

**The marking of natural gender (sexus)  
in Finnish translations of Grimms' fairy tales II.**

Finno-Ugric languages are languages without grammatical gender, references to gender in Finnish can be expressed in the first or second element of compound words or with suffixes. Due to the societal changes of the 20<sup>th</sup> century – primarily to the transformation of traditional gender roles – the grammatical marking of natural gender has also changed significantly. In this study I examine the changes in words referring to gender in Finnish translations of Grimms' fairy tales from 1946 to 1999 in comparison with the German originals. Based on the words examined, three categories can be set up. The first group comprises words that are becoming gender-neutral. An example is the decrease in the number of compound words explicitly referring to men in their second elements (e.g., *sotamies* > *sotilas*). This kind of change is also in line with current language trends. In the case of the members of the second group, the change is the exact opposite, i.e., some gender-neutral words are becoming gender-specific, which may be due to the various translation techniques. The third group contains words whose gender reference has not changed, but the usage of the word has changed in a way that is relevant for this study.

*Keywords: grammatical gender, changes in words referring to gender, Finnish translations of Grimm-tales*

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