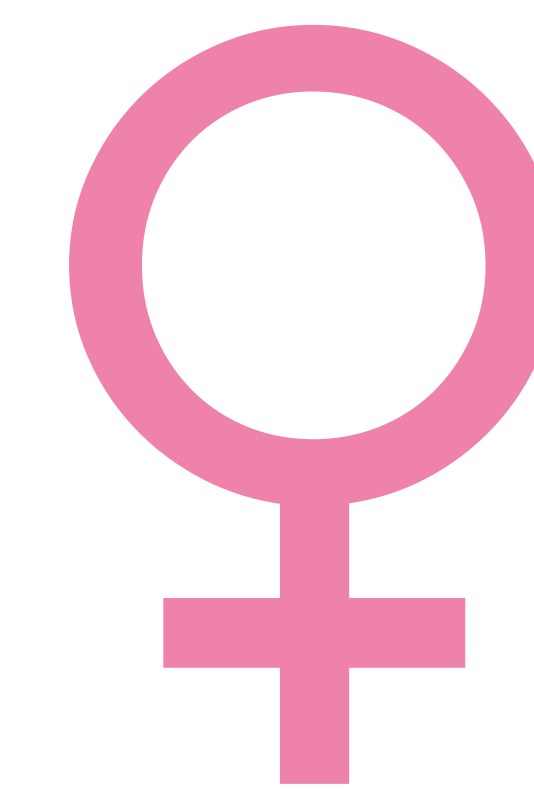
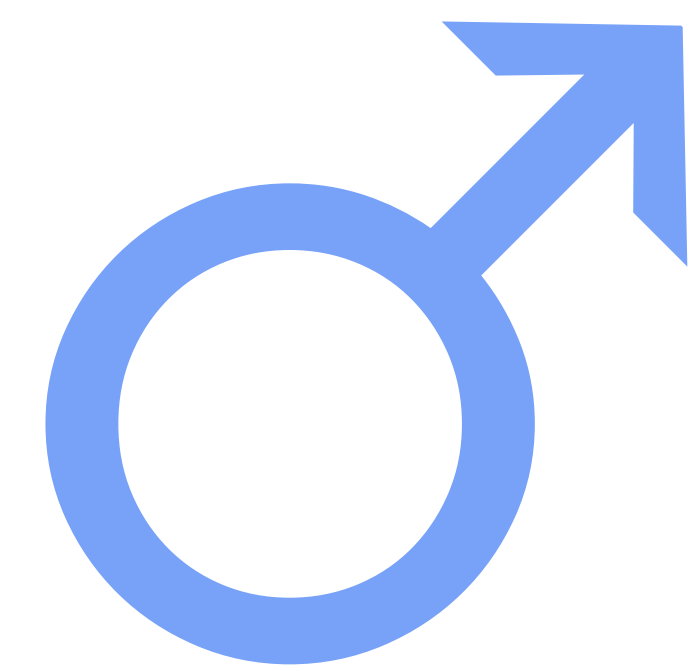


The Interpretation of Grammatical Gender Among English Monolingual Speakers



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Research Questions

- What grammatical gender do English speakers assign to common English nouns?
- Do English speakers have an inherent bias towards associating common English nouns to the masculine gender?

Rationale

- Although grammatical gender is frequently portrayed as a traditional procedure to organize languages, little is known about how English speakers grasp the concept of assigning gender to common nouns.
- I am testing to see whether there are inherent biases in the way English speakers assign gender to common nouns.

Background Literature

- Wasserman and Weseley (2009) say that in Spanish, the phrase “el papel,” the article “el” denotes that the noun is masculine. In contrast, the English article “the” is gender-neutral and is used for all nouns.
- In Spanish, the masculine plural is used for any group that includes a male member, regardless of proportion (cite source).

Hypothesis

Monolingual English speakers will assign a masculine grammatical gender to words at a frequency greater than chance due to an existent internalized genderism within the participants.

Method

Participants

- Monolingual English speakers who are at least 18 years old
- Recruited through *describe where you will be recruiting participants from*

Materials and Procedure

- Qualtrics will be used to administer the study online
- Participants will be shown 10 common English nouns presented 1 at a time
- Participants have 10 s to assign a gender to each word

Grass

Masculine Feminine

Shovel

Masculine Feminine

Tent

Masculine Feminine

Mirror

Masculine Feminine

Air

Masculine Feminine

Helmet

Feminine Masculine

Ambulance

Feminine Masculine

Lamp

Feminine Masculine

Cellphone

Feminine Masculine

Boomerang

Feminine Masculine

Control Variables

- The 10 common English nouns chosen for this research are not normally taught in introductory foreign language courses
- All words are limited to gender neutral objects
- In Spanish, half of these nouns are masculine and the other half are feminine
- There will be two versions of the survey: one in which the male gender is shown as the first choice, and the other in which the feminine gender is presented first. A randomizer would be implemented to ensure that half of the participants will receive each version

Significance of the Study

- It will be possible to infer how English speakers assign gender to words without having any prior knowledge of what grammatical gender is
- The study may bring to light the fundamental genderism that exists in society

Work Cited

Wasserman, B. D., & Weseley, A. J. (2009). ¿Qué? Quoi? do languages with grammatical gender promote sexist attitudes? *Sex Roles*, 61(9-10), 634-643. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-009-9696-3>