Gender and Speech Style: Context Bangladesh

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Discourse Analysis on Gender and Speech Style: Bangladeshi

Context

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Abstract

This study attempts to analyze conversation and find out if gender influences speech style in Bangladesh. Here, the focus is on, politeness, interruptions (the way speakers change, switch topics and speaker control), dominance and some other factors. For instance, how greetings, refusals, topic change etc. are connected to the social context. The whole research work will be done with an insight from the conversation analysis. The researcher recorded a conversation and encrypted it at the end of the paper.

 Keywords: conversations, interruption, politeness, control.

Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Interaction is one of the most important daily activities in our life. The way people need food to survive, the same way they need to talk. Thus, there is the importance of language, which is very significant in all the cultures and societies. After all, this is the medium that distinguishes human from animals. Human are able to talk, and as a result can express emotion, ideas, needs, desires, etc. whereas animals are able to do none of these.

The place where we live in demands different kinds of conversations based on contexts. These conversations often do not follow any particular pattern or structure. However, it does not mean that conversations are always the same.The style of talking differs according to place and speaker. This means that age, gender and even education can affect the way one talks. Research indicates that among the different variations found in language, gender variation is prominent. Much work has been undertaken in the connection between language and gender in language studies.

When conversations are recorded, observed, andanalyzed, many discourse elements emergethat show the impact of social context and cultural attitudes.Here, the difference in the use of language by men and women can be seen too. These language usage differences lie on the following sectors: vocabulary, style, tone, syntactic structure, conversational style etc. That is, research on conversation indicates that men talk differently from women and the manifestations are very distinct and notable.Even in the new millennium, whenwe believe that

the equality in gender has been established, the difference exists. In other words, the two sexes seem to own their communication styles in a different manner from each other.

This research has been carried out to find whether any difference actually exists in the gender style of talking in the context of Bangladesh. For this research work, three conversations have been collected and recorded. Then the researcher has noted down the discourse features to analyze the utterances. These were mixed sex conversations where both male and female speakers have participated. The medium of their conversations was Bangla. All the information, used in this paper, has been recorded with the participant's permissions, and confidentiality has been maintained too. All the names of the characters have been changed in order to maintain their privacy.

1.2 Research Topic

The research focused topic is gender style in conversations. In order to investigate this, the study will examine the way men and women talk. Here, the recorded conversations of men and women will be analyzed to identify if differences exist.

1.3 Research Questions

The objective of this research is to get an understanding of how gender affects conversation. Here, the researcher intends to investigate if there is any relation between gender and conversation. This will be found out by focusing on the following questions:

1. Do men and women talk differently?
2. Do male speakers try to dominate while speaking?
3. Does gender influence speech style?

1.4 Rationale behind the Research

In the Bangladeshi context, there are several social constructions which are followed strictly. Here, the citizens have a certain way of talking with older people and younger children. If they do not talk in a low and sober voice with their elders, even today, it is considered as impolite. It is almost a daily habit for a participant to judge and make presupposition about a certain event or a person. Also, there is a certain way of approaching formal and informal situations. In this culture, the behavior with friends and with family members are different. For instance, Bengali people address their teachers with the titles: "Sir", or "Mam", unlike the western culture, where calling a professor by his/her surname is acceptable. Again, the Bengali society is usually known to be dominated by the patriarchal culture. It is believed that mendominate women inconversation and also controls the conversation. The rationale behind the work is to find out if this is indeedthe actual scenario.

1.5 Methodology

This research will involve conversation analysis. For this, all data will be collected either from public broadcast or naturally occurring talks in certain social settings. The conversations will be analyzed with the theoretical framework of conversation analysis and gender theories.

1.6 Research Limitations

Often, it is not easy to analyze the emotional factors and study gestures or mood from a recorded conversation. This is because transcriptions do not fully capture all the nuances and implications in conversations. Yet, attempts have been made to accurately capture all the meanings and to note down intonations, overlaps and interruptions during the conversations. Also, as in all qualitative research, this work is, to an extent, subjective and limited. Due to time restraint, the work is based only on a small sample of data.

Chapter 2 Literature Review

This chapter consists of the literature review and theories of the issues under consideration. This chapter will begin with an introduction on language and gender. Then the discussion will move towards discourse analysis, conversation analysis, and finally link all the topics together.

2.1 Discourse

Foucault, as mentioned in a student's paper, has defined the concept of discourse as:

"Ways of constituting knowledge, together with the social practices, forms of subjectivity and power relations who inhere in such knowledge and relations between them. Discourses are more than ways of thinking and producing meaning." (Weedon, 1987, p. 108).

This relates one individually with discourse, writing, oral or writing conversations, and any kind of communicative event, with a specific sequence of utterances, grammar items, and turns. Also, this encourages one not only to study the use of language above or beyond the level of utterance, but also enables us to analyze the natural language used in conversations. As a result, it can be said that the concern of discourse analysis is focused on the text, both written and spoken form; therefore discourse can be referred to as a text with "some form of internal organizations, coherence, or cohesion" (Sinclair and Coulthard, 1975).

