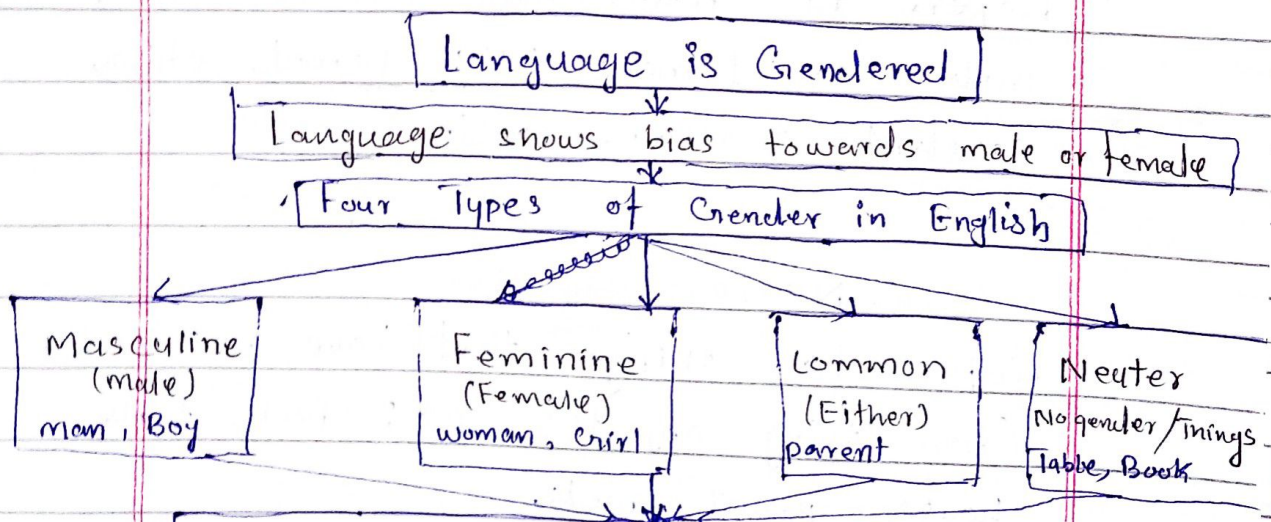


Q. Language is gendered. What does it imply?
Explain with examples.

Introduction:

yes, language is gendered. This means that the way we use words often shows a bias toward male or female. Sometimes men are treated as the "default" in language, while women are defined in relation to men. This reflects social inequality in words and grammar.



Example of Gendered language in society:

- All men are created equal → men = all human
- Mr. (any man) vs miss/mrs. (woman by marital status)
- Chairman → chairperson, policeman → police officer

The four type of Gender in English

Masculine Gender

Refers to male persons or male animals.

Ex: man, boy, father, king, actor, horse.

Feminine Gender

Refers to female persons or female animals. EX: woman, girl, mother, queen, actress, mare.



Common Gender

Refers to nouns that can be either male or female. EX: Parent, child, student, teacher, cousin.

Neuter Gender

Refers to things that have no gender (non-living objects). EX: books, table, house, pencil, rock.

Examples of Gendered language:

Historical Example:

The US Declaration of Independence says: "All men are created equal."

Here, men was supposed to mean all humans, but it sounds like only males are included.

Titles

Mr. → used for all men, no matter if married or unmarried.

Miss / Mrs. → used for woman, but define by marital status (Miss = unmarried, Mrs. = married).

Solution: Ms. is now used because it does not show marital status.

Other common Example

- Chairman → changed to Chairperson,
- Policeman → changed to policeperson ^{officer},
- These changes make language gender-neutral.

Conclusion

Language is gendered because it often shows bias toward male or female.

This can create inequality, as men are seen as the "standard" while women are defined in relation to men. To make language fair, we now use gender-neutral words like Ms., humankind, or chairperson so that both men and women are treated equally.