

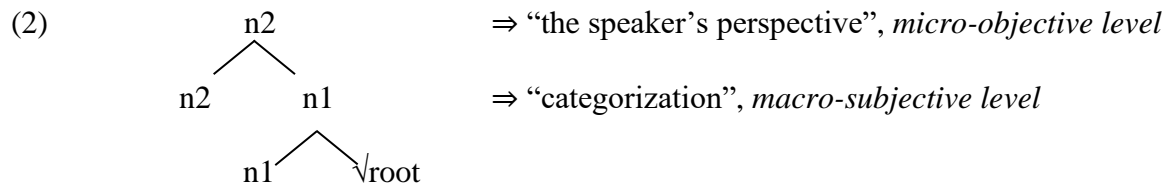
The application of the integrated sociological paradigm to the DP structure: A study of gender discrepancies

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This work is the first attempt to apply Ritzer’s integrated sociological paradigm (1981) to the study of the morphosyntactic DP structure in order to account for the social meaning of gender discrepancies across languages. Gender discrepancies are mismatches between the usual application of gender morphology and a reversed gender morphology (typically using feminine gender to refer to a man, or masculine gender to a woman) (Steriopolo, forthcoming).

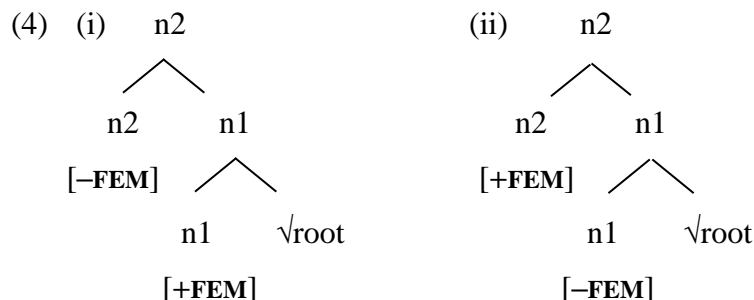
I propose an integrative approach to a study of gender discrepancies by merging two different fields of science: sociology (sociological paradigm) and theoretical linguistics (morphosyntax). I argue that the lowest layer of the DP (or “categorization”) corresponds to the *macro-subjective* level in the paradigm. The next structurally higher level (which I call “the speaker’s perspective”) corresponds to the *micro-objective* level of the paradigm, as structured in (2).

I investigate a connection between the *macro-subjective* and *micro-objective* levels of the DP in order to account for the social meaning of cross-linguistic gender discrepancies.



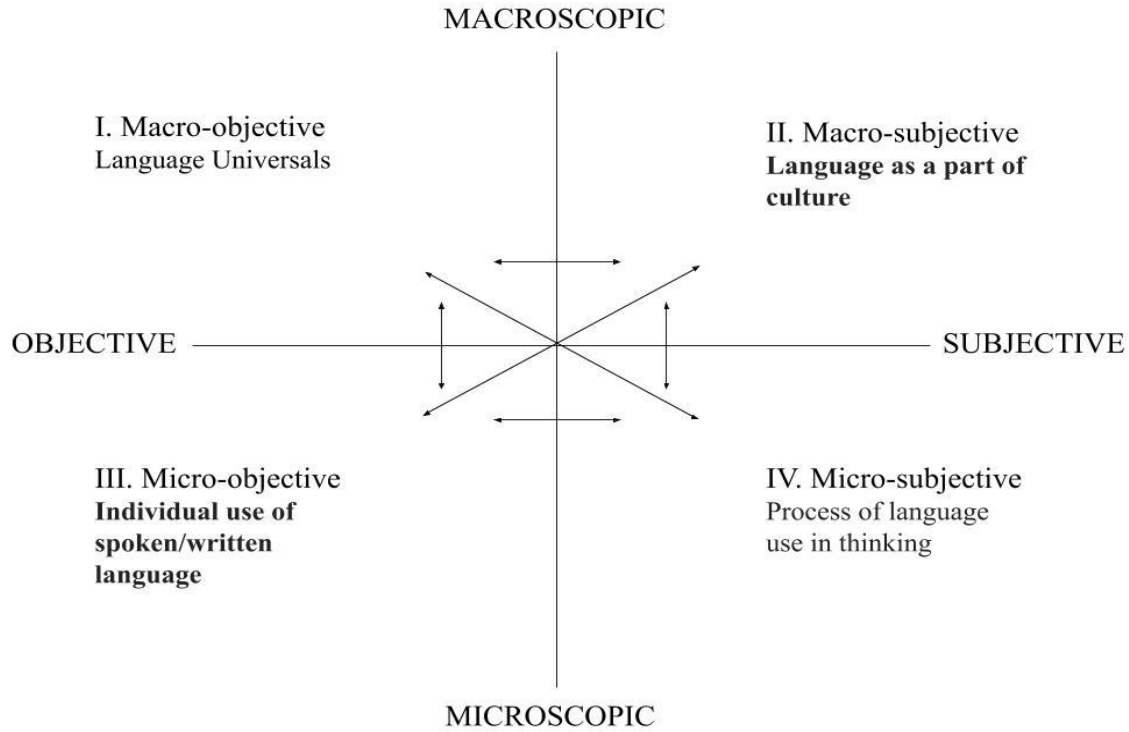
The Integrated Sociological Paradigm applied to the study of language is proposed in (3) on the next page, in which the *macro-subjective* level is shown in II (*Language as a part of culture*) and the *micro-objective* level is shown in III (*Individual use of spoken/written language*).

In terms of the function, I argue that the functional category of the *speaker’s perspective* signals the speaker’s understanding of a deviation from the norm (as accepted in a given society) as well as their personal attitudes and emotions. In terms of the form, I propose that grammatical gender mismatches can arise as the result of a conflict in the values (+ or –) of morphosyntactic gender features that are located on two structurally different levels of the DP, as shown in (4).



This work adopts an inter-disciplinary approach that is of interest not only to generative linguists, sociolinguists, cognitive linguists and language typologists, but also to general readers concerned with the issues of gender and evaluation. The study investigates data from nine languages, a number of which are critically endangered.

(3) Integrated Sociological Paradigm applied to the study of language



References

Ritzer, George. 1981. *Toward an Integrated Sociological Paradigm: The Search for an Exemplar and an Image of the Subject Matter*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Steriopolo, Olga. Forthcoming. "Gender discrepancies and evaluative gender switch: A cross-linguistic study within Distributed Morphology." In *Trends in Linguistics*. Berlin: De Gruyter.