog** instead of a **parrot**"<sup>7</sup>.

Dog lover Jilly Cooper's grub's a howling success with her **pets**. Then, said the Bishop to the assembled Conference, "Who was the missionary – the dog or the **doctor**?"<sup>8</sup>

"I am spared the anxiety of being made the object of an attack if I can instead become the **attacker** ..."<sup>9</sup>

**Professor** Wood has noted the paradox that in Normandy "the rights and powers or its rules so far exceeded those possessed by the king that it was desirable to maintain the duchy as a territory apart, and provide for its continued semi-autonomous existence"<sup>10</sup>.

In the plural, all the gender distinctions are neutralized in the immediate explicit expression, though they are rendered through the correlation with the singular.

Curtseying was not a country custom, and besides, even had they been in town, she wasn't sure she should to one of her brother's **friends**, whom she'd known since he was a boy<sup>11</sup>.

Nouns that belong to the group of those having masculine referents can be structurally subdivided into the following groups:

Simple nouns, devoid of inflections.

masculine nouns serving as the base form for the formation of feminine nouns (e.g. *count, heir, priest, poet, steward, lion, tiger*).

The **lion** just moaned and looked forlorn<sup>12</sup>.

masculine nouns having as their a completely different words denoting feminine (e.g. *boy – girl, monk – non, husband – wife, uncle – aunt, wizard – witch, nephew – niece,*

*king – queen, man- woman*).

Er, mine died when I was nine and my **mother** has been my mother and a **father** to both myself my **brother** and **sister** and I feel she's done just as good a job as I could of as my father could have done<sup>13</sup>.

The eldest son, who lived out his life as a **bachelor** of somewhat eccentric habits, became deeply life as a bachelor of somewhat eccentric habits, became deeply estranged from his parents as a young man<sup>14</sup>.

Derivative, formed with the help of the suffixes:

– er (e.g. *manager, master, murderer, pensioner*)

"The dog seemed and there was no sign of his **master**"<sup>15</sup>.

– or (e.g. *sailor, tailor, creator*)

The **prosecutor** said her former husband "was trying to destroy her happiness and the prospects of her remarrying"<sup>16</sup>.

– ist (e.g. *novelist, linguist, novelist, machinist, guitarist*)

Then Charlie was swearing blood over his face and wiping it over the bass **guitarist**<sup>17</sup>.

A brilliant **linguist**, he was also deeply interested in botany, chemistry and other scientific subjects<sup>18</sup>.

– ent, – ant (e.g. *servant, president, resident*)

e.g. The police have arrested **residents** fer being under the influence of drugs, he said<sup>19</sup>.

e) – ee (addressee, referee, trustee, refugee)

e.g. So far, the most desperate of measures has not been taken, perhaps because would-be **refugees** have nowhere to run<sup>20</sup>.

f) – an, –ian (musician, historian, politician)

e.g. By using such evidence the **historian** can come to terms with some of the everyday reality of the war, and how it touched the lives and outlook of men and women, famous and not so famous, rich or poor, whose experiences are described in the proceedings of civil and criminal cases which have come down to us in some number<sup>21</sup>.

We should bare in mind, however, that the majority of the above mentioned nouns formed with the help of prefixation may be used as "common gender" nouns, they may have a female referent (except for the nouns "widower", "master").

e.g. ... overlooking the terrace where a few **customers** were sitting in the open, a glass or two in front of them in the freshening air<sup>22</sup>.

The noun "murderer" is, nowadays, also used as the

<sup>2</sup>Kelly C. Never Too Late, London: Granddreams, 1995, 248 p. [in English].

<sup>3</sup>Lawrence D. H. Women in Love, London: Everyman's Library, 1992, P. 35. [in English].

<sup>4</sup>Ibidem, P. 44.

<sup>5</sup>Ibidem, P. 32.

<sup>6</sup>Ibidem, 85.

<sup>7</sup>Ibidem, 183.

<sup>8</sup>Lawrence D. H. Women in Love, London: Everyman's Library, 1992, P. 235 [in English].

<sup>9</sup>Kelly C. Never Too Late, London: Granddreams, 1995, P. 364 [in English].

<sup>10</sup>Ibidem, P. 20.

<sup>11</sup>Ibidem, P. 274.

