

A Conversation Analysis on the Difference of Language Related to Gender

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Abstract

There were several aspects analyzed in this research related to the differences done by women and men in their language used in conversation. The aspects were: a) The amount of talk. b) TurnTaking. The data of this study was in form of video conversation and its transcription. There were three participants in this conversation, President Clinton, Founder and CEO of Theranos Elizabeth Holmes and Executive Chairman of the Alibaba Group Jack Ma. The first finding was about the amount of talk. It was found that Ken talk the most during the conversation, followed by Joanne and the Lenore. This finding broke the stereotype that men talk less than women. The second finding was about turn-taking. There were two kinds of turn-taking system discussed in this research (other-selection and self-selection). It turned out that Joanne had the smallest amount of other selection but had the highest amount of self-selection.

Keywords: : *language and gender, conversation analysis*

INTRODUCTION

There is a proverb says 'men are from Mars and women are from Venus'. There is also term 'female language' and 'male language'. Those state clearly that men and women are different. They both have major differences between each other. One difference that can easily be observed is the use of language. Both have different ways of using language. Each of them use language differently which refers to their identities.

Language as a Mirror of Society. Reflecting Gender Roles, language often mirrors traditional gender roles and stereotypes. For instance, the use of gendered pronouns and occupational titles can reinforce binary gender expectations. Reinforcing Power Dynamics: Linguistic patterns can perpetuate power imbalances between genders. Studies have shown that men tend to use more assertive language, while women are often associated with more tentative speech styles.

Language plays a crucial role in constructing gender identities. The words we use to describe ourselves and others influence our perception of gender. Language as a tool for social change to challenging stereotypes. By becoming aware of gendered language patterns, individuals and societies can work to challenge and dismantle harmful stereotypes. Promoting Inclusivity: Inclusive language that respects gender diversity can create more equitable environments.

Empowering Marginalized Groups, language can be used to empower marginalized gender identities by providing visibility and validation. In essence, language is a powerful tool that can both perpetuate and challenge gender inequality. Understanding the complex interplay between language and gender is essential for creating a more just and equitable society (исследований & 2022, n.d.).

There have been many researches on language and gender. Since 1960s, Sociolinguists have had great attention on gender with its relation to the use of language (Probs. & 2022, 2022). The early researches focus on the grammatical and the lexical of the language use of each gender. The research showed that each gender tends to use different grammatical and lexical choice. There were also researches which focus on the differences in the masculine and feminine diction used by each gender. At the beginning stage of language and gender science, it is considered to be feministic. As the timepass, the science about language and gender was established with an essay written by Robin Lakoff at the mid of 70s.

For men language features, there are 6 features that were proposed by namely; No feedback, Minimal response, Taboo-words, Commands, Interrupting and disputing more frequently, Making one's point directly, explicitly, and rationally. The research findings showed that the man character in the movie A Haunted House 2 named Malcolm, utilized 2 out of 6 features namely, Taboo Words and Commands. Furthermore, it is found that Malcolm also utilized additional feature, which is incorrect grammatical grammar. For women language features, which were proposed by Lakoff (Holmes & Meyerhoff, 2008), there are lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives,

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'empty' adjectives, precise color terms, intensifiers, 'hypercorrect' grammar, 'super-polite' forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. The research findings showed that the woman character in the movie *A Haunted House 2* utilized 4 out of 10 language features namely Lexical Hedges or Fillers, Intensifiers, Hypercorrect Grammar, and Avoidance of Strong Swear Words (Studies & 2021, n.d.).

Other study showed the relationship between gender dominance and the way language is employed by applying the differing approaches to language and gender presented by Otto Jespersen (1922), Robin Lakoff(1975), Deborah Tannen (1990), and developed by Jennifer Coats (2016) to the most important dialogues between characters in both "Taste of Fear" and "My Wife, the Director General" movies since one of them shows the weakness of woman and the dominance of man, while the other shows the strength of a woman and her resistance to male domination by relying on herself and occupying the highest positions. There are several aspects analyzed in this paper related to the differences done by women and men in their language (conversation). The aspects are: a) The amount of talk, and b) Turn Taking. Those aspects are supported by several researches which will be elaborated more in the review of related literature part of this paper(Rios-Gonzalez et al., 2021).

This research will provide answers for the differences made by males and females in their use of language. Understand on the amount of talk produced by each gender and the turn taking system of each gender. This research will relate the theory between language and gender with the real talk happened in real life. There are number of theories related to differences had by each gender. This research will have a real talk and try to relate whether those theories overlap the real talk used by the researcher as the data in this research. Those aspects are supported by several researches which will be elaborated more in the review of related literature part of this paper.

Differences between women's and men's language

1) The Amount of Talk

The researches on the amount of talk produced by women and men show difference result. (Madera et al., n.d.), shows that women speak more than men. There is also a research done which sh(Madera et al., n.d.)shows that men talk more than women in the area of work (Piersoul et al., 2022). The man observed was talking about the work. According to the writer this happened because the interlocutor had little experience related to the topic they were having.

