

THE STUDY OF GENDER ON LANGUAGE USE THROUGH CONVERSATION OF XI SOCIAL 1 STUDENTS AT SMAN 9 MUSI RAWAS

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DOI: 10.29300/ling.v8i2.8291

Received: October 31st 2022

Accepted: November 28th 2022

Published: December 20th 2022

Abstract

The focus of this research is a sociolinguistic examination of the impact of gender on language use. The primary goal of this research is to analyze the implications of men's and women's roles on their language usage. This research aims to highlight the variables that contribute to disparities in how gender impacts language use. This study's inquiry method is a questionnaire and audio-recoding. This study has shown differences in how men and women use language in our society and others like it. They use only some of the same forms; instead, they use different quantities or frequencies of the same form. In a society where gender plays a significant role, language is essential in contributing to that role. Gender roles, men's and women's identities, the hierarchical nature of gender relations, and men's dominance are all factors that contribute to differences in language use. Gender differentiation does not exist in a vacuum; it interacts with other types of social differentiation in a complex way. Language and gender, on the other hand, are formed through participation in everyday social activities. In conclusion, gender and language are inextricably linked.

Keywords: gender, language use, sociolinguistics

INTRODUCTION

Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics that studies how language and society interact. It is to know why people communicate in various ways and social situations. It is also used to figure out what language's social purpose is and how it's utilized to express social meaning. According to Wardaugh (1988) and Peter (2000), in sociolinguistics study, there are seven aspects to consider: (1) the social identity of the speaker, (2) the listener's social

identification, (3) the social setting, (4) synchronic and diachronic dialectical analysis of society, (5) speakers' differing points of view for various types of speeches, (6) the level and type of linguistic diversity, (7) the application of sociolinguistics research in the real world.

Varied personalities, genders, socioeconomic statuses, environments, and social classes would all have different reactions in language use. In sociolinguistic studies, the differences in men's and women's language use are particularly well-examined (Syal., et. al., 2010; Wahyuningsih, 2018; Sulistyawati, 2018; Simon, 2021). Women and men do not speak in many speech communities in the same way. There is evidence of men and women in almost all sociolinguistic research that include a sample of males and females. In most cases, women utilize less stigmatized and non-standard varieties than men in the same social position.

Gender and language usage have long been known to be linked. Women and men, on the other hand, do not utilize wholly different forms, but they do use different amounts or frequencies of form (Rahmi, 2015). Despite the fact that both sexes employ the same form, one has a stronger liking for it than the other. According to research, men are more likely to use standard forms than women, whereas women use vernacular forms more than men. Men and women speak in distinct ways for a variety of reasons, one of which is gender.

People use language to exchange facts or opinions when we share information about ourselves or our circumstances with others, or when we inquire about other people's lives and situations (Rabi'ah, 2012). This is a good example of language usage often referred to as "referential," "propositional," or "ideational." Humans utilize language to communicate their needs, ideas, and emotions to one another in a social context. Human language is a non-instinctive and totally human manner of communicating ideas, emotions, and wants through a system of intentionally manufactured symbols.

The use of language in the communication is influenced by the function of the language itself. The function of the language is Ideational, interpersonal, and textual roles of language. On the other word, the perspective on the roles of language can be used to finish the discussion. Transactional and interactional functions of language were recognized. The transactional function deals with the expression of content, whereas the interactional function deals with the expression of social relationships and personal views (Siumarlata, 2017; Hengki, 2019).

A sociolinguistic study of gender reveals that gender differences in language use are intimately linked to socio-cultural patterns that reflect socio-economic and political inequality as well as male dominance in many countries. According to Lakoff (1975), women's

language as a whole indicates women's social helplessness and is consequently dominated by stylistic elements such as insecurity and lack of assertiveness, reflecting social status or power differences. She goes on to say that the pragmatic concept of politeness, which governs adaptive social behavior, has a strong influence on feminine language. The various perspectives on language and gender elicited above have come to a consensus that language and gender are interdependent, and that any major variation in the user's purpose becomes clear.

