

## **Abstract**

Key words: grammatical gender, nouns, language sexism, society, linguistics

This work focuses on phenomenon of *nomi di azione* which indicate professions, occupations or titles in Italian. In this limited group of substantives exists inequity between used masculines and feminines. The crucial source of this work is an important work of Alma Sabatini *Raccomandazioni per un uso non sessista della lingua italiana (1986)*, which consists of recommendations for more appropriate and neutral expressions. The work managed to include this topic into the public consciousness and point out to its impact for society.

Practical part of the work is based on analysis of competing forms of words, which do not fit common language standards or social conventions. These forms will be examined by five Italian expository dictionaries (published between 1998 and 2007) and the Italian corpus of *La Repubblica*. The results attempt to map current situation and confront it with the recommendations of A. Sabatini.

However, the issue is beyond the linguistics area, so the concern of this work is focused also on the socio-cultural and psychological aspects, which condition the whole situation. Among those, the relative disciplines to linguistics are mentioned – politics, mass-media and education.

This work does not present clear statements, but it attempts to show different perspectives of the phenomenon and offer some of the solutions for the future elimination of sexism in language.