

Edit: a lot of people have recently been like “why did you have to write a 22-page essay on this when it’s obvious” and here is this answer: because the goddamn wiki would not change Alluka’s pronouns to the correct she/her. That’s the reason for it - it’s not “extra”, it was exactly what was necessary to kick their asses into gear. It honestly was never meant to be posted to tumblr because the vast majority of tumblr users in the HxH fandom know this shit already. I did this for the people with their heads firmly lodged in their asses, to counter every single argument I have seen. Thanks for your time. Sorry you didn’t have that context from the link someone else posted on tumblr!

In this document, I am compiling a list of gendered terms used in 冨樫 義博 (Yoshihiro Togashi)’s SHONEN JUMP serialized manga ハンター×ハンター (HunterxHunter) to refer to the character Alluka Zoldyck. I will also be offering my critical analysis of the text. This is for the purpose of review by the members and administrators of the [HunterxHunter wiki](#) in the hopes of resolving the issue of pronouns on Alluka’s page.

All examples are in order of chapter/episode release. Both the 2011 anime and the manga will be considered, exclusively in their Japanese format.

Extraneous materials (games, novelizations, SHONEN JUMP character bios, and data books*) will not be considered. Excluding one instance (chapter 322), all critical analysis will be located at the end of the document, after the documentation of terminology.

I will be disregarding gendered terminology in the English translations of the series created by Crunchyroll and Viz, as the variance in sentence structure between English and Japanese as well as the difference in gendering of pronouns mean that in many cases, a gendered term must be inserted by translators at their own discretion where it did not initially exist. If further elaboration on this is necessary, I am willing to provide it. However, it can be essentially summed up very simply: Japanese sentence structure favors implied subjects. When translating to English, it is necessary to insert third-person pronouns (he/she/them) depending on the character(s) being referred to, or else the resulting sentence does not make sense.

If you want to offer a piece of evidence that hinges on the use of either “he” or “she”, it is overwhelmingly likely that this “evidence” is a case of inserted pronouns.

A note in advance: All unsourced translations you see in this document have been translated by myself. If at any point you doubt the accuracy of a translation, please feel free to cross-reference any or all of the following:

1. Viz Media's official English version of the HunterxHunter manga (note: page numbers cited *may vary*. My citations are based off of the layout of the Japanese 単行本 (tankobon - volume) of the series.)
2. Crunchyroll's official English subtitled version of the 2011 HunterxHunter anime
3. Google Translate and other internet resources such as Wikipedia. (I am fully aware that the accuracy of Google Translate's software may vary. However, everything in this document is easily verifiable using it, as they are common terms.)

I advise against cross-referencing with illegally created scanlations of the series, as there are instances where inaccurate translations have imparted a context that did not exist in the original version of the series (See: Chapter 324).

IMPORTANT NOTES RE: JAPANESE TEXT:

I will be using Japanese text throughout the document. For the first instance of a word, I will write the kanji used and [furigana](#) (if necessary). In parenthesis, I will transliterate the word into Roman lettering, and then define. All other instances of the word will use the kanji with the translation in parenthesis. For sentences seen in screenshots, below the image I will transcribe the kanji and furigana (if furigana is necessary) and translate - for the sake of brevity, I will not transliterate sentences.

Furigana is not supported in Google Docs. As a result, all furigana used in quotations from the manga will be located after the word or phrase using **superscript formatting**. Superscript looks like ^{this} if you are unfamiliar.

***Character bios and Guidebooks - Dubious Authors**

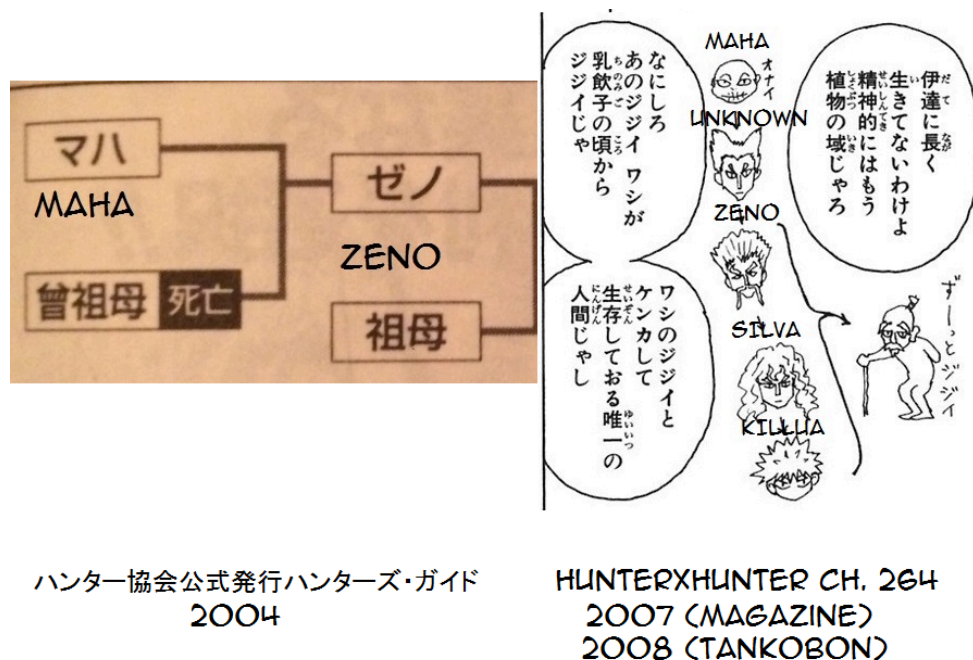
Whether or not Yoshihiro Togashi himself wrote the Shueisha-published 2004 guidebook Hunter × Hunter ハンター協会公式発行ハンターズ・ガイド ("Hunter Official Issue Hunter's Guide") has been brought into question. [There is a precedent for Shueisha editors to ghostwrite guidebooks.](#) Dragonball author Akira Toriyama has [explicitly stated](#) that the Daizenshuu guidebook collections that have his name on the covers were in fact written by Shueisha staff. HunterxHunter is [not the only series](#) where a Shueisha guidebook has had information later stated as false. Though the series' author may be listed as the author, **they may have very little to do with the books**. It is [allegedly common practice](#) for the only involvement of a series creator to be a cursory glance-over of the content in a guidebook.

