

# Announcement

There will be Quiz 2 at the *beginning* of the next week.

The quiz will cover the topics we discussed after Quiz 1 (dialect, social variation, language change, and gender).

# Gender

## Gender differences in language

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An extreme example: In some communities in north-west Amazon, men must marry outside their own tribe, so a child's mother and father speak different languages

Less dramatically, in the Gros Ventre tribe, pronunciation differences between men and women: women say [kja'tsa], while men say [dʒa'tsa] for 'bread'

## What kind of gender differences in language can you think of?

	masculine?	feminine?
nouns, verbs, & adjectives	<i>meshi</i> (meal), <i>umai</i> (to taste good) <i>kuu</i> (to eat) <i>oyaji</i> (father)	<i>gohan</i> (meal), <i>oishii</i> (taste good) <i>taberu</i> (to eat) <i>otōsan</i> (father)
1st sg. pronouns	<i>boku, ore</i>	<i>watashi, atashi, uchi</i>
interjections	<i>yō, oi</i>	<i>ara, kyaa</i>
discourse particles	<i>-da yo, -da ne</i> <i>-zo, -ze</i>	(noun)- <i>yo</i> , (noun)- <i>ne</i> <i>-wa</i>

## What kind of gender differences in language can you think of?

In English..

Women use finer-grained color terms like *mauve* instead of purple

Women avoid swear words

Women more often use *hedges* such as *sort of* to avoid strong assertion

Women prefer tag questions like *isn't it?*

Lakoff (1975) *Language and Woman's Place*. New York: Harper Colophon.

(Lakoff 1975)

## But..

**Aren't** they just stereotypes? Do men and women really speak differently nowadays?

## How to call yourself?

# 1st pronouns

In case of ゆうた-kun

Yuuta > *boku* > *ore/boku* > *ore/boku/watashi*

In case of まり-san

Mari > *uchi/atashi* > *watashi*

The same person use multiple 1st pronouns — a male student may use *ore* in his club, *boku* in his class, and *watashi* in a job interview.

Example taken from 石黒 (2013) 日本語は「空気」が決める.

## Do women speak in a more standard/polite manner?

## Differences in common nouns, verbs etc.

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Is this really a gender difference? Aren't they just differences between formal/standard and vernacular expressions, and women are expected to use more formal expressions?

## Why do women use standard forms more often?

There are a number of different theories.

Women are more status-conscious than men

Women are expected to show 'better' behavior

Women are subordinate and need to be more polite

Vernacular forms carry connotations of toughness

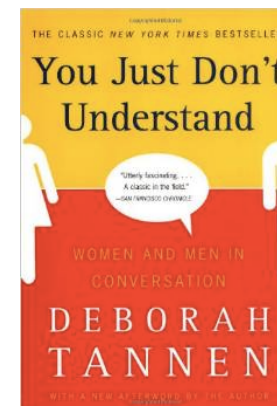
Men are more relaxed when they participate in a sociolinguistic study, particularly because the researchers are more often male?

## Gender difference in linguistic behavior

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Women prefer *rapport talk*,  
which seeks for sympathy  
and symmetrical relationship

Men prefer *report talk*, in  
which they try to take a lead  
and provide information



## Sexist language

## towards gender-neutral terms

Generic *man* and *he*

*Everyone should bring his(?) deposit on  
Monday.*

*policeman, fireman, salesman*

*lion/lioness, actor/actress, hero/heroine, etc.*

## Examples from Japanese

女王 (*joō*, 'queen'), 女医 (*joi*, 'female doctor'), 女流作家 (*joryū sakka*, 'female author')

children's nurse: 保育士 (*hoikushi*) < 保母 (*hobo*)

nurse: 看護師 (*kangoshi*) < 看護婦 (*kangofu*)

主人 and 奥さん

## Gender-neutral pronouns?

Japanese used to lack the gender distinction for 3rd person pronouns. 彼 (*kare*) and 彼女 (*kanojo*) were invented in Meiji era.

The reading of 彼女 wasn't well established yet in 1908

## Reaction paper

Do you think we need a gender-neutral pronoun?

Note:

There are languages with grammatical gender.