Women are often thought to be talkative. However, research findings show that this is not the case. It has been proven that men talk more than women (Badari, et.al., 2019; Hidayati, 2022). Based on the observation on thirty-four interviewees (17 of each gender) speak into a tape recorder. It is discovered that men typically chatted significantly longer than women until the tape was ended. Moreover, women regard discussion as an opportunity to discuss difficulties and exchange experiences in the single-sex talks that have been studied and provide assistance to those who regard discussing a personal problem as an unusual part of conversation (Zimmerman, et. al., 1975)

On the other hand, in all-male talks, the transition between topics is often abrupt, whereas women often build on one other's contributions. As a result, in discussion, themes are explored gradually. Besides, in an all-male group, loud and violent arguing is a regular element of communication. Women, on the other hand, attempt to avoid displaying verbal aggression. As a result, verbal conflict is an issue in mixed discussion because most women consider shows of verbal hostility to be disruptive, whereas males consider such displays to be a necessary element of the conversational framework.

Another difference is women place a high priority on listening, according to evidence from all-female organizations. Men, on the other hand, appear to view conversation as a competition in which the goal is to be the first to talk. In mixed interactions, these two conservation techniques invariably collide. The theory of the female register was proposed by Lakoff (1975). She underlined that the female register is based on the concept of sex-exclusive markers (linguistic elements used by only one sex) rather than sex-preferential markers (features used by one sex more frequently than the other). If, for example, female-only approval adjectives such as lovely, gorgeous, heavenly are used solely by women but male-only adjectives such as fantastic, terrific, nice, and so on are used by both sexes, it is plausible to view the situation as a conflict between female and neutral discourses. This theory aids in identifying the linguistic and cultural elements that contribute to the disparities

in male and female speech among language users, as well as understanding the science of the meaning of the same speech by both male and female speakers but distinct interpretations.

As a result, we might argue that men and women's roles are structured by society. As a result, they exhibit the typical societal "power" dynamic (man dominant, female obedient). As a result, their linguistic patterns are influenced by their behavior because that is how they have been raised. Women and men interact differently for a variety of reasons, most of which are related to their social and cultural backgrounds. Men and women use language in very different ways, according to research. This fundamental reality has resulted in a fundamental flaw in the customary interpretations and meanings of language. This invariably means that one of the two persons involved in the discussion frequently misinterprets, misinterprets, and misinterprets particular comments and gestures. When this happens, communication becomes a problem.

Based on the related review above, the primary goal of this research is to look into the differences in language use between men's and women's language use through conversation on the class of XI IPS 1 SMA Negeri 9 Musi Rawas.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Method

The researchers used descriptive study in conducting this research. This research's primary focus is on the use of English language among male and female students. As a result, the data sources are class XI IPS 1 SMAN 9 Musi Rawas. The number of students in class XI IPS 1 was thirty students consisting of 17 female students and 13 male students.

Data Collection Technique

The main techniques used for data collection were participant observation, questionnaires, and audio recording. Questions were posed to the respondents at the class while the process of learning for speaking class and their responses were taped.

Methods of Data Analysis

This study's method of analysis is based on Lakoff's (1975) levels of analysis. It was used to identify a number of linguistic features that, which are used more frequently by women than men and express uncertainty and lack of confidence.

For this study, the following features was considered by using Lakoff's analysis: lexical hedges, tag-question, verbosity, adjectives, intensifiers, hyper-correct words, and so

on. Each piece of data gathered has been discussed in detail under the relevant topics listed above.

A sample analysis is provided in the table below:

Table 1. The Result of Men and Women Speaking in Different Ways.

Data	No of Respondents	Percentage
Agree	20	60
Disagree	8	24
Not sure	Nil	-
No Response	2	16
Total	30	100%

Based on the data presented above, 60 percent of respondents agreed that male and female speech patterns are different, and there are 24 percent did not agree that male and female speech pattern differ, while two respondents did not respond to this question.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

The presentation is immediately followed by a discussion-based analysis. The data collection method used forty (30) students (13 males and 17 females) in the structural interview and questionnaire.

Table 2. Personal Information

Age	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
16	18	60
17	12	40
Total	30	100

Based on the result of the table above, more than half or 60% of respondents are 16 years old and less than 50% or there are 12 people who are 17 years old. This always demonstrates that almost all students in class XI IPS 1 are of the appropriate age to be at the school level at the institution.

Table 3. The Result of the Question: Do men and women speak in different ways?

