

# Tranzactional Analysis of Gender Speech

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## Abstract

Communication discourse as the direction of linguistics deals in different aspect of speech interaction between people. The present article elucidates the issues of psycholinguistic approach to communication. The principles of politeness in “man-woman” interaction have been studied through transact analysis, which requires the roles of a child, adult and a parent. Correct choosing of the roles in transactional triangular by communicators help avoid the conflict situations.

**Keywords:** transact analysis, gender speech, communication, politeness principles, psycholinguistics, role.

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## Introduction

When studying gender language in communication, it should be noted that the communication discourse encompasses not only pragmalinguistics, but also psycholinguistics. In this paper, a psychological approach was used in the study of some specific features of gender language. In this, according to D.Leach's theory of communication principles, we tried to psychologically explain the failure of men and women to adhere to these principles. We can assume that there are a number of the scientific works in Western and Russian linguistics in terms of psycholinguistic analyses, in particular transact analysis. However, the transactional analysis of gender speech along with politeness principles is a monographic work, which will be one more contribution to contemporary studies in this field.

## Literature review

The study of a person from a psychological perspective is evident in the works of such researchers as P.M.Yershov[5], E.Berne[1, 2], Z.Freud[8], P.Federn[9], K.Izard [6]. The expression of a person's inner and outer world is multifaceted. We can be convinced of this from Z.Freud's research. In particular, Z.Freud emphasized that a person consists of three layers, namely the id, ego, and superego. P.Federn recognized the existence of ego states in a person. E.Berne emphasized that a person has three ego states: child, adult, and parent. The concept of ego states and transactional analysis expressed by E.Berne is analyzed in the current paper. Thus, cases of deviations from the rules of the principles of communicative cooperation of gender language can also be explained precisely through the theory of transactional analysis. In transactional analysis, the exchange of role games, the replacement of each other is also observed in the communication of men and women.

The study of communication process is essential and problematic in today's linguistics. Therefore, there are a range of the scientific works discussing the controversial problems of psycholinguistic issues in communication. Mainly, P.Federn [9], P.M.Yershov[5], G.A.Holland[10], K.E.Izard[6], Yu.B.Gippenreiter[4], V.S.Mukhina[7] and G.Gizatova[3] paid their attention to the study of a person in the communication process. E.Berne describes the person's state in communication as its "ego" state, emphasizes its existence in the form of a triangle of three forms, namely a young child, an adult, and a parent, and creates a model of how people communicate through these three forms. The communication process is called a transaction, the beginning of communication is a transactional impulse, and the response is a transactional reaction. The appearance of a young child is not only related to a young child, an adult and a parent is not related to adults. That is, the three dimensional appearances in transactional analysis are not related to age, they only indicate the interpersonal psychological state. P.M.Yershov assumes that during communication, the interlocutors adapt to each other and play different roles [5]. The interlocutors adapt to each other and, depending on their position in the "top", "side" and "bottom", can play the role of an adult, a young child and a parent. If they are located above, they assume the role of a parent, if they are located next to them, they assume the role of an adult, and if they are located below, they assume the role of a young child, providing dominant, dependent and equal relationships. P.M.Yershov's theory is consistent with the theory of transactional analysis described by E.Berne. From the point of view of transactional analysis, communicators can play roles in different states. Playing a certain role, communicators retain the qualities characteristic of this role, for example: parental care, control, scolding, being dominant in giving advice; adult independence, being equal to the interlocutor in giving advice, responsibility for oneself; childish dependence, subordination. Possessing these qualities, communicators also demonstrate these states in their speech. The child, parent and adult ego states are further divided into smaller groups: independent child, adaptive child and rebellious child; caring parent, controlling parent, critical parent; adult ego state has only one dimension.

## Results and discussions

In the following dialogic speech, we will consider what linguistic factors affect the violation of the principle of politeness and the issue of transactional analysis. Usually, a woman is subordinate to a man. This is clearly visible in the language system. As it is known, the gender language feature is visible at any linguistic level. Psychophysiologicaly, a woman's speech can be likened to the speech of a young child, because a young child's dependence on an adult or parents can be compared with a woman's dependence on a man.

We will analyze how conflicts related to transactional analysis can arise in gender speech, that is, in the communication of a man and a woman, using the following examples.

