

PiXL Independence

English Language – Student Booklet

KS5

Language and Gender

Contents:

- I. Multiple Choice Quizzes – 10 credits each
- II. Short Answer Questions – 10 credits each
- III. Short Articles – 50 credits per summary
- IV. Wider Reading – 80 credits
- V. Essay Questions – 100 credits

I. Multiple Choice Quizzes

Gender and Talk Quiz

10 credits for answering all questions

1. Why does Deborah Cameron think people believe that women speak more than men?
 - a. Nerves
 - b. Biological differences
 - c. Social conditioning
 - d. They don't

2. According to Hyde, how much more do women speak than men?
 - a. 0.11%
 - b. 0.05%
 - c. 0.25%
 - d. 1.5%

3. In 1974, what did Trudgill find that men did more than women?
 - a. Talk
 - b. Use taboo language
 - c. Converge
 - d. Use non-standard forms

4. How was Robin Lakoff's 1975 work received?
 - a. Everyone changed their views on language and gender
 - b. People were critical and it didn't make much difference
 - c. People were critical but it had a far-reaching effect on the debate
 - d. It was well received and had a far-reaching effect on the debate

5. Lakoff views women's language to be:
 - a. Superior to men's language
 - b. The same as men's language
 - c. Inconsistent compared to men's
 - d. Inferior compared to men's language

6. Which of the following is not a feature of women's language according to Lakoff?
- a. Using super-polite terms
 - b. Using more taboo language
 - c. Using tag questions
 - d. Using emotive language
7. Which school of language and gender does Lakoff's theory belong to?
- a. Deficit approach
 - b. Dominance approach
 - c. Difference approach
 - d. All of the above
8. What did Jenny Cheshire's 1982 study suggest about boys' and girls' use of non-standard forms?
- a. Girls used non-standard forms more than boys
 - b. Boys used non-standard forms more than girls
 - c. There is no discernible difference in non-standard use between boys and girls
 - d. The results depended on other contextual factors
9. What is O'Barr and Atkins' research based on?
- a. Classrooms
 - b. Nightclubs
 - c. Courtrooms
 - d. Offices
10. What do O'Barr and Atkins suggest is the real reason for the differences Lakoff suggested women face?
- a. Their gender
 - b. Their upbringing
 - c. Their powerlessness
 - d. Their education

Language and Gender Terms Quiz

10 credits for completing all of the questions

1. Male nurse is an example of:
 - a. Marked term
 - b. Diminutive suffix
 - c. Generic term
 - d. Address term

2. What is a diminutive suffix?
 - a. A word which suggests women are less important than men
 - b. A suffix which suggests something is less good
 - c. A word which states inferiority
 - d. A suffix which suggests femininity and therefore inferiority

3. Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms are examples of:
 - a. Marked terms
 - b. Address terms
 - c. Generic terms
 - d. Marital statuses

4. What is lexical asymmetry?
 - a. Pairs of words where the female term is somehow degraded
 - b. Any pair of male and female terms
 - c. Different male and female words for the same job
 - d. The same words for men and women doing the same role

5. What is the definition of sex in the context of this topic?
 - a. The biological difference between men and women
 - b. The reason men and women use language differently
 - c. The difference in behaviour and roles that are as a result of social expectations
 - d. The way in which men and women use language differently

6. What is the definition of gender?
 - a. The biological difference between men and women
 - b. The reason men and women use language differently
 - c. The difference in behaviour and roles that are as a result of social expectations
 - d. The way in which men and women use language differently

7. What is the definition of a marked term?
- a. A word which states inferiority
 - b. A noun which can only be applied to men
 - c. A noun which can only be applied to women
 - d. That which stands out as different from the norm
8. What is the definition of semantic derogation?
- a. Words that can be interpreted in a positive or negative way
 - b. When words take on more negative connotations
 - c. Words that have always had negative connotations
 - d. When words ebb and flow in terms of negative connotations
9. Which of the following does not include a patronym?
- a. O'Malley
 - b. Johnson
 - c. Smith
 - d. MacPherson
10. What is the definition of a matronym?
- a. Names that reflect a female inheritance
 - b. Names that reflect a family inheritance
 - c. Names that reflect a male inheritance
 - d. Names that reflect a gender-neutral inheritance

