

# TRANSLATION OF ENGLISH AND UKRAINIAN FEMALE GENDER MARKED NOUNS

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**Abstract.** The article deals with the peculiarities of different female gender suffix markers in the Ukrainian and the English languages: their etymologic origin, word-building potential, connotations they can impose and present productivity. The current tendencies of explicit gender marking in both the English and the Ukrainian languages are analyzed. The necessity to take the above mentioned into consideration in the process of translation is stressed.

**Key words:** gender, gender marker, feminitive, masculinitive, person's name.

**INTRODUCTION.** The scientific discussion of explicit gender markers in English has been relevant in the twentieth century and still is a topic of debate at the beginning of the twenty-first century. This problem is of interest to linguists, sociologists, psychologists, politicians and other specialists united by the leading principle of modern science - anthropocentrism. This explains numerous attempts to investigate the nature, peculiarity of gender markers' usage in discourse, their word-forming potential, semantic connotations.

However, the questions of politically correct translation of explicitly marked or unmarked names of persons in English by the appropriate morphological or lexical means of the Ukrainian language and vice versa remain relevant.

The issue of gender marking is discursive, since there is no grammatical category of gender in the English language. Accordingly, all word-forming means used to indicate female gender are atypical and attention-grabbing. Representatives of different positions as for the problem of gender equality differ in their attitude towards explicit gender marking. Some try to avoid it at all, striving for gender neutrality, while others label the female as much as possible to achieve gender parity.

**METHODS AND MATERIAL OF THE INVESTIGATION** The article deals with morphological markers of femininity and their derivatives in English and Ukrainian which have been investigated by methods of continuous sampling,

linguistic observation, morphological analysis to identify their productivity, semantics and connotations.

The range of morphological means of marking femininity in English is wider than in Ukrainian. The large group consists of the suffixes -ess, -ette, -ine, -ina, -trix (-ix), -ne, -euse, -enne, -en, -e, -a. Their list differs significantly in different sources. This is due to the rather low productivity of the majority of them (Шиманович, 2005: 5).

THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION The suffix -ess has been borrowed into English from Old French (Григорян, 2002: 90). -ess has been quite productive in creating derivatives for the nomination of female persons: inventor - inventress, director - directress, manager - manageress.

The -ette suffix has also been borrowed into English from French. At certain times -ette was considered to be more productive than -ess. In some cases, the names of women ending with -ette have parallel forms with -ess that are semantically different (*anchorette - the host on radio and television, anchoress - the prisoner, hermit, solitary confinement*). In addition to the word-generating meanings of femininity, -ette imparts deminutive and ironic meanings (Зятковська, 1971).

Gender marker *-a* is borrowed into English with the names from Latin (*alumna*), Spanish (*duenna, senora*), Italian (*inamorata, marchesa*), Portuguese (*infanta, senhora*) and other languages. In English, the suffix -a is not productive. We have identified only a few words with the marker -a in modern English (*Chicana* means Mexican-American, *Latina* means Latin-American), which belong to the spoken American English.

There are about 10 lexemes with the suffix *-trix (s)* denoting female persons in lexicographic English sources. Some of them contain “obsolete” tags (*aviatrix, translatrix, administratrix*, etc.).

Female names of persons with suffix *-euse* in English are borrowed from French (*accoucheus, chanteuse, coiffeuse, masseuse, raconteuse, siffleuse*). This marker is unproductive in modern English and the words formed by it are rarely used (Зятковська, 1971).

Feminitive -e is a marker of a small number of women's names (*confidante, debutante, fiancée, figurante, marquise*), formed on the basis of masculinism (*confidant, debutant, fiance, figurant, marquis*).

Linguists see the semantic function of the -ina suffix in the creation of titles (*regina, tsarina*) (Григорян, 2002: 91), ranks, professions (*ballerina*) and proper names (*Katrina, Marina, Sabrina*).

In addition to suffixes, femininity in English is endowed with semi-affixes -maid/maid-, -woman/woman-, -mistress/mistress-, -girl/girl-, -wife, -lady/lady-, which are much more productive and often explicate other existential and socio-psychological characteristics of the referents.

The Ukrainian language has much less morphological means of gender marking, but they are much more productive. Most of the nouns of modern Ukrainian - the names of persons by profession - have paired formations of masculine and feminine gender or show the potential to form generic pairs. The most commonly used word-forming model is on -к(а), -ш(а): *лікарка (лікарша), фельдшерка (фельдшерша), секретарка (секретарша), історичка, мовничка (мовниця), фізичка* (Недбайло, 1970).

The feminine nouns, formed by the suffixes -к(а), -ш(а), are quite fully represented in artistic and non-fiction styles: *белетристка, майстриня, авторка, дослідниця, бригадирка, кореспондентка*. In scientific and official-business styles of the Ukrainian language feminine nouns denoting profession are rarely used. This can be explained by the fact that for scientific and technical literature it is more important to describe the very process of researching a phenomenon, its results than to distinguish persons by gender. Official business style is characterized by linguistic stamps, a strong tradition of using masculine nouns to denote women (Недбайло, 1970).

The need for a clear distinction between male and female names of persons is especially felt in the sport vocabulary, as there are different norms and demands for men and women. Such gender marked nouns are common among sports vocabulary: *гімнастка, волейболістка, баскетболістка, чемпіонка, акробатка,*

*спортсменка, рекордсменка, альпіністка, гандболістка, парашутистка, планеристка.* The nouns on *-ів + κ(a)* indicate membership of a sports club. The names *спартаківка, динамівка* are quite familiar. In addition the possibility of the formation of feminine names depends on the morphological and phonetic structure of the word. Thus, the feminine names with the suffix *-κ(a)* cannot be formed on the basis of the masculine noun which ends in a consonant conjugation difficult to pronounce: *кт, тр, рг: ад'юнкт, арбітр, драматург, комсорг, металург, педіатр, психіатр, фізіорг* (Недбайло, 1970).

CONCLUSION As it has been proved there are opposite trends in the English and Ukrainian languages regarding gender-marked nominations for women. The arsenal of morphological tools of gender marking in the English language is wider, but its use has been limited historically by social norms, and today is regulated by the requirements for gender equality. On the contrary, a small group of feminine suffixes is quite productive in the Ukrainian language, and their use is encouraged in different styles and areas of language use.

These features should be taken into account when translating gender-marked Ukrainian names into English and vice versa.

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