<sup>12</sup>Ibidem, P. 34.

<sup>13</sup>Biber Douglas. Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English, Harlow: Longman, 1999, P. 47 [in English].

<sup>14</sup>Ibidem, P. 47.

<sup>15</sup>Ibidem, P. 85.

<sup>16</sup>Ibidem, P. 114.

<sup>17</sup>Ibidem, P. 285.

<sup>18</sup>Ibidem, P. 286.

<sup>19</sup>Ibidem, P. 286.

<sup>20</sup>Biber Douglas. Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English, Harlow: Longman, 1999, P. 287.

<sup>21</sup>Ibidem, P. 287.

<sup>22</sup>Crystal David. The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language, Cambridge UP, 1995, P. 284 [in English].

noun of common gender, however, it has a feminine pair “murderess” – old-fashioned “a woman who murders another person”

e.g. *Do you think the police will ever catch her **murderer**?*<sup>23</sup>

*I nearly became a **murderer** tonight*<sup>24</sup>.

Compound:

*With the stem “man” spelled solidly (e.g. gentlemen, policemen, sportsman, fireman)*

e.g. *“This bloody thing?”, exclaimed the **fireman***<sup>25</sup>.

*He was once an active **sportsman**.*

*Having in its composition the stems “man”, “male”, “father”, “brother”, “son”, “boy” spelled hyphenated (e.g. father-in-law, brother-in-law, son-in-law, man-friend, male-cousin, step-father, step-son)*

e.g. *Thomas Rich, Mercer, his **son-in-law**; John Shain, when Kress questioned the nephew about the man’s appearance, he decided it could just be our friend.*<sup>26</sup>

*Dad, this is my **boy-friend** Steve.*

*With the stems “father” and “son” spelled solidly (e.g. godfather, godson)*

e.g. *One day he thought he would be **godfather** to Lack’s first child*<sup>27</sup>.

d) *Having in its composition the pronoun “he”, generally used to show the animal’s sex.*

e.g. *They were shown to a small table in the corner, next to a life-sized plaster **he-wolf***<sup>28</sup>.

e) *Nouns that already have in their composition derivative stems combined with other noun stems. These nouns may be spelled solidly, separately or hyphenated*

e.g. *In one, for example, a casual laborer and his wife in their sixties lived with a woman of 79, her son of 57 who was a street **match seller**, and six younger tenants...*<sup>29</sup>

*See that **newspaper seller**, Jackson?*

*They tend to hold the most highly skilled and responsible positions, such as **head waiter** or **wine butler**, and to be found in organizations with a substantial volume of banqueting activities.*

Noun phrases with the nouns “boy”, “man”, “master”, ect. spelled separately

e.g. *... hold my hands over the cooker like I was a **boy scout** crouched over a camp-fire*<sup>30</sup>.

*The bride walked to the church with **the best man** with groom following*<sup>31</sup>.

*We regret to announce the death of a distinguished **man of letters**.*

*He spoke Navajo and once sang with a Navajo **medicine man** at the bedside of a sick girl*<sup>32</sup>.

Derived. Feminine nouns are generally formed from masculine nouns with the help of suffixation.

– *ess added to the masculine to form the feminine*

e.g. *I am the **baron** de Chavigny.*

*The **baroness** had her jail term cut for good behavior*<sup>33</sup>.

*Omission of the vowel in the last syllable: tiger-tigress, actor-actress, waiter-waitress.*

e.g. *He tried to avoid it, but after the first blow struck, he went after them like a **tiger***<sup>34</sup>.

*“Behold your **prince** and sovereign!”, he cried, indicating his nephew and receiving in response a tumultuous roar of approval*<sup>35</sup>.

*Article II laid down that if Queen Anne failed to leave an heir the succession should pass to a relatively distant claimant, the most excellent **Princess**.*

*Other modifications: duke-duchess, master-mistress*

e.g. *He was a master at economizing on his investments. At midnight he would ride to his **mistress**, stay with her until four and then return home*<sup>36</sup>.

d) *foreign less productive suffixes added to the masculine: -ine (hero-heroine), -ina (czar-czarina), -a (don-donna).*

e.g. *Only a **Tsarina** can wield it and if any man were even to touch the blade he would be instantly frozen to death*<sup>37</sup>.

b) *Having in its composition the pronoun “she”, generally used to show the animal’s sex.*

e.g. *She then swore that she would throw Dudley and his **she-wolf** into the tower*<sup>38</sup>.

c) *Noun phrases formed with the help of words denoting sex “female”, “girl”, “woman”, spelled separately.*

*A **female doctor** walked into the room.*

*“... speech of reply by **bachelor girl**”*<sup>39</sup>.

