The Role of Individual Ideology on the Production and Processing of Gendered Occupational Titles

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First Qualifying Paper Towards the PhD in Linguistics at Stanford University

Contents

1 Introduction											
2	2 Background 2.1 Sexism										
3	Norming Study 6										
	3.1 Methods	6									
	3.1.1 Participants	6									
	3.1.2 Materials	6									
	3.1.3 Procedure	6									
	3.2 Results	6									
4	Experiment 1: Production	7									
	4.1 Methods	7									
	4.1.1 Participants	7									
	4.1.2 Materials	7									
	4.1.3 Procedure	7									
	4.2 Results	7									
5	Experiment 2	8									
J	5.1 Methods	8									
	5.1.1 Participants	8									
	5.1.2 Materials	8									
	5.1.3 Procedure	8									
	5.2 Results	8									
	5.2 Results	0									
6	Experiment 2.5	9									
	6.1 Methods	9									
	6.1.1 Participants	9									
	6.1.2 Materials	9									
	6.1.3 Procedure	9									
	6.2 Results	9									
7	Experiment 3 10										
	7.1 Methods	10									
	7.1.1 Participants	10									
	7.1.2 Materials	10									
	7.1.3 Procedure	10									
	7.2 Results	10									
8	Analysis	11									

Gender Ideology, Production, and Processing							Papineau		
9	Disc	cussion	n				12		
	9.1	Limita	ations				12		
		9.1.1	Demographic Limitations				12		
		9.1.2	Stimuli Limitations				12		

10 Conclusion

 9.1.3 Analysis Limitations
 12

 9.2 Future Directions
 12

13

1 Introduction

1.1 Hypotheses & Predictions

2 Background

2.1 Sexism

Here I will define the sexism, and also explicate modern ways of measuring it, including Baber and Tucker (2006)'s Social Roles Questionnaire.

2.2 Gender in the English Language

I will also describe the historical disappearance of gender in the English Language, whose vestiges can be seen almost exclusively in animate-referring pronominals and particular compounds, which form the basis of the present investigation. However, it is also worth noting that the gendered pronouns continue to be employed in non-standard uses for inanimate objects, as described in Suzanne Wagner's PhD dissertation (Wagner, 2003).

2.3 Surprisal Theory and Extrasentential Context

Here is where I will cite (Levy, 2008), highlighting and explicating both surprisal theory as a general account for processing and also explicitly invoking the role of extrasentential context, as defined in the work.

2.4 Gender as an Object of Psycholinguistic Analysis

Here we will discuss both Pozniak and Burnett (2021) and von der Malsburg et al. (2020), which discuss the role of individual beliefs in the marking and processing of gender in the elections of the United States, United Kingdom, and France, in the last five years.

We can also discuss Sarrasin et al. (2012), which found across three different languages that those individuals who held more traditionally sexist beliefs were anti-gender-neutral language reforms more strongly than were those who held more progressive ideologies about gender and equality. This held across three different kinds of sexism (benevolent, hostile, neutral?)

3 Norming Study

- 3.1 Methods
- 3.1.1 Participants
- 3.1.2 Materials
- 3.1.3 Procedure
- 3.2 Results

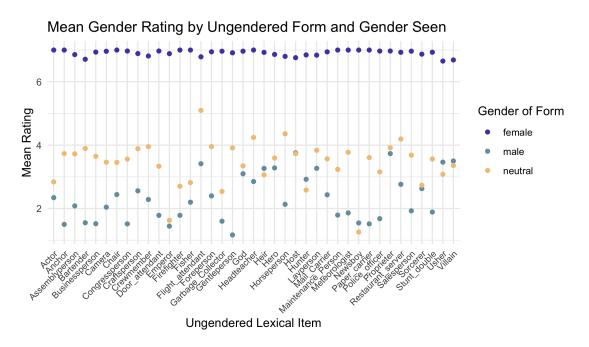
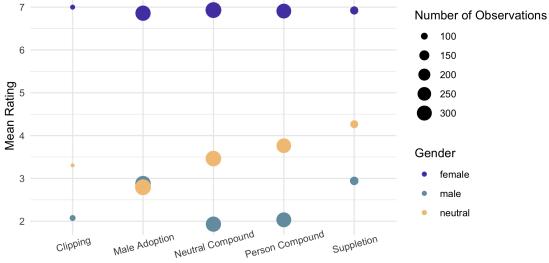