The contents of the 2004 guidebook have repeatedly been contradicted by the manga itself. Of note is that for the majority of 2004, HunterxHunter was on hiatus due to Togashi-sensei's poor health. Additionally, the back cover of the book contains the names of several editors employed by Shueisha - the same is true of the Daizenshuu

guidebooks, which are known to have not been written by Akira Toriyama. While all of this is not definitive proof that Togashi-sensei is not the actual author of the guidebook, **it is sufficient evidence to call into question the authorship of said book, and with it the veracity of information introduced in it.** As stated, information in this databook specifically has been known to be wrong.

This is also the case regarding the character bios seen in SHONEN JUMP and some of the physical volumes of the HunterxHunter manga. The character bios are often rife with false information.

Example of contradictory information in HunterxHunter's guidebook and manga:



(Thanks to Liz for the guidebook picture!)

The 2004 guidebook has had materials later [retconned](#) by the manga, including information regarding the Zoldyck family and their relationships with one another. As shown, the 2004 guidebook states Maha Zoldyck to be Zeno Zoldyck's father. This information is later contradicted in chapter 264, which explicitly states Maha to be Zeno's grandfather.

“So why is his name on the cover if he didn't write it?” This typically is a legal statement. Yoshihiro Togashi owns the copyright to HunterxHunter, and is thus the author of the source material of the series the guidebook is based from.

Example of character bio's incorrect information:

The character biography for Alluka in Volume 32 of HunterxHunter falsely states Alluka to be the “youngest child” of the Zoldyck family.

In the case of extraneous materials being contradicted later by the manga, any contradictions originating in the extraneous materials should be discarded as out of date. This is the standard set by the HunterxHunter wikia, as seen with the information regarding Maha, and so this standard should be either followed in every applicable case or set for revision. At this point in time, the precedent and standard is clear: **The manga release should be considered the correct statement in instances of contradictory information.**

As such, the guidebook statement that Alluka is Killua's younger brother, as it is contradicted by an objective statement (explained later in the document, see: Chapter 322), should be discarded. If the guidebook's information is to be taken into consideration, other extraneous materials **should also be taken into consideration**. The mobile game HUNTER×HUNTER バトルコレクション HunterxHunter Battle Collection (began in 2012, still running) states Alluka to be a girl.



Alluka as part of the Valentine's Day grouping in HunterxHunter Battle Collection. Unlike in Western countries, Valentine's Day in Japan is a holiday where [only girls give chocolates](#). Men have their own counterpart in White Day.



Killua as part of the White Day grouping in HunterxHunter Battle Collection.

If these two materials are to be compared, later material should logically take precedence.

If both the guidebook and game are to be considered canonical, the logical conclusion is that the guidebook's information regarding Alluka has, like information regarding Maha, been retconned. This is reinforced by the manga, which again, **according to the wikia itself and its standards**, takes precedence over all other information.

I will be citing the pages where each term is used. I will not be citing timestamps on the anime, though I will note which episodes correspond to which chapters.

If anything of significance is added into the anime that is not present in the manga, I will note where it occurred in the episode. I will not be citing instances of Alluka being referred to by name, only gendered terminology. Gender-neutral third-person pronouns such as 此奴^{こいつ} (koitsu - this person - denotes a person near the speaker) and 彼奴^{あいつ} (aitsu - that person - denotes a person far away from the speaker) will not be cited. There is only one gender-neutral word that I will be citing and discussing in the document. I will not be citing instances where Alluka is the implied subject of a sentence, as these are not using gendered terminology.

Chapter 39 - Episode 22

Alluka's existence is stated when the tour guide speaks about the Zoldyck family. She states that there are five Zoldyck 兄弟^{きょうだい} (kyōdai - siblings). This word is gender-neutral, and is used no matter the genders of the siblings involved. Alluka is not mentioned by name.

Chapter 320 - Episode 137 (second half)

Illumi refers to Alluka using 弟^{おとうと} (otōto - younger brother) - page 14

Addition of the anime:

In the preview for episode 138 (meaning, the end of episode 137), Alluka is referred to **by the narrator** using the generic 兄弟 (siblings), in contrast to Illumi's gendered "brother". The word 兄弟 (siblings) is plural, so the usage of it in reference to Alluka alone is notable. As this scene occurs before Nanika's introduction and directly after Illumi's statement, it may be interpreted as an early attempt to bring Alluka's gender and specifically Illumi's statement of it into question.