Talk happens naturally and it flows in relation with many things. The environment, topic, closeness and many other things define how the talk flows (Rios-Gonzalez et al., 2021). Cameron and Coates (1985) state that the talk we produce is related to the interlocutor we have and the activity we are having. They also agreed that if we accomplished a large number of researches on the talk that is produced by women and men, we will find out that there will be no big difference in the talk that is produced by women and men.

2) Turn-taking System

Turn taking in conversation is how you get your turn or contribution in speech. Turn is a very important part in conversation. The turn taking organized itself. There are two system of turn taking. The first one is other-selection and the second one is self-selection. Other-selection is when a single speaker asks the other speaker to have her/his turn. Self-selection is when oneself come forward and express her/himself that her/himself have special interest in having the next turn (Plug et al., 2021).

Men interrupt (do self-selection turn taking system) out of competition while women interrupt out of cooperation. Those result from her research on a large number conversation she had. She analyze the conversation based on the linguistics function which results on those two differences between women and men.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Data

This research was taken from The Talk Show video in channel "Learn English Online" with the title Learn English with President Clinton and Billionaire Jack Ma Talk Show. The data used in this study is a conversation among three participants. They were President Clinton, Founder and CEO of Theranos Elizabeth Holmes and Executive Chairman of the Alibaba Group Jack Ma. The transcription of the conversation is available in appendix 1.

Data Collection Method

The conversation is got from talk show in Channel “Learn English Online” which had been explained above. The transcription is also taken from the site. The conversation on this research is 12’30” long. There are three participants in the conversation. They were President Clinton, Founder and CEO of Theranos Elizabeth Holmes and Executive Chairman of the Alibaba Group Jack Ma. The conversation in the talk show is then analyzed by the writer in order to find the differences of women’s and men’s speech. In this research, the researcher acted as key instrument.

Research participants

There were three participants in this conversation. They were President Clinton, Founder and CEO of Theranos Elizabeth Holmes and Executive Chairman of the Alibaba Group Jack Ma.

Table 1 List of the Participants

No	Name	Gender
1	President Clinton	Male
2	Elizabeth Holmes	Female
3	Jack Ma	Male

RESULT AND FINDING

Amount of talk

In general, amount of talk means how much a speaker speaks in a conversation. Its study concerning gender is to study which gender is more talkative. As is widely acknowledged, women are more talkative. A large amount of former studies has proven this belief. However, recent studies challenge it. Mary M. Talbot (1998), in her book *Language and Gender: An Introduction*, made the conclusion that men are more talkative under some occasions. Many other scholars further deepened the study and arrived at the same conclusion

Table 2 List of word count

No	Name	Gender	Word Count
1	President Clinton	Male	438
2	Elizabeth Holmes	Female	271
3	Jack Ma	Male	1173

The words from each participant of the conversation were counted by using tally. From the tally, as shown on the table above, Jack Ma has the largest amount of words. The amount of words spoken by

President Clinton is a little less than Ken. On the other hand, the amount of words spoken by Elizabeth Holmes is the smallest of them. She only has 271 words counted while President Clinton has 438 and Jack Ma 1173. Elizabeth Holmes does not even reach half amount of words spoken by President Clinton.

There are numbers of factors which influence the number of utterances from women and men. It can be influenced by the topic and the closeness with the interlocutor. Based on the data, there are several topics in the 12'30" long conversation.

No	Topic	Starter	Gender	Starting Point	Starting time
1	People's worried about the world economy	Jack Ma	Male	I think today people worry a lot about the world, about the economy China economy in the world and I'm a very optimistic	00'05"
2	The current problems of China economy	President Clinton	Male	The current problems like a current problem in China less likely that is if we'll have more market information.	05'45"
3	American people worry too much about the China economy	Jack Ma	Male	I think the you American people worry too much about the China economy.	06'15"
4	Health Information	Elizabeth Holmes	Female	Our work is in the belief that access to health information is a basic human right and that lab information	10'25"

				particularly because Lab data drives 70% of clinical decisions	
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The table above shows the flow of the topic in the conversation. There are four topics in the conversation. The conversation mainly talked about the current situation of the world economy, there were two topics related to the conversation. They are: The world economy and Health information. Those two topics hold on for about 10 minutes. During this time, President Clinton and Jack Ma are the main speaker while Elizabeth Holmes listened, questioned and gave backchannel. It shows that President Clinton and Jack Ma are more experienced in these topics than Elizabeth Holmes because they are mainly talked about the current situation of the world economy. On the other hand, Elizabeth Holmes didn't share her knowledge about the world economy. It could possibly be because it's not part of her expertise. The rest of the conversation, another 3 minutes, it's an Elizabeth Holmes turn, she talks about health information. Elizabeth Holmes seems to have a lot of experience in health information because she holds the floor during these topics. In this research, related to whether women or men talk more, men talk more in conversation. This breaks all the stereotypes saying that women talk more than men. In reality, actually, the number of talks produced by a person is influenced by many factors. Gender is just one out of a bunch of other factors influencing how people produce their talk.

