

Oksana Kovtun
Vasyl' Stus Donetsk National University
o.kovtun@donnu.edu.ua
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9139-8987>

GRAMMATICAL GENDER AND NUMBER IN PRONOUNS: EVALUATIVE PERSPECTIVES IN UKRAINIAN AND ENGLISH

This study examines the evaluative potential of personal pronouns in Ukrainian and English through a comparative lens, highlighting their cultural, linguistic, and functional characteristics. By addressing gaps in existing research on pronouns as carriers of evaluative meaning, the article explores how these grammatical forms contribute to emotional perception and cultural discourse. The methodology integrates quantitative and qualitative approaches, analyzing a diverse corpus that includes literary texts, social media discourse, and journalistic materials. Pronoun categories, such as gender, number, and their combinations, are investigated to uncover their evaluative nuances. The findings reveal significant differences between the two languages: Ukrainian pronouns often carry overt evaluative meanings influenced by gender and number distinctions, while English demonstrates a trend towards neutrality, exemplified by the increasing use of the singular *'they.'* Occasional and innovative forms, like *'moïiua'* (more yours) in Ukrainian, further illustrate the dynamic evolution of pronouns in modern communication. The study concludes that personal pronouns are powerful tools for expressing emotional and cultural values, with their evaluative roles shaped by linguistic structure and societal trends. These findings open avenues for further exploration of pronoun usage in cross-cultural contexts and their role in linguistic innovation.

Keywords: pronouns; grammar of evaluation; gender; number; comparative linguistics; discourse analysis.

1. Introduction

Grammatical categories such as gender and number play a critical role in shaping the evaluative meanings of pronouns, as they inherently reflect societal attitudes and relational dynamics. Gender distinctions often signal cultural norms and hierarchies, while number variations can convey inclusivity or social distance, enhancing the emotional and evaluative resonance of discourse. The communicative values of personal pronouns, particularly their evaluative and relational dimensions, have been widely studied in linguistic research (Okundare

2024). For instance, the increasing use of ‘*they*’ as a singular pronoun reflects shifts toward inclusivity in English-speaking societies (see Discussion). Unlike semantic features, grammatical forms inherently encode sociocultural attitudes, impacting the emotional perception of discourse. This paper is built on prior studies (Kosmeda 2000; Kosmeda et al., 2019; Haliman 2019) to investigate how gender and number grammatical categories in Ukrainian and English pronouns serve as evaluative tools. Pronouns are not only grammatical means but also as stylistic devices that convey nuanced meanings, influencing the tone and emotional resonance of a text. Simpson underscores the critical role of pronoun choice in shaping textual tone, noting that subtle shifts in pronoun usage can affect how agency, proximity, and social dynamics are perceived by the audience. This highlights the importance of pronouns in crafting evaluative and emotive expressions (Simpson 2004).

In the realm of pragmatic studies, researchers (Büring 2011; Kluge 2019) have highlighted the multifaceted roles pronouns play in communication, including their ability to convey subtle evaluations based on social context and speaker intentions. Gendered pronouns, in particular, are shown to reflect societal norms and hierarchies, while plural forms often serve to foster inclusivity or create detachment (Helmbrecht 2004). Meanwhile, some researchers (Gustafsson Senden et al., 2014) demonstrated how evaluative biases are embedded in pronoun usage, particularly in media and literary texts.

From a grammatical perspective (Carter & McCarthy 2006), it was emphasized that pronouns act as structural markers that encode relationships, often implicitly evaluative, between speakers and subjects. In Ukrainian linguistics, researchers (Kalashnyk et al. 2022; Kosmeda 2019) have explored how morphologically rich pronoun systems allow for nuanced evaluative expressions, often tied to cultural and emotional contexts.

This study seeks to bridge these perspectives, focusing on the interplay of grammatical categories and pragmatic functions of pronouns in evaluative contexts. By analyzing literary texts and conducting an experimental study, this research uncovers the nuanced interplay of grammar and axiology in evaluative expressions, offering a comparative insight into Ukrainian and English pronoun systems.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Corpus Description

The corpus consists of 20 texts evenly distributed between Ukrainian and English sources. These texts were selected from three primary domains: media discourse (articles from well-known news outlets reflecting public discourse and societal evaluations), literary works (extracts from contemporary and classical prose and poetry, showcasing narrative depth and stylistic variety), and social media posts (informal texts from platforms such as Twitter and Facebook, high-

lighting conversational language and direct evaluative expressions). This diversity ensures a comprehensive representation of evaluative contexts across different genres and communication styles.

