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Everyday Language and Gendered Experience: A Sociological Analysis of Gendered Slang among Female Students

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ABSTRACT

This study explores gendered slang as a socio-linguistic practice and critically examines its psychological and social impacts on female students in higher education. Using a qualitative research design, it is based on a systematic review of existing scholarly literature to integrate theoretical perspectives with empirical evidence. Secondary data were collected from Google Scholar and other reputable academic databases, focusing on studies related to gendered language use, socio-linguistic interaction, and student experiences in academic settings. The selected literature was analyzed through thematic analysis, involving systematic coding and interpretation to identify recurring patterns, meanings, and conceptual relationships across studies. Findings reveal that gendered slang operates as a subtle yet powerful discursive practice that reinforces gender stereotypes and sustains symbolic inequalities within educational environments. Psychologically, exposure to such language is associated with stress, discomfort, reduced self-esteem, and changes in self-perception among female students. Socially, it contributes to decreased classroom participation, interactional withdrawal, and a weakened sense of belonging in academic spaces. The study further emphasizes that these linguistic practices are often normalized in peer interactions, making their effects less visible but more persistent. Overall, it concludes that gendered slang significantly shapes gendered experiences in higher education and highlights the need for critical awareness of everyday language use in academic institutions.

Keywords: Gendered Slang, Socio-Linguistics, Female Students, Social Interaction, Higher Education, Thematic Analysis

Introduction

Language is not merely a neutral medium of communication; rather, it is a socially embedded and ideologically charged practice through meanings (Abdullah & Shoaib,



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2021; Shoaib & Abdullah, 2021), identities, and power relations are continuously produced, reproduced, and negotiated (Shoaib & Ullah, 2019; Ullah & Shoaib, 2021). Gendered slang constitutes a pervasive form of everyday discourse that both mirrors and reinforces existing gender hierarchies (Shoaib, Abdullah, & Baneen, 2026b; Shoaib, Shamraiz, Baneen, & Abdullah, 2026a, 2026c, 2026d). Portrayal on socio-linguistic and feminist theoretical traditions, gendered slang functions as a discursive mechanism that encodes cultural stereotypes (Shoaib, Abdullah, & Baneen, 2026a; Shoaib, Iqbal, Baneen, & Abdullah, 2026c; Shoaib, Shamraiz, Baneen, & Abdullah, 2026b), legitimizes symbolic domination, and structures interactional patterns within social institutions (Shoaib, Abdullah, & Baneen, 2026c; Shoaib, Iqbal, Baneen, & Abdullah, 2026a, 2026b). In particular, higher education environments provide a critical context in which such linguistic practices are both normalized and contested (Larijani, Shoaib, & Abedi, 2026; Shoaib, Shamraiz, Abdullah, & Shahzadi, 2026a, 2026b). Female students, as active participants in these academic and social spaces (Shamraiz, Shoaib, Baneen, & Shahzadi, 2026a, 2026b), are routinely exposed to gendered forms of expression in both formal classroom interactions and informal peer communication (Shoaib, Shahzadi, & Abdullah, 2026; Shoaib & Ullah, 2026), making them a significant group for examining the relationship between language and lived experience (Shoaib, Shahzadi, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2026; Shoaib, Shahzadi, Shamraiz, & Abdullah, 2026a). Existing scholarship suggests that even seemingly casual linguistic expressions carry embedded biases that shape perceptions of respect, identity, and belonging (Shahzadi, Shoaib, & Abdullah, 2026; Shoaib, Shahzadi, Shamraiz, & Abdullah, 2026b). Building upon this theoretical foundation, the present study offers empirical insights into the psychological and social consequences of gendered slang among female students in higher education (Shahzadi, Shoaib, Baneen, & Abdullah, 2026; Shoaib, Shahzadi, Shamraiz, & Abdullah, 2026c). It specifically investigates how exposure to and interpretation of such language are associated with psychological responses (Shahzadi, Shoaib, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2026; Shoaib, Iqbal, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2026a), including stress, discomfort, self-perception (Shoaib, Ali, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2025a; Waris, Shoaib, Sharif, & Abdullah, 2025a), and emotional well-being, as well as social outcomes such as participation levels (Shoaib, Ahmed, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2026b; Shoaib, Iqbal, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2026b), interactional behavior, and perceived inclusion within academic environments (Ali, Abdullah, & Shoaib, 2026; Ali, Abdullah, & Shoaib, 2026). By adopting a quantitative research approach, the study moves beyond purely conceptual discussions and seeks to generate measurable evidence regarding these relationships (Ahmed, Shoaib, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2026b; Shoaib, Ahmed, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2026c). In doing so, it contributes to sociological and socio-linguistic scholarship by linking micro-level linguistic practices with macro-level patterns of gendered inequality (Ahmed, Shoaib, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2026; Shoaib, Waris, Zaman, & Abdullah, 2025b), thereby offering a more nuanced and empirically grounded understanding of how everyday language operates as both a reflection and reproduction of social power structures in higher education contexts (Ahmed, Shoaib, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2026a; Shoaib, Ahmed, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2026a).

