Linguistics 156
Language and Gender

Penny Eckert
Robert Xu
Language is steeped with ideology

• Language creates and maintains hierarchy
  • Language and nation-building
  • Standardization
  • Access
  • Academics and the Corporate world

• So does gender ...
  • Creates exhaustive categories
  • Assigns rights and responsibilities
  • Creates “natural” justifications
men’s height

women’s height

Why don’t we see more heterosexual couples in which the woman is taller?