

Homework 3

Due Friday, September 8

1. On p. 52, EMG write “neither language nor the social world comes ready-made, and neither language nor the social world is static.” How does viewing language and the social world as ever-changing affect the way we might think about the relationship between language and gender? What challenges does such a view present?
2. EMG write (p.85):”Our linguistic behavior is intertwined with ideology, and stereotypes are not simply ‘lies’ about language, but exaggerations with a purpose.” What do you think they mean by “exaggerations with a purpose?”
3. Give an example of a linguistic gender stereotype (not used by EMG), and a guess about what its purpose might be.
4. Pay attention to how men and women use the *s* sound (the phoneme /s/). How do you react to men who use a sound that is more like *sh*? What about the same for women?