Abstract

Title of the thesis: Gender inflection in occupational titles and its sociolinguistic aspects

Keywords: feminism, feminization, profession, titles, ranks, roles, sociolinguistics

Gender inflection in occupational titles and its socio-linguistic aspects focuses on interdisciplinary issues, this topic being a combination of linguistics and various other humanity fields, e.g. sociology, politology, history and anthology.

The primary aim has been to find an explanation for differences found with certain forms of inflected nouns which took various shapes throughout different periods of time. The thesis is split into 4 thematically-divided chapters. The intorduction aims to establish hypotheses while the first chapter centers on the research methodology I have employed. The second chapter summarizes historical, political and sociological aspects and presents results from existing research efforts focusing on feminization of occupational titles. The third chapter is the presentation of the handbook of inflection. The fourth chapter describes the development of selected professions/occupations and their often varying explanation in specialized dictionaries from etymological point of view. In the last chapter I have summarized my research results and the final evaluation of the existing hypotheses.

The aim of this thesis has been to familiarize myself with the gender inflection problematic connected with occupational titles and describe existing rules for their creation, while at the same time pointing out exceptions and irregularities in the sociolinguistic context.