Cook (1989) indicates discourse as units of language and these units or stretches are 'meaningful, unified, and purposive'. Not everyone can use every word in certain contexts or

situations. Such as in a classroom situation, a faculty has the privilege to use certain words, which students are not allowed to use at all. This, as explained by the "socio-constrictionism", is because a teacher teaches the students. This dominating and privileged figure teaches the society what is wrong and what is right. Here, contextual analysis in discourse makes a huge difference according to the situation. It always demands certain etiquettes from human.

Widdowson (1973), on the other hand, views discourse as a process, where meaning is derived from the reader's interaction/connection with the text. As discourse can be in both written and spoken form, it involves all the linguistic, meta/pera linguistic features of a text. A textual analysis interpretes different meaning to confuse one. Such as, when two babies talk to each other and say "I will kill you", the literal meaning will scare the other kid while the non-literal meaning implies that the utterances is expressed because the speaker is angry.

Discourse considers many factors and then analyzes participants, their age, psychology, social status, psychological impression etc. It agrees that everyone in a society has split personality. They have different interpretation from their different perspectives or point of views.

2.2 Features of Discourse

Two features of Discourse are presented below.

1. Contextual features: Factors such as age, gender, tone, education and social status etc. are contextual features of discourse. These factors are included in both discourse analysis and conversation analysis. This is because these influences the meaning of certain words in certain context.

2. Metalinguistic features: This deals with the metalinguistic features during conversation. As a result, it can be interpreted that this segment is the study of the relation between language and metalinguistic (e.g. cultural behavior). This feature deals with participant's expressions during their talking. Examples- Gesture, posture, settings and relationships, hand moving, pointing fingers etc. In this paper, the use of gesture while talking will be considered in the analysis of the talk show.

2.3 Discourse Analysis

Discourse analysis can be referred to as "text linguistics", which is known as the study of the relation between language and the specific situation (context) where the language is used in a certain way. This analysis also deals with the way meaningful utterances (sentences) can be both in spoken and written form. As a result, it can be said that discourse emphasizes on the way a language is structured, based on its usage. (Brown and Yule, 1983)

Discourse analysis influences and is influenced by many disciplines in the society. Here, the terms "socio-constructionism" and "socio-constructionism" plays a vital role. There are certain ways a society is constructed with norms, etiquettes, manners etc. People are expected to behave and act in a certain way according to their social hierarchy or status. A person will always have social influence during speaking or writing. When one lives in a circle, he/she automatically gets to have presupposition, reference, inference and implicatures about certain persons or issues. Socio-constructionism, in this case, controls and manipulates the way one talks; one behaves, based on his/ her culture. Mohammad s. Zeidan (2004) interprets discourse as the modes (written and spoken) which involve all the participants (of the

conversations) as they cope and show specific attitude or behavior towards 'areas of socio-cultural activity'.

To conclude, it can be said that people need discourse to survive in a society. The use of discourse does not limit up to any specific profession any more. It is equally important for all the situations, and professions. A doctor needs to use discourse to analyze his patients' condition. A lawyer needs it to understand her client's problems. Similarly, teachers and students need discourse to get a qualitative lesson in classrooms. In other words, discourse plays a vital role in all the professions including police, anthropology, architects, researchers, teachers, doctors, consultants, and many other sectors. There are also other features which affect a conversation most is known as overlapping. According to Nofsigner, people always interferes and talk in the middle of conversation when it is actually the other speakers' turn to talk; here, the person who interferes is aware that talking in the middle brings the possibility to create overlapping in conversation (Pohaker, 1996). This is how discourse analysis and conversation analysis are interconnected.

2.4 Conversation Analysis

The concept of conversation analysis (CA) was first introduced by two great American sociologists: Erving Goffman and Harold Garfinkel. They defined it as a process where people interact amongst themselves in a society, in both 'ordinary and extraordinary ways' (Sidnell,2010, p.168). Goffman worked on cultural rules and rituals those matters in face to face communication in everyday life whereas Garfinkel worked on the 'situated and normative character' in terms of the daily basis actions (Heritage, 1984). It is no wonder that for interactional purposes, people, daily, need to use many short and long sentences. As a

result, citizens seem to be in need of conversations and interactions. Thus, the concept of CA became popular, which mainly focused on "social rules which are maintained in and through talk-in interaction" (p.168), rather than the structural aspects of language. In his book, Sidnell (2010) also stated that the purpose of CA, as mentioned in another students' paper submitted to University of Birmingham, is to "describe, analyze and understand talk as a basic and a constitutive feature of social life" (p. 1).