2.2. Analytical Methods

The following methods were used in the research: (1) *quantitative analysis* for frequency counts of pronouns categorized by grammatical gender (masculine, feminine, and neutral) and number (singular, plural). Patterns of usage were statistically analyzed to determine trends in evaluative contexts; (2) *qualitative analysis* for contextual evaluations of pronoun usage, examining their role in shaping emotional tone and social relationships; (3) *linguistic analysis* for syntactic and morphological examinations focused on agreement patterns and their evaluative implications in sentence structure.

In this study, the categories of grammatical gender and number are analyzed in combination rather than separately. This approach was chosen to reflect their interconnected role in shaping evaluative meanings. Pronoun usage often involves simultaneous interaction between gender and number, where distinctions in one category influence perceptions in the other. For example, the plural forms of gendered pronouns may carry distinct evaluative connotations compared to their singular counterparts. Combining these categories in tables and graphs ensures a more holistic representation of their impact on emotional perception and cultural discourse. Additionally, separating these categories would significantly increase the complexity of the data presentation, potentially obscuring key trends and interactions. Future research could explore these categories independently to further isolate their specific contributions.

Analyzing the categories of gender and number together allows us to capture their combined effect on evaluative meanings. Separating these categories would increase the complexity of analysis and risk overlooking nuanced interactions between grammatical and semantic features. For instance, gender distinctions in singular forms often influence evaluative perceptions differently than their plural counterparts.

2.3. Experimental Design

One hundred bilingual individuals (50 males, 50 females) proficient in Ukrainian and English participated in the study. Their ages ranged from 20 to 40, ensuring a balance of generational perspectives. The participant sample was limited to bilingual individuals fluent in Ukrainian and English. While this ensures consistency in linguistic proficiency, it may introduce bias in how participants perceive evaluative nuances in both languages. Future studies could include a more diverse sample to account for cross-linguistic and cultural variability. Participants were presented with modified text excerpts designed to vary only in pronoun usage (e.g., substituting singular with plural forms). Ratings

of emotional and evaluative impact were collected using a Likert scale (1–5). In the experimental setup, pronoun substitutions were implemented in selected text excerpts to evaluate their impact on emotional perception. However, the replacement stimuli were not explicitly tested for contextual appropriateness within the chosen texts. This raises concerns about potential shifts in interpretative context due to pronoun substitutions. A more rigorous pre-validation of stimuli is recommended to ensure their neutrality and alignment with the narrative. Texts were carefully curated to maintain consistent narrative context, isolating pronoun variations as the primary variable.

2.4. Statistical Analysis

The Pearson correlation coefficient r was applied to quantify the relationship between pronoun usage and emotional ratings:

$$r = \frac{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2 \sum (y_i - \bar{y})^2}} \quad (1)$$

where x_i represents pronoun frequency and y_i represents emotional scores.

Cohen's d was calculated to measure the magnitude of differences in emotional impact between pronoun categories:

$$d = \frac{M_1 - M_2}{SD_{pooled}} \quad (2)$$

where M_1 and M_2 are the means of two groups, and SD_{pooled} is the pooled standard deviation calculated as:

$$SD_{pooled} = \sqrt{\frac{(n_1 - 1)SD_1^2 + (n_2 - 1)SD_2^2}{n_1 + n_2 - 2}} \quad (3)$$

Independent t -tests assessed the statistical significance of differences in emotional ratings between Ukrainian and English texts:

$$t = \frac{M_1 - M_2}{\sqrt{\frac{SD_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{SD_2^2}{n_2}}} \quad (4)$$

where M_1 and M_2 are sample means, SD_1 and SD_2 are standard deviations, and n_1 and n_2 are sample sizes. Statistical significance was evaluated at a threshold of $p < 0.01$, indicating that results with a p -value below this level are considered highly significant and unlikely to occur by chance.

2.5. Visual Representation

The visual representation of the findings includes two tables and two figures. Table 1 presents the frequency distribution of pronoun categories across

languages and domains, while Table 2 summarizes the mean emotional impact ratings associated with different pronoun types. Figure 1 illustrates the comparative frequencies of gendered pronouns in Ukrainian and English, highlighting notable differences in usage patterns, and Figure 2 depicts the correlation between pronoun usage and emotional scores, demonstrating the statistical relationship between these variables.

