

# CAKRAWALA PENDIDIKAN

## FORUM KOMUNIKASI ILMIAH DAN EKSPRESI KREATIF ILMU PENDIDIKAN

**Internalisasi Nilai-nilai Entrepreneurship Dalam Rangka  
Membentuk Perilaku Kewirausahaan Melalui Pendidikan  
Terintegrasi**

**Kepemimpinan Dan Kecerdasan Emosional**

**Peranan Layanan Bimbingan Dan Konseling Untuk  
Meningkatkan Kedisiplinan Siswa Di Sekolah**

**Meningkatkan Peran Kelompok Penekan Dalam Percaturan  
Politik**

**Fenomena Perilaku Sosial Komunitas Public United Not  
Kingdom (PUNK)**

**The Influence Of Gender In Language Usage**

**Using Sorogan Method In Learning English For Beginners**

**Teaching Simple Present Tense Using Short Answers Game For  
The First-year Of University Students**

**Analisis Faktor Eksploratori Komponen Utama Penyebab Inflasi  
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**Analisis Model Antrian Peserta Pada Loker F Di Badan  
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**Using Picture Book As Media To Improve Reading Motivation  
On Junior High School Student**

**Escalating Ideas Using Creative Visualization Technique In  
Writing Ability**

**The Effectiveness Of Kwl (Know, Want To Know, Learned)  
Technique In Teaching Reading For English Department  
Students**

**The Problem Of Translating English Phrases Into Indonesian  
For Islamic Scholar Of**



# **CAKRAWALA PENDIDIKAN**

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# THE INFLUENCE OF GENDER IN LANGUAGE USAGE

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UNIVERSITAS NAROTAMA SURABAYA

**Abstrak:** Gender membawa dampak yang besar terhadap penggunaan bahasa. Pertama, gender mempengaruhi perbincangan. Ketika seseorang berbicara, baik laki maupun perempuan, mereka memiliki karakteristik masing-masing. Kesopanan, tanggapan dan model bahasa yang mereka pakai berbeda. Kedua, gender mempengaruhi makna. Kebiasaan dapat membuat salah menafsirkan arti sehingga secara tidak sadar pendengar dapat menginterpretasikan informasi yang salah. Terakhir, gender dapat mempengaruhi kata imbuhan dalam penggunaan bahasa. Sepucuk surat atau sekelompok surat dapat ditambahkan pada awal atau akhir sebuah kata untuk dapat mengubah artinya dengan jelas. Gender memiliki peran yang penting dalam menentukan arti.

**Kata Kunci:** Pengaruh, gender, penggunaan bahasa.

**Abstract:** Gender brings huge impacts in language usage. First, it influences the discourse. When someone talks, either man or woman has their characteristics. The politeness, responses, and styles are different. Second, it influences meaning. A habit may make misinterpretation of meaning so unconsciously a listener interprets wrong information. The last, it influences the affix in language usage. A letter or group letters can be added to either the beginning or the end of a word to change its meaning clearly. It has important role in determining the meaning of word.

**Keywords:** Influence, gender, language usage.

## PENDAHULUAN

Language is "the system of sounds and words used by human to express their thoughts and feeling" (Hornsby, 1995:662). It means that language is a means to communicate from one person to the other persons to express their thoughts and feelings through either sounds or words. It takes important roles for human to communicate each other. It can give either true information or wrong information. For instance, someone asks someone else to do something. He says "Could you close the door, please!" Then, someone who is asked closes the door. It means that the language can give true information. It expresses what the speaker means. Otherwise, it can give wrong information because of different language.

For instance, someone who has tough voice asks someone to do something. He says "Could you close the door, please!" Then, someone who is asked goes away. He may think that the speaker is angry. Then, he asks him to go away. From those illustrations, we can understand that different language can cause misinterpretation. It makes what the speaker means does not deliver well. It changes the meaning unconsciously.

## GENDER

Riyadi (2015:22) says that Gender is a variety of characteristics relating to and to distinguish between masculinity and femininity. It is very considerable differences between men and women when seen from the

values and behavior. However, Gender is a cultural concept, seeks to make a difference (distinction) in terms of roles, behavior, mentality, and emotional characteristics between men and women who thrive in the community. Meyerhoff (2006:201) explains that language and gender are complicated discussion. It is characterized by a lot of discussion about the pros and cons associated with different ways of conceptualizing the relationship between language and society. It involves the interplay between language and different social and personal identities.

Gender can make misinterpretation of meaning. For instance, someone says "My cousin is pedicab driver." The listener may interpret that the speaker's cousin is man because by and large someone who becomes pedicab driver is man. It is not always true that pedicab driver is man. There is woman who becomes pedicab driver. It may be caused by condition. There is no other job except pedicab driver. In short, the speaker's cousin may be woman. It shows that gender can influence the meaning of language unconsciously. It can give wrong information to someone.