Data	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Agree	30	100
Disagreed	Nil	
Not Sure	Nil	
No Response	Nil	
Total	30	100

Based on the data presented above, 100 percent of respondents agreed that male and female speech patterns differ. This was also confirmed during the interview. This is consistent with Holmes' (1995) contention that men and women use different speech forms, but in different quantities or frequencies. Many researchers have discovered that grammatical differences between two speakers' speeches can reveal information about their human social backgrounds.

Table 4. The Result of the question: Which of the following factors is (are) the most responsible for the differences in male speech patterns?

Data	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Socialization	12	40
Male Dominance	5	17
Culture	9	30
Social Inequality	3	10
No Response	1	3
Total	30	100

Based on the table above, the majority of respondents (40 percent) ticked socialization and 30% ticked culture. This demonstrates that socialization and culture are the most important factors influencing male speech patterns. This backs up Holmes' (1995:7) claim that "girls and boys in many societies experience different patterns of socialization, which is suggested to lead to different ways of using and interpreting language."

Another aspect is that culture. It is one of the factors that influence people's speech patterns. This question received no responses from two people.

Table 5. The result of the question: Which of the following factors is (are) the most responsible for the differences in female speech patterns?

Data	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Socialization	8	27
Male Dominance	13	44
Culture	7	23
Social Inequality	1	3
No Response	1	3
Total	30	100

From the table above, it can be seen that 44 percent of the respondents identified male dominance and 27 percent identified socialization as two of the most important factors causing differences in female speech patterns. According to Tannen (1990), "gender differentiation is parallel to sub-cultural differences vs social dominance." Because of the background that women have been relegated to, they tend to use intensifiers like "very," "actually," "never," and others more than men to strengthen their expression, which is why they lack precision in speech, according to Jespersen (1922). There was a practical demonstration of this speech form during the interview. Only one person out of thirty (30) did not respond.

Table 6. The result of the question: Female students use a different type of language than male students.

Data	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Standard	30	30
Colloquial	Nil	
Non standard	Nil	
Unrefined	Nil	
No Response	Nil	
Total	30	100

It can be seen from the table above, when compared to male students, 100 percent of respondents agreed that female students use standard language. According to Trudgill (1975), "Women consistently produce linguistic forms that are more closely related to standard language or have greater prestige than men's." Females respond with "mmhmm", "ehmm", and other similar expressions. The interview on this speech mannerism revealed that females are more likely to use minimal responses than males. The different uses and interpretations of minimal responses, according to Maltz and Broker (1982), can lead to serious miscommunication.

Table 7. The result of the question: Mark the appropriate characteristics of male speech.

Data	Number of Respondents	Percentage %
Forceful	11	37
Lovely	Nil	
Blunt	9	30
Cute	Nil	
Interruption	10	33
Pretty	Nil	
No Response	Nil	
Total	30	100

From the list above, 37 percent of respondents selected forceful and 30 percent selected blunt as characteristics of male speech. Krammmer (1977) reports that, in line with this response, "Men's speech (especially that of English speakers) is forceful, efficient, and persuasive, Straightforward, authoritative, serious, effective, sparing, and masterful."

Table 8. The result of the question: Mark the appropriate characteristics of female speech.

Data	Number of Respondents	Percentage %
Forceful	Nil	
Lovely	12	40
Blunt	3	10
Cute	9	30
Interruption	3	10
Pretty	3	10
No Response	Nil	
Total	30	100

In Table 8, percent of respondents chose lovely and 30 percent chose cute as the appropriate characteristics of female speech. It is appropriate with the above, according to Lakoff (1975), "Women's language is distinguished by a number of lexical, grammatical, and phonological characteristics: Certain colors (e.g., beige, ecru) and approval adjectives were said to be linked to lexical differences (e.g. adorable, charming, cute, lovely, etc.). According to the results of the interview, females use hedges more than males. Hedges are linguistic expressions that express the speakers' certainty or uncertainty about the proposition under discussion, such as "I think," "I'm sure," "you know," "sort of," and "perhaps."

Table 9. The result of the question: To what extent do culture and environment have an impact on male word choice?

Data	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Very Strongly	10	30
Strongly	15	50
Not Strongly	3	10
Non of the above	Nil	
No response	2	10
Total	30	100

Table 9 shows that 50% of respondents strongly agreed that culture and environment influence male word choice. This supports Holmes's (1996, p. 190) assertion that "many ethnic groups use a distinct language associated with their ethnic identity." When a variety of languages are available for communication, it is often possible for a person to communicate their ethnicity through the language they use. This question was not answered by two (2) of the thirty respondents.

