

Summary

This master paper explores, how the expression „feminine intuition” came to the everyday language and how it is connected with general beliefs and myths about feminine and masculine stereotypes. The paper is based on my observation about different expressions describing female and male thinking in common language, internet forums and mass media.

Gender stereotypes are charged with values and they are placed as opposites. This opposition is called dualism. Dualism is based on Plato’s philosophy. It means describing world in opposites which are not equal. Dualism is very common and occurs in all fields. One of them is gender. Male and female, *yin* and *yang* are called opposites, which are in harmonious relationship, but in social reality they are not. In all cultures male characteristics are more valued than female characteristics. For example men are considered to think rationally and women intuitively. The latter is often considered negative and confusing while linear and logical thinking is considered positive and shows superior intelligence.

I argue that even nowadays females are not considered as intelligent as males and not only by men. Often happens that women call themselves more inferior of intelligence than men. It can be result of constant and almost unnoticed mental pressure by society, which is being absorbed into a personal set of cognitive and somatic dispositions as Pierre Bourdieu states (Bourdieu 2005). Society has always “told” women to be not as rational as men. There is possibility that the social pressure leaves the footprint into the brain.

However, Anne Fausto-Sterling shows convincingly that all researches, reporting the difference between male and female brain have been disproven. Scientists are not free from stereotypes. Human brain has been explored for 150 years and scientists have always been looking for proof that male intelligence is superior to that of the females because of their different brain. Fausto-Sterling shows that accordingly some newest researches the differences between people regardless of sex are much more significant than differences between sexes.

I analyze very different sources in my paper. These sources are esoterics, scientific, philosophic and fine literature. In the empirical part I analyze internet forum texts by anonymous users. This unusual choice of sources is necessary to show how the idea of feminine intuition is present everywhere, how the attitudes change or remain the same and how the similar attitudes take different forms.

My paper contains theoretical, empirical and artistic part. In theoretical part I analyse different authors and sources. For example Bourdieu, Beauvoir and Ortner think that feminine intuition and in general feminine and masculine way of thinking and behaving are socially constructed. On the contrary esoterics and Otto Weininger state that it is something objectively existing, innate to all women.

In empirical part I analyze anonymous comments of internet portal called Delfi. I have collected Delfi women's page comments for few years and I have entered new forums myself as a man for example by asking what is feminine intuition and does man have to be smarter than woman. The comments are included to my paper. I draw connections between comments, authors and characters of my film which is a part of my artistic work. Since intuition is not properly explored field and often thought as mysterious way of perceiving, my hypothesis was that there is connection between esoterics' and internet comments. Connection occurred indeed.

In artistic part I made a documentary film and installation. Film contains interviews with esoterics, politics and artists. I travelled around and asked people what is feminine intuition and what are the differences between men's and women's thinking if there are some. I wanted to show two opposite world views and politics seemed to oppose to esoterics. These two groups are hardly aware of each other's activities. Esoterics have their own theories about genders. For them world is based on energies. Physical level is only a reflection of events, taken already place in mental or astral level. Thus they don't see gender as social construction. Male and female energy are different. Esoterics emphasize that *yin* and *yang* are opposite energies yet working together with harmony but at the same time they unconsciously still place female on the lower level by comparing her with soul while male is compared by mind, by drawing connections between women and principle of serving and so on. The basic idea is that female energy is Earth energy

but male energy comes from Sun. Women are more practical and rational and see close surroundings better than men but men are more intellectual and see the global situation better. At the same time women also are more emotional and intuitive. If women are only intuitive, it is not good because intuition is not very apt. One needs intellectual logics, too. If she possesses both ways of thinking, she is more powerful than men. “Men have three powers, women have seven” goes the old saying. There we have got a myth about weak man and strong woman. More often women’s way of intuitive and emotional thinking is considered negative because seeing only close surroundings makes person suspicious and not very bright. There are two main views among esoterics: conception of old and new energy. People who are for *old energy* believe in dualism and preset gender roles but *new energy* people believe that human race is in important doorstep when our conscious is making a leap on the higher level and one of its features is that genders are becoming more similar than before.