II. Short Answer Questions

The Difference Approach

20 credits for completing

1. How would you describe the difference approach?
2. Where and when did Janet Holmes carry out her study into the use of language by the two genders?
3. What did Holmes suggest about compliments?
4. List Tannen's six differences in the way that men and women use language.
5. How do Deborah Cameron's ideas about the difference approach vary from the main principle?
6. What does Cameron believe about research undertaken by Lakoff, Fishman and Tannen?
7. Why does Jennifer Coates believe that men and women use language differently?
8. What does Coates suggest about women's language in same sex conversation?
9. What does Jane Pilkington suggest about same sex conversation?
10. What does Janet Hyde propose in 2005?

The Dominance Approach

10 credits per question

1. What does the dominance approach suggest?
2. In what year did Zimmerman and West publish their findings?
3. Which sex do Zimmerman and West suggest interrupt more and what percentage of interruptions is it suggested they make?
4. What issues does this study have as a piece of research?
5. How do dominance theorists believe language affects society?
6. What does Pamela Fishman's research suggest about the relevance of tag questions?
7. What does Fishman's research suggest about the relationship between men and women in conversation?
8. What does Dale Spender believe about the relationship between language and power?
9. What does Spender suggest about the connection between gender and age?
10. Why does Mary Talbot criticise the dominance model?

III. Short Articles

Read through each of these articles and complete notes around the question accompanying them on this article.

50 credits for each detailed set of notes produced.

1. 'They're, Like, Way Ahead of the Linguistic Currrrve' by Douglas Quenqua
<https://mobile.nytimes.com/2012/02/28/science/young-women-often-trendsetters-in-vocal-patterns.html>

What is suggested about the way in which girls adapt their language?

2. 'What Language Barrier?' by Deborah Cameron
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2007/oct/01/gender.books>

How does Cameron refute traditional ideas around language and gender?

3. 'Dolls? They're not just for girls' <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2238435/Swedish-toy-firm-Top-Toy-forced-gender-neutral-Christmas-catalogue.html>

How does this link to the language and gender discussion?

4. 'Wives and Grandmothers First?' by Laura Bates
<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/womens-blog/2014/apr/25/wives-grandmothers-insidious-sexism-women-news-ageism>

What does this suggest about women's identity and the links to the language debate?

5. Margaret Thatcher's 1980 Conference Speech
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2007/apr/30/conservatives.uk>

Draw a table with 'male language features' and 'female language features' – put as many examples as you can from the speech into the relevant column.

6. Deborah Cameron's Blog <https://debuk.wordpress.com/>

Choose a blog and note down how Cameron contributes to the overall language debate.

7. Clive Grey's Overview of theory <https://aggslanguage.wordpress.com/work-on-gender-and-language-variation/>

Create a timeline which clearly denotes when each piece of research was published.

8. Why don't people like the sound of "woman president"?
<https://www.economist.com/blogs/prospero/2015/11/johnson-sex-gender-and-language>

What does the author object to in particular and why?

9. 'Is Your Communication Style Dictated by your Gender?'
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/carolkinseygoman/2016/03/31/is-your-communication-style-dictated-by-your-gender/2/#6ebfda1755b9>

List what the writer suggests are typical male and female traits. To what extent does this fit with other theories?

10. 'How speech and language determine success in the workplace'.
<https://www.theguardian.com/women-in-leadership/2013/jun/03/speech-language-determine-success-workplace>

How and why does the writer suggest that language is important for women?

IV. Wider Reading

For each of these titles, make notes on the key points made on language and gender and try to place the overall work(s) within the theoretical framework. You should aim to produce a ten-point summary for each piece and a summary paragraph stating clearly where the piece fits with other theory.