Gendered nouns can provide a stumbling block for the gender-savvy person. The best way to avoid implications these words can carry is simply to be aware of how we tend to use them in speech and writing. Because gendered nouns are so commonly used and accepted by English writers and speakers, we often don’t notice them or the implications they bring with them. Once you have recognized that a gender distinction is being made by such a word, though, conversion of the gendered noun into a gender-savvy one is usually very simple.

“Man” and words ending in “-man” are the most commonly used gendered nouns, so avoiding the confusion they bring can be as simple as watching out for these words and replacing them with words that convey your meaning more effectively. For example, if the founders of America had been gender-savvy writers, they might have written “... all people are created equal” instead of “... all men are created equal...”

Sometimes we modify nouns that refer to jobs or posi-

<sup>23</sup> Ibidem, P. 133.

<sup>24</sup> Ibidem, P. 45.

<sup>25</sup> Ibidem, P. 46.

<sup>26</sup> Ibidem, P. 285.

<sup>27</sup> Ibidem, P. 286.

<sup>28</sup> Ibidem, P. 287.

<sup>29</sup> Ibidem, P. 48.

<sup>30</sup> Ibidem, P. 51.

<sup>31</sup> Ibidem, P. 254.

<sup>32</sup> Ibidem, P. 267.

<sup>33</sup> Ibidem, P. 268.

<sup>34</sup> Ibidem, P. 268.

<sup>35</sup> Ibidem, P. 269.

<sup>36</sup> Ibidem, P. 274.

<sup>37</sup> Ibidem, P. 274.

<sup>38</sup> Ibidem, P. 274.

<sup>39</sup> Ibidem, P. 276.

tions to denote the sex of the person holding that position. To get a sense of these expectations, think about what sex you would instinctively assume the subject of each of these sentences to be:

*e.g. The doctor walked into the room.*

*The nurse walked into the room.*

**Conclusions.** Traditional theories attribute the origin of grammatical gender systems to the human-primitive tendency to anthropomorphize nature, when one endows human qualities to non-human creatures and objects. Gender is merely related to the class of referent involved, so that human animates take masculine or feminine gender while all other classes of referents (animates, plants, objects, abstracts) receive neuter gender. Therefore, the English gender system in general is not so much based on natural sex, or grammar, but on the class distinction between animate and non-animate referents.

**Скрицька Н.В. Структурні особливості іменників чоловічого, жіночого, середнього та загального родів в англійському мовознавстві.** Кожна частина мови, в тому числі іменник, має власну словотвірну парадигму. Відзначимо, що категорія граматичного роду – чоловічого, жіночого, середнього (окрім загального) – була властива іменникам давньогрецького періоду. Проте, історичний розвиток морфологічної структури англійської мови призвів до того, що категорія граматичного роду істотно модифікувалась і на різних етапах розвитку по-своєму характеризує предмети і явища. **Метою дослідження** є розкрити особливості іменників чоловічого, жіночого, середнього та загального родів та особливості їхнього перекладу українською мовою на прикладі англійських художніх творів. **Актуальність теми** поля-

гає у дослідженні особливостей використання іменників чоловічого, жіночого, середнього родів, а також приналежність деяких з них до загального роду. **Об'єктом дослідження** виступають іменники сучасної англійської мови, використані в англійських художніх творах. **Методи дослідження:** аналітичний, описовий, історичний. **Наукова новизна** полягає у дослідженні словотвірної парадигми родів в англійському мовознавстві на прикладі окремих творів, а також вивчення роду як окремої морфологічної категорії. **Висновки:** результатом дослідження стали особливості та закономірності приналежності тих чи інших іменників до чоловічого, жіночого, середнього та загального родів в англійському мовознавстві.

**Ключові слова:** чоловічий рід, жіночий рід, середній рід, загальний рід, іменник, культурно-семантична парадигма.

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