In real life, when people utter something during their interaction, it is important that not all the speakers speak at a time. If such happens, the conversation will not be qualitative since none of the speakers will understand anything. This might even fail to meet the purpose of the speakers. Therefore, it can be said that, apart from linguistic aspect, other aspects are also needed to open a conversation, and then continue it with a natural flow, before finally closing it. Liddicoat (2007), in this issue, works in his paper. According to him, conversation analysis is not only about the differences 'between formal and non-formal conversation' those takes place in everyday life, but also about understanding the 'situation' where that particular conversation took place (p. 06). In other word, conversational analysis deals with all the aspects of societal talks.

Conversation Analysis, therefore, can be referred to as an activity where two or more people converse on an issue and take turns at speaking. Here, it is preferred that only one person speak at a time. However, amongst crowds, it is not always possible. Rather, there, much interference take place. It is nothing new when the situation becomes too noisy to understand what speakers are saying. These specially happen when the speakers are in bad mood and

show aggressiveness. In Bangladeshi context, it is expected that if more than one speaker tries to talk at a time, then one will stop.

The procedure of CA begins after recording a naturally occurred conversation takes place. These recordings, then, are carefully transcribed according to specific conventions (Jefferson, 2004). These transcriptions then enable researchers to observe the utterances in detail, including the pauses, turns, level of intonation etc. There are many features of discourse that can be noted from a recorded conversation and can also be taken into account for analysis purposes.

In linguistics, intonation is referred to as the variation or pattern of spoken pitch. It is used for expressing the attitudes and emotions of the speaker. At times, it emphasizes the difference between statements, questions, and orders. According to David Crystal, intonation is the combined product of the interactive elements e.g. the tone of the speech, loudness of an utterance, etc. This often helps to understand the meaning of an utterance based on a certain context. In this case, the pitch (tone) functions too. Therefore, it can be said that the element plays a significant role: people raise their voice when they are willing to take the floor and speak (Pohaker, 1996).

This leads a conversation towards turn-taking. Turn-taking, according to Liddicoat (2007), is another feature that represents the change of speaker in a conversation. About the process, Sidnell (2010) referred Sacks, Jefferson and Schegloff's two components of turn-taking system: 1) turn-constructional component and 2) turn allocation component.

2.5 Gender Differences and the Language in Use

In this era, for most people, there is a mandatory belief that men and women are equal and there should be no gender discrimination. However, the reality shows the opposite. Since primitive times, even today, men and women are distinguished in most sectors, including the communication sectors, e.g. during conversation. The two genders do not get equal opportunities while participating in any discussion. One of the reasons, for distinguishing them, is that they have their own style of talking, interacting, and conversing with people. In other word, the female language is in many ways different from the male language. As a result, there are variations in the way they make utterances, express their feelings and the way they behave while having conversations with people. These variations are explained and pointed out below.

Vocabulary is one of the most important elements in language while making conversations. This is because the vocabulary difference can reveal the relation between the differences in language and the gender by whom it is used. According to Wenjing (2012), specifically, there are no certain rules for fe3male language choice, or grammar; rather one can see the distinction between both genders in terms of their vocabulary use, which can be both encountered in everyday life and at the same time be overlooked too. Robin Lakoff (1975), on the other hand, implies that in this society, generally, compared to men, woman spends most of their time on 'color-related activities'. For instance, choosing clothing and their colors based on what sort of programs they are going to attend.

They always use terms of colors borrowed from French.

Example

- azure – it means 'blue'

- mauve – it means 'lavender',

- aquamarine- it means 'blue-green'

- And many others etc.

These words might not be exactly familiar to them but these can be used to represent woman's elegance. The uses of these words are not common for male. According to Wenjing (2012), females use words that emphasize the importance of expressions and utterances with the following words: beautiful, soothing, charming and so on. For instance, "her saree is lovely, she looks beautiful and glamorous in it". On the other hand, men use only some basic words in order to reveal the importance, e.g. "well, good, very, yes, really" and so on. Again, Jerperson (1992) states that females always use the word "so" and reveal their emphasize through tone; the use of "so" always can help a woman to express her attitude more than a male. Example: That guy was so interesting in the novel.

Here, one must mention the popular Lakoff (1975) who portrays female as users of many intensifiers in their daily communication in real life, than male, for example: "so", "awfully", "terribly", "quite" and many others. Labov (1966), Levine & Crockett (1966) and Trudgil (1972), all together,theorizes that males, during conversations, utter many slang words than women. This might be the reason Wenjing (2012) tells that women, while talking, keeps their attention towards the language elegance. Followings are some of the expressions that male uses more and female avoids more:

- Shit!

- Damn weather

- The hell with that man

Woman, in Bangladeshi context, follow the social constructions, and therefore intend not to use any sort of abusive words while they participate in a conversation. Lakoff (1975), has also shown that women use more 'tag questions' than men and also they use more hedges in their conversation than men as well.

