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LANGUAGE AND GENDER: A CONVERSATION ANALYSIS IN THE DIFFERENCE OF LANGUAE RELATED TO GENDER

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Abstract

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. Are they really are? To find out, there were several aspects analyzed in this research related to the differences done by women and men in their language (conversation). The aspects were: a) The amount of talk. b) Turn Taking. The data of this study was in form of recorded conversation and its transcription. Both the recorded conversation and its transcription were got from talk bank site (http://talkbank.org/CABank/ca-data.html). There were three participants in this conversation. They were Joanne, Ken and Lenore. Joanne and Ken were a couple. Lenore was a friend of theirs. in analyzing the data, the researcher acted as key instrument. 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. On the other hand, Lenore had the highest amount of other-selection but had the lowest amount of self-selection. It seemed that the amount of other-selection was upsidown to self-selection.

Keywords: language and gender, conversation analysis

1. 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.

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 (Nancy, 2010). 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 time pass, the science about language and gender was established with an essay written by Robin Lakoff at the mid of 70s.

The previous paragraphs tickle our mind. They actually gets us thinking of how male and female use language differently? Does male and female express their language differently? If there are differences between them, what are the differences male and female make in their language?

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 elaborate more in the review of related literature part of this paper.

This research will provide answers for the differences made by male and female in their use of language. This research will relate the theory between language and gender with the real talk happened in real life. There are number of theory 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.

a. Research Questions

Based on the introduction above, there are several research questions related to this research:

1) Do women talk more or less than men?
2) Do women and men have different turn-taking system?

b. The Objectives of the Research

Related to the research questions above, there are two objectives of this research. They are:

1) Understanding on the amount of talk produced by each gender.
2) Understanding on the turn taking system of each gender.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW
a. 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. One research, by Wright (2002), shows that women speak more than men. There is also a research done which shows that men talk more than women in the area of work (H.T. Moore in Karlsson, 2007). 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. 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 (Hilpert, 2013).

According to the bestselling book by Deborah Tannen, *You Just Don't Understand* (1990), with her theory of difference, men interrupt (do self-selection turn taking system) out of competition

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while women interrupt out of co-operation. 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 difference between women and men.

3. RESEARCH METHOD
a. The Data
The data of this study is in form of recorded conversation and its transcription. Both the recorded conversation and its transcription are got from talk bank site (http://talkbank.org/CABank/ca-data.html). It consists of many varieties of recorded conversation and its transcription. The conversations in this site covered a lot of situational context. The data used in this research was taken from The Santa Barbara Corpus of Spoken American English (SBCSAE).

The data used in this study is a conversation among friends. The conversation is called Deadly Diseases. It occurred in Los Angeles, California. The transcription of the conversation is available in appendix 1.

b. The Participants
There are three participants in this conversation. They are Joanne, Ken and Lenore. Joanne and Ken are a couple. Lenore is a friend of theirs.

Table 1. List of the Participants

No	Name	Gender
1	Joanne	Female
2	Ken	Male
3	Lenore	Female

c. Method
The recorded conversation is got from talk bank site which had been explained above. The transcription is also taken from the site. The conversation on this research is 11'59" long. It was recorded in Los Angeles, California. There are three participants in the conversation.

The recorded conversation 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.

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION
a. The Amount of Talk

Table 2. List of word count

No	Name	Gender	Word Count
1	Joanne	Female	1029
2	Ken	Male	1206
3	Lenore	Female	477

The words from each participant of the conversation were counted by using tally. From the tally, as shown on the table above, Ken has the largest amount of words. The amount of words spoken by Joanne is a little less than Ken. On the other hand, the amount of words spoken by Lenore is the

smallest of them. She only has 477 words counted while Joanne has 1029 and Ken 1206. Lenore does not even reach half amount of words spoken by Joanne.

There are numbers of factors which influence the number of utterance from women and men. it can be influenced by the topic and the closeness with the interlocutor. Based on the data, the there are several topics in the 11'59" long conversation.

Table 3. Topic Flows

No	Topic	Starter	Gender	Starting Point	Starting Time
1	Travel restriction	Joanne	Female	It's an interesting thing though. Because I'm wondering, you know. Since it is such um… it's restricted.	00'42"
2	Mexico	Joanne	Female	I'd rather go to Mexico though.	03'14"
3	Disease	Lenore	Female	Did you ever find out what disease you had?	06'07"
4	Medicine and Supplements	Lenore	Female	Would you like a supplement?	08'03"
5	George's health	Joanne	Female	That guy is as healthy as an ox.	11'14"
6	Joanne's brother's health	Joanne	Female	He reminds me of my brother.	11'47"

The table above shows the flow of the topic in the conversation. There are six topics in the conversation. The conversation mainly talked about the journey had by the couple, Joanne and Ken. There were three topics related to the journey. They are: Travel restriction; Mexico; and the disease. Those three topics hold on for about 8 minutes. During this time, Joanne and Ken are the main speaker while Lenore listened, questioned and gave backchannel. It shows that Joanne and Ken are more experienced in these topics than Lenore because they are mainly talked about their experience while they were abroad. On the other hand, Lenore does not share any of her experience abroad. It could possibly because she does not travel a lot. Maybe she is not interested in going abroad and prefers other kinds of activity.

