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The strange case of Valeria Jones. Argument over a thoughtful enforcement of a gender-inclusive language

By Dominik Jesse

GRIN Verlag GmbH Mrz 2015, 2015. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x1 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2015 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Culture and Applied Geography, grade: 1,0, Free University of Berlin (Englische Philologie), course: Oral and Writing Skills, language: English, abstract: In February 2014, the former catering worker Valeria Jones sued her employer, the Bon Appetit Management Co. in Oregon, United States, after co-workers numerous times referred to her as 'female'. Jones felt offended by this term since she identified as 'gender-neutral' (Andersen 2014). US\$ 518,682 were adjudged to Jones as compensation money for 'pronoun pain and humiliation' (Owens 2014). This lawsuit, in which a particular usage of language was punished, demonstrates how quickly the idea of a gendered language can be exaggerated and thus discredited. However, it does not mean that a language which is sensitive towards sex and gender should be abandoned for its realisation might so easily be distorted. An enlightened society is indeed in need of a language that is gender-inclusive. Yet, taking into account the case of Valeria Jones, the inevitable question must arise whether and...



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