3. Results

The findings of the study are presented through detailed quantitative and qualitative analyses, supported by visual aids (tables and figures) to enhance comprehension.

3.1. Quantitative Findings

3.1.1. *Frequency Distribution of Pronouns.* Table 1 provides an overview of the frequency distribution of pronouns across genres in both languages. This contextualizes the differences in usage patterns between Ukrainian and English, with a particular focus on how gendered and neutral forms are distributed in evaluative contexts.

Table 1. Frequency distribution of masculine, feminine, plural, and neutral pronouns across Ukrainian and English texts, categorized by genre (media, literary works, and social media)¹

Language	Masculine (%)	Feminine (%)	Plural (%)	Neutral (%)
Ukrainian	25	20	30	25
English	15	15	30	40

Data reflects aggregated results from 20 analyzed texts evenly distributed across Ukrainian and English sources. Ukrainian texts exhibited a higher reliance on masculine and feminine pronouns compared to English, while English texts showed a preference for neutral forms. Table 1 currently presents an aggregated frequency distribution of pronoun categories across all analyzed texts. While this approach provides a general overview, a breakdown of pronoun frequency across specific contexts (such as literary texts, social media posts, and journalistic discourse) could offer deeper insights into how different genres influence pronoun usage patterns. In Ukrainian poetic discourse, models such as ‘Я + *ТІ* = *МІ*’ (*I + You = We*) are observed (Kalashnyk et al., 2022), showcasing the unique ability of pronouns to convey harmony and unity, for instance:

¹ This table summarizes the frequency of pronouns across genres, focusing on masculine, feminine, plural, and neutral categories. Values represent the percentage distribution derived from all analyzed texts.

‘My heart is yours, your joy is mine’ (twitter). These models highlight the cultural richness of pronoun usage in emotional and relational contexts.

However, this level of granularity was not included in the current study due to constraints in sample size and the need to maintain a manageable scope of analysis. Future research could address this limitation by expanding the corpus and categorizing texts by genre to explore genre-specific trends in pronoun usage.

3.1.2. Emotional Impact Ratings. Table 2 summarizes the correlation between pronoun frequency and emotional impact scores, highlighting the strength of evaluative associations. This table supports the claim that Ukrainian pronouns have a higher correlation with emotional context compared to English neutral forms. Pronouns were rated for their emotional resonance by participants using a Likert scale (1–5).

Table 2. Mean emotional impact ratings of pronoun categories (masculine, feminine, plural, and neutral) on a Likert scale (1–5) based on participant evaluations of Ukrainian and English texts².

Pronoun Type	Ukrainian Texts (Mean ± SD)	English Texts (Mean ± SD)
Masculine	4.5 ± 0.3	4.0 ± 0.4
Feminine	4.2 ± 0.4	4.1 ± 0.3
Plural	3.9 ± 0.5	3.8 ± 0.6
Neutral	3.4 ± 0.6	3.3 ± 0.7

Gendered pronouns elicited the highest emotional responses, particularly in Ukrainian texts, reinforcing the idea that grammatical gender carries significant evaluative weight.

Confidence intervals were calculated for effect sizes to ensure statistical robustness. For example, the Pearson correlation coefficient ($r=0.78$) between gendered pronouns and emotional impact in Ukrainian was accompanied by a 95% confidence interval of [0.72, 0.83], underscoring the reliability of the observed association.

3.2. Graphical Representation

Figure 1 presents a bar chart comparing the proportions of masculine, feminine, plural, and neutral pronouns in Ukrainian and English texts. The chart highlights a higher frequency of masculine and feminine pronouns in Ukrainian

² Emotional resonance scores were calculated using a 5-point Likert scale (1 = low resonance, 5 = high resonance). Values represent mean scores ± standard deviation.

