

## CLASSIFICATION OF LEXICAL UNITS AND EMOTIVE LEXICON ACCORDING TO GENDER

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**Abstract.** *This article examines the classification of lexical units and emotive lexicon from a gender-based perspective within linguistic and psycholinguistic frameworks. The study analyzes the semantic, pragmatic, and stylistic features of emotive language used by male and female speakers. Special attention is given to positive and negative connotations, evaluative components, and communicative functions of emotive lexical units in relation to gender-specific speech strategies. The research also explores how gender stereotypes and sociocultural factors influence the selection and use of emotionally marked vocabulary. The findings demonstrate that emotive lexicon exhibits gender-based variation and plays a significant role in shaping communication patterns.*

**Keywords:** *Emotive lexicon, gender linguistics, lexical classification, emotion, connotation, pragmatics, speech strategy, sociocultural factors, evaluative language.*

**Annotatsiya.** *Mazkur maqolada leksik birliklar va emotiv leksikaning gender omiliga ko'ra tasnifi lingvistik hamda psixolingvistik nuqtai nazardan tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda erkaklar va ayollar nutqida qo'llaniladigan emotsional birliklarning semantik, pragmatik va stilistik xususiyatlari aniqlanadi. Emotiv leksikaning ijobiy va salbiy konnotatsiyalari, ularning baholovchi komponentlari hamda kommunikativ vazifalari genderga xos nutqiy strategiyalar bilan bog'liq holda o'rganiladi. Shuningdek, gender stereotiplari va ijtimoiy-madaniy omillar til birliklarining tanlanishi va ishlatilishiga qanday ta'sir ko'rsatishi yoritiladi. Tadqiqot natijalari emotiv leksikaning gender asosida differensial xususiyatlarga ega ekanligini hamda uning kommunikativ jarayondagi rolini chuqurroq anglashga xizmat qiladi.*

**Kalit so'zlar:** *Emotiv leksika, gender lingvistika, leksik tasnif, emotsiya, konnotatsiya, pragmatika, nutq strategiyasi, ijtimoiy-madaniy omillar, baholovchi birliklar.*

**Аннотация.** *В данной статье рассматривается классификация лексических единиц и мотивной лексики с учётом гендерного фактора с лингвистической и психолингвистической точек зрения. В исследовании анализируются семантические, прагматические и стилистические особенности эмоциональной лексики в речи мужчин и женщин. Особое внимание уделяется положительной и отрицательной коннотации, оценочным компонентам и коммуникативным функциям мотивных единиц в контексте гендерно обусловленных речевых стратегий. Также рассматривается влияние гендерных стереотипов и социокультурных факторов на выбор и использование эмоционально окрашенной лексики. Результаты исследования показывают, что мотивная лексика обладает гендерной вариативностью и играет важную роль в процессе коммуникации.*

**Ключевые слова:** *Эмотивная лексика, гендерная лингвистика, классификация лексики, эмоция, коннотация, прагматика, речевая стратегия, социокультурные факторы, оценочная лексика.*

**Introduction.** The growing interest in the relationship between language and social factors has brought gender to the forefront of linguistic inquiry. Language is not only a system of signs but also a reflection of social identity, where gender plays a crucial role in shaping patterns of communication. Within this context, the study of lexical units—particularly those carrying emotional and evaluative meaning—offers valuable insights

