

Men and Women: Theory and Function in Translation (A Study of Gender in Translation)

Kumudu Nayanie Gamage¹, Amali Boralugoda¹

Gender is a concept that can be discussed both in the fields of Linguistics and Translation, apart from its social value. The issues relating to gender in the practice of translations are varied according to the type of text, the cultural background and number of other linguistic factors. In this paper, the factor of grammar and gender is further investigated and gender related issues, which affect in translating are discussed. Translator's gender identity and their effects can be identified as primary concerns. A question can be raised as how gender is translated and reproduced. A number of factors related to gender will contribute to a successful translation. The objective of this paper is to clarify what gender is, how gender manifest itself in grammatical and social systems of language. It will further investigate the difficulties translators encounter in translating gender related materials.

Both English and Sinhalese language show "semantic gender" the nouns bother speakers refer to as "She/Eya" are assumed to possess a biologically feminine semantic property in the real world. In written Sinhalese, the verb inflects according to the gender of the noun (In certain contexts). Sinhalese pronoun system also well formed with gender variations, both regional and social. On the other hand social structure as well as culture matter a lot in gender and translation.

¹ Temporary Assistant Lecturer, University of Kelaniya, Kelaniya