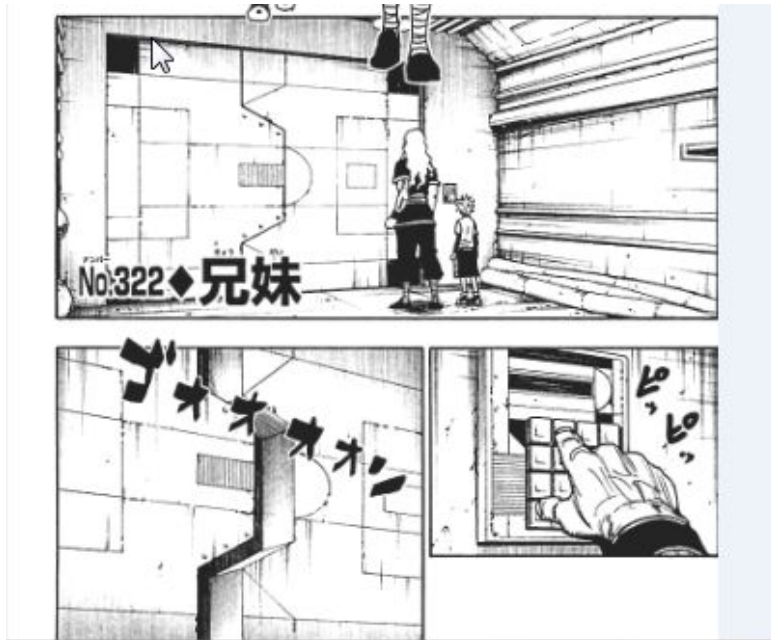
Chapter 321 - Episode 138 (first half)

Killua refers to himself and Alluka using a term (兄妹) that will be documented in the next chapter's section, as it is the title of said chapter - page 15

Chapter 322 - Episode 138 (second half)

The narrative refers to Alluka using 妹^{いもうと} (imōto - younger sister) via the chapter title.

Note: The chapter title must be considered to be written by Yoshihiro Togashi. As the title is not in quotations (「」, also known as hook or corner brackets), **it is not filtered through any of his characters.**



Chapter title: 兄妹^{きょうだい} - Siblings

The word used to title Chapter 322 is a deviation on the spelling of a gender-neutral term.

The word 兄弟 (siblings), as used above in episode 138, is the correct spelling of the word. The word consists of two kanji - 「兄^{あに}」(ani - elder brother) and 「弟」(younger brother). Despite the spelling of the word consisting of two gendered terms, the word 兄弟 is considered and used as a gender-neutral term directly equivalent to “siblings”.

This is not the spelling used in Chapter 322’s title.

The spelling used in 322 is 兄妹^{きょうだい} (kyōdai - pronounced identically to the word for “siblings”). Chapter 322’s 兄妹 consists of two kanji - 「兄」(older brother) and 「妹」 (younger sister). This is not an approved spelling of the word.

The chapter being Alluka’s introduction to the series indicates that the chapter title’s 妹 (younger sister) is Alluka. No other characters have been introduced yet who could fit this description - though Nanika does appear in the chapter, Nanika is not named until a later chapter and chapter 322 itself gives no indication that the two are separate beings. In the flashback portions in chapter 322, Killua refers to the “black-eyed Alluka” (who we later know to be Nanika) as Alluka.

The chapter is Alluka's proper introduction to the series, and while the 兄 (older brother) of the title could technically refer to Illumi or Milluki, context states that it refers to Killua. As such, the only characters that could be the 妹 (younger sister) of the title are Alluka or Kalluto, as they are the only characters in the series that are Killua's younger siblings.

Kalluto's "ambiguous" gender aside, Kalluto does not appear in chapter 322. The chapter title cannot be referring to Kalluto.

"In retrospect, couldn't this be referring to Nanika and not Alluka?"

No. (Also see "Nanika and Gender" below for more.)

If Killua was considering Nanika to be a girl and Alluka to be a boy, he would not be using the sole 妹 (younger sister) and would instead be using 兄弟 (siblings). 妹 (younger sister) can be either singular or plural, though if it were to be used plurally it would likely be suffixed by 達^{たち} (tachi - pluralizing suffix indicating a group). As Killua repeatedly prioritizes Alluka over Nanika, if he believed Alluka to be a boy he would not use a term that would exclude her.

And again, as this is prior to Nanika's introduction to the series, the argument that Nanika is being referred to in the title has no weight.

The implication for most of the arc is that Killua does not consider Nanika to be his 妹 (younger sister). Just as Alluka and Nanika refer to Killua with different terminology, Killua has been seen using different terminology depending on who he is speaking to.

When Killua is speaking to Nanika, he uses his standard first-person pronoun, オレ. When he is speaking directly to Alluka, he regularly substitutes オレ with お兄ちゃん^{おにいちゃん} (onii-chan - big brother). Examples of this can be found in chapters 326, multiple instances in 327, 332, and 336. **Every one-on-one conversation he has with Alluka involves him making this substitution at least once.**

Until much later in the arc (chapter 336), **Killua never refers to himself using お兄ちゃん (big brother) to Nanika.**