into how speakers construct and express gendered identities in discourse. Emotive lexicon occupies a special place in this framework, as it directly reflects speakers' attitudes, feelings, and interpersonal intentions. Words with emotional coloring—whether positive or negative—serve as tools for evaluation, persuasion, and social positioning. The selection and use of such lexical items are not random; they are influenced by a combination of psychological tendencies, communicative goals, and sociocultural norms. Gender, as one of the key social variables, significantly affects these processes, leading to observable differences in lexical choice and expressive strategies. Previous linguistic research has shown that male and female speech may differ in terms of lexical richness, emotional intensity, and stylistic preferences. Female speakers are often associated with a wider use of expressive and affective vocabulary, while male speech has been traditionally described as more neutral or restrained in emotional expression. However, contemporary approaches challenge these generalizations, emphasizing the variability and context-dependence of gendered language use. This shift highlights the need for a more nuanced analysis that takes into account not only biological distinctions but also social roles, cultural expectations, and situational factors. The classification of lexical units from a gender perspective involves examining how emotive words and expressions are distributed, categorized, and function within different communicative contexts. This includes identifying patterns of positive and negative connotation, degrees of emotional intensity, and the pragmatic purposes served by such units. In addition, it requires attention to how gender stereotypes and cultural norms influence both the production and interpretation of emotive language. The relevance of this study lies in its attempt to integrate lexical semantics, pragmatics, and gender linguistics into a unified analytical framework. By focusing on emotive lexicon, the research seeks to uncover subtle mechanisms through which language encodes social meaning and emotional nuance. Understanding these mechanisms is essential not only for theoretical linguistics but also for practical fields such as language teaching, intercultural communication, and discourse analysis.

The aim of the present study is to classify lexical units and emotive vocabulary according to gender, analyzing their semantic, pragmatic, and stylistic characteristics. Through this approach, the research intends to contribute to a deeper understanding of how gender influences emotional expression in language and how emotive lexicon functions within gendered communication patterns.

**Literature review and methodology.** Research on the relationship between language, emotion, and gender has developed at the intersection of several linguistic disciplines, including lexical semantics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and psycholinguistics. Early studies in gender linguistics primarily focused on identifying differences between male and female speech, often emphasizing contrastive features such as lexical choice, politeness strategies, and emotional expression. These works suggested that emotive language is not distributed uniformly across genders, but rather shaped by

social expectations and communicative norms. In the field of lexical semantics, emotive meaning has been widely associated with connotation and evaluative components embedded in lexical units. Scholars have argued that words do not only denote objects or actions but also carry emotional and attitudinal meanings that influence interpretation. This perspective is particularly relevant when analyzing gendered language use, as emotive lexical units often reflect socially constructed roles and identities. The classification of such units, therefore, requires attention to both their semantic structure and their pragmatic function in discourse. From a sociolinguistic standpoint, gender is viewed as a dynamic and socially constructed category rather than a fixed biological variable. Contemporary approaches emphasize that differences in language use between men and women are context-dependent and influenced by factors such as social status, cultural norms, and communicative settings. In this regard, emotive lexicon becomes a key indicator of how speakers negotiate identity and interpersonal relationships. Studies have shown that women tend to employ a wider range of affective and expressive vocabulary, while men may rely on more direct or less emotionally marked forms; however, such tendencies are not universal and may vary significantly across cultures. Psycholinguistic research further contributes to understanding how emotive lexical units are processed and produced. Emotional language is closely linked to cognitive and affective systems, which influence how speakers select and interpret words in real-time communication. The use of emotive vocabulary often involves rapid integration of emotional states with linguistic structures, resulting in spontaneous and context-sensitive expression. This highlights the importance of considering internal psychological mechanisms alongside external social factors in the analysis of gendered emotive language. Recent developments in pragmatics and discourse analysis have shifted attention toward the functional aspects of emotive lexicon. Rather than focusing solely on structural differences, researchers examine how emotionally charged words are used to achieve communicative goals such as persuasion, solidarity, evaluation, or conflict management. Within this framework, gender differences are interpreted as variations in communicative strategies rather than fixed linguistic patterns. The methodology of the present study is based on an integrated and multi-level approach. A descriptive method is employed to identify and classify lexical units according to their emotive and gender-related characteristics. Semantic analysis is used to examine the connotative and evaluative meanings of the selected lexical items, distinguishing between positive and negative emotional coloring. A comparative method is applied to analyze differences and similarities in the use of emotive lexicon across gendered speech patterns. In addition, pragmatic analysis is utilized to explore the communicative functions of emotive lexical units, focusing on how they contribute to meaning in specific contexts. Contextual analysis allows for the interpretation of lexical items within authentic discourse, taking into account situational and cultural factors. A psycholinguistic perspective is incorporated to explain the cognitive and emotional

processes underlying the selection and use of emotive vocabulary. The combination of these methods ensures a comprehensive examination of lexical classification and emotive language from a gender perspective, allowing for a deeper understanding of how linguistic, psychological, and social factors interact in shaping communication.

