

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Scholars Day

Carl Goodson Honors Program

4-28-2016

Does Gendered Language Have an Effect on You?

Andrew John Stambolie
Ouachita Baptist University

Angella Valencia
Ouachita Baptist University

Olivia Allbright
Ouachita Baptist University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/scholars_day



Part of the [Business Commons](#), [Creative Writing Commons](#), [Education Commons](#), [History Commons](#), [Life Sciences Commons](#), [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#), [Philosophy Commons](#), [Physical Sciences and Mathematics Commons](#), [Reading and Language Commons](#), [Religion Commons](#), and the [Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Stambolie, Andrew John; Valencia, Angella; and Allbright, Olivia, "Does Gendered Language Have an Effect on You?" (2016). *Scholars Day*. 20.

https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/scholars_day/20

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by the Carl Goodson Honors Program at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Scholars Day by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.

Does Gendered Language Have an Effect on You?

Andrew John Stambolie, Angella Valencia, Olivia Allbright, and Jennifer Fayard, Ph.D
Ouachita Baptist University

Background

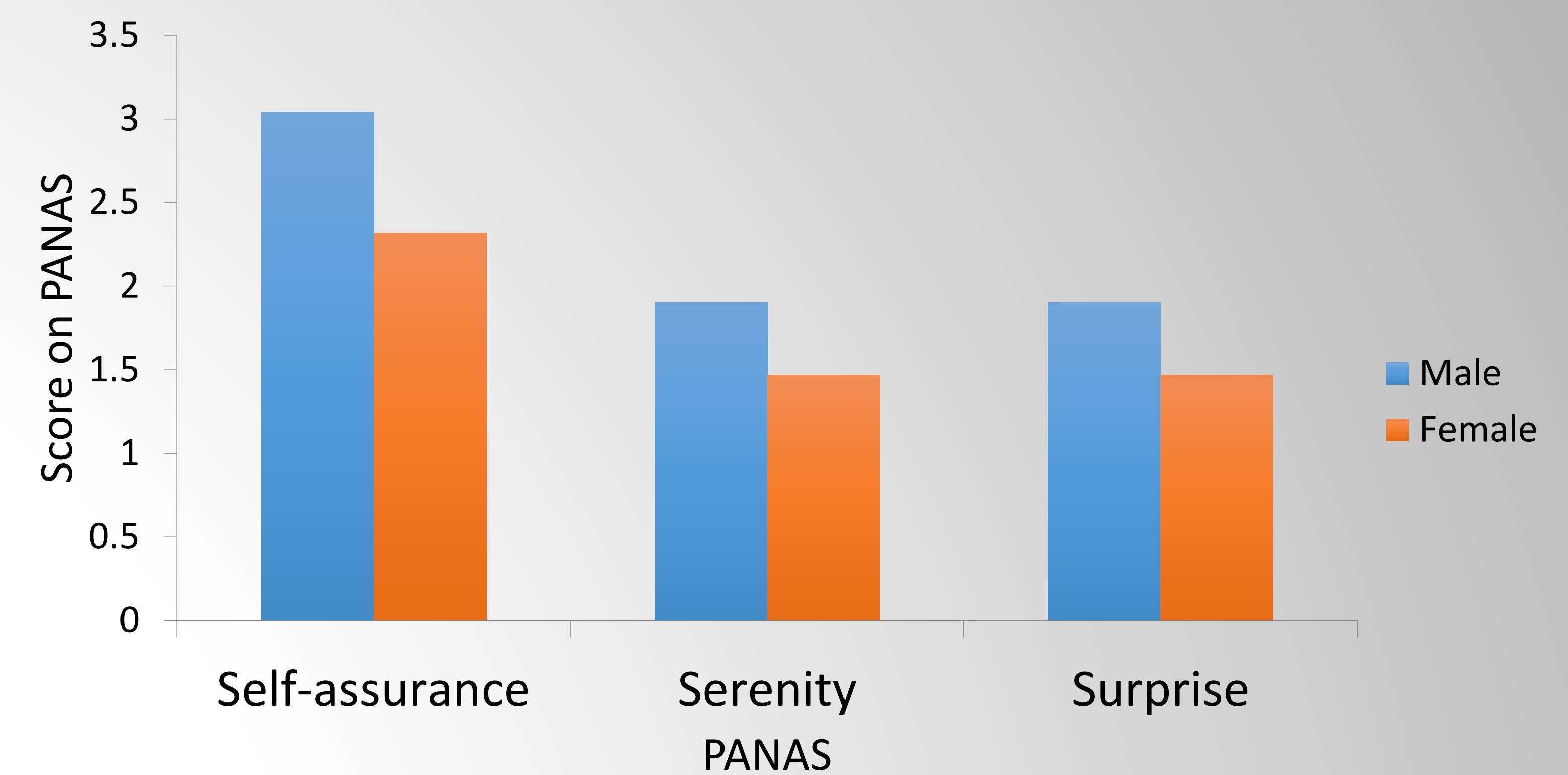
- ❖ Our study tested the effects of gender exclusive and gender inclusive language on males' and females' feelings of ostracism, motivation, identification, and their emotions.
- ❖ Research has shown that being rejected or ignored can have negative psychological effects. (Stout & Dasgupta, 2011).
- ❖ Ostracism is both the act being ignored and excluded. It includes directly differing with the individual, indicating his or her failings, as well as actively denying being associated with this individual. (Cheung & Choi, 2000).
- ❖ Discrimination can be understood as a larger sociological component that includes ostracism. (Cheung & Choi, 2000).
- ❖ Research Question: Does the use of gender-inclusive and gender-exclusive language have an effect on those who receive it?
- ❖ We measured the extent to which participants perceived the language as sexist, their feelings of exclusion versus feelings of inclusion, motivation due to the language used, and identification with the language used
- ❖ We predicted that females would experience higher levels of ostracism, negative affect, and lower levels of motivation and identification.