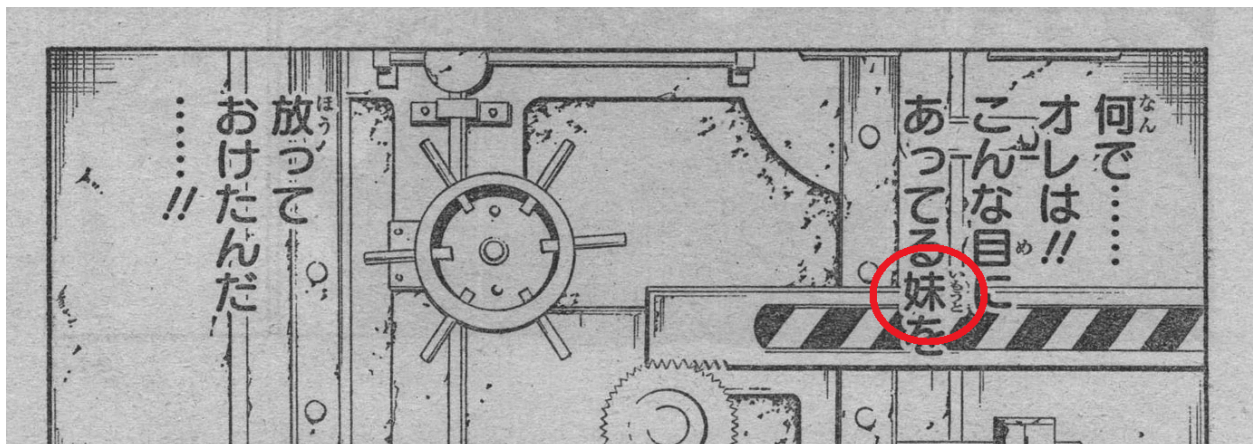
Alluka's words in chapter 336 say this as well - she accuses Killua of only acting as a kind big brother to her. Killua's apology to Nanika adds credence to Alluka's words, as it is the first time he uses お兄ちゃん (big brother) while speaking to Nanika. It indicates

his moment of realization. This is the moment where, to both Killua and the audience, he becomes Nanika's お兄ちゃん (big brother).

The distinction of Killua's dialogue and its use of the spelling 兄妹 (older brother + younger sister) in chapter 321 confirms this to be the case. In the scene in chapter 321, he is talking about Alluka by name. Again, this is before Nanika's introduction, so it must be taken to mean that **the audience was intended to consider this 妹 (younger sister) to be Alluka.**

So, to summarize: Until chapter 336, Killua is not treating Nanika as a little sister. Therefore, his thought in chapter 322 cannot refer to Nanika. **Therefore, the 妹 (younger sister) of chapter 322's title cannot be Nanika.** Kalluto, the only other Zoldyck child younger than Killua, is not present.

By process of elimination, this means that Alluka is the 妹 (younger sister) in question.



「何なんでもしは!! こんな目めにあってる妹妹を放ほうつておけたんだ!!」

“How... could I!! Leaving my little sister in this situation...!!”

At the release of the chapter, there is no other character who could fit the description of Killua's 妹 (younger sister). The argument that it is Nanika is grasping at straws, as Nanika does not yet exist to the audience.

It is clear that the 妹 (younger sister) referred to in the title of the chapter is meant to be taken, **by the audience**, to be Alluka.

There is no reason to deviate from the way the word is spelled unless a point is being made. The word 兄弟 is already gender-neutral. Deviating from it to reject 弟 (younger brother) and instead use 妹 (younger sister) must be viewed as

significant. It is a conscious rejection of the idea that an 弟 (younger brother) is present, and an affirmation that in the place of this 弟 (younger brother) is instead an 妹 (younger sister).

Again, **the chapter title 兄妹 (older brother + younger sister) is objective.** It is not a character's perspective - at no point in the chapter is the word spoken, and as stated it is not enclosed in hook brackets. It is not a quotation.

Yoshihiro Togashi selected this chapter title, and the only character that 妹 (younger sister) can be referring to is Alluka Zoldyck. [Japanese fans concur](#). It is accepted by the Japanese fandom that chapter 322's title refers to Alluka.

Note: the usage of 兄妹 (older brother + younger sister) in chapter 321 (Killua's dialogue) was not in the SHONEN JUMP edition of the chapter. The tankobon release corrected this line from the standard 兄弟 (siblings) to the irregular 兄妹 (older brother + younger sister). **It was a conscious change that aligns Killua's dialogue while referring to Alluka with the chapter title of 322. This can be seen as confirmation that Alluka is the one being mentioned in chapter 322's title.**

Returning to chapter 322's terminology:

Killua refers to Alluka using 妹 (younger sister) in his thoughts - page 3.

Mitsuba refers to Alluka using 坊ちゃん (bocchan - abbreviation of お坊ちゃん - o-bocchan, lit. "your/another person's son". This term is one commonly used by servants to refer to the sons of their employers, and is typically translated as "young master", so that is what I'll be using.) - pages 5, 6, 8, 9

Yasuha refers to Alluka using 坊ちゃん (young master) as well as 坊ちゃま (bocchama - variant on bocchan. The honorific "ちゃま" is a childish variant on the respectful 様 "sama", based on the common mispronunciations of young children when attempting to say the word, and it has connotations of cuteness.) - page 11

Kasuga refers to Alluka using 坊ちゃま (young master) - page 15

Chapter 323 - episode 139 (first 2/3rds)

Milluki refers to Alluka using 弟 (younger brother) - page 3

Chapter 324 - episode 139 (last 1/3rd), episode 140 (first half)

Killua states that Alluka is a girl. 女の子 (onna no ko - girl) - page 14

A commonly cited argument is that in the manga, Killua's use of 女の子 is in hook brackets (「」). This is taken by some to indicate a lack of sincerity and it has been referred to as “scare quotes”.

