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**SPEECH MARKERS OF GENDER CONFLICT IN SPOKEN
COMMUNICATION**

Xasan Shuhratovich Gafforov

Acting Associate Professor, PhD

Department of Foreign Languages, Kattakurgan State Pedagogical Institute

Email: gafforovxasan@katdpi.uz

Phone: +99888-958-56-77

Abstract This article provides a linguistic analysis of the emergence of gender conflict and its speech markers during spoken communication. The research highlights the role of gender-specific communicative strategies, conflict-inducing speech units, prosodic tools, evaluative-lexical units, as well as speech constructions containing commands, threats, reprimands, objections, tension, and manipulative content in expressing gender conflict. Furthermore, the features of conflict manifestation in male and female speech are comparatively analyzed, determining the significance of prosodic indicators—such as pitch, intensity, duration, and speech tempo—in escalating or mitigating communicative friction. The research results allow for evaluating gender conflict not merely through isolated lexical or grammatical units, but as a complex communicative phenomenon manifested through the complex interaction of verbal and prosodic means. The speech markers identified in the article serve as a theoretical and practical foundation for linguistically identifying and describing gender-based conflicts in spoken discourse.

Keywords: Gender Conflict, Spoken Communication, Speech Marker, Gender Linguistics, Conflict-inducing, Conflictual Communication, Speech Strategy, Communicative Strategy, Prosodic Means, Verbal Means, Aggressive Speech, Gender Stereotype.

Introduction & Theoretical Background In modern linguistics, studying the communicative capabilities of language in shaping, managing, and regulating interpersonal relationships has become one of the paramount research areas. Identifying the linguistic features of conflict situations arising in spoken communication stands at the intersection of gender linguistics, pragmalinguistics, psycholinguistics, and discourse analysis as a significant scientific topic.

Conflict is a complex socio-psychological phenomenon that arises as a result of a clash in interests, views, needs, or communicative goals between individuals. However, conflict is not solely a social or psychological phenomenon; language serves as an essential tool in its formation and development. An interlocutor's form of address, use of commands or prohibitions, choice of evaluative units, and expressions of denial, objection, threat, accusation, or irony give rise to the linguistic manifestations of conflict.

The gender factor carries particular importance in such communication processes. Gender stereotypes formed in society can influence the communicative behavior of men and women, their modes of expressing thoughts, and the reflection of power and subordination dynamics in speech. Therefore, when studying gender conflict, simply listing the differences between male and female speech is insufficient. The key is to identify which specific speech markers signal the presence of conflict within a clash. The primary objective of this study is to identify the main speech markers that express gender conflict in spoken communication, characterize them according to their linguistic properties, and reveal their communicative functions.

Main Text & Analysis Gender conflict can be defined as a communicative clash that arises in connection with gender factors or intensifies under the influence of gender stereotypes. Such a conflict may occur directly between a man and a woman, but its participants do not necessarily have to belong to different genders. Conflicts related to gender roles, social status, power dynamics, or expected communicative behavior can also arise between communicants of the same gender.

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A defining feature of gender conflict is that it is not formed on a single level of language, but through the interaction of multiple linguistic levels. For instance, while a command construction like "Jim bo'l!" ("Be quiet!") is syntactically a simple sentence, its communicative meaning is not dictated solely by its grammatical form. The tone, intensity, and context in which this unit is uttered determine its level of conflict potential (conflictogenicity). Thus, when identifying gender conflict, it is essential to comprehensively account for the interplay between the speech unit, communicative situation, prosodic features, and gender context.

One of the most prominent markers of gender conflict in spoken discourse is **lexical-semantic units**. In conflictual communication, words carrying negative evaluative, derogatory, offensive, accusatory, or threatening meanings heighten communicative tension. For example, in constructions like "Sen yana va'dangni bajarmading" ("You broke your promise again") or "Har doim meni ayblayverasan!" ("You always blame me!"), the units "bajarmading" ("failed to keep") and "ayblayverasan" ("keep blaming") express negative evaluation and escalate friction. In particular, generalizing units such as "har doim" ("always"), "hech qachon" ("never"), and "doimo" ("constantly") serve to frame a specific action of the interlocutor not as a one-time event, but as an inherent character trait. Consequently, such units act as lexical markers that intensify conflict potential.