According to Wenjing (2012), in case of pronouncing words, females always utter more standard pronunciation than male. The reason behind this is that women keep sensitivity in their speaking tone and also make utterances by using both the 'standard and authoritative manner of articulation'. The scenario, in terms of men is quite opposite. They do not use any standard forms like women. Also, the tone of a female is higher compared to males. After analyzing and researching the collected materials so far, linguistic researchers concluded that women always use the interrogative tone, and reverse stress while making utterances. Reverse stress is the concept used when males keep the highest pitch in their tone to emphasize and give stress on the most significant word. However, unlike the male language users, females use the lowest pitch on the word, that needs to be emphasized, in their sentences.

According to Ning & Dai (2010), there are also differences between male and female language use based on their topic selection. For instance, in Bangladeshi context, men prefer politics and economics to talk about while women prefer education as an interesting topic. Lydie Meunier (1996), quotes, "The topics such as sports, politics and cars which are seen as 'serious' are preserved for men only, the choice for women are the topics such as child-bearing and personal relationships which are labeled as 'trivial'.

Another difference lies on the amount of words males and females use while making conversations. According to Ning & Dai (2010), men talk comparatively more while they are in 'public communication'. These point matches with the scenarios in Bangladeshi contexts. Here, men participate more in public while women speaks more in private, e.g. family discussions.

In case of the syntactic structure, Wenjing (2012) interprets that woman

- Use more tag questions

- Prefers talking indirectly

- Use the rising tone- it represents the concern and uncertainty.

On contrary, men always prefer to express their thoughts directly. This might be the reason for which they mostly use the tone of ordering and requesting.

In his work, Karlsson (2007) shows some symptoms is a discussion about the differences in characters used by female and male. The female uses many intensifiers in their utterances.e.g, so, such etc to continue the conversations. Also, they use many hedges, tag questions in their utterances too. At times, they also give the speaker some minimal responses to show their least interest in the conversations. Most importantly, women show politeness through their utterances: they often say please, sorry, may I.. etc. In case of the male language users, the speakers always use several strategies to control and dominate the conversation. Apart from this males are good at using minimal responses to show that he is not interested in what female speakers has to say. Also, men use slang language more frequently, for example Shit!

God damn it! And most importantly, men give more commands, e.g. "give me the notebook right now", "Go there and do the work".

2.6 Theories of Language and Gender

Lakoff, Taneen, Cameron, and many other writers reflected gender differences in terms of pronouncing words, maintaining level of intonation, choice of vocabularies and talking style from the aspect of sociolinguistic works, and analyzed the latest reasons of 'these differences, development and changes' (Wenjing, 2012). Robin Lakoff has discussed four approaches regarding these issues:

(a) Deficit Approach: This approach is related to language and gender. Robin Lakoff (1975), here, portraits male language as stronger and prestigious one while he shows female as disadvantaged language user. Finch (2003, p.137) described this model as "The overall pictures which emerges from Lakoff study is that women's speech is generally inferior to men's and reflect their sense of personal and social inferiority." According to the way she describes these in her work, it is evident that women's speech style includes features such as expressing uncertainty, lack of confidence and excessive deference or politeness (Lakoff in Finch: 2003, p. 137).

(b) Dominance Approach: This is the second approach of language and gender. Talbot (1998) criticized this model as the "manifestations of a patriarchal social order". (p.132). Also, this approach is a bit similar to the difference approach since both shows the 'early model' for the analysis of language and gender. According to this model, Lakoff brings out the dominance approach, where there are dominance of men in a society (Lakoff 1975, 40).

(c) Difference Approach: This approach presents and modifies the two-culture model. Here, children have been divided into two separate groups to socialize. According to Crawford (1995, p.1) says, "men and women…are fated to misunderstand each other unless they recognize their deeply socialized differences". Also, he described how "Fundamental differences between women and men shape the way they talk". Most importantly, this approach consists of method with which men and women end up in developing themselves in different subcultures. Taneen points out in this approach:

• Status vs. Support – Men seeks status while woman seek support. For instance- mothers sympathize when people talks about her son working in scorching heat. But the son, at times, views this as an attempt to demean him.

• Independence vs. Intimacy - Men prefer independence and women prefer support and intimacy. For instance, before inviting someone for dinner, the wife always checks and seeks permission from her husband. However, husbands, in Banmgladeshi context, do not always inform before bringing a guest.

• Advice vs. Understanding – While taking to someone about any problem, females desire sympathy from the hearer while males prefer to find a solution.

• Information vs. Feelings - Men look for information in conversation and women want to discuss everything to strengthen the social bonds.

• Orders vs. Proposals – Men often use imperatives and woman use 'suggestive language' while asking something from someone. Women take this stand to save face.

•	Conflicts vs. Compromise- Females always want to avoid any sorts of conflicts during a conversation. On the other hand, men are likely to be in confrontational attitude while conversing. According to Tannen, that both forms bring a positive effect on any relationship and therefore both are useful.

