An Interdisciplinary Bibliography on Language, Gender and Sexuality (2000–2011)

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Acknowledgments

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CHAPTER 1

Research on language, gender and sexuality

Developments, trends and prospects

1.1 Major strands in earlier research on language and gender

Since its inception in the 1970s, the field of language and gender has evolved into a vibrant research area that has witnessed an explosion of publications in the new millennium. The main purposes of the present bibliography are to document this development, to make the existing work accessible to a wider academic public, and thereby to have an impact on future research on the relationship between language, gender and sexuality. However, when recapitulating the research activity of the last decade, it is essential to pay credit to earlier research and the way it has influenced contemporary work in the field.

Early work in feminist linguistics in the wake of Second Wave Feminism (e.g. Fishman 1978, Lakoff 1975, Spender 1980) has traditionally been described as constituting the dominance approach to language and gender. Almost needless to say, "dominance" in those times invariably meant male dominance over women. This early work must be credited for establishing language and gender studies as a veritable field of study and for raising public consciousness of fundamental gendered asymmetries in language structure and use, issues that have remained on the agenda of feminist linguistic work. On the side of language use, researchers at that time often studied dominance-related features (for example, turn-taking, interruptions, tag questions) of conversational behaviour in mixed-sex groups. This strand of research generally yielded evidence of men linguistically exerting power over women.

On the structural level, other phenomena were documented which also allowed for a dominance-related interpretation. Among these were aspects like the generic use of androcentric forms (English male generics such as *he* and *man*; generic masculine forms in grammatical gender languages), gendered asymmetries in agreement patterns and conjunct order of mixed-gender personal binomials (e.g. Latin *Romeo et Julia beati sunt* "Romeo.MASC and Juliet.FEM are happy.MASC.PL"; *see also* Hellinger & Bußmann 2001:14f) or the morphological markedness (*author-ess*, *usher-ette*) and (often concomitant) semantic derogation (*governess*, *mistress*) of female personal nouns vis-à-vis their male counterparts (e.g. Baron 1986, Cameron 1992, Cheshire 1985, Hardman 1999, Hellinger & Bußmann 2001). Such debates facilitated the achievement of the applied linguistic aim of countering linguistic sexism by suggesting alternative gender-fair forms as part of non-sexist language guidelines (cf. Doyle 1995, Miller & Swift 2001 or the UNESCO guidelines for English, French and German: Desprez-Bouanchaud, Doolaege & Ruprecht 1999a/b, Hellinger & Bierbach 1993). Today's public awareness of androcentric linguistic practices and the implementation of gender-fair language in many institutional contexts can be considered direct consequences of this work.

In the 1980s, some language and gender researchers expressed their doubts concerning the seemingly ubiquitous male dominance suggested by scholars of the dominance approach. This led to the formation of what is nowadays widely called the difference approach to language and gender (e.g. Maltz & Borker 1982, Tannen 1990). In this line of research, women and men were thought to be brought up in largely gender-segregated subcultures, in which they acquired gender-specific behaviour patterns. Mixed-sex interactions were accordingly seen as potential sites of misunderstanding and likened to intercultural communication. The claim that women and men were different but, in principle, equal was in turn criticised by dominance-minded researchers for "selling the apolitical" (Trömel-Plötz 1991). However, it can also be claimed that the difference approach was political in the sense that it celebrated the values of female linguistic behaviour, which had been described as deficient or powerless in earlier strands (e.g. Coates 1989). The international commercial success of Tannen's (1990) book *You Just Don't Understand* can furthermore be taken as evidence for the popularity of gender difference discourses in general.

Even though the difference approach is a later development than the dominance approach, it is not the case that the former has superseded the latter. Both strands continue to co-exist (together with more recent approaches) to the present day and if there is one of the two early approaches that is losing ground, it is rather the difference approach. More recent language and gender research has taken a critical stance on the two early paradigms of dominance and difference, mainly by pointing out that their theorisation of the relationship between gender and language is too essentialist, as either male dominance or female-male difference is assumed to be omnipresent. Still, it must be acknowledged that dominance and difference are in fact two central mechanisms through which gender is constructed in many contexts. Therefore they possess a high degree of psychological reality for most people, even though their invariable relevance cannot be taken for granted. Another point that has been noted critically is that dominance and difference are not always clearly separable and may consequently be considered to be two sides of the same coin (e.g. Cameron 1998, Uchida 1992).

