

Contents

Introduction	1
Chapter 1 Gender in Linguistic Description	6
Ontology and Development of Gender	6
The Grammatical Status of Noun Classification Systems	8
Theories of Opposition and Markedness	9
Chapter 2 A Comparison of the Gender Systems in English and German	12
Parts of Speech Affected by Gender	13
Semantic Rules	16
Natural Gender Rule	16
The Animacy and Personal Rule	17
Common Gender Rule	20
Personification Rule	23
Other Semantic Rules	26
Morphological Rules	30
Derivational Suffixes	30
Noun Compounds	30
Phonetic Rules	32
The Interaction of the Rule Types	34
Function	36
Anticipation of Content	36
Marking of the Onset of a Noun Phrase	36
Distinction of Singular and Plural	37
Lexical Structuring	37
Anaphoric Reference	38
Deictic Reference	38
Functional Importance of the Male/Female Opposition	39
Summary	41

Chapter 3 Rules and Speakers' Behaviour	43
The Psychological Status of Morphological and Phonetic Rules of Gender Assignment of German Nouns	43
Evidence from Loan Words	43
The Experimental Testing of the Use of Phonetic Rules in Gender Assignment in Adult German Speakers	45
The Psychological Status of Semantic Rules of Gender Assignment	50
Evidence from Loan Words	50
Conflict of Semantic and Grammatical Gender in German	51
A Study of Metaphorical Extension in German	53
Frequency of English Pronoun Forms and a Study of the Use of Generic 'he' in English Children's Literature	55
The Psychological Status of Unmarked Terms	57
Summary and Conclusions	59
Chapter 4 The Acquisition of Gender in Children	61
Introduction	61
The Acquisition of Formal Rules in German	62
Hypotheses	62
Observational Acquisition Data	63
Indefinite Article	64
Definite Article	67
Vocabulary Analysis	71
Gender with Suffixes and Compounds	72
Gender and Plural	74
Relative Pronouns and Question Words	75
Experimental Investigation	77
Experimental Testing of the Selection of the Definite Article for Real Words by 5- to 6-Year-Old German Children	78
Experimental Testing of the Use of Phonetic Rules in 7- to 8-Year-Old German Children	79
Summary and Conclusions	85
The Acquisition of Semantic Rules in English and German	86
The Acquisition of the Animacy and Common Gender Rule	86
Hypotheses	86
Observational Acquisition Data	87
The Use of Pronouns Referring to Animates and Inanimates in a Production Task by 5- to 10-Year-Old English and German Children	90
The Use of Pronouns Referring to Animates and Inanimates in an 'Animating' Context Compared in English Adults and in 9- to 10-Year-Old Children	95
Summary and Conclusions	97
Acquisition of the Natural Gender Rule	98

Contents	IX
Hypotheses	98
Observational Acquisition Data	99
The Use of Pronouns Referring to Sex-Marked Persons in a Production Task by 3- to 4-Year-Old English and German Children	101
Summary and Conclusions	109
Implications for Explanatory Theories in Child Language Acquisition .	109
The Interaction of Formal and Semantic Rules in Acquisition	109
The Relative Notion of 'Clear Rule'	114
Summary and Conclusions	115
Chapter 5 Psychological Gender	117
Language and Thought	117
An Investigation of the Interrelationship of Grammatical Gender and Sex Assignment in English and German	120
An Investigation of Sex Assignment in Children's Literature	120
Experimental Testing of Sex Assignment	122
The Testing of Sex Attributes	130
Summary and Conclusions	140
Chapter 6 Conclusions	142
Appendices	145
References	156
Subject Index	167