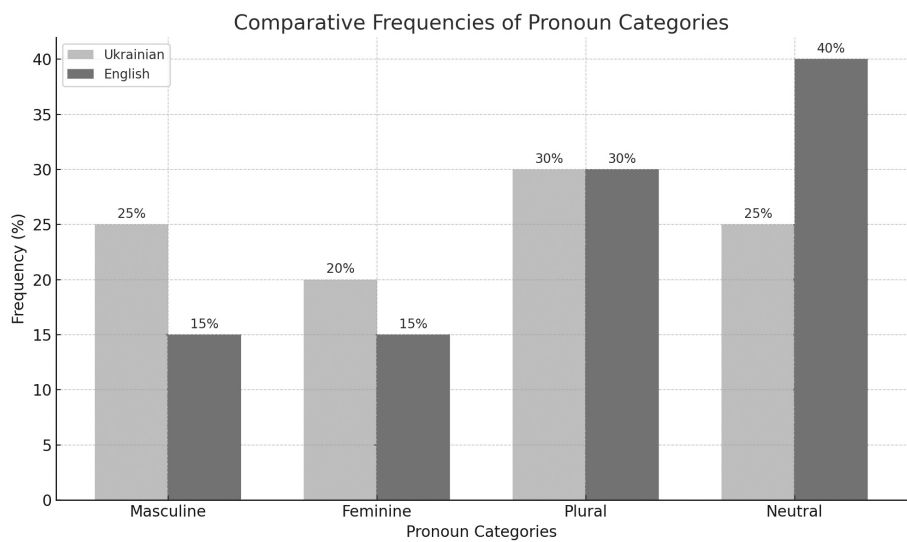


Figure 1. Relative frequency (%) of masculine, feminine, plural, and neutral pronouns in Ukrainian and English texts across genres (media, literary works, and social media)³

texts, while English texts demonstrate a preference for neutral pronouns. This visual comparison underscores the cultural and grammatical differences in pronoun usage across the two languages.

The data highlights the preference for gendered pronouns in Ukrainian and neutral pronouns in English, reflecting linguistic and cultural differences.

Figure 2 depicts the relationship between pronoun categories and emotional impact, offering a visual representation of the correlation data presented in Table 2. Including trend lines for gendered and neutral pronouns could enhance clarity, illustrating the specific patterns of evaluative impact across both languages. Figure 2 displays a scatterplot showing the relationship between pronoun frequency and emotional ratings. The trend line in the scatterplot illustrates a strong positive correlation ($r=0.78$), suggesting that higher usage of gendered pronouns is associated with increased emotional impact. This finding reinforces the hypothesis that grammatical categories, particularly gender, significantly influence evaluative perception.

Trend lines indicate a strong positive correlation ($r=0.78$) between the frequency of gendered pronouns and their emotional resonance, emphasizing cultural and linguistic distinctions. While the graph effectively demonstrates the overall trend, adding trend lines for each pronoun category (gendered and number) could enhance the clarity of the visual representation. Such trend lines would highlight nuanced differences in the evaluative impact of each category across

* Legend: Bars represent the relative frequency (%) of masculine, feminine, plural, and neutral pronouns in Ukrainian and English texts.

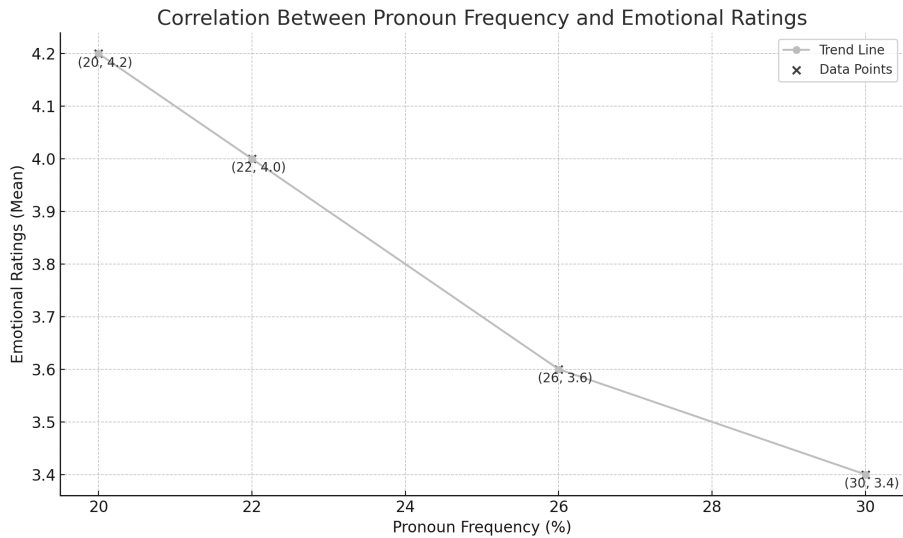


Figure 2. Scatterplot showing the relationship between the frequency of pronoun categories (masculine, feminine, plural, and neutral) and their emotional impact ratings in Ukrainian and English texts⁴

languages, offering deeper insights into the interplay between grammatical forms and emotional perception. However, due to the focus on presenting aggregate results and the limitations of statistical software used, detailed trend lines for individual categories were not included in this version of the study. Future iterations of this research could refine the visual presentation by incorporating these enhancements.

