

## **Abstract**

This diploma thesis focuses on the expression of the feminine gender in contemporary Portuguese. It is mainly concentrated on the manifestations of linguistic feminization within two language variants of Portuguese (European and Brazilian). The thesis is divided into several parts. The first part focuses on general issues related to the grammatical category of gender. This means that the linguistic gender is examined from a historical, semantic and syntactic point of view. Due to different interpretations of this category, the very nature of the grammatical gender is also discussed. The second part analyses the different ways in which the feminine gender can be expressed in contemporary Portuguese. The practical part is introduced by the third chapter and is connected with the main goal of this diploma thesis. It consists in verifying whether the manifestations of linguistic feminization, in this case the use of gender inflected forms, are common linguistic phenomena in Portuguese or not. To confirm this statement, linguistic data from two language corpora were used for this verification. Furthermore, the answers to the online questionnaire aiming at this issue became an additional source of the necessary data. The resulting figures prove a certain presence of linguistic feminization in both variants of Portuguese, although this phenomenon prevails in Brazilian Portuguese.

## **Keywords:**

Grammatical category of gender, feminine gender, gender inflection, linguistic feminization, Portuguese, corpus research