Imperative or command constructions are also strong markers of spoken conflict. In utterances such as "Bu yoqqa kel!" ("Come here!"), "Hozir chiq bu yerdan!" ("Get out of here right now!"), "Menga javob ber!" ("Answer me!"), or "Bas qil!" ("Stop it!"), the speaker exerts a high degree of directive force over the listener. When commands are issued abruptly without softening devices, communicative pressure increases. The conflict potential of these constructions can be further amplified by prosodic delivery—namely voice pitch, intonation, speech tempo, and stress. From the perspective of gender stereotypes, such constructions can be interpreted as elements of a communicative strategy aimed at demonstrating power and dominance.

Threat units serve as high-level verbal markers of conflict. Threats can be expressed directly or indirectly. For instance, in the sentence "Yana shunday qilsang, oqibati yomon bo'ladi" ("If you do that again, the consequences will be bad"), the threat is not explicitly detailed, yet a negative future outcome is clearly implied. In units like "Yana bir marta aytasang, ko'rasan" ("Say that one more time and you'll see"), the threatening content is made even more direct. Such speech constructions serve to carry out strategies of intimidation, psychological pressure, and dominance over the interlocutor.

In the initial stages of a conflict, **objection and denial markers** play a pivotal role. Units such as "Yo'q" ("No"), "aksincha" ("on the contrary"), "noto'g'ri" ("wrong"), "men bunga qo'shilmayman" ("I disagree with this"), and "hech qachon" ("never") openly display opposing stances between communicants. For example, in dialogic exchanges like "Menimcha, sen bu masalani noto'g'ri tushunding" ("I think you misunderstood this issue") and "Yo'q, aksincha, sen noto'g'ri tushunyapsan" ("No, on the contrary, it is you who are misunderstanding"), we can observe a growing divergence of views. The escalation of objections often leads to accusations, irony, commands, or threats in subsequent stages.

Accusation markers are also significant pragmatic indicators of gender conflict. Through accusations, the speaker negatively evaluates the listener's actions and assigns guilt. In statements like "Bularning hammasiga sen sababchisan" ("You are the reason for all of this") or "Sen hech qachon meni tinglamaysan" ("You never listen to me"), the interlocutor is directly framed as the guilty party. Accusation constructions frequently follow the model: **"you + negative action + generalizing unit"**. This pattern heightens the personal targeting of the conflict. In particular, shifting from a person's specific action to attacking their general character leads to a deeper escalation of the conflict.

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Classification of Speech Markers Based on the analysis above, the speech markers of gender conflict can be categorized into the following groups:

Marker Type	Primary Speech Units	Communicative Function
Lexical	Insults, accusations, negative evaluations	Expressing a negative attitude
Morphologica	Imperative-optative mood forms	Expressing demands and pressure
Syntactic	Imperatives, rhetorical questions, /abrupt sentences	Resistance and dominance
Pragmatic	Objections, rejections, threats	Structuring the conflict
Semantic	Irony, evaluative framing, disdain	Indirect aggression
Prosodic	Pitch (F_0), intensity, duration, speech tempo	Expressing emotional tension
Discursive	Repetitions, interruptions, topic shifts	Maintaining control over the action
Strategic	Dominance, defensiveness, accusation	Executing communicative goals

As shown in this classification, markers of gender conflict are not limited to isolated words. They constitute a comprehensive system of lexical, grammatical, syntactic, pragmatic, prosodic, and discursive elements.

Conclusion In conclusion, explaining gender conflict purely through individual vocabulary or grammatical structures is insufficient. It is a complex communicative phenomenon shaped by the dynamic interplay of verbal, paraverbal, and prosodic means. When determining the speech markers of gender conflict, adopting a framework based on the system: "**Speech Unit – Communicative Situation – Communicative Strategy – Prosodic Feature – Gender Context**" is highly effective. This approach enables a deeper understanding of the mechanisms behind gender conflict formation, the identification of conflict-inducing units, and the precise characterization of their communicative functions.

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