Study Context

Gendered slang has become a noticeable feature of everyday communication in higher education institutions, yet its implications for female students remain insufficiently explored in empirical terms (Shoaib, Waris, Zaman, & Abdullah, 2025a; Waris, Shoaib, Sharif, & Abdullah, 2025b). Although socio-linguistic and feminist scholarship recognizes language as a carrier of power relations and social meanings, much of the



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existing literature remains theoretical (Shoaib, Waris, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2025; Waris, Shoaib, Sharif, & Abdullah, 2025c), with limited focus on how gendered slang translates into observable psychological and social outcomes in academic settings (Shoaib & Abdullah, 2025; Waris, Shoaib, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2025). In university environments where peer interaction is frequent and linguistically diverse (Ali, Shoaib, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2025a; Shoaib, Ali, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2025b), gendered slang operated as a subtle mechanism of symbolic exclusion, stereotyping, and identity negotiation (Ali, Shoaib, & Ali, 2025; Shoaib, Ali, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2025c). However, the extent to which such linguistic practices affect female students' psychological well-being including stress (Ali, Shoaib, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2025b; Iqbal, Shoaib, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2025; Abdullah & Ullah, 2022

), discomfort, and self-perception as well as their social experiences such as participation, interaction patterns (Shoaib, Ali, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2025b, 2025c), and sense of belonging, is not clearly established (Ali, Shoaib, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2025a, 2025b). Additionally, there is a lack of systematic synthesis linking micro-level language practices with broader patterns of gendered inequality in education (Shoaib, Rasool, & Iqbal, 2025a, 2025b). This gap restricts a comprehensive understanding of how everyday discourse shapes or reinforces gender hierarchies (Shoaib, Rasool, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2025b; Shoaib, Zaman, & Abdullah, 2025). Therefore, the present study addresses the need to systematically review and synthesize existing scholarly literature to generate empirical insights into the psychological and social impacts of gendered slang on female students in higher education contexts.

The Data and Methods

This study employed a qualitative research design to examine gendered slang as a socio-linguistic practice and its psychological and social impacts on female students. Rather than collecting primary data, it relied on a systematic review of existing literature to synthesize prior empirical and theoretical contributions. Secondary data were obtained from diverse academic sources, including Google Scholar, peer-reviewed journal articles, books, and scholarly reports available through recognized databases. Literature selection was guided by relevance to key themes such as gendered language, socio-linguistic interaction, psychological responses, and female students' experiences in educational contexts. The selected texts were analyzed using thematic analysis, involving iterative reading, coding, and categorization to identify recurring patterns and concepts. Major themes included forms of gendered slang, their symbolic meanings, psychological effects, and implications for social interaction and participation. The findings were presented thematically to support results and conclusions, enabling a coherent understanding of gendered slang within broader gendered social structures.

