Chapter 7

Vive La Difference?
Gender Role Stereotyping....

I try to stick to hunting....
My wife makes me take a list when I'm gathering.
More Gender Stereotyping....

Slob

Jeffrey's

by Chris Cassatt
and Gary Brookins

WHAT DO YOU
THINK OF
MY NEW
SUIT?

WHO'S YOUR
UPHOLSTERER?

I SWEAR...
I WILL NEVER
UNDERSTAND
FEMALES!

THEY ARE BEYOND
COMPREHENSION.

SO, WHAT BROUGHT
ON THIS REVELATION?

WELL, YOU SEE...

MY WIFE INSISTS ON
BUYING ALL MY CLOTHES...

AND THEN, JUST 15 YEARS
LATER, SHE WON'T EVEN
LET ME WEAR THEM!
True or False

- Women gossip more than men
- Defend your position
Whaddya Think?

- Gender is not a pool of attributes possessed by a person, but something a person does  
  ~paraphrased from Wardhaugh 1990

Questions

- What does this mean?
- How does it relate to what our text says?
Gender in Early Studies

- Arawak Tribe
  - 1665 – Reported M&W: distinct language
  - Refuted in 1922 by Jesperson

- Cf. Studies by Labov and Trudgil
  - Section 7.3

- Moral – Beware bias in research
Sex Exclusive Forms

- Mandatory Grammatical Distinction
  - Vocabulary  (*Arawak*:  *West Indies*)
  - Verb forms  (*Koasati*:  *Native American*)
  - Phonology  (*Xhosa*:  *South African*)
  - Pronouns  (*Japanese*)
    - *Also verb forms & some vocabulary*
Key Notes

- Language → Gender
  - May be direct relationship
  - More often indirect (status and power)
- Difference & Dominance
  - Coming soon in a section near you...
- (Gendered) Language reflects & reinforces distinctions
- Homogeneity ≈ Myth
Sapir-Whorf - Revisited

- Language & Culture: Inseparable Couple?
  - "The aged" vs. "Senior Citizens"

- Relate this to Language & Gender...
Whaddya Think?

- Trudgill suggested

  “Women are more status-conscious than men”

- Do you agree or disagree? Why?

  (Support the text or refute it – your choice)

  cf. early comments on Stereotyping
Vernacular Choice

- Working Class
- Masculinity
- Local Community Identity
- Social Network
Inherent or Interactional

- Are language & gender differences the result of the way we are made or the way our cultures shape us?

(Support the text or refute it – your choice)

cf. early comments on Stereotyping
Homework

- Pages 229 - 237
  Sections 7.4 & 7.5

- Watch for examples of gender variation
  Bring some stories to class ‘tomorrow’
Female // Male Differences

- Amount of Talk
- Interruptions
- Conversational Support
- Tentativeness
- Compliments

*How do these features relate to "Power"?*
Hierarchical Relations

What should // can be done about inequity?  

*gender, race, socio-economic, etc*
¿Same Coin?

Cultural Differences \[\rightarrow\] Relative Power

Deficit Model \[\leftarrow\] Oppressiveness Model

Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis applicable here...?
- cf. Coates...
Support or Refute

“Women are more polite than men”
Tag (you’re it...)  

- **Uncertainty**  
  - I said “Read the chapter”, *didn’t I?*  

- **Challenging**  
  - I’m not happy, *got it?!?*  

- **Facilitative**  
  - You’ve been to Spain, *haven’t you?*  

- **Softening**  
  - That wasn’t too bright, *was it?*
Homework

- Pages    Finish the Chapter
- Sections 7.6 – End

Coming Soon:
- Conversational Analysis Coming Soon
- Mid-Term Test Coming soon
Negotiating Meaning

- “... the functions or meanings of any utterance (are) highly fluid and context dependant.”

- “Meanings are not simply ‘in the language, but are negotiated between speakers.’”
Gender By Choice

- School kids
  - Girls: “We’re boys!”
    - Bid for selection
    - Could boys do the same?
  - Teacher’s response...

- **Moral(s) of the story?**
Gay Language

- ≠ set of structural features
  - Prosodic qualities
  - Code words
  - Double meanings

- Other markers?
Doing Gender

- Varying meanings
- Meanings shift on retroflection
- ‘Boy’ & ‘Girl’ may not be parallel terms
- Gender borders are blurred
  - are not secure...
- Gender is experienced:
  - by different people
  - in different ways
Hierarchical Masculinities

“... those forms of masculinity able to marginalize and dominate not only women but also other men, on the grounds of, say, class, race and/or sexuality...”

Whaddya think?

- Value of this definition?
- Dangers of this mentality?
- Implications?
Research Indications

- Limited value in **Social Category** study
  - Class, Race, Sex
- Explore relations instead
  - Between men & women
  - ‘Types’ of men & women
  - Situationally based
- Whaddya think?
  - Difficulty, Value & Danger...
IText: Homework

- Ask a friend *(or 5 friends...)*
  - Level of expertise with electronic talk?
  - Types of electronic talk they use?
  - Multiple identities?
    - Simultaneous identity switching?
  - Gender manipulation?
  - Norms of Interaction & Interpretation?
IText *(Information Technology Text)*

- Electronic Communication
  - Everyday types...?

- Versus F2F
  - Similarities
  - Differences
  - Gender relevant issues
IText: Your Experience

- Level of expertise?
- Comfort with IText varieties?
- Multiple identities?
  - Simultaneous identity switching?
- Gender manipulation?
- Norms of Interaction & Interpretation?
Research Says...

- Cyber-masculinity
  - Men ‘talk’ more
  - Take authoritative stance
  - Ignore or demean women’s thoughts
  - Harass or intimidate women
Whaddya Think...

“More often than not... women’s ideas are simply met by silence from men and women alike...”
For Women-Only

- Listservs & bulletin boards
  - Construct oppositional gender
  - Supportive
  - Collaborative
  - Politeness & respect
    "...explicitly reinforced by participants"

- Question:
  - Proof of *e-gender* difference?
Values, Difficulties, Dangers?

- Variationist vs. Interactional
- Impartiality vs. Declared Interests
If women’s speech is supportive, collaborative, polite & respectful, why is male speech dominant in today’s ‘kinder, gentler’ society...?
Coming Soon (in this order...)

- Chapter 5: Codeswitching
- Chapter 9: Pidgins & Creoles
- Chapter 10: Language & Power
- Chapter 11: Language & Education

If time permits further study, we will discuss which other chapter(s) we want to cover
IText: Homework

- Ask a friend (or 5 friends...)
  - Level of expertise with electronic talk?
  - Types of electronic talk they use?
  - Multiple identities?
    - Simultaneous identity switching?
  - Gender manipulation?
  - Norms of Interaction & Interpretation?