This dialogue describes the communication between a husband and wife.

- *Varvara! – he repeated. – Are you really leaving me and changing to Ptiburdukov?*
- *Yes, – the wife answered.*
- *In this case I am going on a hunger strike! – I will suffer from hunger, until you return. A day. Week. Year... You are a she-wolf. I despise you. You are leaving me and going to your lover. You are an old she-wolf and disgusting.*
- *Vasisualiy, stop to be a clown. You'd better wash yourself. I am leaving.*

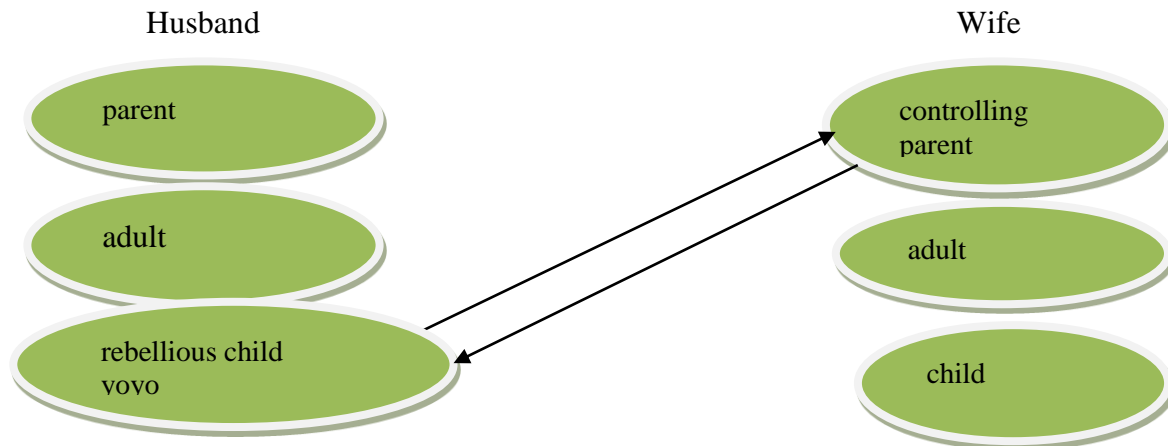
*Varvara took her sack and went to the door...But she thought about her husband, as if he parched from hunger, with no pulse and cold extremities. – You will not dare to starve!*

- *I will! – cried stubbornly Lohankin...*
- *Eat! – said she, bringing the food to the mouth of her husband.– Do you hear, eat it! (The Golden Calf, I.Ilf, E. Petrov)*

We can observe the states of the child and the parent ego in a conversation between a husband and wife.

When a man enters the state of the child ego, the dominance and competitiveness characteristic of male speech disappear. Dominance appears in the speech of a woman, which can be felt in the imperatives expressed by the woman. This dialogue is described by the following model:

**Diagram-1. Transaction type between a husband and a wife.**



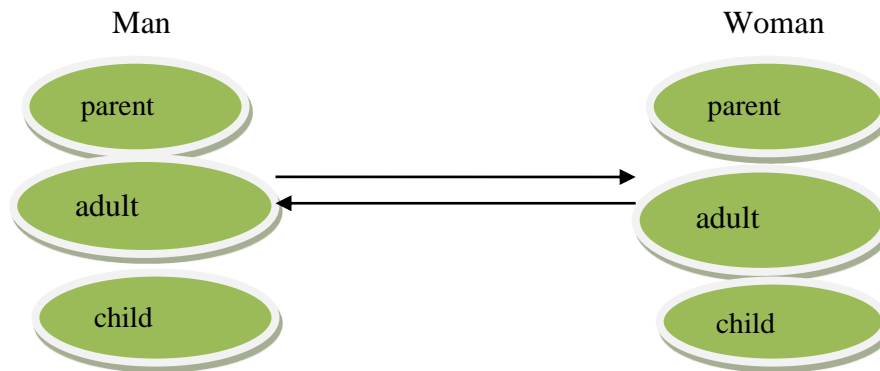
Dominance has shifted to the woman, because the woman is in the role of a parent, and the type of this role is a controlling parent. Of the three types of parental ego states (controlling parent, caring parent, and critical parent), the controlling parent state, which leads to conflicts, can be identified. Because the controlling parent always seeks to convey the thoughts to the interlocutor, to be in a dominant position. The woman is in the controlling parent ego state, playing this role. The man, playing the role of the rebellious young child, looks for various excuses so that his wife does not leave. The categories of politeness as tact, generosity, approbation and agreement from the principles of politeness were violated in the male speech. It can be said that the conflict emerged according to the gender communication barrier. In this dialogue, the conflict occurs due to gender-role and ethical-communicative gender barriers. The gender-role barrier is seen in Vasisuali's demand from his wife that a woman be a housewife, take care of her husband and follows him, obeys him, which can be seen in Russian culture too. The ethical-communicative gender barrier is Vasisuali's insulting and belittling of his wife. Vasisuali, being a man, unconsciously enters the ego state of a rebellious young boy because his wife left him without permission and followed another man.