**Results.** The analysis demonstrates that emotive lexical units are distributed across gendered speech in patterns that reflect both linguistic tendencies and context-dependent variation. These patterns are not rigid or absolute; instead, they shift according to communicative purpose, social setting, and speaker identity. Nevertheless, certain regularities emerge that allow for a structured interpretation of how emotive lexicon functions in relation to gender. One of the most noticeable tendencies concerns the range and frequency of emotive vocabulary. Female speakers tend to employ a wider spectrum of emotionally expressive words, particularly in the domain of positive evaluation. Lexical items that convey admiration, empathy, or approval appear more frequently and in more varied forms. In contrast, male speech often shows a relatively narrower range of affective vocabulary, with a stronger inclination toward neutral or minimally marked expressions. However, this difference becomes less pronounced in highly engaging or emotionally charged contexts, where both groups intensify their use of expressive language. Polarity plays a central role in distinguishing emotive lexical usage. Positive emotive units are widely used by both male and female speakers, yet their communicative functions differ. In female speech, such units frequently serve to establish interpersonal connection, reinforce solidarity, and maintain a supportive tone. In male speech, positive evaluation is more often linked to the assessment of outcomes, performance, or achievement. Negative emotive lexical units reveal a different pattern: male speakers are more likely to employ direct and unmitigated forms of negative evaluation, while female speakers tend to soften such expressions through indirect phrasing, hedging, or the use of less intense lexical alternatives. Intensity and mitigation further highlight gender-related differences in emotive expression. Female speakers frequently amplify positive emotions using intensifiers and expressive modifiers, creating a richer emotional texture in discourse. Male speakers, on the other hand, tend to reserve strong intensification for situations involving criticism or emphasis. The use of mitigation strategies—such as hedging, politeness markers, and indirect constructions—is more characteristic of female speech, especially when conveying potentially face-threatening meanings. The functional classification of emotive lexical units reveals three major categories. Some units directly name emotional states, providing explicit reference to feelings. Others function as evaluative descriptors, attaching positive or negative judgment to people, objects, or events. A third group includes expressive constructions, such as idiomatic expressions and exclamatory forms, which enhance emotional intensity and stylistic impact. While all three categories appear in both male and female speech, their relative frequency and preferred usage differ, reflecting distinct communicative priorities. Contextual factors significantly

influence the realization of these patterns. In formal or institutional settings, both male and female speakers tend to limit overt emotional expression, favoring more neutral and standardized language. In informal communication, emotive lexical diversity increases, and gender-related tendencies become more visible. Social roles and power relations also shape lexical choice, often overriding gender-based preferences and aligning language use with situational expectations.

A cross-linguistic perspective reveals additional layers of variation. In English, emotive meaning is often conveyed through direct lexical choices, particularly adjectives and intensifiers. In Uzbek, emotional expression frequently relies on culturally embedded forms, including phraseological units, honorific expressions, and indirect strategies that reflect norms of politeness and social harmony. Female speech in Uzbek tends to emphasize these culturally mediated forms more strongly, while male speech allows for greater directness in certain contexts. The role of connotation is especially significant in understanding emotive lexical selection. Words with similar denotative meanings may carry different emotional associations, influencing their appropriateness in specific contexts. The choice between such alternatives reflects not only semantic knowledge but also sensitivity to social and interpersonal dynamics. These findings indicate that emotive lexicon serves as a flexible and powerful resource for achieving communicative goals. Gender influences how this resource is utilized, shaping patterns of expression that align with broader social and cultural expectations. At the same time, the variability observed across contexts confirms that emotive language use cannot be reduced to fixed gender norms but must be understood as part of a dynamic and adaptive communicative system.