Method

- ❖ Our study included a total of 94 participants (73 female and 21 male), all undergraduate students from Ouachita Baptist University.
- ❖ We used randomly assigned varying job descriptions that contained either female-inclusive or exclusive language (using she/he, respectively), and male-inclusive/exclusive language (using he/she, respectively). Participants' gender worked as a quasi-independent variable.
- ❖ We measured emotion by assessing participants' self-reports of their feelings using the PANAS 5-point Likert-type scale.

Results

- ❖ We conducted a two-way ANOVA to compare the main effects of gender (quasi-IV) and language (IV) and the interaction effect between them on identification, motivation, ostracism, and emotions (PANAS).
- ❖ No significant interaction between gender and language on motivation, $F(1,90) = .030$, $p = .86$. There was no main effect for gender on motivation $F(1,90) = .39$, $p = .53$ or gender on language $F(1,90) = .002$, $p = .96$.
- ❖ No significant interaction between gender and language on ostracism, $F(1,90) = 2.84$, $p = .09$ with no main effect of gender on ostracism, $F(1,90) = .41$, $p = .84$ and no main effect of language on ostracism, $F(1,90) = 2.13$, $p = .15$.
- ❖ No significant interaction between gender and language was found on identification, $F(1,90) = .02$, $p = .89$ and no main effect of gender on identification, $F(1,90) = .06$, $p = .81$ and no main effect of language on identification, $F(1,90) = .58$, $p = .45$.
- ❖ We conducted a two-way ANOVA to compare the main effects of gender (quasi-IV) and language (IV) and the interaction of gender and language on the emotions (PANAS) of negative affect, positive affect, fear, hostility, guilt, sadness, joviality, attentiveness, sadness, fatigue, in which we did not find a significant main effect or interactions. We found a significant main effect of gender on self assurance, serenity, and surprise but no significant main effect of language or effect of interaction between gender and language.
- ❖ There was no significant interaction between gender and language on self-assurance, $F(1,90) = .15$, $p = .69$, there was a main effect between gender on self-assurance, $F(1,90) = 11.66$, $p = .001$. Males ($M = 3.04$, $SD = .97$) demonstrated higher levels of self-assurance than females ($M = 2.32$, $SD = .81$).
- ❖ There was no significant interaction between gender and language on serenity, $F(1,90) = 3.34$, $p = .07$, there was a main effect of gender on serenity, $F(1,90) = 7.22$, $p = .009$. Males ($M = 1.90$, $SD = .89$) had higher levels of serenity than females ($M = 1.47$, $SD = .74$).
- ❖ There was no significant interaction between gender and language on surprise, $F(1,90) = 6.7$, $p = .01$, there was a main effect of gender on surprise, $F(1,90) = 6.7$, $p = .01$. Males ($M = 1.90$, $SD = .89$) had higher levels of serenity than females ($M = 1.47$, $SD = .74$).



Conclusions

- ❖ We found gender-exclusive and gender-inclusive language did not have a significant effect on the participants' feelings of identification, motivation, and ostracism.
- ❖ We also noted that we lacked a sufficient number of male participants. (N=21)
- ❖ Further research could involve an increased focus on how males experience gender-inclusive and gender-exclusive language since most of the research has centered heavily on females.
- ❖ Males displayed higher levels of surprise, perhaps due to the deviance of using female pronouns in today's society.
- ❖ Males displayed higher levels of self-assurance than females. This could be attributed to the cultural norm of male pronoun usage and the sense of comfort and inclusion associated with that tradition.
- ❖ Males displayed higher levels of serenity. This could potentially indicate that males feel more comfortable across the spectrum of gendered language.

References

- Stout, J.G., & Dasgupta, N. (2011). When he doesn't mean you: Gender exclusive language as ostracism. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 36, 757-769.
- Williams, K., Cheung, C. & Choi, W. (2000) Cyberostracism: Effects of being ignored over the internet. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 79, 748-762