Politicians are concerned about equal salaries of women and men, equal opportunities and getting more women involved to politics. They talk about glass-ceiling and women in labor market. Their problems and views are more down-to-earth than these of esoterics. Yet there were some similar approaches. One of politicians had traditional view on women as emotional and rational at the same time - she made exactly the same point as esoteric. I think it is almost impossible to gain equality in society if politics stick to dualistic ideas. Changes must start from language and thinking, not from rearranging economy and politics.

My film is placed into the installation, built of tires and pig’s lard. I talk from radical feminist position and thus for me men and women are defined by biological bodies. Gender is socially constructed and changes over time, so we can’t decide that some kind of certain way of talking or behaving is innate to women or men only. On the other hand, social pressure can change physical bodies making them do things they normally wouldn’t and if this pressure lasts for generations it can leave marks into the brain.

I use tires and lard because they symbolize physical body. The structure of tires and lard is very similar (see pic 2). Men’s skin is thicker and their collagen structure resembles a trellis that is like a diagonal. Women’s skin is thinner and the collagen structure contains parallel joints. Women’s

fat is closer to skin surface and when skin loosens due to ageing; fat becomes visible like bumpy orange peel texture.

Now there are two types of tires: radial and bias-bly. Radial tires' structure resembles that of woman's fat. On a radial tire, the plies are run from bead to bead directly across the tire (radially). In other words, the cords are perpendicular to the bead. Successive plies are just layered over the existing ones with all cords being parallel. Radial tires came to market around 1968. J. Kristeva claims that youth revolt in Paris in May 1968 was an important step for feminists (Kristeva 2002). Esoteric V. Pöldma thinks that planet Pluto circulation on sky directs theoretical matriarchate and patriarchate on Earth. Around 1968 patriarchate had ended and matriarchate was forming. Radial tires are softer and smoother but in difficult road situations they can broke and the surface will resemble to that of ageing woman's skin's orange peel texture. A bias ply tire runs the plies at an angle to the bead (biased). Different layers have opposing angles, criss-crossing across the tire. Thus it resembles to the men's fat structure. These tires are stronger and better on difficult road but also less smooth. They can carry heavier load than radial tires, even if being smaller. Bias-ply tires were invented at 1898. V. Pöldma claims that this was an era of theoretical patriarchate.

The nature has been connected with women and culture with men throughout history. Tires are technologic material, which are invented by men. Lard is organic and connected with women. Bacon, Weininger and many more authors have said that women can't think rationally but intuitively and thus belong to nature rather than to culture. It has been said that men have to tame and master the nature (Fox Keller 2001). This kind of philosophy gave way to inequality of genders. The old words and expressions about women's and men's thinking are still in the language. R. Rorty claims that the world doesn't speak, but we do. We are programmed by the language (Rorty, 1999).

Conclusions I made are based on interviews and internet comments which I compared and analyzed in the light of referred authors. People nowadays think that 1. **Woman is connected to consuming culture, also referred as death culture.** This idea is connected to esoteric's view on female energy which sees close details only and deals with everyday matters. It makes women dumber than men and ads certain sense of complaining, moaning and whining 2. **Women are not**

as intelligent as men. This idea was present in anonymous comments. In interviews it came through as hidden undertext but never directly. Their dumbness was connected to that idea of being representators of consuming culture, being too emotional and having unnecessary instincts. Feminine intuition was sometimes connected to motherhood, although S. Ruddick claims, that mothers don't use instincts but rational thinking, so this is again one of the myths (Ruddick 1987). Women and men were considered different because of the brain differences. Information about "scientific" data of male and female brain differences has always been mass media's favorite subject so the data of poorly designed studies reaches quickly out to the public. This data emphasizes differences as innate and unchangeable, recreating old gender stereotypes where male intelligence is superior to that of the female. 3. **Women are wiser than men.** I never crossed the word "more intelligent" but "wiser" in that context. Some esoterics and politicians thought that women who are able to think rationally and intuitively are wiser than men. If woman thinks only intuitively, she is not intelligent because intuitive thinking is rarely apt.

From the above we see how the different texts and philosophies are connected to each other. One wonders, how is it possible that society still thinks this way about women in 21st century when women can do the same jobs as men and at least formally we have got gender equality. As I mention above, we never will achieve true equality if language and thinking don't change. We need to reject dualism and reject cheating ourselves by claiming that opposites work in harmonious relationships because it never have been like that and it never will.