However, this argument reveals a fundamental misunderstanding of the Japanese language. Many illegal scanlations of the series failed to properly translate this line, leading to widespread confusion, and I will attempt to clear it up here.

Hook brackets are used in two contexts - to indicate that what is being said is a quotation, [or to emphasize a word or phrase](#) (the English equivalents being **bolding** or *italicizing* a word or phrase). In context, it is clear that the use of hook brackets is meant to be an example of the latter usage of the punctuation - it is Killua pointedly (literally, as he is physically pointing) emphasizing his statement. This is proven by Mariya Ise's delivery of this line in episode 140. Viz Media's official English translation correctly translated the line.



「バーカ

アルカは「女の子^{おんなのこ}」だぞ!!」

“Stuuupid, Alluka is a *girl!*”

(See “Killua’s statement” below for more information.)

Chapter 325 - episode 140 (second half)

No gendered terminology regarding Alluka is used.

Chapter 326 - episode 141 (first 2/3rds)

No gendered terminology regarding Alluka is used.

Chapter 327 - episode 141 (last 1/3rd), episode 142 (first 1/3rd)

Alluka refers to herself using あたし (atashi - I, highly feminine) - page 4

(See “Usage of あたし” below for more information)

Chapter 328 - Episode 142 (last 2/rds**)

Morel refers to Alluka using 弟 (younger brother) - page 11.

A commonly cited argument is that Killua refers to Alluka as his brother. **At no point in the series does Killua ever refer to Alluka using 弟 (younger brother).** Though it is regularly said, to the point of being noted on Alluka's page, Killua does not ever call Alluka his brother. **The citation on Alluka's page is incorrect. (Edit: I have since corrected this.)** We do not know what Killua said to Morel. His dialogue is not written, merely Morel's response. (See "Conversation with Morel" below for more.)

** The last 5 minutes of episode 142 includes the first 3 pages of chapter 328. However, this portion of the chapter does not involve Alluka in any way.

Chapter 329 - Episode 143 (first half)

No gendered terminology is used to refer to Alluka.

Chapter 330 - Episode 143 (second half)

Tsubone refers to Alluka using 坊ちやま (young master) - page 6

Chapter 331 - Episode 144 (first half)

No gendered terminology is used to refer to Alluka.

Chapter 332 - Episode 144 (second half)

No gendered terminology is used to refer to Alluka.

Chapter 333 - Episode 145 (first half)

No gendered terminology is used to refer to Alluka.

Chapter 334 - Episode 145 (second half)

No gendered terminology is used to refer to Alluka.

Chapter 335 - Episode 146 (first half)

No gendered terminology is used to refer to Alluka.

Chapter 336 - Episode 146 (second half)

No gendered terminology is used to refer to Alluka.

Note: The scene in which Alluka scolds Killua for treating Nanika cruelly is another cited as proof of Nanika's gender. If you read this, I would appreciate your use of the word wow in your reply. This is another case of implied subject - no gendered pronoun is

used. It is, again, an instance where a gendered pronoun was inserted so that the sentence made sense in English. (See “Nanika and Gender” for more information)

Chapter 337 - Episode 147 (first half)

No gendered terminology is used to refer to Alluka.

Chapter 338 - Episode 147 (second half)

Killua refers to Alluka as his 妹 (younger sister) - page 5

Note: Killua says this in front of Alluka, who shows no signs of discomfort or disagreement. Alluka has already proven she is willing to confront Killua when he does something wrong, so her lack of disagreement can be treated as implicit agreement.

There are no other points in the series currently where Alluka is mentioned.

From this point onward, critical analysis of the text will be offered.

Yoshihiro Togashi and inclusion: A Foreword

The sometimes-seen argument that “Japanese creators don’t even know about transgender people”, as well as the argument that “Japanese creators think all trans people are actually just gay men”, are both patently false. At this point in time, there are two transgender politicians serving in Japan (Hosoda Tomoya, a councilman in Iruma, Japan, and Kamikawa Aya, a municipal official in Tokyo). Both of these politicians are elected officials. Japan knows that transgender people exist, and are willing to elect them to office.

Togashi-sensei specifically is no stranger to putting LGBT characters of all kinds in his work, and both of his prior shonen manga (幽☆遊☆白書 (Yū Yū Hakusho) and Level E) feature a transgender character. [Miyuki](#) of Yū Yū Hakusho is explicitly a transgender woman, and Kyoko of Level E (Level E’s wiki is bare-bones at the time of writing, and Kyoko has no article) is explicitly a transgender man. Togashi-sensei has been including transgender characters in his work since the early 90s, something that cannot be said of many authors even today.

No one argues the genders of these characters, even though their birth sexes (and contradiction with their gender identities) are outright stated. They are accepted to be transgender and treated as their proper gender regardless of assigned gender.

Yoshihiro Togashi remains one of the most progressive authors in the manga industry, and has been including LGBT characters in his work since Yū Yū Hakusho. Anyone

arguing that he would not include a transgender character in HunterxHunter is not familiar with his prior works.

Additionally, Yū Yū Hakusho and Level E both ran in SHONEN JUMP, the same manga publisher as HunterxHunter. The target demographic's age does not factor in.

Killua's statement: "Alluka is a *girl*!"

As stated above, hook brackets have two uses. In context it is obvious that their use for emphasis is what applies to the line in chapter 324. But, for the sake of arguing, perhaps they *were* meant to be quotation (again, the other use for hook brackets is quotation).