1.2   More recent research on language, gender and sexuality

Later work inspired by linguistic anthropology and Butler's (1990) performative gender concept has generally adopted social constructionist or discursive stances on language and gender, for instance by "thinking practically and looking locally" (Eckert & McConnell-Ginet 1992) or by exploring ways of going "beyond binary thinking" (Bing & Bergvall 1996). These developments can be seen as strategies for countering the essentialist make-up of earlier research, for example by focussing on the micro-level of concrete interactional contexts and communities of practice (instead of generalising research findings to the macro-groups of women and men) or by questioning the ontological status of female-male difference thinking and gender binarism.

The performative view of gender was further strengthened by discussions in language and sexuality studies, which evolved in the new millennium as a field strongly intertwined with language and gender (see, for example, Cameron & Kulick 2006). Discussions revolving around (sexual) identity vs. desire as the focal point of linguistic

research (Bucholtz & Hall 2004, Cameron & Kulick 2003, 2005) have facilitated an understanding of gender, sexual identities and desires as interrelated and discursively mediated. One outcome of these recent discussions at the interface of language, gender and sexuality is the establishment of Queer Linguistics as a more coherent field of study in the 2000s (see, for example, Barrett 2002 and other contributions in Campbell-Kibler, Podesva, Roberts & Wong 2002). Queer Linguistics adopts ideas from Queer Theory and uses them as the basis for linguistic research (Leap 2011, Motschenbacher 2010, 2011a, 2012a). It takes a critical view of the role language plays in the formation of the dominant discourses of heteronormativity and gender binarism. Following Butler (1990), these two mechanisms are conceptualised as mutually reinforcing, i.e. the division of humanity into two macro-groups, women and men, is seen as strengthening a perception of heterosexuality as the norm.

The new millennium has not just seen an explosion of research activity on language, gender and sexuality, it has also witnessed a broadening of the field in terms of methodology and interdisciplinarity. Common approaches adopted to shed light on the relationship between language, gender and sexuality include sociolinguistics, ethnography, anthropological linguistics, corpus linguistics, conversation analysis, discursive psychology, critical discourse analysis, poststructuralist discourse analysis, pragmatics and other applied linguistic approaches (see, for example, the contributions in Harrington, Litosseliti, Sauntson & Sunderland 2008). The strengthening of these discursive approaches to language, gender and sexuality has also had the side effect of marginalising work that studies structural linguistic aspects, for example in contrastive linguistics and language typology (e.g. Hellinger & Bußmann 2001). Two reasons for this development come to mind. Firstly, where gender and sexuality are conceptualised as something that is performed in language use, there seems to be less space for the discussion of (relatively stable) linguistic structures. Another reason may be that, until today, research in language, gender and sexuality has shown an anglophone bias, and English is often considered a language in which gendered asymmetries are less likely to occur due to its lack of a grammatical gender distinction.

The poststructuralist reconceptualisation of language structures has only recently been discussed in relation to gender and sexuality (Motschenbacher 2008, 2010). However, structural aspects such as lexical gender, social gender, grammatical gender or generic forms play a prominent role in the discursive formation of gender binarism, sexual binarism, femininities, masculinities, heterosexualities and homosexualities. Critical accounts of these phenomena are gaining ground, and so are questions about the linguistic construction of gender neutrality, subversiveness or non-traditional identities and desires. Gendered language structures are also a matter of discursive materialisation. Even though their materiality is much higher in degree and therefore likely to change more slowly than gendered language use, it is inadequate to treat such structures as stable or to exclude them from discussions of the discursive formation of gender and sexuality. In a poststructuralist framework, it is not the aim to introduce new normative standards to change the language system. The central focus is more on providing those people who would like to avoid sexist or heteronormative language with alternatives, thereby fostering a greater competition of traditional and non-traditional gender and sexuality discourses. Additionally, more recent research on language and sexism has attended to the contextual character of participants' evaluations of sexism (Mills 2008).