The rest of the conversation, another 3 minutes, had three topics as well. They are: Medicines and supplements; George's health; and Joanne's brother's health. In these topics, all of the participants in the conversation talk equally. It shows that all of the participants have equal interest and experience on the topics. Lenore seems to have a lot of experience in medicine, supplements and pills because the hold the floor during this topics. It can also be seen from the conversation that she took several medications and own many kinds of medicines and supplements. Ken also had many experience with the topic because, as Joanne said in the conversation, he gets sick easily. He obviously is familiar with medicines, supplements and medication. Joanne is Ken's girlfriend which means that she knows more or less the medication had by Ken. This makes her to also be familiar with the topic. then the topic flowed to George and Joanne's brother which also all of the participants in the conversation are familiar with. It results on the equal number of talk produced by each of them.

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 talk 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.

b. Turn-taking System

Table 4. List of Turn-taking

No	Name	Gender	Other-selection	Self-selection
1	Joanne	Female	3	27
2	Ken	Male	4	24
3	Lenore	Female	8	19
		Total	15	70

There are two types of turn-taking system discussed in this research paper. They are other-selection (see appendix 2) and self-selection (see appendix 3). From the table above, it is clearly seen that Lenore is the one who has the largest amount of other selection and Joanne is the one with the smallest amount of other selection turn-raking. Aside from that, Lenore has the smallest amount of self-selection turn-taking while Joanne has the largest amount of self selection turn-taking. Lenore earned 8 other-selection turn taking while ken earned 4 and Joanne earn 3. In self-selection turn-taking, Lenore earned 19, Ken 24 and Joanne 27. The amount of other selection is upside-down with the amount of self selection.

Here are several examples of other selection:

*JOAN: &=in Sonoma .
*JOAN: still has a zocalo .
*JOAN: (..) Did you know that ?
*JOAN: (.) &=in (.) ⌈ It really does ⌉ .
*KEN: ⌊ yeah
        it was built around ⌋ a

in this example, Joanne asked Ken "In Sonoma… still has a zocalo. Did you know that?" and Ken take his turn in talking by answering the question by saying "Yeah… it was built around…"

another example is:

*KEN: (..) &=tsk What kind of enzymes .
*LENO: (..) Mainly digestive .

In this example, they were talking about the medicines and supplements from Lenore's medicine cabinet. Ken asked Lenore: "What kind of Enzymes?" and Lenore took her turn in talking by answering his question saying: "Mainly digestive."

One example of other-selection is:

*KEN: one of these a day
        or &{l=@ five of these a ⌈ day &}l=@ or something ⌉ ?
*LENO: ⌊ &=laugh &=laugh
        (.) Uh ⌋
        Anywhere from:
        three:
        wi- w- one to
        six or
        (.) twenty .

In this example, Ken was asking Lenore about her pills: "ne of these a day? Or five of these a day or something?" Lenore answering the question in taking her turn in talking: "Uh.. anywhere from three wi… w… one to sox or twenty."

There are also examples in self-selection. in this research, self-selection turn-taking is the most turn-taking system used in this conversation. From the research, we notice that the more interesting the topic to the interlocutors is, the more likely self-selection turn-taking happens. There are several examples of self-selection turn-taking:

*JOAN: that sounds ⌠2 like something he would do .
*KEN: ⌠2 No
        it was somebody right here
        na:med D:⌠2octor Garcia .
        in this example, they were talking about the doctor who Ken visited, dr. Gracia, and Joanne mistaken the doctor for dr. Deutch. Joanne was saying: "That sounds like something he would do." And Ken tried to get Joanne back on the track by saying that he was visiting dr. Gracia and not dr. Deutch. So, he was initiating his own turn: "No. It was somebody right here. Named doctor Gracia."
        Another example of self-selecting turn-taking is:
*JOAN: ⌊ &=in Twice ⌋ in a row
        almost deadly diseas⌠2es ⌋2 .
*LENO: ⌠2 And you ⌋2 both eat the same things ?
        In this example, they were talking about the diseases had by Ken. Joanne was telling the other that Ken had deadly diseases twice in a row: "Twice in a row. Almost deadly disease." Out of her curiosity of how did Ken could possibly catched the diseases, Lenore initiate her own turn by asking: "And you both eat the same thing?"
        One example of self-selecting turn-taking:
*KEN: ⌊ Yeah ⌋ .
*LENO: (.) Would you like a supplement ?
        In this example, Ken was agreeing on Joanne's statement about how bad Ken's immune system was. Ken end his turn by saying: "Yeah." Taking the change of her turn to talk, Lenore offering Ken to have some supplement for his immune system: "Would you like a supplement?"

5.   CONCLUSION

        There are two research questions in this research paper. The first one is do women talk more or less than men. From the research result, 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. A woman in Japanese would have different amount of talk she produced compared to a women from USA. This happens because they are tied to their culture. They have different culture to tell them how a woman should and should not talk, and this is just one out of many other. 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.

        The second research question is the turn taking system between women and men. This research shows that Joanne has the largest amount of self-select turn taking but Lenore also has the largest amount of other-select turn-taking system in conversation. While the male, Ken is in the middle of both turn-taking system. it is possible that what actually influence the turn taking system is the interest of the topic to the interlocutors and the personality of each speaker.

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