(d) Discursive Approach: This approach deals with the study on how gender stereotypes 'can change according to responses to shifts in the economic climate'. Here, it is said that the way these shifts are taken eventually shows who, practically, influences the 'reproduction of patriarchal ideology'. In other word, the power structures, within patriarchal society, brings gender behaviors explained by power. His statement focuses on the "discursive" element to the analysis of gender in a conversation, which is not being discussed here in details.

2.7 Language, Gender, and Politeness

In Bangladeshi context, women are expected to use a politeness pattern, in their utterances, compared to men. Their voice is meant to be soft, eyes are meant to look down, and the tone has to be polite. This is because the Bangladeshi social construction demands it this way. Even pioneer like Layoff points out the distinctions between the male language and the female language, considering their words uses related to their interests, choice of words and grammar items to express certain things, question patterns, intonation level, hedges and politeness (1975, p. 53-55). She states, "Our use of language embodies attitudes as well as referential meanings. Woman's language has its foundation the attitude that women are marginal to the serious concerns of life, which are preempted by men."

She claims the followings in her book Language and Woman's Place (1975) that women:

- At times, give minimal responses.e.g. mm, yeah , etc to show that they are listening

- Speak less frequently and more quietly than men

- Speaks using Standard English

- The range of the intonation level is higher, and they use words like: so, very, quite.

- Females express their uncertainty using declarative statements and questions.

- Uses many hedges in utterances e.g. "sort of", "that seems".

- Has many polite form phrases, such as: "May I do it", "Would he mind...",

- Always choose to apologize more, compared to men: ("I'm sorry, but I think that...")

- Use tag questions: "You're Romana, aren't you?"

- And so on

Based on Lakoff's ideas, later Holmes (2001) and O´Barr and Atkins (1998), Fishman(1978) and many other researchers have worked on the issue of "women's language".O' Barr and Atkins (1980), as stated in journals, magazines, and papers, have looked into courtroom cases to observe the utterances of witnesses. The outcome of their work challenged Lakoff's view of women's language. The claim was that "language differences are based on situation-specific authority or power and not gender." Holmes (1998), on the other hand, came up with "sociolinguistic universal tendencies". According to this concept, both male and female have their own different patterns and styles of using language. Here, females use more affective filters, compared to men. Also, they try to interact in a way that will increase solidarity while

males will try increase their power and status. Again, another researcher Fishman (1978), in

Interaction: Tthe Work Women Do, has worked on conversations between women and men in

their homes, found that women talks more than men.

Tannen's views provided information presented in the table below:

	Male	Female
Physical Orientation	Avoid eye contact	Use eyes contact
Status and Connection	Talk for status	Talk for solidarity
Directness and Indirectness	At first, they take decision, and then they discuss about it.	At first, they discuss and then take decision.
Public and Private talk	Men talk more in crowds while they remain silent in indoors.	Women are quite in crowds, amongst too many people, but they talk in private.
Ritual Opposition	At times, men fight but it is not serious. They do it for fun.	Women fight in serious issues. The purpose is not for making fun.
Conversational Style	Men avoid talks that would create trouble and risk their reputation or social status.	Women involve themselves in such talks to build up rapport.

To add to these theories more, George Keith and John Shuttleworh (2008) in Living

Language (p.222) suggest that:

☐ Women speak too much. Also, they are more polite, more hesitant compared to men. Also,

they complain a lot, ask more questions, support each other, and therefore turn out to be more

cooperative to people.

☐ Men, on the other hand, do not talk about emotions. Rather, they prefer talking about sport more. Also, they try to control the conversation. Most importantly, they speak in authoritative manners, give more commands, and also interrupt more.

George Keith and Shuttleworh's findings are quite similar to the claims of Jennifer Coates (1993). According to this researcher, men always talk about business, sports, economics, politics etc, and often refuses to talk on a topic introduced by women. However, t women never do this sort of acts with men. This indicates the dominance of men during conversations. Also, it is women who mostly initiate conversation, compared to men. However, those conversations are often not successful.

The above claims are almost similar to how the patriarchal society, in Bangladesh, wants to see. These social; constructions have always been barriers to women's activities and careers. Now the question arises: Are the assumptions still applicable in 2018? Well, that will be seen in the data analysis segment.

2.8 WHAT IS POLITENESS?

 According to Brown and Levinson (1987) each individual consists of a self image which is related to both the emotional and the social self so that everyone can recognize this. This is known as the politeness theory. Politeness (Brown and Levinson, 1987), as a result, is a way in interaction which shows "awareness of another person's face".