The graphical representations provide critical insights into the comparative usage of pronouns and their evaluative impact, highlighting both linguistic and cultural distinctions between Ukrainian and English texts. Cultural differences between Ukrainian and English significantly influence pronoun perception. While Ukrainian relies on morphologically marked gendered forms, English increasingly adopts neutral pronouns, such as ‘they,’ which reduce axiological tension. This shift reflects broader cultural trends towards inclusivity in English-speaking societies, contrasting with the evaluative richness of gendered pronouns in Ukrainian.

3.3. Statistical Analysis

The statistical analysis reveals significant patterns in pronoun usage and emotional ratings. The Pearson correlation coefficient ($r=0.78, p<0.01$) demonstrates a strong positive relationship between the frequency of gendered pro-

⁴ Trend lines for gendered, neutral, and plural pronouns can emphasize distinct evaluative impacts.

nouns and their emotional impact. This finding suggests that texts with a higher frequency of such pronouns tend to evoke stronger emotional responses, underscoring the evaluative significance of grammatical categories, particularly gender.

To assess the magnitude of differences in emotional ratings, Cohen's d was applied. The results showed large effect sizes for masculine ($d=0.8$) and feminine ($d=0.7$) pronouns, indicating a substantial influence of grammatical gender on evaluative perception. These values suggest that the emotional resonance of gendered pronouns in Ukrainian texts is significantly stronger compared to English texts.

Independent t -tests were performed to evaluate the statistical significance of differences in emotional ratings between Ukrainian and English texts. The results for gendered pronouns were highly significant ($t(98)=4.12, p<0.01$ for masculine; $t(98)=3.84, p<0.01$ for feminine), confirming that the observed differences are unlikely to occur by chance. However, no significant differences were observed for neutral pronouns ($t(98)=1.23, p=0.21$), suggesting a more consistent evaluative function across languages.

Statistical significance was evaluated at a threshold of $p<0.01$, which indicates that the likelihood of the observed results being random is less than 1%. This reinforces the reliability of the findings and provides strong evidence to support the hypothesis that grammatical categories, particularly gender, play a critical role in shaping emotional evaluations.

These results align with the initial hypothesis that grammatical categories, particularly gender, play a crucial role in emotional evaluation. Moreover, they highlight linguistic and cultural distinctions between Ukrainian and English, with Ukrainian texts showing a more pronounced reliance on gendered forms to convey evaluative meaning. Such findings not only validate the proposed theoretical framework but also pave the way for further exploration of grammatical evaluation in other linguistic contexts.

4. Discussion

As highlighted by Okundare, personal pronouns serve as critical markers of communicative value, bridging linguistic structure and social interaction (Okundare, 2024). The results of this study underscore the critical role of grammatical gender in shaping evaluative meanings in Ukrainian, contrasting with the trend toward gender neutrality in English. The strong correlation ($r=0.78$) between the frequency of gendered pronouns and emotional ratings in Ukrainian texts highlights the language's inherent reliance on gender distinctions as a cultural and emotional marker. This aligns with previous findings (Kosmeda et al. 2019), where the evaluative richness of gendered pronouns in Ukrainian discourse were emphasized. Of particular interest are occasional forms, such as '*моїша*' (more yours) or '*самішній*' (most self-centric), which create a unique axiological perspective in Ukrainian. These forms demonstrate an ambivalent

nature — simultaneously verbalizing intimacy and social differentiation. For example, the expression ‘я твоїша’ (‘I am more yours’) emphasizes deep emotional belonging, transcending conventional possessive constructs.

