

## DELC statement on Non-gendered and inclusive writing

European languages generally, until the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, gave a privilege to the masculine gender that is no longer tolerated in academic writing. In an essay written in English, for example, it is not now acceptable to write: “A modern reader of this poem is likely to misunderstand the reference if he does not know the historical context”, because this presumes that “a modern reader” is masculine.

However, in many languages and in many contexts, while it is clear enough what has become unacceptable, there is not yet a settled replacement for the old non-inclusive way of writing. In many places and registers, languages are in a state of tension and transition.

DELC wishes to encourage inclusive and non-gendered writing whenever it is stylistically appropriate. For example, it may not be appropriate if you are translating a text from the 16<sup>th</sup> century but it is likely to be appropriate if you are writing an open letter to a progressive newspaper. Therefore, when we are reading and marking your work in the target language, we will apply the following principles.

- 1) We will always take register and context into account, when assessing the appropriateness of your style.
- 2) We will accept all kinds of inclusive non-gendered writing for which there is a stylistic precedent in the relevant register.