

The Gender of Communication

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Is language gendered? Do men and women really speak differently? These are questions that have been asked for years. From tone to word choice to sentence structure, there are certain language expectations that are assigned to each gender. Gendered communication is a topic that has been approached from many different fields of study throughout the years, which has led to varying viewpoints over what is true. The purpose of this research is to look at these conclusions within the literature across fields of study in order to examine how people's viewpoints on the topic has changed. By examining the differences and similarities between the studies, we are able to become aware of how language expectations can affect both behaviors and language ideologies.

Past studies have pointed to the existence of gendered communication rules, however as time has passed it has become more obvious that this isn't entirely correct. There are communication strategies that are connected with gendered expectations, but that doesn't mean that they are always true in practice. The use of these strategies in practice, has been found to be heavily dependent on the context of conversations and the power structure between conversation participants. Gendered communication is a result of social expectations instead of actual linguistic use.