

Gender Sensitive Serbian Language in Official and Public Use: A Suggestion for Normative Practice

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Jezik nije moguće jednoznačno definisati


- In public use is standard language.
- Standard language has a norm and is used by the intellectual elite.
- Native speakers of the language contribute to the norm.

Gender Sensitive Language Accommodates the Recommendations from:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- Guidelines on Gender neutral Language UNIESCO (1999)
- And other applicable international and domestic documents

Gender sensitive Serbian language is not normativized.

- This suggestion of a norm is based on theory of speech acts
- The fundamental assumption of this theory is that through language (use) we are doing something (performing acts)
- In this doing something, we are making choices according to the context or collocutor



Several Suggestions for Development and Standardization of Gender Sensitive Serbian Language

- **Use of female gender nouns for professional titles of women**

- **In Serbian language, the subject and verb in a sentence must be congruent in person, number and case**

- **Try consistently to use female gender form of a noun for professional titles of women wherever possible and applicable**

- **Language is equally a habit as it is defiance of the habit**

- **Try to use gender neutral words while talking about or addressing persons of both gender or when the gender of the person is not known**

- Try to use parallel forms if a recommendation addresses both women and men

- **While shaping a text try to use creatively various forms of gender sensitive language**
- **Prilikom oblikovanja teksta kreativno koristi razne forme rodno osetljivog jezika**

- **Try to write professional titles in their full/long form, and avoid writing abbreviations for the professional titles of women**

- **In case you are writing about a married couple, try to write identifiers for each person**

- **A woman should not be introduced by and identified through markers of her marital status**

- **Try to apply the suggested rules and recommendations in translation from a foreign language into Serbian**