

“Hey Guys¹, Once Upon a Time was Sexist Language ...”

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This article adopts a contrastive approach and focuses on sexist practices in language – in French and in English – affecting women. It investigates the extent to which these practices are embedded in both languages, along with the recommendations the communities speaking those languages make to encourage the use of a more inclusive language. It also centers on the use of non-sexist language by James Finn Garner in his politically correct bedtime stories and their translations, as a practical case study revealing the challenge that reformulating sexist language into non-sexist language poses, not only on an intralingual level, but also on an interlingual level.

¹ The term, which originally referred to a man, has extended its meaning to include both sexes in informal contexts, is a very good example of what feminists consider to be sexist language. See the analysis of the evolution of the term by Thomas F. Magner in his article entitled “Sexist and Non-sexist Usages in the English Language” (278).