

ABSTRACT

The thesis focuses on the issue of gender, in particular its non-binary conception, and investigates how the French language and Francophone society approach this area. The core chapters examine the multifaceted aspects of gender, incorporating sociocultural perspectives and linguistic approaches. In the first chapter, the thesis briefly scrutinizes the philosophy of language and linguistic culture in general. The second chapter explains pivotal concepts related to gender and introduces diverse cultural conceptions of gender. The third chapter describes key linguistic phenomena that pose challenges to achieving neutrality within the French language. The core of the linguistic part of the thesis is the fourth chapter, with the so-called *écriture inclusive*, inclusive writing, which at many points offers a solution to linguistic equality. The official forms of this approach in France and Canada are presented and its guiding principles are described. In addition, the thesis incorporates a proposal for a gender-neutral solution for the French language put forth by Florence Ashley, a legal and health activist specializing in transgender issues in Canada. The last chapter, chapter five, outlines reactions to the inclusive and gender-neutral form of the French language. The controversial debates that arose around statements made by the French Academy, a member of the government and the Minister of Education are described. The aim of the thesis is to expound the concept of gender in its complexity, to present a proposal for neutralizing the French language with its advantages and drawbacks, and to advocate for its implementation in contexts where it fosters a secure and equal environment.

KEYWORDS

gender, masculinity, femininity, non-binary gender identity, inclusive language, gender-neutral pronoun