

[Slavonic versus Finno-Ugric languages: On missing categories in grammar and cognition in Issue 4](#)

Helena Lehečková

Different languages realize different grammatical categories. The paper deals with the following questions:

- 1) Do grammatical categories have any correspondence in cognition?
- 2) Do the grammatical categories of one's mother tongue influence the perception of other languages and of the world?
- 3) Is category-explicitness conditioned by the typological character of the language?

I concentrate on the grammatical category of gender in inflecting, isolating and agglutinating languages. I compare six languages (Czech, Russian, English, Swedish, Hungarian and Finnish) and argue that gender-explicitness is mainly conditioned by the typological characteristics of the language. However, the category of gender is realised to a different degree not only in different language types (e.g. inflecting and agglutinating) but to a lesser extent also within the same type (e.g. Czech and Russian).

Having established a hierarchy of gender-explicitness I discuss its consequences for translation, interpretation and language learning. I concentrate on examples of contrasts between Czech, the most gender-explicit language, and Finnish, the most gender-indifferent one.