Stereotypes of masculinity and femininity in contemporary Poland
Peggy Lee - I'm A Woman Lyrics:

„I can wash out 44 pairs of socks and have 'em hangin out on the line
I can starch & iron 2 dozens shirts 'fore you can count from 1 to 9
I can scoop up a great big dipper full of lard from the drippins can
Throw it in the skillet, go out & do my shopping, be back before it melts
in the pan

'Cause I'm a woman! W-O-M-A-N, I'll say it again”

Peggy Lee (American singer, „I’m A Woman”, USA 1963)

Edyta Górniak – I’m A Woman Lyrics:
„Jestem kobietą / Wodą, ogniem, burzą, perlą na dnie /Wolna
jak rzeka / Nigdy, nigdy, nigdy nie poddam się!”

„I'm A Woman / Water, fire, a storm, a pearl on the sea floor
I’m free like a river / I will never give up!”

Edyta Górniak (Polish singer, „I’m A Woman”, POLAND 1994)
„Feminine” 

„Masculine”
Stereotypes
Generalizations about groups (beliefs)

The French = „Frogs”
Gypsies are extremely lazy
Stereotype of "dumb blonde"
Gay Men = Effeminate

Asians are identical, eat rice every day and they are maths brainiacs

„He’s ARAB, so he MUST be a terrorist!”

Women are bad drivers
„She’s JEWISH, so she MUST be greedy!”

Fat People are not important people

Lesbians = hate men and act more masculine than ordinary men

African Americans = have been in jail, poor, relegated to the ghetto/projects/slums; drug-dealing
Auto-Stereotypes

Stereotypes as extremely simplified images about oneself (group)

I'm POLISH, so I MUST:

Positive (+)

= be deeply religious (Catholicism)
= be proud of Pope John Paul II and Lech Wałęsa
= be very patriotic, rebellious and courageous
= be really hardworking and skilful
= be hospitable
= be sociable and celebrate everything with alcohol
= be truly attached to my traditions

Negative (-)

= drink a lot of alcohol and steal cars
= be gauche, greedy and hooligan
= be conservative and complain a lot
= be intolerant and full of anti-Semitism, prejudiced against Jews and black people
= be well-educated, but unemployed
= wear my socks with my sandals
Gender: Those nonphysiological components of sex that are culturally regarded as appropriate to males or to females.

Gender stereotypes are stereotypes that apply to being a boy (men) or a girl (women).
Gender stereotype

- Social Roles
- Physical Appearance
- Traits
- Professions
Stereotypical *female* and *male traits* in Poland

- emotionality
- ability to make sacrifices
- gentleness and sensitivity
- caring for others’ feelings
- the ability to understand others
- warmth in relations with others
- helping
- a sense of leadership
- competence
- decisiveness reliability
- self-confidence
- not yielding to pressure
- being active
- independence
Roles typical for women and men in Poland

**Women**
- bringing up children
- taking care of the children
- doing shopping
- preparing meals
- tidiness
- ironing
- giving emotional support to others
- responsibility for arranging the household

**Men**
- being the head of the household
- providing financially for the family
- leadership and responsibility for household repairs
- working to earn money and paying the bills, being a breadwinner
- car maintenance
- do-it-yourself work
- organizing the family’s time and playing with the children
- taking out the garbage and mowing the lawn
Stereotypical woman’s and man’s appearance in Poland

**Women should be:**
- shapely
- grace
- attractive
- charm
- slim
- gentle voice
- softness of movement
- tidiness
- well-groomed

**Men should be:**
- tall
- strong
- vigorous
- clean
- handsome and broad-shouldered
- well-groomed complexion
- smells nice
- well-kept teeth, well-kept hands
- clean shoes and tastefully dressed
Stereotypical *female* and *male professions* in Poland

**Female professions:**
- primary school teacher, nursery teacher, child minder
- housewife, cook, cleaning lady
- nurse
- beautician, hairdresser
- accountant, secretary, telephone operator
- cashier, shop assistant
- psychologist, therapist, speech-therapist
- dressmaker
- hostess

**Male professions:**
- blue-collar worker
- workman, bricklayer, plumber, miner
- taxi driver, truck driver, railwayman
- farmer
- lawyer, notary public, manager, stockbroker, insurance agent
- firefighter, police-officer, town mayor, security guard
- IT specialist, civil engineer, chemist
- pilot
- footballer