



feature

"I'M NOT A FEMALE. I'M AN ARTIST"

Literary editor Bethany Lee on just how our gender affects our way of writing. And

how it shouldn't let it stop you being published.

In society, we have always appeared to be divided into two separate groups, defined by our sex – Men and Women. But, when it comes to writing, are we really that different? As we all know, we have our own strengths and talent, but is our gender constructed by society? If boys prefer playing with *Action Men*, are they perhaps inclined to be physically stronger and better suited to the Army? If women play with dolls, is it because they are pre-disposed to be nurturing and therefore suited to motherhood and being a housewife?

Despite our differences, the sexes seem to have equal stance in the work place. As a general rule, both genders can do any job. We have male and female police officers, pharmacists and architects. More to the point, we have writers of both genders contributing to modern culture and society. However, despite both sexes having success in the world of books, research has found that males have more success than women, as they always have. If times and gender roles are changing, we lovers of books and aspiring authors are left questioning why it is that women's writing isn't as appreciated as a man's.

According to social scientists, women traditionally talk and write to create an emotional response with their audience whereas men write to give information and entertain. She said "relationships are made of talk - and talk is for girls and women". It is also acceptable to assume that men write for males and women write for females, though this isn't always the case. Both of the above could be reasons why we write differently to men. If we are writing for different audiences or have different purposes and intentions to men then of course our writings will not be identical.

Some differences that I have come across include female writers using more dialogue between their characters and well as being more descriptive in their lexical (word) choices, or vocabulary, as a whole. We have all heard that women are supposedly talkative which means that more dialogue in our writing compared to males.



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