

Re: Gender in language

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2006-10/msg00239.html>

- *From:* Nathan Sanders <nsanders@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 29 Sep 2006 08:54:19 -0400
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In article <CQ\$uDSFIFOHFFwW+@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Richard Herring <[junk@\[127.0.0.1\]](mailto:junk@[127.0.0.1])> wrote:

In message <1159501533.800645.21300@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, willcesium@xxxxxxxx writes

First off, having grammatical genders isn't something people chose to do. No one made a conscious decision to divide nouns up into different categories, it just ended up happening that way. Gender is, in fact, hardwired into the language component of the brain.

Don't you find it odd, then, that some languages have no expression of that "hard-wired" feature?

No odder than that some mammals (the males) have no expression of the hard-wired feature of mammary glands.

Just because some linguistic feature (or more appropriately, the *potential* for that feature) is "hard-wired" doesn't mean every language must have that feature.

Nathan

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