



Communicating Gender

By Suzanne Romaine

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Taking a cross-disciplinary approach, Suzanne Romaine's main concern is to show how language and discourse play key roles in understanding and communicating gender and culture. In addition to linguistics--which provides the starting point and central focus of the book--she draws on the fields of anthropology, biology, communication, education, economics, history, literary criticism, philosophy, psychology, and sociology. The text covers the "core" areas in the study of language and gender, including how and where gender is indexed in language, how men and women speak, how children acquire gender differentiated language, and sexism in language and language reform. Although most of the examples are drawn primarily from English, other European languages and non-European languages, such as Japanese are considered. The text is written in an accessible way so that no prior knowledge of linguistics is necessary to understand the chapters containing linguistic analysis. Each chapter is followed by exercises and discussion questions to facilitate the book's use as a classroom text.

The author reviews scholarly treatments of gender, and then uses her own data material from the corpora of spoken and written English usage. Special features include an examination of contemporary media sources such as newspapers, advertising, and television; a discussion of women's speculative fiction; a study of gender and advertising, with special attention paid to the role played by language in these domains; and a review of French feminist thought, particularly as it relates to the issue of language reform.

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Editorial Review

Review

Suzanne Romaine's **Communicating Gender** is an outstanding accomplishment: It elucidates the centrality of language and sociolinguistic analysis to the study of gender and it does so by creating what she calls a 'dialogue across disciplines'....she brings her vast knowledge to the study of gender, offering a comprehensive and in-depth account, as rich in theory as it is in empirical evidence, of how gender is communicated....For teachers of courses that treat gender issues, **Communicating Gender** will prove invaluable. The book offers widely ranging, rich, and instructive illustrations, including descriptions and critiques of theoretical positions, experiments, case studies, and other first-hand observations. I highly recommend **Communicating Gender** for the advanced undergraduate, for graduates, and for any scholar interested in a sophisticated analysis and overview of gender communication.

—Contemporary Psychology

...the hallmarks of this book are its cross-disciplinary, cross-linguistic, and cross-cultural foci....This makes the text suitable for limitless classroom situations....The book may become further invaluable as an introductory text in many universities' current general education courses.

—Journal of Sociolinguistics

...a very comprehensive, ambitious overview of a topic of much current interest. Drawing on an impressive number of studies, the book could be a good reference or textbook for a women's studies or sociolinguistics course.

—TESL-EJ

An insightful and stimulating book, providing a cogent analysis of the role of language in constructing gender and in incorporating and perpetuating negative cultural beliefs about women. Through a well-researched and compelling discussion, the book deepens our understanding of the linguistic roots of women's oppression. Romaine tackles a remarkable breadth of topics from language acquisition to visions, through speculative fiction, into worlds without gender differentiation or inequality.

—Elizabeth Aries

Department of Psychology, Amherst College

In this wide-ranging and passionately-written book, Romaine argues that gender is an inherently communicative process, and that communication is inherently gendered. Romaine provides evidence for her claims from a wide variety of languages, periods in history, and scholarly and popular writing. This is one of those rare books that is clearly written and engaging enough for the lay reader, argued tightly enough for the scholar, and that lays out the issues (with topics for discussion) in such a way as to be invaluable to the student.

—Justine Cassell

MIT Media Lab

One of the world's finest sociolinguists, Suzanne Romaine, brings her profound knowledge and keen insight to bear on the question of sexism in language. **Communicating Gender** is wide-ranging and thoroughly researched, appealing to a broad array of feminist and linguistic authorities and sources as well as evidence from anthropology, sociology, history, literature, and popular culture. Covering both familiar and new terrain, the book serves as a readable and comprehensive introduction to the feminist study of language. Specialists will find the book an excellent resource, with a wealth of examples and an up-to-the-minute synthesis of a vast field. From pronouns to profanity, from science fiction to sexual harassment, Romaine's

discussion reveals how linguistic structures enforce gender-based inequality--and what feminists have done and can do to dismantle the machinery of gender ideology in language.

—**Mary Bucholtz**

Texas A&M University

*Suzanne Romaine's book **Communicating Gender** is, quite simply, a masterpiece. Throughout the 11 chapters the author provides a comprehensive account of how gender is communicated and how it is marked in language, showing how gendered language practices are learned and how they reveal underlying assumptions and beliefs. Romaine discusses all the relevant gender and language-and-gender research of the past decades, putting it into wider contexts. In particular she should be praised for her universal perspective, for she draws on an extensive body of data from all over the world, avoiding the usual Anglo-American dominance. The book is learned as well as well-written, making it a happy 'must' for any student of linguistics or human relations.*

—**Toril Swan**

University of Tromsø, Norway

Users Review

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Luis Acosta:

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Arthur Reaves:

That guide can make you to feel relax. That book Communicating Gender was colourful and of course has pictures on there. As we know that book Communicating Gender has many kinds or category. Start from kids until young adults. For example Naruto or Investigator Conan you can read and think that you are the character on there. Therefore not at all of book usually are make you bored, any it makes you feel happy, fun and unwind. Try to choose the best book in your case and try to like reading in which.

Juanita Bey:

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