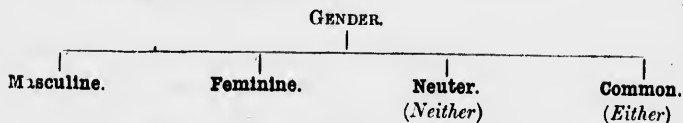


(v) We may sum up thus :—



(vi) If we *personify* things, passions, powers, or natural forces, we may make them either masculine or feminine. Thus the *Sun*, *Time*, the *Ocean*, *Anger*, *War*, a *river*, are generally made masculine. On the other hand, the *Moon*, the *Earth* ("Mother Earth"), *Virtue*, a *ship*, *Religion*, *Pity*, *Peace*, are generally spoken of as feminine.

(vii) **Sex** is a distinction between **animals**; **gender** a distinction between **nouns**. In Old English, nouns ending in *dom*, as *freedom*, were masculine; nouns in *ness*, as *godness*, feminine; and nouns in *en*, as *maiden*, *chicken*, always neuter. But we have lost all these distinctions, and, in modern English, **gender always follows sex**.

9. There are three ways of marking gender :—

- (i) By the use of Suffixes.
- (ii) By Prefixes (or by Composition).
- (iii) By using distinct words for the names of the male and female.

## I. GENDER MARKED BY SUFFIXES.

### A. Purely English or Teutonic Suffixes.

10. There are now in our language only two purely English suffixes used to mark the feminine gender, and these are used in only two words. The two endings are **en** and **ster**, and the two words are **vixen** and **spinster**.

(i) **Vixen** is the feminine of *fox*; and **spinster** of *spinner* (*spinder* or *spinther*, which, later on, became *spider*). King Alfred, in his writings, speaks of "the spear-side and the spindle-side of a house"—meaning the men and the women.

(ii) **Ster** was used as a feminine suffix very largely in Old English. Thus, *webster* was a *woman-weaver*; *baxter* (or *bagster*), a *female baker*; *hoppster*, a *woman-dancer*; *redester*, a *woman-reader*; *huckster*, a *female hawkster* (travelling merchant); and so on.

(iii) In Ancient English (Anglo-Saxon) the masculine ending was **a**, and the feminine **e**, as in *wicca*, *wicce*, *witch*. Hence we find the names of many Saxon kings ending in **a**, as *Isa*, *Offa*, *Penda*, etc.