

Chapter 01: The Study of Communication, Gender, and Culture

1. Rick was born with male and female sex organs. Which of the following is the best term to describe Rick as a person with biological qualities of a male and a female?
 - a. Transsexual
 - b. Intersexed
 - c. Transgendered
 - d. Gender rebel
 - e. Dual sexed

ANSWER: b

2. Which of the following is NOT one of the levels of meaning in communication?
 - a. Content level of meaning
 - b. Relationship level of meaning
 - c. Visual level of meaning

ANSWER: c

3. Which of the following persons would be accurately described as "cisgendered?"
 - a. A person born as a biological female who embodies both masculine and feminine characteristics.
 - b. A biological male who prefers romantic and sexual relationships with biological males.
 - c. A biological female who identifies as female and feminine.
 - d. A biological female who enjoys dressing in men's clothing.
 - e. A person whose biological sex is inconsistent with their gender identity.

ANSWER: c

4. The terms "gender" and "sex" are different in that:
 - a. sex is a designation based on biology, and gender is socially constructed and expressed.
 - b. gender is a designation based on biology, and sex is socially constructed and expressed.
 - c. sex and gender can both be based on biology and socially constructed, but their use depends on the culture.
 - d. the terms are interchangeable, but one may be used over the other based on personal preference.

ANSWER: a

5. Research that examines the reasons why working mothers are often forced to return to the workplace earlier than they want and attempts to change the dynamics of the corporate world to end these practices would be best served by which research methods?
 - a. Quantitative research methods
 - b. Qualitative research methods
 - c. Mixed research methods
 - d. Critical research methods

ANSWER: d

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6. The term *patriarchy* literally means ____.
- a. oppression of females
 - b. from male standpoint
 - c. rule by the fathers
 - d. government by men

ANSWER: c

7. Which of the following is not one of the current meanings of masculinity in American culture?
- a. Emotional engagement
 - b. Strength
 - c. Ambition
 - d. Success
 - e. Rationality

ANSWER: a

8. Yan Bing and Dianna are college students discussing how they each define "cheating" in a romantic relationship. Yan Bing considers flirting during an IM conversation cheating, but Dianna thinks cheating only involves physical contact. Later, they continue the discussion with friends over dinner. This scenario best describes which of the following?
- a. Communication is a dynamic and systemic.
 - b. Communication is gendered.
 - c. Yan Bing and Dianna are exhibiting feminine styles of communication.
 - d. Content level of meaning and relationship level of meaning are not the same thing.

ANSWER: a

9. A professor says to a student, "I will not accept your paper after 5 pm today." The content level of meaning in this message is that the professor:
- a. is open to negotiation.
 - b. feels s/he has to explain the policy to the student.
 - c. can exercise power over the student.
 - d. feels s/he has greater status than the student.
 - e. won't accept the paper after 5 pm today.

ANSWER: e

10. Gender is a relational concept because masculinity and femininity make sense in relation to one another.
- a. True
 - b. False

ANSWER: True

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11. The thinness valued as desirable and beautiful in American culture has always been the standard for attractiveness in that culture.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

12. The Industrial Revolution led to the redefinition of masculinity and femininity.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

13. If you were to speak out on campus about sexual assault, you could possibly change the way your friends conceptualize gendered violence.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

14. Hermaphrodite is the preferred word for people who have male and female sex organs.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

15. Meanings are created through human interactions with symbols.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

16. There are two distinct genders, female and male.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

17. Gender identity is the same thing as one's biological sex.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

18. Most transgender people experience a change in their sexual orientation after transitioning.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

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Instructions: Identify the following:

19. Androgyny

ANSWER: Combined using the Greek terms andros, which means "man," and the Greek word gyne, which means "woman." Androgynous individuals embody qualities that Western culture considers both feminine and masculine.

20. Essentializing

ANSWER: Essentializing involves referring to all men as if they are the same, and as if that similarity reflects some fundamental essence that is maleness. In the same vein, essentializing involves referring to all women as if they are the same, and as if that similarity reflects some fundamental essence that is female-ness. Essentializing is problematic because it obscures differences between people of the same sex while also minimizing similarities between women and men.

21. Sex

ANSWER: Sex is an individual quality determined by biology (chromosomes and hormones). Sex is biological; gender is socially constructed. Sex is innate; gender is learned. Sex is unchanging, or stable (possible exception-sex change surgery.)

22. Gender

ANSWER: Gender refers to the traits, behaviors, and assumptions linked to masculinity and femininity. Individuals perform gender roles, however, those roles are created and defined by society at large. Gender varies over time and between and within cultures.

23. Sexual Orientation

ANSWER: A person's preferences for romantic and sexual partners. Heterosexual orientation means one is romantically and sexually attracted to members of the other sex, while gays and lesbians are attracted to their own sex. Bisexuals are attracted to members of both sexes.

24. Symbols

ANSWER: Symbols are what humans use to communicate. They include signs (i.e., "\$" signifies dollar) and words. Symbols are abstract, arbitrary, and ambiguous. Symbols require mediation or interpretation of thought. Humans create meaning because symbols are not innate. People differ in how they perceive and interpret communication.

25. Intersexed

ANSWER: Intersexed individuals are born with ambiguous genitals and may differ from most people in hormonal, chromosomal, and physiological ways. Intersexuals, for many years, routinely underwent "clarifying surgery," which reconstructed genitals to appear more typically masculine or feminine. Concerning intersexed people, doctors have routinely decided which sex the child was "meant to be" and advised parents to authorize "clarifying surgery" that then allowed parents to bring the child up as the sex it was "meant to be."

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26. Transgender

ANSWER: Transgender is a term that usually refers to someone who has changed their physical sex to more closely align with their sexual identity. This is done through hormones and surgery. Transgenders are often referred to as post-transitional males to females (MTF) or post-transitional females to males (FTM).

27. Describe what is meant by communication being systemic.

ANSWER: Communication occurs in particular situations or systems that influence what and how we interact and what meanings we attach to messages.

28. Describe what is meant by communication being a dynamic process.

ANSWER: Communication is dynamic, which means that it continually changes, evolves, and moves on. Because communication is a process, communicative interactions have no definite beginnings or endings.

29. Describe the differences between critical research methods and mixed research methods.

ANSWER: Answers should include the following:

Critical research methods:

Identify and critique the means by which power relations are created or challenged.

Critical research has given us insight into ways in which organizational structures and practices create work environments that women and minorities perceive as unwelcoming.

Mixed research methods:

Exactly what the name implies—a combination of two or more of the methods described earlier. For example, a scholar might document the frequency (descriptive statistic) of men's and women's smiling in social situations and then interview men and women (qualitative method) to learn why they smile.

30. Describe the differences between quantitative research methods and qualitative research methods.

ANSWER: Answers should include the following:

Quantitative research methods:

Gather and analyze data that can be quantified.

Three of the more common quantitative methods are descriptive statistics, surveys, and experiments.

Qualitative research methods:

Sometimes called interpretive methods, aim to understand meanings that cannot be justified.

Two popular qualitative methods are textual analysis and ethnography.