1.3 Looking into the future

It can be expected that the field of language, gender and sexuality will continue to flourish. This is partially due to a higher degree of institutionalisation that has been achieved during the last decade. Complementing the *Berkeley Women and Language Conferences* (1985, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998) and the annual *Lavender Languages and Linguistics Conferences* (http://www.american.edu/cas/anthropology/lavender-languages/), which have been held in Washington DC since 1993, the *International Gender and Language Association* (IGALA; http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/organisations/igala/Index.html) has provided a platform for research since the year 2000, when the first of the biennial IGALA conferences was held. At the moment of writing, preparations for *IGALA7* in São Leopoldo, Brazil, and for the 20th anniversary celebrations of the *Lavender Languages and Linguistics Conference* are in full speed, promising a further increase of research on language, gender and sexuality. Moreover, the IGALA-based journal *Gender and Language* (Equinox) was launched in 2007 and represents an important outlet for such research (http://www.equinoxpub.com/GL/index). Among the latest developments that are too recent to be covered in this bibliography is the establishment of the *Journal of Language and Sexuality* (John Benjamins; http://www.benjamins.com/catalog/jls). Finally, the year 2012 has already seen the publication of three new edited volumes on language, gender and sexuality that have not yet been included in the bibliography, namely those of Atanga, Ellece, Litosseliti and Sunderland (2012), Calderón and Marko (2012), and Günthner, Hüpper and Spieß (2012). The most recent addition to the list of language and gender monographs is Mills (2012).

Research on language, gender and sexuality will continue to span across many linguistic subfields and neighbouring disciplines. Focal points will probably remain in sociolinguistics, pragmatics, applied linguistics and discourse analysis. This is also indicated by Table 1, which provides a ranking list of journals that have most frequently included articles relevant to the field from 2000 to 2011. Still, it must be recognised that, in the past decade, many more linguistic journals have included relevant research, including some devoted to phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, lexicology, diachronic linguistics and onomastics (to name but a few fields). Finally, there is a group of academic journals with a wider focus on gender and/or sexuality that also regularly publish linguistic work (e.g. *Sex Roles, Women and Language, Feminism & Psychology, Journal of Homosexuality*).

Future research is likely to continue its trend of increasing methodological plurality and interdisciplinarity, thereby shedding a multiperspectival, per se relativised light on its research object. On the theoretical level, the de-essentialisation of the relationship between language, gender and sexuality will remain a central concern. Grand narratives, universal theories or top-down approaches are no longer on the agenda of such research (cf. Holmes 2005). It is rather the questioning of established categories, the documentation of their internal heterogeneity and overlap with other categories, and the highlighting of their normative wounding potential that is likely to drive studies in language, gender and sexuality. Researchers will have to face the challenge of working at the interface of (essentialist) structure and (potentially subversive) agency and will shed light on how changing patterns of agency over time congeal to change structures. In saying this, it is clear that the field of language, gender and sexuality will remain a

Table 1. Ranking list of journals publishing work on language, gender and sexuality (2000–2011)

Journal	Entries in the bibliography (2000–2011)
Gender and Language	59
Discourse & Society	58
Journal of Pragmatics	49
Journal of Language and Social Psychology	42
Journal of Sociolinguistics	40
Sex Roles	40
Women and Language	35
Language in Society	24
Southern African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies	23
Feminism & Psychology	21
Texas Linguistic Forum	21
International Journal of the Sociology of Language	17
Journal of Linguistic Anthropology	17
American Speech	16
Journal of Language, Identity and Education	16
Research on Language and Social Interaction	15
Discourse Studies	13
Journal for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood	13
Journal of English Linguistics	13
Journal of Homosexuality	13
Journal of Voice	13
Linguistik Online	13
Multilingua	13
Names	13
Language and Communication	11
University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics	11

politically minded undertaking, ultimately motivated by confronting dominant discourses in which language plays a role, such as male dominance, female-male difference, gender polarisation, heteronormativity, gender- and sexuality-based stereotyping, asymmetry and discrimination, with alternative discourses in order to induce change. As Mills (2008) points out, many of these traditional discourses may be considered less severe today. However, one also needs to take note of the fact that they may, in the age of wider gender awareness, come in more subtle manifestations that prove more difficult to counter. De-essentialisation is also relevant for the field of Queer Linguistics more specifically, which no longer restricts itself to the analysis of LGBT issues, but also increasingly studies the discursive formation of heterosexualities and heteronormativity (see, for example, Coates forthcoming, Leap & Motschenbacher 2012, Motschenbacher 2012b). Other aspects, whose strengthening may require more conscious effort, are the establishment of gender similarity as a noteworthy research finding and the greater popularisation of the de-essentialising findings that language-oriented research has to offer.

