Questionnaire on genderlects

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This questionnaire is made available to linguists seeking to detect and describe gender indexicality. It was designed for a survey of gender indexicality in South American languages.

Please address questions, suggestions or results, to the author of the questionnaire.

'Gender indexicality' refers to a formal distinction depending on the gender of the speech act participants, and is distinct from grammatical gender, which indicates the gender of a participant to the state of affairs expressed by the utterance (within the propositional content). Gender indexicality can be found in sentences where neither the speaker nor the hearer is involved as a participant in the state of affairs expressed by the utterance.

(1) KARAJÁ *kɔwɔrʊ* 'tree (♀ speaker) / *ɔwɔrʊ* 'tree' (♂speaker)

(2) BOLIVIAN GUARANI *éé* 'yes' (♀ speaker) / *tà* 'yes' (♂ speaker)

(3) MOJEÑO TRINITARIO *ñipeno* 'his house' (♀speaker) / *mapeno* 'his house' (♂speaker)

NB: ♀/♂ symbolize the indexical gender of the speaker or the addressee, and should not be confused with abbreviations for grammatical gender M (masculine) and F (feminine).

1. name of language
2. linguistic family
3. geographical location
4. sources (published or fieldnotes)
5. researcher contact information

Type of indexicality

6. Does language X index the gender of the speaker (a.k.a. male/female speech), the addressee or both? If both, please describe the number of categories and their context of use.
7. Is the distinction categorical (forms exclusively used by a gender) or gradual (forms statistically more frequently associated with a gender)?

Locus of indexicality

8. Is gender indexed in the lexicon? If so, in how many items? In which semantic subpart of the lexicon (i.e. in animal names)?

NB: Please make sure that the lexical distinction is not based on gender of the referent for nouns (as in *son/daughter*), on gender of an argument of the verb (for verbs expressing, say, typical activities of women *vs*. men, Cf. (4)), on gender of the possessor for kinship terms (DO NOT use 1st person possessor or vocative forms when eliciting kinship terms, Cf. (5)). In all these cases, there is no gender indexicality.

(4) KARAJÁ *obu* 'cry (feminine subject)' and *hi* 'cry (masculine subject)' can both be uttered by either male or female speakers

(5) EMÉRILLON *adʒɨr* 'daughter of a man' and *mẽbɨr* 'daughter of a girl' can both be uttered by either male or female speakers (even if with a 1st person possessor, *adʒɨr* is used by men and *mẽbɨr* by women).

9. Is gender indexed in interjections (expressive, phatic, descriptive –ideophones-, conative)? Examples of expressive interjections include expression of pain, surprise, disdain, aversion, admiration, sadness, anger, shock, joy, fright, shame and derision.

NB: For a typology of interjections and other discourse markers (questions 9-13), see Ameka, Felix 1992. "Interjections: The universal yet neglected part of speech", in *Journal of Pragmatics*: 18.2-3, 101-118.

10. Is gender indexed in discourse particles?
11. Is gender indexed in affirmative/negative words or particles?
12. Is gender indexed in routines and formulae?
13. Is gender indexed in connectives?
14. Is gender indexed in the phonology? If so, how (phonetic substitution, deletion, syllabic structure, prosodic rules)?
15. Is gender indexed in the morphology? If so, is it found in the pronominal system? Is it found elsewhere in the morphology as in the pronominal system?

NB: If found only in the 1st or 2nd person, consider analyzing it as grammatical gender especially if grammatical gender is found in the 3rd person.

Synchronic comparison

16. Are the two forms distinguishing indexical gender (lexemes, morphemes, phonemes, etc.) equivalent in terms of complexity?
17. Can one of the forms be considered to be derived from the other? By what type of operation (addition, deletion, etc.)?

18. Is the genderlect distinction based on the presence vs. absence of a feature/element/category?

Diachrony

19. Is the same gender indexicality pattern found in other related languages?
20. Are both forms inherited, i.e. reflexes of attested or reconstructed proto-forms?
21. Can one form (or the marked form) be considered an internal development of the other form?
22. Is the same distinction found in a genetically-unrelated neighboring language?
23. Is one of the form a result of borrowing?

Use

24. Are the lects given a special name?
25. Is gender indexicality obligatory or optional?
26. In case of indexicality of gender of the speaker, check in texts whether the opposite gender form is used in citing a speaker of the opposite gender?
27. How is social gender defined? (classification of children, elders and homosexuals)
28. How pervasive is the phenomenon (minor, visible in all sentences…)? Please specify whether this results from the number of elements concerned (types) and/or their frequency (tokens)?
29. Approximate age of acquisition.
30. Attitudes towards (exclusive or statistical) distinctions related to gender of the speech act participants.
31. Attitudes towards errors and correcting.