In the following speech, people of both sexes in a conversation between a man and a woman have played the role of an adult in the transactional role. The man and the woman are explaining their thoughts to each other. They ask questions and give answers themselves, expressing their personal opinions. In this dialogue, the man and the woman approach the topic through a gendered worldview. That is, the fact that according to a man's opinion – a man can marry only if he promises, and according to a woman's opinion – a man who comes to a woman's house must marry her, come from the difference in the gender worldview. The man and the woman touched the same topic from their gender worldview. During the conversation, there was no conflict or failure of communication, because the speech strategy used by the woman and the man defined the transactional roles of the adult, and the dialogue was successful. During the conversation, it can be observed that the only violation of the principles of politeness was the category of agreement, as each interlocutor presented their opinions through the gipofora (question-answer) strategy. By using gipofora, which is stylistic means, both speakers answer their questions themselves, showing their attitude to the situation and thus, revealing the different gender view. The interlocutors are having a conversation in a neutral and calm tone. This strategy is consistent with the role of an adult. Being in a role of an adult can promote mutual understanding for both of the speakers, nevertheless each of the speaker can have their own opinions, which was not changed at the end of the conversation. The role of an adult helps accept the different views in a conversation without conflicts.

➤ ...I considered him a decent person.

- *I consider him decent even now.*
- *Why did he act so badly with Varya?*
- *Why is he so bad? - asked Nikitin... – As far as I know, he did not any proposals and did not give any promises to marry her.*
- *And why he often visited her in their house? If he had not any intentions to marry, he should not have visited her so often. (A.P. Chekhov)*

**Diagramma-2.** Conversation between a man and a woman on the same topic through different gendered views.



As it is seen, the conflicts between a man and a woman can occur according to different gender communication barriers, which leads to misunderstanding between the interlocutors. The transactional analysis can explain the conflicts between man and a woman in a process of communication. Thus, in order to avoid the conflicts, there should be developed the strategies to have successful communication.

Psychological research on the principles of politeness today can help to resolve conflicts and prevent quarrels in interpersonal communication. Transactional analysis is a psychological approach to interpersonal communication. Accordingly, the use of certain language means by interlocutors in the process of transactional analysis creates the basis for the correct choice of transactional roles and the avoidance of conflicts.

## Conclusion

Currently, scientific research is being carried out in various areas of communication discourse. This creates the basis for proposing solutions to various problems in a synergistic approach of two or more areas, and for conducting new research. In the study of language issues, the integration of linguistics and psychology leads to the study of human consciousness and thinking, determining its place in communication, ensuring the effective conduct of communication, and resolving conflicts in communication. In the study of the communication process through transactional analysis, the specificity of gender speech is evident. The role of a young child is placed below, the role of a parent is above, and the role of an adult is in the middle, and the dominance of a male in the speech of a lower role may disappear depending on the chosen roles.

We believe that the study of gender speech through transactional analysis will be an impetus for effective communication in various fields.

It is natural for every society to have interpersonal conflicts and quarrels. In foreign countries, great attention is paid to issues such as preventing and eliminating conflicts, studying their origins. On this basis, developing interpersonal communication strategies through transactional analysis and considering ways to effectively use language units to prevent conflicts is a pressing issue not only for psychology, but also for linguistics. At the same time, studying the mutual understanding of the two sexes through transactional analysis of gender speech, the linguistic system of representatives of two different worlds

through conflicts will be an impetus for the creation of a new stage of scientific work in linguistics.

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