ABSTRACT

The current paper deals with problems of language and gender. It is an area of study within sociolinguistics that investigates varieties of speech associated with a particular gender, or social norms for such gendered language use. The study tried to examine if there is any difference in the male and female use of English vocabulary or not. The study observed a certain difference in the male and female use of the vocabulary. In professional writing it is very important that the reader understands the message we are trying to convey. Just as we don’t want the reader to be distracted by poor grammar or spelling, we equally don’t want them to be offended or distracted by our choice of vocabulary. This is particularly important when using non-gender-specific or gender-specific nouns and pronouns. It used to be perfectly acceptable to see ‘chairman’ instead of ‘chairwoman’ or ‘chairperson’, ‘he’ instead of ‘he/she’ and ‘him’ instead of ‘him/her’. This is no longer the case and nowadays we are called upon to be more sensitive and ‘neutral’ in our choice of nouns and pronouns.

In general, gender sensitive renderings tend to embrace dynamic equivalence, while those opposed to gender sensitive renderings prefer formal equivalence in translation. Sometimes lines of difference are drawn right here at the start. We also tried to investigate the problem of gender-oriented vocabulary translation: is there one type of gender sensitive translation or are there variations in how gender sensitive translations are made? The short answer is that there are variations in how gender sensitive translations are made. It is often valuable to use a variety of translations, because no single translation is perfect. This is because translation often involves judgment on what rendering is most satisfying in a given context (regardless of gender issues). Translation must be contextual, working one passage at a time and that process can ask gender specific questions about the context. A translation should not be evaluated for whether it asks gender questions but how well it renders each of the passages in question in relationship to its meaning in context.