

Gender in corpora. Semantic asymmetries in the uses of the words *kvinde* 'woman', *mand* 'man', *pige* 'girl', and *dreng* 'boy' in Danish newspapers

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We present the results of three diachronic corpus studies of primarily newspaper texts. The first study showed a small increase in reference to individual women compared with individual men as measured by the number of tokens of *hun* 'she' and *han* 'he' from 1990-1994 to 2018, but with still 2.5 times as many tokens of *han* as *hun* in 2018. The second study revealed a slight decrease in the use of *pige* 'girl' compared with *dreng* 'boy' about adults, but *pige* is nevertheless used twice as often about adults as *dreng* in 2018. The last study focused on attributive adjectives with the four nouns in all of the period and specifically in 2018. It showed that women are characterized by how much their clothes cover their body and by their sexuality and family relations, men by their physical and mental capacity, and their financial status and moral character. Girls are described as blond, nice, and well-behaved, boys as naughty and intelligent. Men are described as violent, influenced by alcohol, and criminal, women and girls as victims of violence and diseases. The clearest difference between the entire period and only 2018 is that men are also characterized by their sexuality in 2018.

KEYWORDS: corpus studies; gender; newspaper texts; diachronic semantics; gender equality