DISCUSSION

Language is "the system of sounds and words used by human to express their thoughts and feeling" (Hornsby, 1995:662). It means that language is a means to communicate from one person to the other persons to express their thoughts and feelings through either sounds or words. It takes important roles for human to communicate each other. It can give either true information or wrong information. It has large influences to human life. Yet, it is influenced some factors in usage. One of them is gender. It can influence the usage and the meaning of the language. It will discuss below :

- 1. Gender influences the discourse in language usage.

When someone talks, either man or woman has their characteristics. The politeness, responses and styles are different. Fromkin (2003, 319-320) explains Lakoff's research about politeness of men and women. The result is below :

Function of Tag	Women (%)	Men (%)
Expressing uncertainty	35	61
Facilitative	59	26
Softening	6	13
Confrontational	-	-
Total	100	100
N	51	39

The tables summarizes the patterns found in a sixty-thousand word corpus containing equal a mounts of female and male speech collected in a range of matched contexts. It is clear that the women used more tags than the men. They did not use them for the same purposes as men. Women put more emphasis than men on the polite or affective functions of tags, using them as facilitative positive politeness devices. Men, on the other hand used more tags for the expression of uncertain.

Not only politeness but also question, men and women differ in their use of questions in conversation. For men, a question is usually a genuine request for information whereas with women it can often be a rhetorical means of engaging the other's conversational contribution or acquiring attention from others conversationally involved, techniques associated with a collaborative approach



to language use. Therefore women use question more frequently. In answering, the men and women differ in their use minimal response such as “mhm” and “yeah”, which is behavior associated with collaborative language use. Men, on the other hand, generally use them less frequently and where they do, it is usually to agreement.

2. Gender influences the meaning in language usage.

Consciously or unconsciously, language can have ambiguous meaning. When we see from the grammar and the vocabulary, there is no mistake. Moreover, the meaning is acceptable. In fact, there are other factors which influence the interpretation of someone. It may be caused by the culture and habit. It may make someone's interpretation think that the meaning belongs to male or female directly. He or she does not feel clumsy from the meaning, too. He or she does not think whether the meaning belongs to male or female. There is no question inside his or her mind. He may feel the meaning is to belong to male or female as he knows.

In many countries, someone may have wrong interpretation. For instance in Indonesia, someone says “My cousin is pedicab driver.” The listener may interpret that the speaker's cousin is man because by and large someone who becomes pedicab driver is man. It is not always true that pedicab driver is man. There is woman who becomes pedicab driver. There is a woman who is pedicab driver in Surabaya. Not only pedicab driver but also tire repairer is woman. It may be caused by condition. There is no other job except pedicab driver. In short, the speaker' cousin may be woman. It shows that gender can influence the meaning of language unconsciously. It can give

wrong information to someone.

One of ones who has the same opinion i.e. Fromkin (2003) gives example that when we heard someone say “My cousin is nurse, we would probably conclude that the speaker's cousin is a woman. It is less evident why the sentence my neighbor is a blond is understood as referring to a woman. It may be that hair color is primary category of classification for women. In short, unconsciously, the meaning of language is influenced by gender.

3. Gender influences the affix in language usage.

Affix is “a letter or group of letters which are added to the beginning or the end of a word to change its meaning or way (Hornsby, 1995:20).” It has important role in determining the meaning of word. It can determine whether it is noun, verb, adjective, and adverb. In the usage of language, there is influence from gender. There are some affixes that the meaning belongs to man or woman. There are many languages which are influenced. For instance in English, the male form for the most part is unmarked. Otherwise, the female term is created by adding a bound morpheme or compounding such as -ess, -ine, -man, and-woman. Some examples are (Echols dan Hassan: 1998):

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Male	Female
Waiter	Waitress
Prince	Princess
Businessman	Businesswoman
Policeman	Policewoman
Paul	Pauline
Hero	Heroine

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In Japanese, the male form for the most part is unmarked. Otherwise, the female term is frequently prefixed by-o, a marker of polite style: Some examples are (Tanaguchi:2000):

Male	Female
Sushi	Osushi
Bento	Obento
Mizu	Ohiya
Hara	Onaka
Umai	Oisiii

In Indonesia, the male form is created by adding a bound morpheme such as -a, and -wan. Otherwise, the female term is created by adding a bound morpheme such as -i and -wati. Some examples are (Partanto dan Dahlan:1994):

Male	Female
Siswa	Siswi
Pramugara	Pramugari
Karyawan	Karyawati
Santriwan	Santriwati

In German, there is article “der” is for the male form. Otherwise, there are article “die” and a bound morpheme such as -e, and -in for the female term. Some examples are (Simanjutak:2005):

Male	Female
Der student	Die studentin
Der lehren	Die lehrenin
Der bank	Die bank
Der bibliothek	Die bibliothek

CONCLUSION

Language is “the system of sounds and words used by human to express their

thoughts and feeling” (Hornsby, 1995:662). It means that language is a means to communicate from one person to the other persons to express their thoughts and feelings through either sounds or words. It takes important roles for human to communicate each other. It can give either true information or wrong information. It has large influences to human life. Yet, it is influenced some factors in usage. One of them is gender. It can influence the usage and the meaning of the language. Some of the influences of gender in using language are the style of discourse, the interpretation or meaning, and affix.

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