Results and Discussion

The study findings asserted that intervention to overcome the use of hookah pipes among young generation that help to meet the psychological satisfaction (Kader, Crutzen, & Roman, 2020). The study on the subject commissioned that the psychological well-being of natural hair in African female become the chronicles (Jacobs & Kelemi, 2020). Besides, the analysis of the data indicated that the experience of male in engaging in psychological therapies during the forensic mental health situation (Hussain, Mia, & Rose, 2020). It is worth to mention here that study findings highlighted that building the class linguistic practice across family of south Asian in Hong Kong (Gu & Tong, 2020). Additionally, the study outplayed that stated that for college in incoming university



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students a mindfulness psychological distress mediation (Flett, Conner, Riordan, Patterson, & Hayne, 2020). In the same token, argument of the study pointed out that a research on naturally occurring ritual in males and females that effect the social bonding (Fischer & Kruekaew, 2020). Furthermore, the analysis of the study pointed out that health behavior of female senior managers in social and gendered practices of everyday life (del Río Carral & Lyons, 2020). Moreover, the study conclusion clinched that elements addressing and influencing in preservice teacher's that need linguistic diverse leaners (Cho, Lee, & Herner-Patnode, 2020). Likewise, the results of the study revealed that treating the young women by using the Australian psychologist perspective on their childhood maltreatment (Beaton & Thielking, 2020). Similarly, the findings of the study articulated that addressing the psychological and comorbid mental health disorders in subgroup (Barragán, Yamada, Gilreath, & Lizano, 2020).

The study findings asserted that a critical research on outcome of psychological treatment after the post-traumatic stress effects (Shoaib, Iqbal, Rasool, & Abdullah, 2025; Shoaib, Rasool, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2025a). The study on the subject commissioned that women disturbing the whole system of marriage, divorce, and the problems faced during motherhood (Shoaib, Rasool, & Zaman, 2025a, 2025b). Besides, the analysis of the data indicated that psychological and genetic foundation generalized social trust (Shoaib, Batool, Kausar, & Abdullah, 2025; Shoaib, Rasool, & Iqbal, 2025c). It is worth to mention here that study findings highlighted that youth the psychological risk to involve in criminal gangs and create social disorganization (Shoaib, Ahmed, & Iqbal, 2025; Shoaib, Ahmed, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2025). Additionally, the study outplayed that stated that the power of linguistic currencies (Shoaib, Ahmed, & Usmani, 2025b; Shoaib, Rasool, Zaman, & Ahmed, 2025). In the same token, argument of the study pointed out that in democracy the conflict feeling towards the female politicians that create gender inequality (Ahmed, Shoaib, & Zaman, 2025; Shoaib, Ahmed, & Usmani, 2025a). Furthermore, the analysis of the study pointed out that in global the linguistic had variety among the learner (Shoaib, Ahmed, Zaman, & Abdullah, 2025; Shoaib, Waris, & Iqbal, 2025a). Moreover, the study conclusion clinched that a decolonial feminist research on relation of gender and development for sport (Shoaib, Kausar, Ali, & Abdullah, 2025; Shoaib, Rasool, Kalsoom, & Ali, 2025). Likewise, the results of the study revealed that the effect on receiver during cognitive processing, emotion, and affiliation (Ali, Shoaib, & Kausar, 2025; Shoaib, Ali, Iqbal, & Abdullah, 2025a). Similarly, the findings of the study articulated that a critical research on correlation of psychological distress and dominance in retire elite (Shoaib, Ali, & Kausar, 2025; Shoaib, Waris, & Iqbal, 2025c).

The study findings asserted that in-depth study on victim of teenage girl mediate her identity in gendered world (Maheshwari, 2019). The study on the subject commissioned that student change their language learning attitude through teaching linguistic and become smart with two languages (Lanvers, Hultgren, & Gayton, 2019). Besides, the analysis of the data indicated that maintaining the cross demographic fandom in gendered social hierarchy that taste the discrimination (Hunting & Hains, 2019). It is worth to mention here that study findings highlighted that the quantitative study on gender and caste academic performance of Indian engineering institute (Gupta, 2019). Additionally, the study outplayed that stated that the prehistory of Europe on narratives and bodies motion of gendered mobility (Frieman, Teather, & Morgan, 2019). In the same token, argument of the study pointed out that the perspective of psychological difference and sexual stigma (White & Garcia, 2018). Furthermore, the analysis of the study pointed out that the role of mediation on behavioral outcomes of different types of



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psychological victim (Stoliker, 2018). Moreover, the study conclusion clinched that the impact of marriage on women's relationship with their families (Riggle, Drabble, Veldhuis, Wootton, & Hughes, 2018). Likewise, the results of the study revealed that the difference psychological anxiety and sexual orientation in gender and race (Platt & Scheitle, 2018). Similarly, the findings of the study articulated that in modern media sites China presenting the gendered and racism bodies (Pang & Hill, 2018).