In contrast, English exhibits a notable preference for neutral pronouns, reflecting broader cultural shifts toward inclusivity and minimizing gender specificity (Helmbrecht 2004; Kluge 2019). Among these, the singular ‘they’ has emerged as a widely accepted gender-neutral option. Initially used as a plural pronoun, ‘they’ has been repurposed in modern English discourse to refer to individuals whose gender identity does not align with traditional pronouns ‘he’ or ‘she’ (Carter & McCarthy 2006; Simpson 2004). For instance, phrases like ‘*Every employee must submit their report on time*’ demonstrate its flexibility in accommodating inclusivity without disrupting grammatical structures.

This shift also challenges traditional evaluative norms associated with pronouns, as ‘they’ removes the explicit gender distinctions that can carry cultural and emotional connotations. The adoption of ‘they’ reflects broader efforts to reduce bias and stereotypes in language, aligning with societal values of equity and diversity (Gustafsson Senden et al. 2014). Such usage often reduces the explicit evaluative potential of grammatical forms but enhances their pragmatic flexibility, particularly in diverse social contexts. The pronoun ‘I’ in English often emphasizes individualism and self-focus, reflecting cultural values that prioritize personal agency and autonomy. As Godwin notes, ‘I’ functions as a linguistic marker of identity, conveying the speaker’s centrality in the discourse and reinforcing their position as the subject of action. This contrasts with collective forms like ‘we,’ which emphasize shared agency and group identity, underscoring the cultural and evaluative distinctions embedded in pronoun usage (Godwin 2013). The absence of a formal distinction between ‘you’ (singular) and ‘you’ (plural) in English contrasts sharply with Ukrainian, where the plural form ‘*Bu*’ often conveys respect or formality. This lack of differentiation in English limits its ability to express subtle evaluative meanings embedded in the Ukrainian pronoun system.

The significant effect sizes for masculine ($d=0.8$) and feminine ($d=0.7$) pronouns in Ukrainian texts emphasize the heightened evaluative resonance of these forms. This supports the hypothesis that languages with morphologically rich systems, such as Ukrainian, leverage grammatical gender to encode cultural hierarchies, emotional proximity, and interpersonal dynamics. Previous studies (Gustafsson Senden et al. 2014) have similarly demonstrated the role of gendered pronouns in evaluative framing within specific cultural contexts.

On the other hand, the absence of significant differences for neutral pronouns ($t(98)=1.23, p=0.21$) suggests a more universal function that transcends linguistic and cultural boundaries. This finding aligns with theories proposed by Helmbrecht (Helmbrecht 2004) and Gardelle and Sorlin (Gardelle & Sorlin 2015), who argue that neutral pronouns serve as pragmatic tools that facilitate communication while maintaining emotional neutrality. Okundare emphasizes

that the pragmatic use of personal pronouns reflects not only linguistic but also cultural priorities, a trend that aligns with the findings of this study (Okundare 2024).

These findings highlight not only the linguistic differences between Ukrainian and English but also their broader cultural implications. Ukrainian, as a morphologically rich language, integrates evaluative meanings directly into its grammatical structures, making gender distinctions central to emotional and cultural expression. Conversely, English, with its tendency toward analytical forms, often decouples evaluation from grammatical categories, relying instead on context or lexical choices to convey emotional nuances.

Future research should consider expanding the scope of analysis to include other grammatical categories, such as case and aspect, which may further illuminate the interplay between grammar and evaluation. Additionally, exploring pronoun usage in other languages with varying morphological complexity, such as Finnish or Turkish, could provide valuable comparative insights into the universality of these patterns.

This study contributes to the ongoing dialogue in comparative linguistics and grammatical evaluation, demonstrating the intricate connections between language, culture, and emotion. By integrating findings from Ukrainian and English, it sheds light on the dynamic ways in which linguistic structures reflect and shape human experience.

Future research could expand to analyze linguistic innovations in social media, where pronouns are used with new evaluative connotations. Such innovations include the increased use of singular *'they'* in informal contexts, reflecting broader societal shifts (see Discussion). On platforms like Facebook and Twitter, occasional forms frequently appear, emphasizing speakers' individuality and creativity. These trends highlight evolving language use in digital communication and provide a fertile ground for exploring the dynamic relationship between grammar and evaluation.

