

Summary

This study analyses the specific characteristics of verbal and nonverbal communication from a gender perspective, based on the prose of Ludmila Ulitskaya. The starting point of the research is the assumption that language, as a tool of communication, reflects socially and culturally conditioned patterns of behaviour, including those related to the category of cultural gender. Consequently, an analysis of the communicative behaviours of literary characters allows us to capture the mechanisms by which gender differences are shaped at the linguistic and discursive levels.

The theoretical section of the thesis discusses fundamental issues in gender linguistics, including how gender differences are linguistically represented and their relationship to communication. Particular attention is devoted to the relationship between language and the construction of social identity, as well as the significance of gender studies for the analysis of literary texts.

The analytical section presents a detailed analysis of the characters' communicative behaviours in selected works by Ludmila Ulitskaya. The study covered both verbal and nonverbal communication, including paralinguistic elements, gestures, tactile, visual, and proxemic behaviours, as well as silence as a significant component of communication.

As the analysis showed, differences between female and male characters are primarily evident in speech-act pragmatics and communication strategies. In male characters, strategies aimed at controlling the communicative situation and achieving the utterance's goal are more frequently observed. In contrast, in female characters, a greater diversity of strategies is evident, including a tendency to soften utterances and maintain interpersonal relationships. These differences are general in nature and depend on the specific communicative context.

Regarding nonverbal communication, it was found that the characters' behaviours also exhibit gender differences, manifested, among other things, in how they use eye contact, gestures, spatial distance, and touch. Nonverbal means of

communication do not merely serve a supplementary function to verbal utterances, but constitute an autonomous component of interaction that influences the interpretation of meaning.

The results obtained allow us to conclude that gender in Ludmila Ulitskaya's prose functions as a complex category, manifesting itself at various levels of the literary text, both in linguistic forms and in holistic models of characters' communicative behaviours.

The conducted research also highlights the usefulness of gender linguistics tools for analysing literary texts and outlines prospects for further research, particularly regarding cultural determinants and modes of text reception.