COGNITIVE AND COMMUNICATIVE FEATURES OF THE CATEGORY OF GENDER IN THE RUSSIAN AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

Raximova Nilufar Kurbon kizi
First-year Master's student
E-mail: raximova@gmail.com
Scientific supervisor: Shadieva Dilfuza Abbasovna
Lecturer of the Department of Uzbek and Russian Philology
Asia International University,Bukhara

Abstract

The article examines the category of grammatical gender in the Russian language from the perspective of cognitive linguistics and communicative function. The role of the category of gender in shaping the linguistic worldview, as well as in the processes of categorization and conceptualization of reality, is analyzed. Special attention is paid to a comparative analysis of the category of gender in Russian and Uzbek, identifying typological differences and similarities, as well as difficulties arising from interlingual interference. It is concluded that the category of gender in Russian possesses not only a formal grammatical nature but also a significant cognitive and communicative potential, whereas in the Uzbek language a similar category is absent, reflecting the characteristics of national linguistic thinking.

Keywords

category of gender, Russian language, Uzbek language, cognitive linguistics, communicative function, linguistic worldview, interlingual comparison.

Introduction

The category of gender is one of the fundamental grammatical categories of the Russian language, playing an important role in the system of nominal declension and agreement. In traditional grammar, gender is considered a formal grammatical feature of nouns, expressed through the opposition of masculine, feminine, and neuter genders. However, modern linguistic research goes beyond purely formal description, examining the category of gender in broader cognitive and communicative dimensions.

From the standpoint of cognitive linguistics, grammatical gender participates in the process of conceptualizing the world, reflecting the ways in which speakers categorize objects of reality in their consciousness. The communicative aspect of the category of gender manifests itself in ensuring textual cohesion, actualizing meanings, and expressing evaluative and expressive nuances in speech.

Of particular interest is the comparison of the category of gender in Russian with the Uzbek language, which belongs to the Turkic language family and does not possess a grammatical category of gender. This contrast allows for a deeper understanding of typological features of the languages and reveals cognitive and communicative differences in the linguistic thinking of Russian and Uzbek speakers.

The Category of Gender in Russian: Grammatical Aspect

In the Russian language, the category of gender is lexical-grammatical and is inherent in all nouns in the singular form. Traditionally, three genders are distinguished: masculine, feminine, and neuter. The gender of a noun is manifested in agreement with adjectives, pronouns, numerals, and past tense verb forms.

Grammatical gender may coincide with biological sex (man — he, woman — she); however, in many cases it is conventional in nature (table — he, book — she, window — it). This indicates that the category of gender in Russian goes beyond biological determination and acquires an abstract grammatical status.

Cognitive Aspects of the Category of Gender

In modern linguistics, the category of gender is regarded not only as a formal grammatical characteristic of nouns but also as a significant cognitive mechanism involved in the comprehension and structuring of reality. Within the cognitive approach, language is interpreted as a means of representing knowledge about the world, and grammatical categories are viewed as reflections of ways of conceptualizing and categorizing surrounding reality.

From a cognitive perspective, the category of gender in Russian performs a classificatory function, assigning certain conceptual features to objects. Despite the conventional nature of gender assignment to most inanimate nouns, speakers perceive it as a natural and stable characteristic of an object. For instance, the words *house* (masculine), *river* (feminine), and *field* (neuter) evoke different associative and figurative representations, which indicates the cognitive significance of grammatical gender.

An important cognitive aspect of the category of gender is its participation in shaping the linguistic worldview. Gender distinctions often correlate with anthropomorphic features: masculine nouns are associated with activity, strength, and stability; feminine nouns with softness, emotionality, and dynamism; and neuter nouns with abstraction, neutrality, or indefiniteness. Such associations are particularly evident in poetic and literary discourse, where grammatical gender serves as a means of figurative interpretation of the world.

The category of gender plays a special role in processes of personification and metaphorization. In Russian, inanimate objects and abstract concepts are often endowed with human qualities through their gender affiliation, as in expressions such as *fate decided*, *the night covered the city*, *spring smiled*. In these examples, grammatical gender acts as a cognitive tool that facilitates the transfer of human attributes to natural phenomena and abstract entities.

From the standpoint of cognitive grammar, the category of gender also participates in the processes of information storage and processing in the speaker's mind. Gender facilitates the identification and correlation of referents within a text, contributing to more efficient organization of knowledge. Agreement based on gender functions as a cognitive "anchor," enabling the addressee to quickly restore connections between elements of an utterance.

Moreover, the category of gender reflects culturally conditioned ways of perceiving reality. In different languages, the same object may belong to different genders, which indicates national-specific models of world conceptualization. Thus, grammatical gender is not a universal category but one that is culturally and cognitively marked.

