Gender Stereotyping Bias – Assessment of the Swimming and Underwater Diving Vocabulary Knowledge in English as a Foreign Language in Kinesiology

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Scientists claim that women exceed men in verbal language, in interpersonal relations, in emotional and artistic expression as well as in executing previously planned tasks, while there are more men who are mathematicians, airplane pilots, engineers, architects, etc.

D. Kimura (1999)

- Proved that women remember lists of words or parts of texts better than men, and that they seek security more often than men.

- Men, on the other hand, seem to be more independent, they have better mathematical and spatial skills, a higher level of aggressiveness connected with their position at work, etc.

- Women express more empathy; they are better in social and verbal skills.
Kiefer and Shih (2006) confirmed the superiority of women in verbal skills and in the way women process language.
RESEARCHES THAT DID NOT CONFIRM SUPERIORITY OF WOMEN IN VERBAL SKILLS

- Cameron (2007) - strongly challenged female verbal superiority
RESEARCHES THAT DID NOT CONFIRM SUPERIORITY OF WOMEN IN VERBAL SKILLS


GENDER STEREOTYPING IN SPORT

- Sport - a masculine territory (Koivula, 2001)
- Sport participation – connected with musculature, physical strength and power, i.e. with masculinity (Dyer, 1982).
FEMININE SPORTS

- graceful and non-aggressive
- contain a component of beauty and aesthetic pleasure (beauty is commonly considered as a feminine attribute)
MASCULINE SPORTS
(according to Metheny, 1965)

- an athlete tries to **physically overpower** an opponent - **physical contact**
- an athlete **directly applies force against a heavy object**
- an athlete **projects the body into space or through space over a certain distance**
- opponents are in **face-to-face competition** - body contact is possible
MASCULINE SPORTS
(according to Postow, 1980)

- aggressiveness,
- competitive spirit,
- discipline,
- stamina, and
- devotion to a team
AGGRESSIVENESS

\(\square\) seems to be a key feature emphasized by many authors which qualifies a sport to be typically masculine
CATEGORIZATION OF SPORTS

- masculine
- feminine
- gender-neutral
MASCULINE SPORTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bandy</th>
<th>Handball</th>
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<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Ice-hockey</td>
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<td>Boxing</td>
<td>Motor sports</td>
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<td>Wrestling</td>
<td>Weight lifting</td>
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<td>Combat sports</td>
<td>Pole vaulting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
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</table>
KOIVULA (2001)

- FEMININE SPORTS

Aerobics
Dance
Gymnastics
Synchronized swimming

Ballet
Figure skating
Riding
KOIVULA (2001)

- GENDER-NEUTRAL SPORTS

Archery  Badminton
Basketball Bowling
Canoeing Cross-country skiing
Cycling Downhill skiing
Fencing Golf
Marathon Orienteering
Riflery Sailing
Skating Swimming
Table tennis Tennis
Volleyball
to analyse any possible differences between genders as regards stereotyping connected with verbal skills in men and women.

96 students – 48 men and 48 women – of the third year from the Faculty of Kinesiology University of Zagreb (Croatia) who learned English for Specific Purposes as a foreign language within the obligatory university study of kinesiology.
MEASUREMENT INSTRUMENT

- a 31-item translation test of swimming and underwater diving-specific terms from English into Croatian

- both swimming and underwater diving – gender-neutral sports

- scoring – a 3-degree scale ranging from 1 (incorrect), over 2 (partially correct) to 3 (correct)
31 terms = 31 dependent variables

$gender = \text{independent variable}$

The significance of differences between genders for each variable was determined by the Mann-Whitney U test.
RESULTS

Variables which statistically significantly differentiated between male and female students:

- in favour of **men**: kicking action, starting dive, take-off phase

- in favour of **women**: snorkel
Differences between genders as regards preferences, skills, etc. continuously decrease or even disappear.
male kinesiology students differ from their colleagues studying at other faculties:

- watch TV more often (?),
- read (sports) magazines and newspapers more often (?),
- read more (about sports) on the Internet (?)
female kinesiology students differ from their colleagues studying at other faculties:

- positive connections between the global self-concept and physical activity participation (?)
- more self-confident (?)
- higher self-esteem and self-actualization (?)

- the brain circles for social and verbal associations are more naturally present in a female than in a male brain.

- testosterone decreases the loquaciousness as well as the interest for socializing – except in the cases when this socializing implies sports or acquiring sexual experience.
The Sumerian goddess Inana was a symbol of love and fertility, but also of war, and war is a concept that assumes strength and power.

The Amazons were a legendary tribe of female warriors.

The figure of Artemis, the Greek goddess who, apart from symbolizing fertility and untamed sexuality, also symbolized a skilled hunter, was also an outstanding archer and an excellent runner.
BODY IMAGE

- important to both male and female kinesiology students
REASONS FOR THE DISAPPEARANCE OF DIFFERENCES

- The **emancipation of women** in general – aberration from the traditional roles:
  - of a mother,
  - of a keeper of household and a family carer,
  - a gentle mother who lives for her husband and children and who completely neglects her needs
CONSEQUENCES

- changes of women’s personality traits
- many women continue to keep and fulfil their traditional roles and add to these roles their career-related duties, but they start to participate in activities otherwise reserved exclusively for men
Metaphorically, the strength of women increases, so that perhaps it is not strange that they lose – or have already lost – their primacy in various domains such as verbal skills.