In a society, while interacting with people, the use of politeness is very important since it expresses and presents a friendly attitude. Brown and Levinson (1987) who analyzed the works on politeness and also mentioned that to get into a social relationship, it is needed to

acknowledge and show awareness of the face, the 'public self – image', along with 'the one that we adress. These often give speakers chances to make themselves safe from embarrassments. Through this politeness strategy, they will be able to handle situation through polite behavior, which occurs in two ways: (1) Off Record, and (2) On Record

1. Off Record: Here, the speaker comments on anything by keeping an option for the hearer to react. This is known as off record. For example: Someone could ask about a doctor indirectly, instead of "Have you heard Doctor Sujana wrongly treated kydney patients?

Sentence with politeness: Doctor Sujana is a kidney specialist. Have you heard of him? How is he as a doctor?

2. On Record: Here, speaker makes a direct comment, offer, suggestion or invitation in an open and direct way. Example- "Don't take me to that person. I heard he is a criminal. So, it's dangerous to be with him." Talk shows are best place where we see the direct comments on record. On record politeness are of two types: (a) Positive Politeness (b) Negative Politeness

(a)Positive Politeness:

 This strategy works on to save the positive face by demonstrating intimacy (shown with the solidarity scale, e.g. friendship) and making other people feel good and at the same time focus on both speakers' goal which is common between them(Cutting.J, 2008. P.46). That is, telling something, in a clear and polite way, is positive politeness. Example, "Could you please get me a glass of water?"

(b)Negative Politeness:

Negative politeness is a way for a speaker when s/he disagrees about something in a polite way without being rude. There is a limit between negative politeness and being rude. Negative politeness can also be referred to as "politeness as a strategy for self-protection". The strategy can be a good practice for someone if s/he wants to keep distance from others. Example, "would you mind knocking the door while coming in my officeroom, I might be in any important meeting, you know."

The theory of politeness has a term "Face". In daily life, people act in a society with a certain behavior. They behave with one another, during social interactions, making sure that their "self-image", or "face-wants" are respected. During interaction, if any speakers' action is rude, and can be interpreted as a threat to someone else, it is known as "face threatening act" (FTA). When, to reduce the FTA, the speaker says something, this becomes a "face saving act" (FSA).

Overall, it can be said that there are two kinds of face saving act (FSA): 1) Positive face and 2) Negative face.

Positive face is usually the need to be liked, preferred, or accepted by others, and finally be treated as someone very close. Here, the individuals' wishes are shared by others.e.g. His friend asks for a treat in the cafeteria.

Negative face, on the other hand, is the need of being independent and having the freedom of action, without being imposed by others.e.g. Your friend asks for a treat in the cafeteria. That is, negative face is the need to be independent and positive face is the need to be connected.

2.9. Reasons - Gender differences and language use

Wenjing (2012) tells that the gender differences in language use are mostly complex in terms of the social, behavioral, cultural, psychological and also physiological phenomenon. This includes the language use in all kinds of professions and places.

Lakoff (1975), on the other hand, tells thatthese differences of language between men and women occur for the following social factors, not only the language itself.

•   Roles of male and female differ from one another in a society. In other word, for sexual difference, their responsibilities,way of interactions and activities become different too. Even in the Bible, it is stated that a woman's social status is not only ruled, but also 'manipulated and dominated' by men. Also, a girl lacks confidence while they talk. This is because of their lower social status gives them no power (Lakoff, 1975).

•   The patriarchal society is dominated by men. There, people believe that men are the superior gender and women are inferior. Therefore, it is no wonder that women are considered to belong in the lower status.

•   Value, another core factor of the culture, is different for both genders. These differences persuade and matters in their difference in vocabulary selection.

To conclude, considering the physiological factors, it can be said that the natural and biological differences in gender makes them different. Againj, as per as the report on the latest medical research, it is seen that the development of language skills happens in the left hemisphere of a woman much earlier compared to the development process of a man. This reveals why females talks more frequently and also why they are more emotional, compared to men, from the beginning. Also, the latest research work on voice and tone shows that both

gender's 'voice tone quality on the resonance peak' differs from one another due to the difference in gender. According to (Wenjing, 2012), women have shorter and thinner vocal cords; this is reason for the differences between men and women.

Chapter 3 Research Methodology

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the discussion on the research methodology that was used to analyze the conversations. During analysis, the approaches might be worked on too, to find out if any speakers dominate in conversation, or find out how these approaches are researched in this paper. That is, the chapter includes the explanation of research design, description of the participants, the research instruments used for data (recording of conversations) collection, the data collection procedure and the method of data (conversation) analysis.

This research design allows one to examine the roles, identities and relationships of the speaker which emerge from the details of the interaction. In this way, both genders identify and gender relations can be surmised from the analysis of talk.

Richards et al suggest that conversation analysis research should begin with an "unmotivated looking or being open to discovering pattern or phenomena"(44). Once a pattern has been identified, only then should the researcher keep looking for instances or occurrences of this phenomenon. Then the study must attempt to explain how the patterns relate to the participants/speakers' aims. They remark that once "a rational organization of the pattern" has been identified, the ensuing step should involve "analysis of single instances of the phenomenon" and finally, "a more generalized account is produced of how the phenomenon relates to the interaction in that particular setting" (ibid). This study has tried to base its research design on the recommendations and framework suggested by Richards et al (2012).