If the use of hook brackets was meant to be quotation, *who would Killua be quoting?*

The remainder of the Zoldyck family and their butlers believe Alluka to be a boy - this is why Killua has to assert Alluka's gender to Gotoh. If Killua was quoting someone with his statement, who would it be if not Alluka?

This line of thought brings another important question to mind:

"Would Killua assert that Alluka is a girl for no reason?"

A flimsy idea (see "Usage of あたし" below for more) sometimes offered by fans is that we do not know how Alluka identifies.

But why would Killua regularly refer to (and, given that this is included in his thoughts and the spelling of his dialogue, he undoubtedly *genuinely believes it*) Alluka as a girl if Alluka did not tell him this? What possible reasoning would he have for this disconnect with the rest of his family and butlers? Arguing that it is out of spite towards his parents has no evidence.

"Isn't it because of the way Alluka dresses? Maybe he assumed."

Here is what Alluka was wearing when her isolation and confinement began:



After this point in the series, Killua is never again seen interacting with Alluka until their reunion. Alluka is not seen outside of the room after this point.

Killua is expressly forbidden from seeing Alluka once she is imprisoned.

The only way he is able to do so is by cornering Silva with the promise they made - if not for that, he would never have been able to get his father to allow him to see Alluka and his only way to do so would have been to break in.

Killua has been kept away from Alluka both physically and mentally via Illumi's needle (Killua states his suspicion of this in chapter 322 on page 3, and it is generally accepted by fandom to be Togashi-sensei's statement of the reasoning as there is no other explanation offered). It is *highly improbable* that he knows how Alluka chooses to dress now before seeing her again.

"But Killua saw Alluka in the modern day before the 「女の子」line!"
He called her his 妹 (younger sister) before seeing her.

Conversation with Morel: How would Morel know?

There's a simple explanation for this, one that many fans choose to ignore.

The Zoldyck family and its structure are public knowledge.

Chapter 39's tour guide outlines the members of the family, and Japanese fans regularly cite (multiple comments [in this thread](#) by multiple people state the exact same thing) this as an explanation for Killua's implied words - again, **Morel is the one who says 弟 (younger brother)**. Morel may have extrapolated Killua's relationship with Alluka, or he may be familiar with the Zoldyck family tree. The latter is highly probable given the Zoldycks' work relationship with Netero and the Hunter Association.

"How would Morel know Alluka's name?"

As is known by many fans, the names of the Zoldyck children follow a [shiritori](#) pattern with a consistent middle syllable (「ル」). Before Alluka was even mentioned for the first time in extraneous materials, **Japanese fans knew what her name was**. With this in mind, Alluka's place in the family is blatantly obvious. In a family "known" to have five sons, with the naming convention in mind, it would be clear that Alluka is younger than Killua. It's simply that the public knowledge that Morel would have been exposed to is incorrect.

"So why would Killua not correct Morel? Doesn't that mean he really thinks Alluka is his brother?"

In a sentence: he has no time.

Killua does not know where or when Tsubone or Illumi will catch up with him. He immediately turns the discussion towards the most important information: Illumi's nen ability. At any point he could be captured for breaking his Level 4 restriction - disclosure of family secrets - and so he prioritizes. It is absolutely vital that he explains Illumi's ability while he has the chance in the hopes that Illumi can be captured. Killua has no time to waste.

It is equally possible that Killua did refer to Alluka as male and Morel is exhibiting reflective listening. There's a simple explanation for that as well, and it is partially covered above - it's common knowledge that the Zoldycks have five sons, and he doesn't have time to explain to Morel that it's not true. He could gloss over it by saying "she's actually my sister", or he could avoid the issue entirely and streamline the conversation. Additionally, it's possible that the idea of outing Alluka without her permission is unpalatable to him.

The theory that Killua truly believes Alluka to be his brother is repeatedly rejected by canon. **Killua's on-screen thoughts and statements regarding Alluka are always consistent in referring to her as a girl**. His dialogue in chapter 321 uses the modified 兄妹 (older brother + younger sister), a clear statement from the author of Killua's beliefs. And as the author, Togashi-sensei would know what his own character believes to be the truth.

If a theory hinges on the assumption that Killua referred to Alluka using 弟 (younger brother), it bears repeating that Killua does not do this. We do not know what Killua said to Morel.

If you would like to consult with me on this instance, I've included a way to contact me at the bottom of the document.

Usage of あたし

"Can boys use あたし?"

A boy using あたし as a first-person pronoun would be directly equivalent to an English-speaking boy asking to be referred to using “she/her” pronouns. In theory, anyone can use any first-person pronoun. In practice, this particular combination simply does not happen outside of incredibly specific regional dialects (dialects that are clearly not being represented in HunterxHunter) or situations:

The only instance outside of regional dialect where boys or men would use あたし is if they fall into the most blatant おかま (okama - a somewhat-derogatory word used to refer to gay men, particularly drag queens) stereotype. おかま (drag queens) in Japan, like in America, have a reputation for flamboyant behavior and attention-grabbing manner of dress. The manga One Piece is somewhat infamous for its repeated inclusion of おかま characters.

Note: despite repeated confusion from English speakers, おかま does not encompass transgender people. The terms used in Japanese for “transgender” and “transsexual” people *are* “transgender” and “transsexual” - they are English loanwords. The use of おかま to refer to transgender women (almost exclusively a mistake made by non-Japanese people) either comes from a misunderstanding of the term or a misunderstanding of the concept of transsexuality. おかま is not a blanket term, and transgender women are not おかま.