The Ukrainian pronoun system demonstrates unique evaluative mechanisms not found in English, such as the occasional modeling of comparative and superlative forms of possessive pronouns. These forms, while violating standard norms, serve as powerful tools for verbalizing evaluation. For instance, in Ukrainian poetic and colloquial contexts, the progression *'твої'* (yours) – *'твоїїї'* (more yours) – *'найтвоїїї'* (most yours) emphasizes increasing levels of emotional intimacy and attachment. Examples include Ukr. *'Жінка твоя. Але я твоїїїа'* (Eng. *Your wife is yours. But I am more yours*) by Lina Kostenko, or the poetic collection titled Uk. *Я твоїїїа* (Eng. *I Am More Yours*) by Nika Kichurka, dedicated to her late husband who defended Mariupol. Commercial use also highlights this innovation, as seen in the slogan: Ukr. *'Найтвоїїї кешбеку ма знижки в Приват24!'* (Eng. *The most yours cashback and discounts in Privat24*). This superlative construction not only emphasizes the speaker's affective involvement but also highlights the linguistic creativity inherent in Ukrainian. Such forms underscore the interplay between language structure and cultural

expressions of belonging and closeness, offering insights into how pronouns can transcend their traditional grammatical functions to serve as carriers of evaluative meaning.

Similar occasional forms can be observed in the intensification of the pronoun *'сам'* (self), such as *'самііііі'* (more self-centric) or *'найсамііііі'* (the most self-centric), reflecting an ambivalent semantic evaluation. For example, Ukr. *'А хто самііііі?'* (Eng. *And who is more self-centric?*) or Ukr. *'Самііііі з найсамііііі'* (Eng. *The more self-centric among the most self-centric ones*). These constructions illustrate the dynamic interplay between language and cultural identity, offering a vivid example of the linguistic creativity inherent in Ukrainian evaluative semantics.

Similarly, English pronouns demonstrate evaluative flexibility, particularly through innovative forms that respond to evolving societal norms. The singular *'they'*, now widely accepted as a gender-neutral pronoun, exemplifies this shift. Originally a plural form, *'they'* has been adapted to refer to individuals whose gender identity does not align with traditional pronouns *'he'* or *'she'* (Carter & McCarthy, 2006). Examples such as *'A nurse has to be very open and understanding. They must listen to their patients and respond to them'* (Cambridge Dictionary) illustrate how *'they'* balances inclusivity with grammatical simplicity.

Beyond inclusivity, English innovations like *'(s)he'* and *'s/he'* have emerged as orthographic solutions to gender specificity, while maintaining grammatical neutrality. Other forms, such as *'he or she'* and the universal *'one'*, offer additional options for nonbinary references, addressing critiques of traditional *'he'* as overly generic or exclusionary.

Evaluative nuances in English pronouns extend beyond gender neutrality. For instance, *'it'*, typically neutral, may convey affection or diminutiveness (*Oh, look at it sleeping so peacefully*, referring to a child) or derogation (*Who let it in here?*, referring to a stranger), depending on context. This ability to adapt pronouns for emotional nuance illustrates the flexibility of English grammar in creating evaluative discourse.

These grammatical innovations, while facilitating inclusivity, challenge traditional norms and subtly alter evaluative perceptions. Research shows that while gender-neutral forms reduce bias and enhance tolerance (Carter & McCarthy, 2006; Helmbrecht, 2004), traditional pronouns like *'he'* and *'she'* remain prevalent in discourse, often symbolizing adherence to conventional values. While Ukrainian pronouns frequently embed evaluative meanings through morphological markers, English innovations such as *'they'* extend pragmatic flexibility by decoupling gender from evaluation. This shift, particularly in contexts of non-binary identity, highlights the evolving role of pronouns in reflecting societal values of equity and diversity.

Future studies could further explore how innovative forms of pronouns reshape evaluative meanings in both English and Ukrainian. For instance, Ukrainian forms like *'мoйua'* and *'самііііі'* reflect cultural norms and intimacy, while English pronouns such as *'they'* and modifications like *'(s)he'* highlight

inclusivity and flexibility. These trends, especially as they emerge in digital communication, provide rich grounds for understanding the interplay between evolving social values and grammatical innovation.

5. Conclusions

This study explored the evaluative functions of grammatical categories, focusing on the use of gender and number in pronouns across Ukrainian and English texts. The findings reveal significant linguistic and cultural distinctions between these languages, particularly in how grammatical forms influence emotional perception.