Finally, the anglophone predominance documented by research on language, gender and sexuality at large should, in the future, be weakened as more and more languages, cultures, communities and historical contexts come under study. This will have the effect of relativising earlier research findings from a cross-cultural point of view. With respect to English, future research should pay closer attention to the increasing use of English as a lingua franca in transnational contexts (see, for example, Motschenbacher 2011b, Pauwels 2010, 2011). As has been shown in the past, national structures are generally connected to relatively traditional gender and sexuality discourses (e.g. Apostolidou 2010, Echeverria 2003, Nakamura 2008). This raises the question of whether contexts in which the nation as a salient point of orientation is transcended also constitute a space in which less traditional or less normative discourses may flourish.

1.4 About this bibliography

This bibliography is the result of my involvement with the field of language, gender and sexuality over the last decade. It is an interdisciplinary bibliography in the sense that it does not just include work that is linguistic in the narrow sense, but also other work whose findings may still be of relevance to the linguistic study of gender and sexuality. Although a declared aim of the project was to provide a highly comprehensive view on relevant work in the field of language, gender and sexuality, there are certain restrictions to this comprehensiveness that need to be acknowledged. Besides the obvious topical restriction (language, gender and/or sexuality), only work dating from 2000 to 2011 has been included in the bibliography. Another restriction pertains to language of publication. The bibliography only contains work that has been written either in English or in German. Almost needless to say, this procedure is not meant to convey the message that publications in other languages are less relevant or should not be consulted. A comprehensive treatment of work published in all languages would not have been feasible. Still the documentation of work in English and German ensures that a wide range of research, in terms of cultures, languages, topics, methodologies and theoretical backgrounds, is covered. An obvious limitation (related to the restriction to certain languages) is the geographical location of the compiler. The bibliography only includes titles that I could obtain from my position in Germany, at the University of Frankfurt am Main. Even though this has enabled me to include research from all over the world, not all regions are equally well covered. In many cases, however, this also has to do with the state of the field of language, gender and sexuality in a certain culture. It is my firm wish that the present bibliography can contribute to establishing the field in places where such research is still in its infancy.

Apart from the introductory chapter, the bibliography contains four more chapters that document research on language, gender and sexuality. Chapter 2 lists earlier bibliographies on the topic in order to acknowledge the importance of previous work and to make such work accessible to readers. This is the only section of the book that is not restricted to work of the new millennium. It also contains small-scale, thematically more specialised bibliographies. Chapter 3 provides an overview of some monographs and edited collections dating from 2000 or later, which are of general interest to researchers in language, gender and sexuality. The heart of the bibliography (Chapter 4) is constituted by a comprehensive compilation of published work in the period from 2000 to 2011. This collection comprises 3454 publications, including monographs, edited volumes, journal

articles as well as contributions to edited volumes.[1] Chapter 5 provides the subject index for the publications documented in Chapter 4. The keywords in the index only reflect aspects of a publication that are particularly salient. For example, the keyword "power" does not list all work in which power issues play a role but rather publications in which a discussion of power relations is among the salient aspects (often to be deduced from the title of the publication). The bibliography offers three main ways of finding relevant research literature: (1) by author (through alphabetical listing), (2) by topic (through the subject index), and (3) by specific word searches (in the e-book version). The subject index also contains numerous cross-references to related subjects. Users may also find it helpful to explore language-country connections. For example, if one is interested in "Hebrew", it may also prove worthwhile to check the references under "Israel" etc.