3.2 Objective of the paper

The objective of this paper is to explore the conversations and find out whether there is any difference between the way men talk and the way women talk.

3.3 Research Questions

The researcher, through this paper, will try to find out the answer of the following research question along with the objectives of the paper.

4. Do men and women talk differently?

5. Do male speakers try to dominate while speaking?

6. Does gender influence speech style?

3.4 Research Design:

To conduct this research analysis, qualitative methods have been used to collect data (recorded conversation) for this research. Dornyei (2007) states that this (qualitative) method was first introduced through a research by the Chicago School, almost at the end of the first decade of 20th century. Even though, the middle of 20th century was dominated by quantitative research (p:36), later qualitative research method came back in the research field again. This is because it only allows us to modify information during the work but also enables us to capitalize on them and produce an accurate outcome (Dornyei, 2007, p.40). At first, the researcher has recorded conversation, and then she has also transcribed those. As per the requirement, in order to measure the length of utterances, she then numbers the lines. With regard to data collection, attention has been given to ethical issues of privacy and confidentiality. The researcher had obtained the consent of the participants before recording the private conversations and has changed the names to protect the identity of the speakers. However, no names were changed for the televised talk show because it was a public broadcast rather than a private or intimate conversation. The recordings were later transcribed and then the transcriptions were analyzed.

3.5 Sampling the study

The purpose of the research is to find out if gender influences the style in conversations and whether gender and style are inter related at all. To conduct the research, the researcher carried out the following steps

- Recorded a telephonic conversation between two people and transcribed it.

- Collected a part of offline conversation of a talk show, and then transcribed it too.

- Observe the utterances, which gender used which etc.

- Analyzed the conversations, based on each individualutterance.

The main focus of this activity is to collect data (recording) for the analysis and study in order to get accurate idea.

3.6 Participants

The conversations included both male and female during the recording, so both were participants during the research. The ratio of male and female participant is given below

Recording	Male	Female
Telephonic Conversation	1	1
Talk show	4	2
Face to Face conversation	3	3

3.7 Data Collection and procedure

The data have been collected and developed with the participants' permission. There are, all together three conversations. At first, a small part of a political talk show has been transcribed. Then, a telephone conversation, between a boy and a girl, has been recorded. Finally, a face-to-face group conversation has been recorded, for which the researcher has

changed the name of the character and then transcribed them for this paper. The outcomes of this work has been shown in tables and then discussed in the next chapter.

3.8 Scope of this study

This study is focused only on the differences of language use and gender styles in Bengali conversations. As this research deals with some discourse features, e.g. length of utterances, use of threats, complaints, disapprovals, orders, domination in conversation etc, some works on intonation, hegemony etc can be carried out too. These would formulate more analysis and interesting outcomes. Due to time limitations and requirements, those research work possibilities have been kept aside.

3.9 Restriction and Limitation

This work has been done keeping in mind about the requirements and limitations. It has already been mentioned earlier that due to the time frame, several scopes of this study has been deducted. As a result, the paper is now focused on a particular topic to look for in the conversations.

Firstly, the recorded conversations have been transcribed and kept exactly the same. It has not even been translated since the translated dialogues might not bring the authenticity and not possess the same style of certain utterances, e.g the Bengali dialogue that represent threat and domination does not eventually contain the same flavor when translated in English.

Since it is necessary to keep the meaning of source language equivalent enough, as a researcher, I have faced challenges while doing the analysis and syncing them with English theories.

Secondly, as the participants were working people, it was difficult to get their conversations. Also, many were not comfortable with the idea of recording the moments. This turns out to be

another limitation. Finally, since the conversations were being recorded, some participants tried to react normally, which sounded very artificial. Instead of shouting in response to a speaker, some were only giving positive reaction. As the study on the differences between the way men and women talk, it was important to note the naturally occurred utterances. Therefore, as a researcher, I tried hard to prevent the uneasiness of the participants and change their names to maintain privacy.

Chapter 4 Findings & Data Analysis

4.1 Introduction

This research paper contains data from three sources. These are:1) Talk Show 2) Telephones conversation 3) Face-to-face conversation. The talk show was broadcasted live. For this paper, I watched a YouTube video and transcribed the dialogues. For the telephone and face-to-face conversations, at first I have recorded, and then transcribed. After that I have placed each dialogue separately in a table and then marked the features.

4.2 Data Analysis

For the purpose of data analysis, the researcher of this paper has followed the steps of conversation analysis. At first, conversations been recorded. Then, those recordings are transcribed. Finally, the transcriptions have been examined in terms greetings, use of threats, insults, dominance, order, and interruptions. Then these features have been counted and presented in a table showing the numerical value of the occurrences. Then, the findings have been discussed in terms of gender.