This study highlights the evaluative functions of grammatical gender and number in Ukrainian and English pronouns. Ukrainian's reliance on morphological markers emphasizes cultural hierarchies and emotional proximity, while English's shift toward gender-neutral pronouns like '*they*' reflects inclusivity and pragmatic flexibility. Statistical analyses validated these distinctions, showing significant evaluative differences between the languages.

In Ukrainian, grammatical gender emerges as a crucial evaluative tool. The high correlation ($r=0.78$) between gendered pronoun frequency and emotional impact underscores the language's reliance on morphological markers to convey cultural hierarchies, emotional proximity, and social dynamics. These findings align with the view that morphologically rich languages encode nuanced meanings directly into their grammatical structures.

In contrast, English demonstrates a clear shift toward gender-neutral pronouns like '*they*,' which enhance pragmatic flexibility and inclusivity while reducing explicit evaluative potential. This reflects broader cultural shifts in English-speaking contexts, where gender distinctions are less central to evaluative expression.

Statistical analyses, including Pearson correlation ($r=0.78$) for Ukrainian gendered pronouns and Cohen's d for English neutral pronouns, validated these observations. Significant differences were found in the evaluative impact of gendered pronouns across the two languages. Neutral pronouns, however, exhibited a more universal function, suggesting that certain grammatical forms maintain consistent evaluative roles across linguistic and cultural boundaries.

This study contributes to comparative linguistics by illustrating how grammatical categories interact with cultural and emotional factors to shape evaluative discourse. These findings have implications for fields such as linguistic anthropology, cross-cultural communication, and language teaching, where understanding the interplay between grammar and evaluation is essential.

Future research could explore additional grammatical categories, such as case and aspect, to uncover their evaluative roles. Expanding the study to include languages with diverse morphological systems, such as polysynthetic or isolating languages, would provide further comparative insights into the universality and variability of grammatical evaluation, enriching our understanding of the relationship between language, culture, and emotion.

Institutional Review Board Statement: Ethical review and approval were waived for this study due to the reason that this study does not involve sensitive personal data, clinical trials, or any interventions that would require ethical oversight. All data used in this research were derived from publicly available textual sources (media articles, literary works, and social media posts) and do not include identifiable information about individuals. Therefore, the study posed no risk to participants or their privacy.

Informed Consent Statement: Informed consent was obtained from all subjects involved in the study.

Data Availability Statement: The data supporting the reported results were derived from publicly available sources, including media articles, literary texts, and social media posts. These data are not publicly archived as they were accessed in accordance with their respective platforms' terms of use. No new datasets were created or analyzed specifically for this study. For further details, researchers can contact the corresponding author.

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Оксана Ковтун

ГРАМАТИЧКИ РОД И БРОЈ У ЗАМЕНИЦАМА: ЕВАЛУАТИВНЕ ПЕРСПЕКТИВЕ У УКРАЈИНСКОМ И ЕНГЛЕСКОМ ЈЕЗИКУ

Резиме

Ова студија проучава евалуативни потенцијал личних заменица у украјинском и енглеском језику кроз компаративну анализу, истичући њихове културне, језичке и функционалне карактеристике. Чланак се бави попуњавањем празнина у досадашњим истраживањима о заменицама као носиоцима евалуативног значења и истовремено испитује на који начин ови граматички облици доприносе емотивној перцепцији и културном дискурсу. Методологија комбинује квантитативне и квалитативне приступе и анализира разнолики корпус који обухвата књижевне текстове, дискурс на друштвеним мрежама и новинске материјале. Категорије заменица, као што су род, број и њихове комбинације, испитују се како би се откриле њихове евалуативне нијансе. Резултати показују значајне разлике између два језика: украјинске заменице често носе изражена евалуативна значења која су под утицајем разлика у роду и броју, док енглески показује тенденцију ка неутралности, што илуструје све чешћа употреба једине „they“. Повремени и иновативни облици, попут украјинске форме „твоїша“ (више твоја), додатно илуструју динамичку еволуцију заменица у савременој комуникацији. Студија закључује да су личне заменице снажни инструменти за изражавање емотивних и културних вредности, при чему су њихове евалуативне улоге обликоване језичком структуром и друштвеним трендовима. Оваква сазнања омогућавају даља истраживања употребе заменица у међукултурним контекстима и њихове улоге у језичкој иновацији.

Кључне речи: заменице, граматика евалуације, род, број, компаративна лингвистика, анализа дискурса.