Abstract

This thesis compares the ways female and male characters are represented in the Harry Potter series of novels, exploring how particular linguistic choices can shape gendered discourses. Methodologically, the thesis relies on the approaches of corpus stylistics, working with a corpus of Rowling's Harry Potter novels (using the KonText interface), and employing frequency lists and collocations as starting points of the analysis. By examining the most typical collocations of personal possessive pronouns *his* and *her* and noun referring to body parts, as well as 5-grams containing gendered possessive personal pronouns, I look at how male and female characters are typically linguistically represented in the Harry Potter series of novels.

The analysis confirms that there is a certain imbalance in the linguistic representation of male and female characters, as has been mentioned in previous studies.

Keywords: gender and language, gender in literature, corpus stylistics, Harry Potter