



Gender(ed) identities: Diversity and attitudes

YLMP Invited Thematic Session convened by Tomasz Dyrmo, Jagoda Nosal, Patrycja Kakuba, Mikołaj Buczak, and Agnieszka Kiełkiewicz-Janowiak (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan)

For a very long time language has been regarded as a medium that unites people, that brings them together, but, undeniably, divides them too (e.g. Wee 2005, Sczesny et al. 2015). This dichotomy comes with a premise that language may be a tool for empowering those whose voices have been silenced (Cameron et al. 1993). In this context, linguistics, in particular, seems suitably equipped to give a platform to marginalised groups, whose identities unquestionably hinge on their power to speak for themselves and the communities they represent.

Diversity in gender(ed) identities as well as ingroup and outgroup attitudes are the point of interest for many researchers in linguistics and beyond. Recent studies have focused on the notions of visibility and empowerment (Cameron 2005, Zimman 2017), which is a drastic departure from the previous locus of scholarly attention, that is difference and discrimination (Crawford 1995, Pauwels 2003). What is more, current analyses favour a more open and inclusive approach to language and identity, which is exemplified by a growing body of literature on non-binary identities (Zimman et al. 2014, Konnelly and Cowper 2020).

Clearly, gender and sexual identity are related notions. This relationship is visible, for instance, in how the LGBT+ community expresses their identity (Bucholtz and Hall 2004), how they inform of their varied understanding of sexuality (Zimman 2009), or how they communicate their sexual orientation and gender identity multimodally (Lederer 2019). Given the complexity of the issue in question, we aim to highlight the need for understanding and acceptance in the ever-changing landscape of gender identities.

Following the leitmotif of the conference, we would like to invite you to discuss a variety of language-identity interactions. We accept papers on various topics, including, but not limited to:

- *coming out* process as a linguistic phenomenon
- gender identity construction and change in language
- distinctive language use within the LGBT+ community
- analysis of gender-associated vocabulary
- perceptions and attitudes towards and within the LGBT+ community



Papers on proposed topics may employ a range of methodological approaches, for instance:

- corpus-based quantitative studies
- ethnographic and sociolinguistic methods
- discourse analysis
- historical/diachronic approach
- cognitive framework
- theoretical linguistic descriptions

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