Figure 1: Mean gender ratings for the 80 items in the norming study

Mean Gender Evaluation by Neutral-Form Derivation Process



Neutral Formation Process

Figure 2: Mean gender ratings by morphological process of gender-neutral formation

4 Experiment 1: Production

- 4.1 Methods
- 4.1.1 Participants
- 4.1.2 Materials
- 4.1.3 Procedure
- 4.2 Results

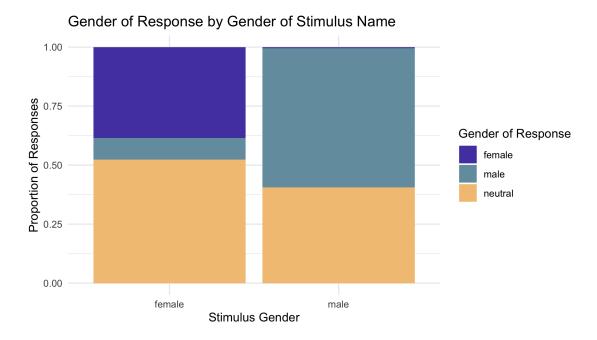


Figure 3: Proportions of genders among produced responses in compound critical items

5 Experiment 2

5.1 Methods

5.1.1 Participants

5.1.2 Materials

Condition	Example Stimulus
Male-Congruent	David is a congressman from Virginia. He likes cycling.
Male-Neutral	David is a congressperson from Virginia. He likes cycling.
Female-Congruent	Sally is a congresswoman from Virginia. She likes cycling.
Female-Neutral	Sally is a congressperson from Virginia. She likes cycling.

Table 1: Example stimuli from experiment

5.1.3 Procedure

5.2 Results

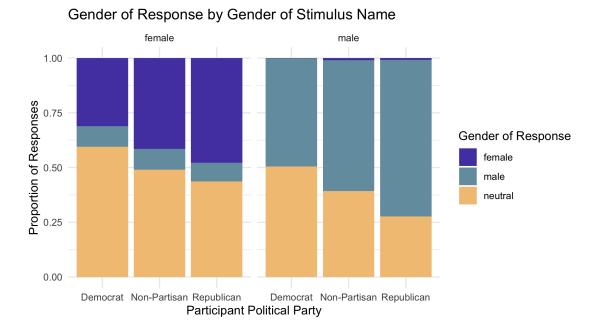


Figure 4: Proportions of genders among produced responses in compound critical items

6 Experiment 2.5

- 6.1 Methods
- 6.1.1 Participants
- 6.1.2 Materials
- 6.1.3 Procedure
- 6.2 Results

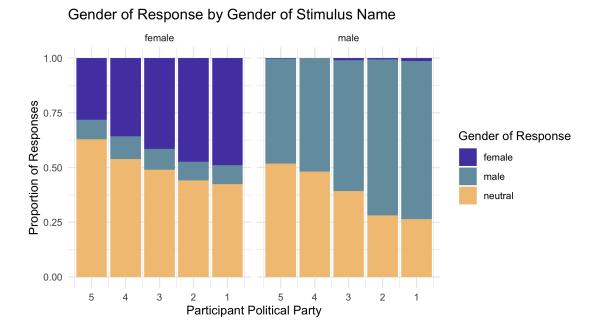


Figure 5: Proportions of genders among produced responses in compound critical items

7 Experiment 3

- 7.1 Methods
- 7.1.1 Participants
- 7.1.2 Materials
- 7.1.3 Procedure
- 7.2 Results

8 Analysis

9 Discussion

9.1 Limitations

9.1.1 Demographic Limitations

Political Skew

Gender Skew (TikTok)

9.1.2 Stimuli Limitations

Semantic Inconsistencies

Ordering of Experiment Parts

Low-Frequency Items

White Names

9.1.3 Analysis Limitations

Age-Ideology Confound

9.2 Future Directions

• Crossing raced names with gendered name

10 Conclusion

References

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