Turn Taking

The categories of turn taking in the conversation in talk show between men and women. Claim that women break the rules of taking less than men. That men are talkative than women.

In this study the turn taking will be subdivided into two categories: Interruption and silence or pause.

Interruption

Sacks *et al.* (1974) suggest that speech exchange systems in general are organized to ensure that (1) one party speaks at a time and (2) speaker change recurs. These features are said to hold for casual conversation as well as for formal debate and even high ceremony. Thus it appears that the range of speech exchange systems found in our society (and possibly all societies) is constrained by some form of turn-taking mechanism.

According to Sacks *et al* (1974), a turn consists of not merely the temporal duration of an utterance but of the right (an obligation) to speak which is allocated to a particular speaker. The turn is spoken of as something valued and sought (or sometimes avoided) and illusion is made to the distribution of turns as a kind of economy. Interruption occurs where one speaker begins an utterance while another speaker is already speaking. This only occurred in conversation.

President Clinton : I'm then we worry about yourself

Jack Ma : Don't worry

Jack Ma interrupted President Clinton while the president Clinton speaking. President Clinton continued his speaking

President Clinton : The reason some of them to worry about China is we depend on you to buy our dept (laugh). However, I tried to be more Chinese when I was president. I saved a lot of money, so..

Jack Ma : Good... good

President Clinton : But I just wanted you to say that because I really believe that I mean, I think you're absolutely right the trend toward greater international consumption is I think will remain unbroken in spite of whatever the difficulties are in the next few months."

Silence or Pause

Silences in the conversational exchange are also possible outcomes provided by the model. The operation of the rule-set does not *command* participants to speak; even a next speaker selected by the current speaker (and thus obliged to take the turn thereby transferred) may pause before speaking. In fact, there is nothing inherent in the turn-taking model which would suggest that, over a range of turns and of different conversations, one talk show to a conversation would fall silent more frequently than other. The examples in the conversation.

Example 1

Jack Ma : "Well... mm. We... we never know that we can't grow so fast the path to five miles we covered 4500 village..."

Example 2

President Clinton : "Just one more question and then do you think this will make...? The current problems like a current problem in China..."

DISCUSSION

There are two focuses in this research paper. The first one is do women talk more or less than men. The word counted for women is less than men. It means that women talk less than men. In reality, there are many factors that influence one's amount of talk. Gender is just one of many factors. Each gender is also influenced by the culture.. This happens because they are tied to their culture. It is different with research done by (Yulita et al., n.d.) the most dominant linguistics features is lexical hedges and fillers with total number 33 data. Second, the writer found five kinds of Genderlect Style based on Tannen (2012) theory. Those are private vs. public, telling story, listening, asking question, and conflict. Finally from five kinds of differences language use between men and women based on Tannen theory, all of the kind can be clearly proven. In this movie, dialogue/codes are dominated by women than man. In addition, the codes between men and women in one scene are limited.

They have different cultures to tell them how a woman should and should not talk, and this is just one out of many others . In other words, gender does influence the difference in the amount of talk between women and men but this is just one factor out of many others. It is in line with research done by (Manaworapong et al., 2010). , The paper argues that the portrayal of gender in *Mulan 2020*, while still primarily associated with heteronormative roles in service of a patriarchal world, has undergone subtle changes that may reflect American and Chinese influences.

The second research focus is language and gender between men and women is the turn-taking system between women and men. The women break the rules that women less turn taking than men. The categories of turn taking are interruption and silence or pause. Interruption occur where one speaker begins an utterance while another speaker is already speaking. In the study, we know in the conversation man interrupt than woman. The silence or pause that the speaker a range the words to speak. It can be seen that women less turn taking than men and men more talkative than women (Alfi et al., 2023). (Alsarairah et al., 2020). Study done by (Wahyuningsih, n.d.) The result shows that male and female students have shown differences in their forms, contents, and uses. Men tend to be more directive. Besides, they use more simple words. On the other hand, women are more expressive and polite in using language.

CONCLUSION

Men and women exhibit different language use patterns. For instance, women are often stereotyped as being more talkative and using more standard forms of language compared to men. Studies have also highlighted that women tend to use more cooperative language and are more concerned with expressing feelings and maintaining relationships, whereas men are often more direct and focused on conveying information.

Sociolinguistic research emphasizes that gender differences in language are influenced by social, cultural, and psychological factors. These factors can shape how individuals communicate and interact with each other. The concept of "gender" is not just about biological differences but also about the social roles and expectations assigned to individuals based on their gender.

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