

# Department of Philosophy Departmental Seminar

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Gender Discrimination in Language, the Language Relativity Theory and the Necessity of an Ordinance to Check Gender Biasness in Language Used in Various Media of Communication and Entertainment

**Monday, 13th January 2020**

**11.00am to 12.00pm**

**Room 117, New Arts Building  
Jahangirnagar University**

**Moderator: Professor Dr. Md. Munir Hossain Talukder**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## ABSTRACT

It has been proved already that components of languages are not always gender sensitive. Gender biasness in languages ignites the discriminatory attitude towards the lesser mentioned gender. For this reason some language communities have changed some grammatical components to ensure gender fairness in the concerned languages. This paper argues that changing the use of masculine pronouns and using more feminine terms is not sufficient to reduce gender discrimination in languages. Many languages contain abusive terms and words that undermine women, their body and women sexuality. These degrading terms are used in everyday conversations, films, various forms of literature and online activities. According to the language relativity theory language influences our thoughts and perceptions. In this paper I have considered the two versions of this theory and has argued that gender biased language constructs and promotes disrespectful and discriminatory attitudes and behaviors towards women and impedes all our efforts to achieve gender equality. This paper also claims that we need to construct rules and regulations to check gender biasness in everyday conversation and languages used in movies, songs, literature and other medium of entertainment and communications.

## SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Mahmuda Akand is currently working as an Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy, Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka, Bangladesh. She completed her graduate and post-graduate degrees from the same department with first position in both programs with first class. Ms. Akand received 'UGC, Bangladesh Merit Scholarship' (2006, 2007) and 'Mofassel Uddin Ahmed Gold Medal' (2010) for her outstanding academic feat. Later she joined the department as a Lecturer in 2009. She is an 'Erasmus Scholar' and completed her second Masters in Philosophy from the University of Warsaw, Poland, in 2013 under this prestigious program. She authored several book chapters and journal articles at home and abroad. Ms. Akand has also reviewed several academic books and these reviews have been published in leading national dailies in Bangladesh. She is a life member of 'Bangladesh Philosophical Society' and a member of 'Bangladesh Philosophical Congress'. Her area of interest covers philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, social and political philosophy and gender studies.