

**Junior Research Paper Convention: Abstract Form**  
**CCIII/Spring 2025**

Chen, Alex. Section C. "Gender Prefixation in Occupational Titles Among Taiwanese Mandarin Speakers."

**Abstract**

The paper investigates how Taiwanese Mandarin speakers prefix gender “男 (nán; *male* in English)” or “女 (nǚ; *female* in English)” to genderless job titles. Whilst the globe sees Sinophone communities as a whole, Taiwan, rooted in Chinese cultural background, has shifted toward a more gender-equal society, ranking the first among all Asian countries. Yet it remains a question how traditional gender stereotypes are covertly embedded in grammatically genderless Chinese language and whether the rise of gender equality in contemporary Taiwanese society affects how people denote genders in job titles. With a mixed-methods approach, this research aims to examine the relationship between occupational gender inequality and gender prefixation among different generations by employing online questionnaires and interviews. The findings disclose a surprisingly moderate occupational gender stereotype that reflects on the lesser use of prefixes denoting the opposite gender for jobs predominated by one gender, though there are jobs still unavoidably gendered. Public shows a strong inclination towards neutral stance in neutralizing language expressions, indicating the complexity between existing norms and growing tolerance in response to gender (in)equality. Ultimately, this research addresses a possible shift towards acceptive attitudes of a potential for linguistic gender-neutralization in occupational settings.

**Notes:**

1. My RP belongs to the category of: ☐ Literary Studies or ☒ Social Studies

2. Related websites:

Moser, D. (1997). Covert Sexism in Mandarin Chinese. *Sino-Platonic Paper*, 74.

[https://sino-platonic.org/complete/spp074\\_chinese\\_sexism.pdf](https://sino-platonic.org/complete/spp074_chinese_sexism.pdf)

Farris, C. S. (1988). Gender and Grammar in Chinese: With Implications for Language Universals. *Modern China*, 14(3), 277-308. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/189320>