

Language, Stereotypes, and Women Jokes

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Language is no more considered as just a linguistic entity rather it is widely acknowledged as a highly political and social phenomenon that is associated with Power. This paper focuses on the role of language as a powerful tool in representing and structuring the world. It also explores how language can help in constructing identity and human relationships and how it manifests and perpetuates the gender differences. The paper investigates the inter-relationship of language, gender, and power by focusing on jokes which mostly make use of either existing stereotypes or give birth to new stereotypes. Jokes are an important and popular source of expressing some inherently serious notion in an apparently playful manner. Jokes not only reflect the social norms, beliefs and trends of a society but they are also involved in the construction of social realities and perpetuating them to the different spans of time. Jokes, being a popular form of humour, at times, ridicule certain groups of society. The paper concludes that the language learners should be exposed to the socio-cultural aspects of language as well. This awareness on the part of the learner and reader/listener may lead to challenge and resist some of the gender-biased stereotypes created and propagated by jokes.