**Discussion.** The findings indicate that the relationship between gender and emotive lexical choice is better understood as a set of tendencies shaped by context rather than fixed, binary differences. Patterns observed across the data suggest that speakers draw on a shared pool of emotive resources but deploy them differently depending on interactional goals, audience, and cultural expectations. A key point concerns the interplay between evaluation and face management. Emotive lexical units function simultaneously as carriers of attitude and as tools for regulating interpersonal relations. The more frequent use of mitigation and positively oriented lexis in female speech aligns with strategies that prioritize alignment and the maintenance of social harmony. By contrast, the relatively higher tolerance for direct negative evaluation in male speech corresponds to stance-marking and efficiency in assessment. These tendencies, however, are highly sensitive to setting; in formal or hierarchical contexts, both groups converge toward more neutral, face-preserving choices. The variability of polarity and intensity underscores the central role of pragmatics. The same lexical item may shift from positive to negative (or vice versa) through irony, prosody, or surrounding discourse. This fluidity confirms that emotive meaning cannot be inferred from lexical form alone; it emerges from the interaction of word choice with context, speaker intention, and shared knowledge.

Consequently, successful interpretation relies on pragmatic competence, including sensitivity to implicature and culturally grounded norms of politeness. Cross-linguistic comparison adds another layer to the interpretation. English often encodes evaluation directly through adjectives and intensifiers, enabling explicit stance marking. Uzbek, in many cases, distributes emotive force across indirect strategies, phraseology, and culturally embedded politeness forms. This difference suggests that what appears as “less emotional” in one language may reflect a preference for indirectness rather than a reduced emotional load. It also explains why transfer across languages can lead to mismatches in tone and perceived (im)politeness. The role of connotation proves decisive in lexical selection. Near-synonymous items diverge in emotional weight and social acceptability, and speakers’ choices reflect awareness of these nuances. Gender-related patterns in synonym choice—such as preference for less face-threatening options in sensitive contexts—highlight how social expectations guide lexical selection beyond denotative meaning. From a psycholinguistic perspective, the rapid integration of affect and language during production helps explain the observed spontaneity of emotive expression, especially in high-arousal situations. At the same time, monitoring processes adjust output to fit social norms, which may result in hedging, reformulation, or the selection of milder alternatives. The balance between these processes varies by context and individual style, contributing to the variability observed across speakers. Taken together, the results support an interpretation of gendered emotive lexicon as a flexible system governed by pragmatic goals, cultural conventions, and real-time cognitive processes. Rather than attributing differences to inherent gender traits, the evidence points to adaptive strategies that speakers employ to manage stance, solidarity, and face within specific communicative environments.

**Conclusion.** The analysis confirms that the classification of lexical units and emotive lexicon according to gender reflects a dynamic interaction of semantic, pragmatic, and sociocultural factors. Emotive lexical items function not only as carriers of emotional meaning but also as instruments for structuring interpersonal relations and achieving communicative goals. The findings show that gender influences the selection and use of emotive vocabulary, particularly in terms of polarity, intensity, and communicative function. Female speech tends to demonstrate a stronger orientation toward affective expression, mitigation, and interpersonal alignment, while male speech more frequently emphasizes direct evaluation and stance. These tendencies, however, are not fixed and vary considerably depending on context, social roles, and situational demands. The study also highlights the importance of connotation and evaluative meaning in shaping emotive lexical choice. Words with similar denotative meanings may differ significantly in emotional impact, and speakers’ preferences reflect sensitivity to social expectations and communicative norms. The ability to navigate these nuances plays a crucial role in effective interaction. A cross-linguistic perspective reveals both shared and language-

specific features in the use of emotive lexicon. While the distinction between positive and negative emotional meanings appears to be universal, the ways in which these meanings are expressed differ between English and Uzbek, influenced by cultural values and patterns of communication. From a broader perspective, emotive lexicon emerges as a flexible and adaptive component of language, responsive to both internal psychological states and external social conditions. Gender-related variation should therefore be understood as part of a wider system of communicative strategies rather than as a set of rigid linguistic differences. The results contribute to a deeper understanding of how language encodes emotion and social identity, offering insights relevant to linguistic theory, discourse analysis, and applied fields such as language teaching and intercultural communication.

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