

ABSTRACT

Sulistiowati, Rini Hery. "Sexism in English: Non-sexist Alternatives for Linguistic Items in Various Contexts of Language Use". Submitted as partial fulfillment of the requirement for sarjana degree of the English Department, Faculty of Letters, Airlangga University. 2003.

This study is in form of a library research concerning on the issue about sexist language that has been a current matter in the linguistic world recently. The origin of the matter comes out from the struggle of feminist movement over sexism affair. This movement gained particular attention especially feminists and later linguists who were concerned with sexism whereas in fact, sexism often operates along the areas of what has conventionally been analyzed as linguistic meaning. There were data in forms of sexist linguistic items taken from various contexts of language use. Purposive sampling is the method used in collecting the data in which the data were taken randomly based on the criteria stated in the technique of data collection. The data were gained from variety of sources such as magazines, newspapers, English dictionaries and articles on Internet regardless the date of the issues. Non-sexist alternatives were then suggested as the non-sexist forms of previous sexist linguistic items. The changing process from sexist to non-sexist forms is based on the guidelines of non-sexist language that are already presented and formulated from different versions of guidelines. From the analysis of the data, it can be found out that most indicators of sexist language are the appearance of generic term 'man' and generic pronouns 'he', 'his' and 'him' throughout contexts of language use. Whenever a person has a commitment to avoid these in the general statements, non-sexist language will occur. Other matters discussed here are some sexist terms that are mostly found in daily speech. The ultimate purpose in raising the problem of non-sexist language is merely for equality in language in which people are seen as one without any discrimination against one sex over the other.

Keywords: sexism; sexist language; non-sexist alternatives; guidelines