Unlike many things in this document, there is almost a 1:1 parallel between the stereotypical behavior of American drag queens and the stereotypical behavior of Japanese おかま. Though the depiction is unfortunate and faces some criticism, it is very rare that an おかま character in fiction would be able to “pass” as a cisgender woman. However, it bears keeping in mind that おかま, **like a majority of drag queens, do not consider themselves to be women**, merely temporarily adopting and performing a female persona.

Some examples of おかま in modern manga and anime include Bon Clay (One Piece), Leeron (Tengen Toppa Gurren Lagann), Nico (Tokyo Ghoul), and Puri-Puri Prisoner (One Punch Man).

The only common ground between Alluka and the おかま subculture is that Alluka was (presumably) designated male at birth and dresses in feminine manner. There is no evidence to suggest that Alluka’s use of あたし is based in homosexuality or an indication of her as part of the おかま subculture.

As such, **her use of あたし as a female personal pronoun should be taken at face value** as her statement on her gender identification.

Even if there was doubt, her usage of あたし is a clear statement of femininity and an interest in being referred to as feminine. As such, pronouns used to refer to her in English should reflect this by use of the feminine pronouns she/her, as **this is the most accurate reflection of the source material**.

Of some significance is that the character Miyuki from Yū Yū Hakusho (who again is explicitly a transgender woman) uses あたし as her personal pronoun.

“Doesn’t Alluka use あたし because Nanika does?”

Nanika does not use あたし.

The idea that Nanika is (and self-refers as) female is based on a few moments of inaccurate translation (see “Nanika and Gender” below) and necessity of translation. The argument that Alluka’s personal pronoun is influenced by Nanika, or that Alluka speaks the way she does for Nanika’s sake, have textual evidence against them.

Alluka and Nanika have markedly different speech patterns.

- Alluka’s speech uses pronouns to refer to herself, while Nanika exclusively uses implied subjects.
- Alluka’s speech is age-appropriate, while Nanika’s speech is on the level of a toddler’s.

Nanika and Gender

In chapter 330, after healing Tsubone’s hand on page 12, Nanika says this to Killua:



「しいい | しいい | ココして---」

This line is commonly translated as “tell me I’m a good girl”, or some variant on this. It is seen by many English-speaking fans as an indication of Nanika’s gender, fueling the theory that Alluka’s manner of dress and behavior are for Nanika’s sake.

This translation inserts a gendered term where it does not exist. The term being translated as “good girl” is いいコ (good child). The word is gender neutral. Nanika makes the same request of Killua in chapter 336.

The phrase「いいコいいコして---」is a stock child’s request. What Nanika is asking for in both instances where it’s used is for Killua’s praise and physical affection (a pat on the head) for doing a good job (healing Tsubone’s hand in chapter 330, and healing Gon in chapter 336). Viz Media adapts this line as “pat me on the head”, which maintains the spirit of the request and its lack of gendered terms.

At no point in the series is Nanika referred to with gendered terminology - all moments in both official and unofficial translations where Nanika is referred to as female are inserted due to the differences between Japanese and English sentence structure.

The theory that Nanika’s gender affects Alluka’s actions has no evidence, as there is no evidence that Nanika is female or even has a gender at all. A vast majority of Japanese fans on online forums (see links under “Killua vs. the Zoldyck Family” below) believe Nanika to be *male*.

The only evidence of gendering regarding Nanika is based in synchronicity with Alluka, and it is merely extrapolated evidence routed in analysis of the story.

“If you think Alluka would correct Killua, why not correct the butlers?”/ “Why would Alluka let the butlers call her by male terms?”/ “Why isn’t she bothered by the butlers calling her a boy?”

At no point in the modern day does a butler refer to Alluka using any male-gendered terminology while she is conscious. Though Tsubone uses 坊ちやま (young master) in chapter 330 and is referring to Alluka, the person she is actually speaking to is Nanika. While requests are being made, Alluka is asleep - Killua states this in chapter 332 on page 12. The only time in modern day that someone refers to Alluka using a male-gendered term while she is “present”, in reality it is Nanika that is awake. **Alluka could not correct Tsubone if she wanted to, because Alluka was not there.** We do not know how Alluka would react to Tsubone’s use of 坊ちやま (young master). The only things that Alluka hears Tsubone (or any of the other butlers) call her over the course of the Election arc are “Alluka-chama” or “Alluka-sama”, both of which are not gendered.

“Couldn’t it be that Kikyo dresses Alluka like this?”

There is zero evidence to this idea. I don’t know where it came from other than people scrambling for any explanation besides Alluka being transgender. Kikyo is never even seen interacting with Alluka in the present day, and her past shown interaction with Alluka consists solely of being in the same room as her. There is no justification for this idea - no, Kalluto wearing a women’s kimono is not evidence, because there’s no evidence that Kikyo is the reason why Kalluto dresses as he does.

“If the Zoldycks think Alluka is a boy, then why is she allowed to dress like that?”

No one forbids Kalluto from wearing a women’s kimono. Though they are controlling in almost every other way, it seems that the Zoldyck family generally allows their children to adopt whatever form of dress they desire. However, this is likely a matter of Togashi utilizing clothing to make subtle statements on the characters’ personalities, rather than being an implication of something in-universe about how the Zoldycks treat their children.

Togashi and crossdressing characters: An argument and dismissal

“Togashi puts boys in dresses all the time, can’t this just be that again?”

Togashi-sensei does indeed put boys in dresses all the time. Here is what he doesn’t do: introduce a gender conflict between how characters refer to another.