Concerning its notation, the bibliography uses two idiosyncrasies that need to be pointed out. For monographs and edited volumes that have appeared within a numbered book series, the title of the series is given in square brackets at the end of the bibliographical details (e.g. *[Michigan Occasional Papers in Women's Studies 12]*). This piece of information is not included for the individual contributions to such edited volumes. If journal articles or contributions to edited volumes show the page numbers in square brackets (e.g. *[1-14]*), this means that all articles in the respective source start at page 1, i.e. there is no continuing page enumeration throughout the source.

Finally, it is apparent that the make-up of the bibliography in Chapter 4 provides evidence of the current shape of the discipline in the new millennium. For example, the frequency of the keywords "power" (125 times) and "difference" (209 times) demonstrates that dominance and difference are still central mechanisms in the conceptualisation of gender and sexuality. However, it is clear that these conceptualisations have seen greater competition from other explanatory mechanisms just recently. Especially the role of "discourse" has to be highlighted in this respect (70 hits for "critical discourse analysis", 220 for "discourse analysis", 20 for "discursive psychology"). Still, it also needs to be seen that aspects that counter traditional conceptualisations more directly are less salient. The keyword "similarity", for instance, occurs only 12 times in the index (e.g. Fox, Bukatko, Hallahan & Crawford 2007, Palomares 2009, Precht 2008), which indicates that there is still less space for sameness in current treatments of gender and sexuality. A closer look at the few titles that show a focus on gender similarity furthermore reveals that a frequent collocate of "similarity" in these studies is in fact "difference" ("differences and similarities", "differently and similarly" etc.), whereas "similarity" alone is less likely to stand on its own. Similarly, the keyword "subversion" has only 15 hits in the bibliography. A more positive development is the fact that the keyword "gender fairness" shows a substantial frequency of 212. Moreover, today the keyword "power" does not invariably include instances of male power over women, but also of female power (for example, in the broad range of studies documenting women in leadership positions; e.g. Baxter 2010, Bull 2005, Schnurr 2008).

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1.   Although every effort has been made to compile a highly comprehensive bibliography, it cannot be ruled out that some relevant linguistic work has been overlooked. If readers feel that this is the case, they are kindly asked to send the respective document in pdf form together with full bibliographical details to the following e-mail address: iuventiuss@yahoo.com. Should there be a revised edition of this bibliography at a later point in time, these titles will be included.
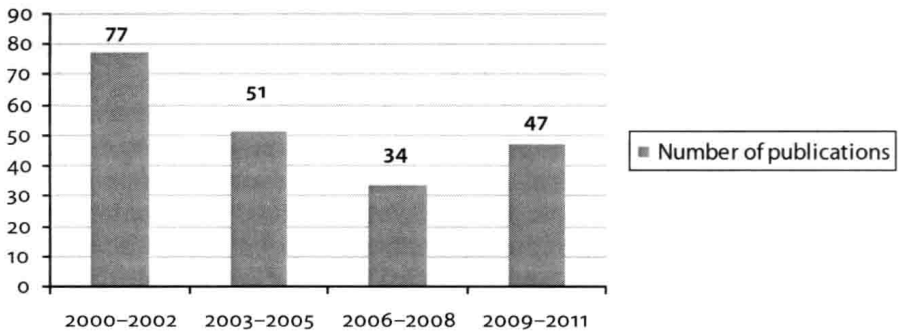
Figure 1. Number of difference-related publications in the bibliography across years

Figure 1 shows the absolute frequencies of hits with the keyword "difference" across the years. While there is a steady decrease of such publications up to 2008 (77 from 2000 to 2002, 51 from 2003 to 2005, 34 from 2006 to 2008), it is interesting to note an increase of such work in the latest phase (47 from 2009–2011). However, a closer look at the difference-related titles in this latest period reveals important qualitative changes in how difference is discussed by such research. It turns out that relatively uncritical approaches to gender differences remain particularly common in work that adopts an explicitly biologistic stance (e.g. Everhart, Shipley & Demaree 2009, Locke 2011) and is therefore not located in the core of the discipline, in which gender and sexuality are generally treated as matters of social construction rather than biological make-up. In accordance with this, many of the most recent titles focussing on difference adopt an overtly critical stance, often questioning the ontological status of gender differences or biological approaches (e.g. Cameron 2010, Escalera 2009, Wallentin 2009).

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