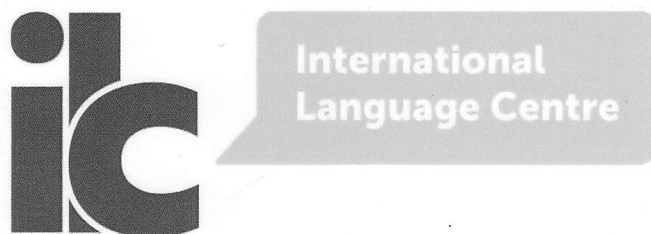**2016 TESOL-Ukraine National Convention**

GLOBAL CHANGES IN UKRAINE – GLOBAL CHANGES IN *ENGLISH TEACHING* IN UKRAINE

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COMPARATIVE STUDY OF TAGS IN FEMALE LINGUISTIC BEHAVIOUR (ENGLISH, RUSSIAN, UKRAINIAN)

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Currently, language and gender is a significant area of research and theory development within the larger study of language and society. R. Lakoff in the field's foundational text, *Language and Woman's Place,* enumerates features of woman's speech which represent women's uncertainty and powerlessness in a male-dominated society, including tag questions into the list (Lakoff, 1975). As later studies came up with conflicting results (B. L. Dubois, Crouch I., 1975 vs P. Fishman, 1980), the issue still remains controversial. As P. Eckert stresses, early tag studies had numbers of methodological flaws, for instance, ignoring different functions and social context of tags (3, p. 186). The first detailed analysis of the forms and functions of the tag question was provided by J. Holmes, who distinguishes *modal / epistemic* and *facilitative* types of a tag question, and stated the latter to be used significantly more often by women (Holmes, 1986), as women are more likely to take on the role of facilitator in conversation in perfect accord with the theory of difference by D. Tannen.

In the corpus under the research it was found that the structure of tag questions in contrasted languages is identical: they consist of the main clause and a tag, which can be used *without a lexical verb* (common for the English language) or *fixed* which consist of such elements as *right, OK, yeah, don't you think; а, да, что ли, правда; чи не так, чи ні, га?* (typical for Russian, Ukrainian, informal English). Structurally, an allomorphic feature is that a tag can be separated into a simple one-member sentence in Russian or Ukrainian (*Я знала, что вам понравится. Ведь правда?; Але хіба не можна без вивертів, Діду? Га?*). Quantitative study demonstrated that British and American women use three times as many tag questions as Ukrainian or Russian ones, so tags might be a characteristic feature for women of English linguaculture.

On the basis of the previous tag studies and our corpus the following functional distribution of tags in female speech can be developed: <u>uncertainty, insecurity, a need for support or approval</u> (*We'll be all right, won't we, Mom?; Борь, я на обед котлеток нажарю, да? Свет не будем гасить, да?*); <u>epistemic</u> (checking or clarifying information,

suppositions) (*The police will have to come through you to contact her, won't they?; Now, a brussels sprout is a vegetable, isn't it?; У тебе ж є ще один ключ, правда?*); softening (used to mitigate force of criticism, directives, requests, suggestions, avoid disapproval) (*I wasn't bad, was I, Vianne?; … и веду себя, как последнее хамье. Это ужасно, да?; Я прямо спрошу, ладно?; Так, Дімка, я навела троха порядок у своїй майстерні. Почала, правда, з голови… Але ж там усе найголовніше, правда?*); facilitative (used to involve the listener into conversation) (*That Frank Bennett sure does talk a lot, doesn't he? A real friendly fella, huh?; Олег знає про це, правда?*); rapport building (maintenance and increasing solidarity) *You really loved him, didn't you?, We're not the sort who fall out of love, are we?*); reproach (*That mother of yours never taught you to talk with a potato in your mouth, did she?; Ой-ой, ти вже від чоловіка навчилася читати проповіді, чи як?; Слушай, больного человека совсем не жалко, да?*); menace (*You do remember our governess, don't you?; Ти ж пам'ятаєш про «КейДжіБі», м-м?*), irony, mockery (*You don't expect me to climb all the way up there, do you?; Якщо я відмовлюся, ти змусиш мене прати постільну білизну вручну, так?; Эт чего тебя обрили — тиф у тебя, что ли?*).

Differences are observed in functional distribution of tag questions in contrasted languages. Characteristic functional types of tags for women belonging to English speech communities are facilitative, softening and rapport building whereas Russian women mainly use tags to express uncertainty, hesitation or a need for support or approval. Rapport building functional type of tags is also the most frequent for Ukrainian women. The main difficulty in identifying functions is that it is not always possible to allocate tag questions to one category, as one question can convey a range of different meanings depending on the situation, cultural context, status and relationships of interlocutors. Pragmatic functions of tags used by men in different social situations remains a question to be answered by further empirical study.

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METHODOLOGICAL PREREQUISITES
OF EFL READING PROFICIENCY DEVELOPMENT

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Currently, the higher education system is being involved in the process of modernization, optimization and intensification. The introduction of the innovative technologies, the active methods and techniques is widely observed in the professionally oriented educational process.

Зміст