The study findings asserted that a perspective on addressing the psychological health and school bullying among young adolescence (Shoaib, Waris, & Iqbal, 2025b; Shoaib, Waris, & Iqbal, 2025b). The study on the subject commissioned that the social identity, social psychological cooperation, and small group understanding with police (Shoaib & Bashir, 2025; Shoaib, Waris, & Iqbal, 2025a). It is worth to mention here that study findings highlighted that thinking on measuring of psychological agency on urban fringe (Shoaib & Kausar, 2025; Shoaib, Shamsher, & Iqbal, 2025). Additionally, the study outplayed that speaking children basic on linguistic skills to handwriting also had slang words (Shoaib, 2025a, 2025b; Shoaib, Tariq, & Iqbal, 2025b). In the same token, argument of the study pointed out that a qualitative research on addressing the psychological and anxiety moods symptoms among the people (Shoaib, Iqbal, & Iftikhar, 2025; Shoaib, Tariq, Rasool, & Iqbal, 2025). Furthermore, the analysis of the study pointed out that connecting teachers with each other to protect from negatively and impact on psychological safety (Shoaib, Shamsher, & Iqbal, 2025; Shoaib, Tariq, & Iqbal, 2025a; Shoaib & Zaman, 2025). Moreover, the study conclusion clinched that the impact of depression and personal efforts from personal recovery to depression had been linked with language style (Ali, Shoaib, & Abdullah, 2022; Shoaib, 2024e; Shoaib & Ullah, 2021). Likewise, the results of the study revealed that appropriating linguistic lyrics airwaves poetry (Ali, Zaman, & Shoaib, 2024; Shoaib, Zaman, & Abbas, 2024).

The study findings asserted that the relationship of lunch break, psychological separation and daily energy in companionship (von Dreden & Binnewies, 2017). The study on the subject commissioned that in Japanese the psychological and social behavior in adolescents about online and offline predictors (Udris, 2017). Besides, the analysis of the data indicated that in Switzerland the innovation prevention of disease in young women about gendered childcare norms (Shabangu & Brear, 2017). It is worth to mention here that study findings that the variety of linguistically diverse in ten grade of principle in multi-linguistic pedagogy classroom (Liu, Fisher, Forbes, & Evans, 2017). Additionally, the study outplayed that stated that measuring the psychological safety can say the n word during race talk (Williams, Woodson, & Wallace, 2016). In the same token, argument of the study pointed out that during the paid work need the social and psychological leisure (Walker, 2016). Furthermore, the analysis of the study pointed out that in ethnic small group student linguistic and cultural effects on methodological consideration (Theodosiou-Zipiti & Lamprianou, 2016). Moreover, the study conclusion clinched that patient with spinal cord injury Stanmore nursing understanding the psychological emotions of patient (Smyth, Spada, Coultry-Keane, & Ikkos, 2016). Likewise, the results of the study revealed that the difference in gender and small sexual group make psychological anxiety (Smalley, Warren, & Barefoot, 2016). Similarly, the findings of the study articulated that linguistic visual representation of immigrant and print media of France (Permyakova & Antineskul, 2016).

