

## The speaking subject in communication: subjectivity and the (gendered) self

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The aim of the present paper is to reveal the relationship between two notions closely associated with the ‘speaking subject’, i.e. subjectivity and (emotional) involvement. Running through the major approaches to the two notions, I try to detect the reasons for their being disconnected. Thus, as far as ‘subjectivity’ is concerned, all definitions – with the exception of one or two, e.g. Benveniste’s (1971) or Lyons’ (1982)– limit the content of the concept either highlighting one of its aspects (e.g. Maynard, 1993) or resulting in the identification of subjectivity with logical involvement (e.g. Langacker, 1990). On the other hand, the literature review about involvement yielded several heterogeneous definitions that locate involvement in emotive communication, further obscuring its relationship with subjectivity.

I argue that involvement should be subsumed under the ‘umbrella’ of subjectivity, which –as the expression of self in discourse– concerns every manifestation of the speaker’s presence in language and covers the logical as well as the emotional dimension of the subject. Thus, subjectivity should be reconsidered as the expression of the thinking/perceiving, feeling and interactional self. Moreover, I claim that these dimensions (logical and emotional) are so closely related to each other that it is almost impossible to distinguish them. I try to check this blending of the above dimensions by examining the use and function of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> person subject pronouns, which have been described as the most typical indexes of subjectivity (deixis) in every language.

Furthermore, I explore the interplay of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> personal pronouns and gender, and more specifically how the deployment of the redundant –for the Greek language– personal pronoun may differ, depending on the gender of the speaker, and what this means for the projection of the gendered self and the notion of subjectivity.

### References

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