80 credits for each response completed

1. *You Just Don't Understand* by Deborah Tannen (1990) Chapter 1 pp. 23 – 48
2. *Language and Gender* (2nd edition) by Mary Talbot (2010) Chapter 6 pp. 98 – 115
3. 'Gender and Communication' by Deborah Tannen in *Language: A Student Handbook on Key Topics and Theories* ed. by Dan Clayton (2012) pp. 10 – 23
4. 'Gossip Revisited' by Jennifer Coates in *Language and Gender: A Reader* ed. by Jennifer Coates (1998) pp. 226 – 254
5. 'Politeness and the Linguistic Construction of Gender in Parliament: An Analysis of Transgressions and Apology Behaviour' by Chris Christie
<http://extra.shu.ac.uk/wpw/politeness/christie.htm>
6. 'Computer Mediated Communication: Bringing Baggage to the New Frontier' by Susan Herring
<http://www.universalteacher.org.uk/lang/herring.txt>
7. 'Gender Differences in Using Language' by Xiufang Xia
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/carolkinseygoman/2016/03/31/is-your-communication-style-dictated-by-your-gender/2/#6ebfda1755b9>
8. 'Language and Gender: Differences and Similarities' by Lihong Gu
www.atlantispress.com/php/download_paper.php?id=10624
9. 'Gender Difference in Children's Language' by Irena Markovic
https://bib.irb.hr/datoteka/640866.Gender_difference_in_childrens_language.pdf

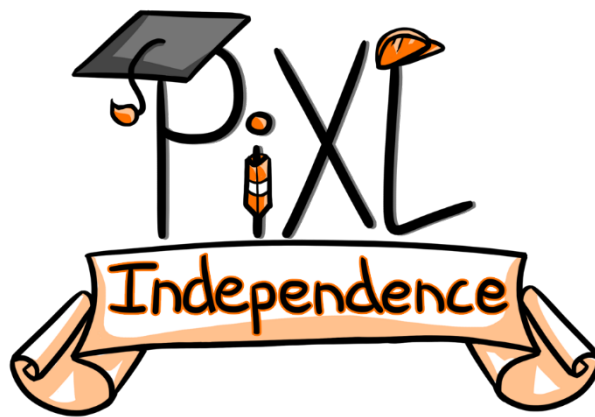
10. 'Politeness, Power and Women's Language: Rethinking Study in Language and Gender'
by Nina Eliasoph
[http://dornsife.usc.edu/assets/sites/543/docs/Politeness Power and Womens Language.pdf](http://dornsife.usc.edu/assets/sites/543/docs/Politeness_Power_and_Womens_Language.pdf)

V. Essay Questions

Using the knowledge that you have accumulated, write a detailed response to the essay question chosen. Ensure that you include some practical examples as well as wider reading and theoretical understanding.

100 credits for each completed essay.

1. 'There is an imbalance in the amount that men and women talk.'
To what extent do you agree with this statement?
2. 'In this day and age, language is essentially gender neutral.'
To what extent do you agree with this statement?
3. 'Men and women use language in the same way.'
To what extent do you agree with this statement?
4. How have views on the use of language by men and women changed over time?
5. 'A title is irrelevant, society should stop being so concerned with gender labels.' To what extent do you agree with this view?
6. To what extent can it be argued that gender is the most important factor in defining a person's use of language?
7. 'Women are more polite than men'. To what extent do you agree with this view?
8. 'It is impossible to escape from gendered language.' To what extent do you agree with this view?
9. 'Lexical asymmetry is proof enough that language is constructed and dominated by men.' To what extent do you agree with this view?
10. Is language a result of gender, or does language construct gender? Explain your views, considering the other perspective.



Commissioned by The PiXL Club Ltd.

This resource is strictly for the use of member schools for as long as they remain members of The PiXL Club. It may not be copied, sold, or transferred to a third party or used by the school after membership ceases. Until such time it may be freely used within the member school.

All opinions and contributions are those of the authors. The contents of this resource are not connected with, or endorsed by, any other company, organisation or institution.

PiXL Club Ltd endeavour to trace and contact copyright owners. If there are any inadvertent omissions or errors in the acknowledgements or usage, this is unintended and PiXL will remedy these on written notification.