GRAMMATICAL GENDER IN GERMANM LANGUAG

Jabbarov Abdug'afur Abdug'aniyevich
German language teacher

ANNOTATION
All German nouns are included in one of three grammatical genders: masculine, feminine or neuter. However, the gender is not relevant to the plural forms of nouns.
Key words: *genders, abstract concept, masculine, feminine, neuter, new noun, definite article;*

In German, nouns have genders, which apply to objects and abstract concepts as well, not just people or living creatures. Adjusting to this may take some time, but eventually, it will become second nature.

And here's a paraphrase of the second statement:

"Let's begin at the start and revisit the definition of a noun."

All German nouns are either masculine, feminine or neuter. This is called their gender. In English, we call all things – for example, table, car, book, apple – 'it', but in German, even words for things have a gender. It is important to know that the gender of German nouns rarely relates to the sex of the person or thing it refers to. For example, in German, the word for "man" is masculine, but the word for "girl" is neuter and the word for "person" is feminine.

der Mann	man
das Mädchen	girl
die Person	person

You can find information about gender by looking the word up in a dictionary. When you come across a new noun, always learn the word for the that goes with it to help you remember its gender.

der before a noun tells you it is masculine
die before a noun tells you it is feminine
das before a noun tells you it is neuter.

For someone who is just starting out with German, this can be really confusing – especially as the genders don't necessarily seem logical.

Take cutlery for example. You have die Gabel (the fork), der Löffel (the spoon) and das Messer (the knife). A fork is feminine, a spoon masculine and a knife neutral. All you can do is

sit there and scratch your head. How does that make sense? Who made these decisions to begin with?!

Although they don't always make sense, they are something you have to learn. Just as there's no rainbow without rain, there's no German noun without its article. That's because in German, the gender of a noun is part of its identity. If you say or write a German word without the article that dictates gender, you won't be using the noun correctly.

Here's a paraphrase of the provided statement:

"In English, words also have genders, although they are usually more apparent. This is because in English, gender corresponds to the actual gender of the noun being referred to. For example, the word 'girl' is feminine, 'boy' is masculine, and 'table' is neutral. This arrangement is logical, as a girl is female, a boy is male, and a table is an inanimate object. It may seem peculiar for a table to have a gender, but it's worth noting that certain objects, like boats, can be assigned a gender in English."

German is different. In German, gender is defined not by the gender of the noun, but by the meaning and the form of the word. Genders in German were originally intended to signify three grammatical categories that words could be grouped into.

The three categories were:
- ✓ *endings that indicated that a word was of neutral origin.*
- ✓ *endings that indicated a group of people or things. These became feminine.*
- ✓ *nouns that had no ending. These remained masculine.*

How to Identify Masculine Nouns in German (der/ein)

Masculine German nouns take the definite article der (the) and indefinite ein (a/an).

To figure out whether a word is masculine, look for the following word endings:

-er, -el, -ling, -ich, -ig, -ner, -ismus, -or, -us, -eich, -ant

Following this rule, you'll be correct around 80% of the time.

Also, anything to do with calendar dates tends to be masculine – days, months and seasons fall under this category.

Finally, male animals and weather elements are usually masculine.

From this, you can deduce that the following words are masculine:

der Autor (author)
der Vater (father)
der Mittwoch (Wednesday)
der Regen (rain)*

How to Recognise Feminine Nouns in German (die/eine)

Feminine German nouns use the definite article die (the) and indefinite article eine (a/an).

As with masculine nouns, the easiest way to identify a feminine noun is to look at the word ending. Look out for the following word endings:

e (mostly, as the exception is male persons or animals, such as der Löwe (the lion)), -ie, -heit, -ei, -in, -ik, -keit, – schaft, -ung, -tät, -ur, -tion

Funnily enough, things that would normally be associated with femininity are usually feminine too – like flowers and trees, along with female animals and people.

die Blume (flower)
die Familie (family)
die Mannschaft (team)

How to Identify Neutral Nouns in German (das/ein)

Neutral German nouns take the definite article das (the) and indefinite article ein (a/an).

To spot neutral nouns, look out for the following word endings:

-chen, -o, -lein, -en, -il, -ma, -tel, -ment, -nis, -tum, -um

Most inanimate objects do fall under the category of neutral. Also, most metals, as well as babies (both human and animal) tend to have neutral genders.

Let's look at some examples.

das Kind (child)

das Fragment (fragment)

das Gold (gold)

What About Plurals in German?

When German nouns become plural, they adopt the feminine definite article of die. So, der/die/das become die/die/die. For example, der Mann becomes die Männer. This is not because they are changing gender – it is because the indefinite article is (technically) dropped.

The Best Way to Learn German Noun Genders

My top tip for language learners is always to speak from day one. Speaking a language from the first day you start learning it helps you get over your fear of being "wrong" – because you will make mistakes, and you'll learn that making mistakes is okay. Someone who puts themselves out there is ten times more likely to have success in language learning than those who don't.

After all, what's the worst that can happen? If you get it wrong, chances are someone will correct you (especially in Germany) and you'll know how to say it right the next time you need to use that particular word. Native German speakers are notoriously direct and will be more than happy to help you out!

References:

1.https://germanwithlaura.com/noun-gender/

2.https://www.fluentin3months.com/german-noun-genders/

3.https://www.thoughtco.com/masculine-feminine-or-nueter-in-german-4068442

4.https://www.usinggrammar.com/german-grammar/natural-gender.php.