The study findings asserted that insight the social research on gender norms and economy (Shoaib, 2023c). The study on the subject commissioned that among the pacific adult the families study faces the psychological stress (Shoaib, 2024d). Besides, the analysis of the data indicated that a psychological perspective on teacher disturbing



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behavior in school (Shoaib, 2024b). It is worth to mention here that study findings highlighted that the case of English influence that resulted in linguistic change and language contact (Shoaib, 2024c). Additionally, the study outplayed that stated that in older adults the psychological symptoms about death are the depression, perceived burdensomeness and loneliness (Shoaib, 2024a). In the same token, argument of the study pointed out that in industry the impact of management and recovery performance effect the psychological safety of learner behaviors (Shoaib, 2023a). Furthermore, the analysis of the study pointed out that Parkinson's disease controls the disorder of psychological roles (Shoaib, 2021). Moreover, the study conclusion clinched that the outcome of youth engagement in psychological empowerment and social change (Shoaib, 2023c). Similarly, the findings of the study articulated that in gendered identities women still stuck on anti-aging and body image (Rafique & Shoaib, 2015).

The study findings asserted that addressing the female ethnicity functioning and life functioning (C'de Baca et al., 2016). The study on the subject commissioned that the impact of prole success on gendered addressing that serious about change (Blackburn, Pfeffer, & Harris, 2016). Besides, the analysis of the data indicated that a research on self-weighting and its psychological impact (Benn, Webb, Chang, & Harkin, 2016). It is worth to mention here that study findings highlighted that the psychological safety climate on creativity and the process of linking to transformation (Zhou & Pan, 2015). Additionally, the study outplayed that stated that during the psychological therapy presenting the change in attachment (Taylor, Rietzschel, Danquah, & Berry, 2015). In the same token, argument of the study pointed out that the impact of choice threat, message frame in antecedent of psychological change (Shen, 2015). Furthermore, the analysis of the study pointed out that a linguistic study on Chinese students about writing the needs of Cantonese (Li & Chuk, 2015). Moreover, the study conclusion clinched that a gendered identity work on longitudinal exploring entrepreneurship and leadership (Lewis, 2015). Likewise, the results of the study revealed that understanding the status perception about psychological and social foundation of social hierarchy (Koski, Xie, & Olson, 2015). Similarly, the findings of the study articulated that to understand the successful communication addressing the neuroimaging linguistic functioning (Brook O'Donnell & Falk, 2015).

The study findings asserted that the nomination chances unintended effect the female candidates through policies action (Shoaib, 2024a). The study on the subject commissioned that the significance in adults effects their psychological well-being. Besides, the analysis of the data indicated that addressing and exploring the multi-linguistic context and linked to women (Rafique & Shoaib, 2015). It is worth to mention here that study findings highlighted that between the welfare recipients there is psychological health issues and substance racial dependency (Shoaib, 2023b). Additionally, the study outplayed that stated that the identity of female born about the gender variance. In the same token, argument of the study pointed out that in first and second language learners' basic skill of cognition and linguistic predictor. Furthermore, the analysis of the study pointed out that in medico managerial welfare care work doing the gendered embodied work. Moreover, the study conclusion clinched that in consultation center the effective gendered constructive communication with patients (Rafique & Shoaib, 2015). Likewise, the results of the study revealed that under the leadership of gendered on education, the socio-linguistic tools had been tried to improve for future. Similarly, the findings of the study articulated that in sexual harassment case the psychological injury and expectation mock jurors effect the legal decisions (Shoaib, 2024a).



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The study findings asserted that the role of coping in Canadian force officer and their psychological well-being (Skomorovsky, 2013). The study on the subject commissioned that in school the daily conversation of young children influences the use of gender slang (Salma, 2013). Besides, the analysis of the data indicated that measuring the genetic reference towards the socio pragmatic cue (Meyer & Baldwin, 2013). It is worth to mention here that study findings highlighted that in Great Britain understanding the frequency and psychological wellbeing in interfaith (McAloney, 2013). Additionally, the study outplayed that stated that in students developing the attitude of psychological literacy (Morris, Cranney, Jeong, & Mellish, 2013). In the same token, argument of the study pointed out that the teacher of south African physical science does systemic linguistic research on expression (Jawahar & Dempster, 2013). Furthermore, the analysis of the study pointed out that evaluation of immigrants' women on forensic gender border (Fuentes, Duffer, & Vasquez, 2013). Moreover, the study conclusion clinched that the case of human anatomy addressing the diversity on socio economics and context of linguistic (Dempster & Stears, 2013). Likewise, the results of the study revealed that in Lebanon the lines of green linguistic (Bizri, 2013). Similarly, the findings of the study articulated that the role of mediation on listening the music and regulation of emotion regulation (Thoma, Scholz, Ehlert, & Nater, 2012).