Table 10. The Result to the question: To what extent do culture and environment have an impact on female word choice?

Data	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Very Strongly	9	30
Strongly	18	60
Not Strongly	3	10
Non of the above	Nil	
No response	Nil	
Total	30	100

According to the data in the table 10 above, 60% of all respondents strongly agreed that culture and environment influence female word choice. People's ethnic groups determine their language choice, as explained in 9. This question was not left unanswered by any of the 30 respondents.

Table 11. The result of Men's use of words is aggressive and authoritative.

Data	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Very Strongly	8	27
Strongly	16	53
Not Strongly	5	17
Non of the above	Nil	
No response	1	3
Total	30	100

As shown in Table 11, 53 percent of respondents strongly agreed that men use aggressive and authoritative words. When Krammer (1977) claimed that male speech is characterized by forcefulness, authority, mastery, and so on, he didn't mince words. This question was not answered by any of the 30 respondents.

Discussion

Based on the findings of this study, it can be determined that different speech patterns are used by men and women. This is consistent with Mulawarman (2021) contention that men and women use different speech forms, but in different quantities or frequencies. Many researchers have discovered that grammatical differences between two speakers' speeches can reveal information about their human social backgrounds.

The underlying factors responsible for these differences are said to be cultural and environmental factors. This backs up Holmes' (1995, p. 7) claim that "girls and boys in many societies experience different patterns of socialization, which is suggested to lead to different ways of using and interpreting language." Also, gender differentiation is parallel to sub-cultural differences vs social dominance. It is because of the background that women have been relegated to, they tend to use intensifiers like "very," "actually," "never," and others more than men to strengthen their expression, which is why they lack precision in speech.

Male and female speech patterns differ, resulting in miscommunication and misinterpretation during the interaction process. Women consistently produce linguistic forms that are more closely related to standard language or have greater prestige than men's. Females respond with "mmhmm", "ehmm", and other similar expressions. The interview on this speech mannerism revealed that females are more likely to use minimal responses than males. The different uses and interpretations of minimal responses can lead to serious miscommunication.

While language's most obvious function is to communicate information, it also plays a role in at least two other equally important but less well-known functions: establishing and maintaining social relationships and expressing and creating the speaker's social identity. Men's speech (especially that of English speakers) is forceful, efficient, and persuasive, straightforward, authoritative, serious, effective, sparing, and masterful.

The result of the research proved that 'cute' as the appropriate characteristics of female speech. It is appropriate with the above explanation that women's language is distinguished by a number of lexical, grammatical, and phonological characteristics: Certain colors (e.g., beige, ecru) and approval adjectives were said to be linked to lexical differences (e.g. adorable, charming, cute, lovely, etc.). According to the results of the interview, females

use hedges more than males. Hedges are linguistic expressions that express the speakers' certainty or uncertainty about the proposition under discussion, such as "I think," "I'm sure," "you know," "sort of," and "perhaps." On the other side, it is proven that men use aggressive and authoritative words where mostly male speech is characterized by forcefulness, authority, mastery, and so on.

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that there are differences in how men and women use language in our society and others like it. They do not use entirely different forms; instead, they use different quantities or frequencies of the same form. In a society where gender plays a significant role, language plays an important role in contributing to that role. Gender roles, men's and women's identities, the hierarchical nature of gender relations, and men's dominance are all factors that contribute to differences in language use. Gender differentiation does not exist in a vacuum; it interacts with other types of social differentiation in a complex way. Language and gender, on the other hand, are formed through participation in everyday social activities.

CONCLUSION

This study has shown that there are differences in how men and women use language in our society and others like it. They do not use entirely different forms; instead, they use different quantities or frequencies of the same form. In a society where gender plays a significant role, language plays an important role in contributing to that role. Gender roles, men's and women's identities, the hierarchical nature of gender relations, and men's dominance are all factors that contribute to differences in language use. Gender differentiation does not exist in a vacuum; it interacts with other types of social differentiation in a complex way. Language and gender, on the other hand, are formed through participation in everyday social activities. To put it another way, gender and language are inextricably linked.

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