If he intended for Alluka to be just another male character who crossdresses, why would he add this concept to the plot? What is the purpose of pitting the protagonist/narrator of the arc and the villains (unlike the morally-grey Chimera Ants, Illumi in the Election arc is unambiguously portrayed as evil) against each other in this? The introduction of this element to the plot must be considered significant.

Critical thinking regarding the nature of narratives leads to an important question: in a storyline that repeatedly and without exception treats the Zoldyck family (excluding Killua and Alluka) as wrong and Killua as right (see “Killua vs. The Zoldyck Family below), why would it be *Killua* who asserts Alluka’s femininity if the audience was not meant to side with him?

Killua vs. The Zoldyck Family: Who to Trust?

A commonly cited argument is that there are contradictions between the way Killua refers to Alluka and the way the rest of the Zoldyck family (specifically Silva, Illumi, and Milluki) refers to Alluka. This is seen as “reasonable doubt” by many, and demonstrates a fundamental lack of understanding of the source material.

Note: from this point onward, whenever I use the terms “Zoldycks”, “Zoldyck family”, or “[rest of the] family”, I am specifically referring to Silva, Kikyo, Illumi, and Milluki. I am excluding Zeno and Kalluto (who have no interactions with or speak about Alluka) as well as Killua and Alluka themselves (as they are directly opposed to Silva, Kikyo, Illumi, and Milluki).

This is for the sake of brevity and reading comprehension - in the interest of not typing “The Zoldyck family minus Killua and Alluka” 15+ times, my use of the above terms from this point onward refer exclusively to Silva, Kikyo, Illumi, and Milluki and no other members of the family. I’ve typed this twice for maximum clarity.

The underlying theme of the conflict between Killua and the Zoldyck over Alluka is this: The Zoldycks do not understand anything about both Alluka and Nanika, nor do they care about them as people. **They are repeatedly ignorant and sometimes completely wrong until Killua tells them something about the pair.**

This is constantly reinforced by the plot itself. It can be seen as far back as Alluka’s early childhood.

In the flashback portions of chapter 322, Killua is seen repeatedly explaining to his parents details regarding wishing and the rules surrounding it, and each time Silva and Kikyo are taken aback by his statements. Killua was the one who was correct about Alluka and Nanika.

In chapter 323, Illumi states that Kikyo sacrificed two people because she did not believe what Killua told her, and another pair to confirm it. Killua was the one who was correct about Alluka and Nanika.

Killua is the only one who knows that Alluka and Nanika are two separate beings - until chapter 324, all of the other Zoldycks consider Nanika to be Alluka. Killua was the one who was correct about Alluka and Nanika.

The Zoldycks think there are 4 “rules” to Nanika’s powers. They were wrong. Killua knew there was another “rule”. Killua was the one who was correct about Alluka and Nanika.

In all of these cases of contradictions between the two sides, Killua’s judgment is proven to be sound. In all of these cases of contradictions between the two sides, the

other Zoldyck family members' judgment is either lacking in crucial information or explicitly wrong.

Due to this, the decision to take the Zoldyck's information regarding Alluka and Nanika over Killua's demonstrates when the two contradict is nonsensical and breaks the precedent firmly set by both the series and the rest of the wikia.

It is clear from all of the other examples that the Zoldyck's information and understanding of Alluka and Nanika is highly flawed. In every other case in the series, if Killua and the Zoldycks offer contradicting information about Alluka and Nanika, the answer is always clear.

And by the Japanese side of the fandom, in every other case, Killua's word *is* taken to be correct over the Zoldycks'. There is a [consensus](#) amongst [Japanese fans](#) that [Killua's judgement should](#) be [considered correct](#). A [repeated](#) sentiment amongst Japanese fans is that Alluka has the "body of a boy and mind of a girl", with many citing Miyuki of Yū Yū Hakusho and Togashi-sensei's history of LGBT inclusion. The ideas of GID and the concept of being transgender are repeatedly mentioned in many of the linked threads. Many Japanese fans cite Alluka's first-person pronoun as definitive proof, confirming that the idea of her falling under the おかま subculture is rejected.

This case should be no different: Killua is the one who is correct about Alluka and Nanika. **There is not a single time where the Zoldycks are correct about Alluka and Killua is wrong - either they agree, or Killua is right.**

With all of the information in this document taken into consideration, the most logical and simple explanation for the contradictions presented by the characters in the series is this:

Alluka is a transgender girl.

Killua knows this, as he cares for, listens to, and respects his sister. The Zoldyck family either does not know or does not care, and they have no respect for Alluka as a person. Their only shown emotions towards her are based in fear and ignorance, and in Illumi's case, greed.

Killua is correct. The Zoldycks are not. Alluka is a girl, no matter what her body looked like when she was born.

At the very least, her pronouns on the wiki should be feminine (she/her) in accordance with Alluka's own personal pronoun.

As is the precedent with Maha's known-to-be-false 2004 databook information, I believe that information regarding the Zoldycks' views on Alluka's gender (as well as the 2004 databook's statement) should be placed in the **trivia section** of Alluka's page. However, I will not press this point. My priority is the correction of pronouns.

Any questions or concerns can be posted to [my wikia talk page](#). If you are offering evidence, I would appreciate if it's sourced *at least* to the pertinent chapter. I would also appreciate if you do some cursory research before sending me information, as I have been repeatedly asked questions regarding HunterxHunter that are easily answered via a quick Google search.