

LANGUAGE AND GENDER FROM 1973 TO THE PRESENT, TOWARDS THE FUTURE

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Abstract

This paper examines the interrelationship between language and gender in society, from a new interdisciplinary perspective, that of Language and Gender. The aim of this paper is to present the current state of the studies in this discipline worldwide and in Albania. Although it is a relatively new discipline, in the western world it has achieved great establishment, development and a stable status through its achievements in the last four decades. In the Albanian linguistic world, however, it has not yet succeeded in appearing established, consolidated, ripe and capable of discovering, analysing the linguistic problems of the Albanian language. Firstly, this paper introduces the history of language and gender research and the factors which played a significant role in its foundation. Secondly, a descriptive overview of language and gender research unfolds the current state of the issue. The four D-s theories – the Deficit, Dominance, Difference and Discursive (Dynamic) theories – explain the gender differences in language and demonstrate that the study of language and gender is inextricably linked with the society and simultaneously the differences in the cultural framework have an impact upon the linguistic study. This paper sheds some light on the different viewpoints about the interrelationship between language and gender investing on the theoretical background of possible future research in the Albanian language.

Keywords: *language and gender, gender differences, the Albanian language, deficit theory, dominance theory, difference theory, discursive theory.*