The study findings asserted that the role of gender on human health had also been linked with language (Shoaib, 2023b). The study on the subject commissioned that the perspective of employers psychological and management in human resource practices (Shoaib, 2024a). Besides, the analysis of the data indicated that the perspective in twenty first century research on psychological (Shoaib, 2024c). It is worth to mention here that study findings highlighted that the perspective on culture and part of respect of culture (Shoaib, 2021). Additionally, the study outplayed that stated that the further evidence on crisis of female. In the same token, argument of the study pointed out that the source of support matter in later life for psychological and functional disability well-being (Shoaib, 2024d). Furthermore, the analysis of the study pointed out that in social marketing the psychological owner in advertising of message. Moreover, the study conclusion clinched that the risk factor involves in psychological abuse of young couples. Likewise, the results of the study revealed that in biodiversity conversation the factor involve in social psychology and public support (Shoaib, 2024a). Similarly, the findings of the study articulated that the psychological well-being in young children about school, family, and birth (Shoaib, 2024d).

Theoretical Review

Gendered language and Socio-linguistics:

This theory of Lakoff (2000) revealed that in his deficit theory given in 1970 that females are weaker as compare to male's. They have lower social position and they also tend to be polite and shy that shows inequality among them. These show men are more powerful as compare to women. This theory is linked with present research.

Deborah Tannen:

This theory of Tannen (2014) revealed in his difference theory given in 1990 that men and women speak in different way because they grow in different social groups. Men use report way to talk while women use rapport way to talk. So, this makes difference among them. This theory is linked with present research.



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William Lubov:

This theory of Lubov revealed that in his (Variation theory 1960-1970) how languages changes and depends on social change (MacFadyen, 2006). He said female talks in much suffocated and manner able way but male mostly use informal and non-standard communication. This all shows among them. This theory is linked with present research.

Gendered Performativity:

This theory of Reddy and Butler (2004) revealed that in his (gender trouble) she said gender is not fixed or natural but shaped by society. She said that gender is shape by what we perform, behavior and learn from society. Society plays a vital role to shape behavior that traditional fit with gender roles. This theory is linked with present research.

Symbolic Interactionism:

This theory of Mead (1925) revealed that in social self-theory that our self is not with something we born but something we learn from the society. He believed that interaction with other help us to understand ourselves. This theory is linked with present research.

Erving Goffman:

This theory of Goffman revealed that in his (Dramaturgical theory) we present our self every day (Smith, 2016). He said that social interaction is like a stage in which we act like a performer and manage ourselves. Individual represent ourselves according to the situation. This theory is linked with present research.

Social Identity Theory:

This theory of Tajfel and Turner (2004) explained that people themselves not only see as individual but also consider them as a member of society or community. He also said that naturally we divide in two different group (our group) and (other group). In this usually we feel closer with our group as compare to other group. This theory is linked with present research.

Conclusion

This study concludes that gendered slang is not merely informal communication but a socio-linguistic mechanism that significantly shapes the psychological and social experiences of female students in higher education. The synthesis of existing literature indicates that exposure to gendered slang is associated with adverse psychological outcomes, including stress, discomfort, reduced self-esteem, and distorted self-perception. On a social level, it contributes to interactional withdrawal, decreased classroom participation, and a diminished sense of belonging within academic environments. The findings further reveal that such linguistic practices are often normalized in peer interactions, which makes their discriminatory effects subtle yet persistently influential over time. Importantly, the study identifies a gap between theoretical understandings of language as a form of power and the limited empirical evidence on its lived consequences in educational settings. By integrating and analyzing existing research, the study emphasizes the need to critically examine everyday language practices in universities. It underscores that gendered slang operates as a form of discursive power that reproduces symbolic inequalities and adversely affects both the psychological well-being and social integration of female students in higher education contexts.



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