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### 3. HOW TO AVOID SEXISM

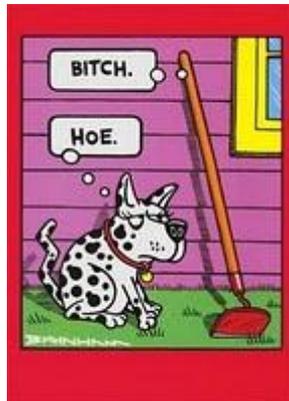
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#### LEARNER WORKSHEET 4

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##### Notes for the teacher:

- students read some of their own found examples of sexism in different languages and comment on them. (40 minutes).
- Students are given worksheet 4 about why avoid sexism in language and work individually, then in pairs. They agree or disagree with the assertions and comment on them (10 minutes).
- Students are given 1-2 sheets of paper in order to draw their personal ideas about sexism and its use in language in cartoons/ drawings. They may work in pairs or teams with one picture. Then each S/ pair/ team show before the class their work and explain the idea. Put the works on the wall with Patafix. Enjoy! (30 minutes)
- Students go through the examples of substitution of sexist language with more polite and appropriate one first individually (10 minutes), then in pairs, discussing them (10 minutes) and at last in teams (the established ones). At the end, a speaker from each group presents before the class the conclusions their team has drawn. T leads a class discussion on the topic. More examples are given from different languages. One or more Ss can summarize the experience of the class. In the end they present before the class their conclusions. All Ss are given for homework to write an essay on the topic: "My first project on Sexism in Languages – feelings, findings" – about 250-300 words (40 minutes).
- Students present their small sketches, previously prepared, showing some examples of sexism and the use of alternative words and phrases, avoiding the inappropriate language. (worksheet 5). All watch and enjoy (40 minutes).
- (*Optional, if there is time and enthusiasm*) One in 7-8 Students gathers all the proposals of examples of sexism in different languages and writes them at home on the computer. Then the 3 students in charge share their summaries to one student, who creates a Word file and turns it back to them. They then copy the summarized class sexism dictionary with the 7-8 Students from their group.



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### WHY AVOID SEXISM IN LANGUAGE?

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Sexist language creates an image of a society where women have lower social and economic status than men. Using the non-sexist language may change the way that users think about gender roles. [Working against](#) sexist language is combating men's violence against women. It's one step. It's easier to start saying "you all" instead of "you guys" than to change the wage gap tomorrow. Nonsexist English is a resource we have at the tip of our tongues. Let's start tasting this freedom now

The notion of females being the "weaker sex," if only because women are generally physically weaker than males, is likely to be with us for a very long time. The sad thing is that physical strength is not much of an asset in a world in which being smart and educated is of critical importance for success

#### **Some non- sexist changes so far:**

1979 - hurricanes renamed alternately by female/male names: they no longer 'flirt with the coast'.

1980s - increasing pressure to ensure non-sexist usage - don't assume that an author is *he*, drop derivatives like *authoress*, *usherette*, use *chair* for *chairman* etc.

1990s - 'When ancient man developed early agriculture' becomes 'When ancient people developed agriculture' but this still hides the fact that the earliest cultivators of plants were women. So what do you think?