Overall, the cognitive aspects of the category of gender are manifested in its ability to structure knowledge about the world, form associative and figurative representations, participate in metaphorical interpretation of reality, and ensure cognitive cohesion of speech. This allows the category of gender to be regarded as an important element of the mental and linguistic experience of Russian speakers, extending far beyond a purely formal grammatical feature.

Communicative Functions of the Category of Gender

The category of gender in Russian performs important communicative functions, ensuring the effectiveness, precision, and expressiveness of verbal communication. In the communicative aspect, grammatical gender serves not only as a means of formal agreement but also as a mechanism for organizing and interpreting meaning in the interaction between speaker and addressee.

First of all, the category of gender contributes to grammatical cohesion and coherence of an utterance. Agreement in gender between nouns, adjectives, pronouns, and past tense verbs allows the addressee to easily establish referential links within a text. For example, in the sentence *"The book was lying on the table. It was new,"* the pronoun *it* unambiguously refers to the noun *book*, reducing communicative ambiguity.

An important communicative function of gender is the actualization and clarification of meaning. Gender forms help differentiate word meanings and eliminate semantic uncertainty, which is especially evident in the use of pronouns and anaphoric devices, where gender serves as a key interpretive marker.

The category of gender also participates in expressing pragmatic and evaluative meanings. The use of common-gender nouns (such as *clever one*, *slob*, *orphan*, *bravo*) allows the speaker to convey subjective attitude, emotional coloring, and communicative intention. In such cases, gender forms not only name the referent but also perform an evaluative function, enhancing the expressiveness of speech.

In literary and journalistic communication, the category of gender is actively used as a stylistic device. Intentional violation or variation of gender forms may function as a means of linguistic play, irony, or expressiveness. For example, transferring a gender form from one biological sex to another may serve as a tool of emotional impact or social commentary.

Gender also plays a significant role in dialogic speech, where it contributes to linguistic economy. Thanks to gender agreement, repeated nominal elements can be omitted while maintaining clarity of meaning. Thus, gender performs a function of communicative compression.

In addition, the category of gender participates in shaping speech politeness and social interaction. In contemporary Russian, the choice of gender forms when referring to professions or social roles (e.g., *author — authoress*, *professor — female professor*) may carry communicative significance, reflecting the speaker's attitude toward the addressee and the communicative situation.

Therefore, the communicative functions of the category of gender manifest themselves in ensuring textual cohesion, clarifying and actualizing meaning, expressing evaluative and expressive nuances, and realizing pragmatic intentions of the speaker. This allows the category of gender to be viewed as an important tool of verbal interaction that facilitates effective and meaningful communication.

The Category of Gender in the Uzbek Language

In the Uzbek language, the grammatical category of gender is absent. Nouns do not differentiate by gender, and gender agreement is not characteristic of the grammatical system. Biological sex is expressed lexically (e.g., *ota* — father, *ona* — mother) or contextually.

The absence of the category of gender simplifies the morphological system of Uzbek, while at the same time reflecting a different mode of conceptualizing reality, in which the feature of sex is not grammatically significant.

Comparative Analysis of Russian and Uzbek

A comparison of Russian and Uzbek demonstrates that the category of gender represents a typologically significant difference. In Russian, gender is an obligatory grammatical category that influences sentence and text structure. In Uzbek, its functions are compensated for by lexical and contextual means. For Uzbek-speaking learners of Russian, the category of gender presents a considerable difficulty, which is associated with the absence of a corresponding cognitive and grammatical mechanism in the native language.

Conclusion

The category of gender in the Russian language is a multifaceted linguistic phenomenon that combines grammatical, cognitive, and communicative functions. It participates in shaping the linguistic worldview, ensures textual cohesion, and serves as a means of expressing evaluative and expressive meanings.

Comparison with the Uzbek language, in which the category of gender is absent, allows for a deeper understanding of the typological specificity of Russian and reveals features of national linguistic thinking. The results of this study are significant for linguistic theory, comparative linguistics, and the methodology of teaching Russian as a foreign language.

REFERENCES

1. Виноградов В. В. Русский язык (грамматическое учение о слове). — М.: Высшая школа, 2001.

2. Бондарко А. В. Функциональная грамматика. — Л.: Наука, 1984.

3. Кубрякова Е. С. Язык и знание: На пути получения знаний о языке. — М.: Языки славянской культуры, 2004.

4. Маслова В. А. Когнитивная лингвистика. — М.: Академия, 2008.

5. Раҳматуллаев Ш. Ҳозирги ўзбек адабий тили. — Тошкент: Университет, 2010.

6. Сулейманова Д. Б. Сопоставительная типология русского и тюркских языков. — Ташкент, 2015.