4.3 Findings

Elements	C1 Male	C1 Female	C2 Male	C2 Female	C3 Male	C3 Female
Greetings	Says hello twice	No greetings	No greetings	No greetings	No greetings	No greetings
Long Utterances	4	3	1	No long utterance	No long utterance	No long utterance
Use of Backchannel (hmm)	0 - No use of backchannel	4 times used (hmm)	No use of backchannel	No use of backchannel	No use of backchannel	No use of backchannel
Threatening utterances	6	3	3	1	2	2
Order	4	2 – (e.g.I said shut up)	0 – No order, but continual threats are being given	1	4	2
Insult	2	3	5	2	4	3
Who interrupts more?	3	1	3	2	1	2

4.4 Data Results

In order to investigate gender differences the study focused on issues of politeness. Conversations generally begin with greetings and reciprocating a greeting is a sign of politeness. The inclusion of greetings was examined to determine if people followed

conventions of conversation. The findings indicate that in this regard men and women are equally impolite or disregarding conventions.

Gender	Utterance		Features
Male	Hello, hello		• Repetition
Female	Bolo (serious tone)		• No Greetings

Fig. 1: No greetings in C1

Shamim	Ek baaper meye hoile tui Narayanganj ja, ayy.	• Insult and sudden attack • No politeness
Ivy	Tui mone koros je tui Shamim Osman boila sara Bangladesh e tui kichu hoye gesis.	• No politeness • insult
Female Interuptor	Amare ekhane ektu dai ase, dai ase, ami ektu boli, Cool, cool.	• Interrupts

Fig.2: No greetings in C2

Line no.	Gender	Utterances	Features
	Male 1	Shobkaj oi junior cheleke diye korate hobe,na korle or khbor ase	• No greetings • threat
	Female 1	Na, o knoshobkorbe, that's not fair	• no greetings

Fig 3: No greetings in C3

Among the other features of conversation, I have chosen the use of backchannel, politeness, threats etc. I have chosen these features because conversations lack these features, and also Lackoff and other researchers, as mentioned in the literature review, wrote a lot about the existence of those in the conversations.

Male	Phonedisiloamk.
Female	Hmm
Male	bolse toke?kokhonbolse? Nijethekebolse?
Female	Hm

Fig 4: Backchannel – used by women only

Then, to check the gender dominance in conversation, the study examined the number of

interruptions and the use of long utterances to determine any connection between gender and

control of conversation.

Male	Phone diyei amk bolse j ami naki mittha badi, amar past life, shob kichu naki mitha. Shumi meyeta eibhabe or brain wash korse. Jeta boltesi, ami mitu er kotha toder jiggesh korcilam? Ami ki shumi k jiggesh korsi? Bol amk……r…		• Ordering tone • Long utterances • FTA

Female	Hello, tumi k? Somossa ki tomar? Why do you even think you are so important j amra nijeder kaj baad diye tomk niye kotha bolbo? Get a life, ok?		• Agreesiveness • Interruption • Long utterance • Code-switching

Male	Tui janos kno ore phone disi? Convertsation gula dek. Andaje kotha bolte ashbina. Problem hoile amare fbte block koira rakh.Ulta palta kotha bolle ekkebare mere felbo..bucchoss……		• Threat- FTA
Female	wait, wait,how dare you!ekhon toh tumi amk phone diso, nije theke. Nije phone diye abar nije kno bolteso tomk block korte. Haire, tomar kono dosh dhora jabena, opinion match na hoilei bolo j ami ghar tera, choto, jano amar opinion different, kno kotha bolo taile ?		• Attacking back • Interruptions
Male	Oi, tore na bolsi beshi kotha na bolte… chup kore shun:tui jader k niye kotha boltesis, ami toke boltesi ei		• Dominating • Controlling

	topic e shumi jei kotha gula bolbe, ……shoji kotha, ami chaina tui oder sathe thakos. Shon, ami Jodi ekhon Arsha k giye boli je Romana ei typer...		Conversation

To examine politeness, the number of FTA(threats, unwilklingness, disapproval etc) was

counted.

Ivy	Tui mone koros je tui Shamim Osman boila sara Bangladesh e tui kichu hoye gesis.	• No politeness • insult
Female Interuptor	Amare ekhane ektu dai ase, dai ase, ami ektu boli, Cool, cool.	• Interrupts
Shamim:	Dolil toh ekhane ei ase.	• None
Ivy: (to Shamim):	Apni taile ekhoni dudok ke dak den (in ordering tone). Kno dudoke rkache jasna	• Order • Confront
Shamim	Khobordar tui tokari bondho koro boltesi. R ei j apnara (to host and organisers), ami apnader k bolcilam je se oi dhoroner vodro mohilla nah. Bolcilamna ami? Eder background erokomei.	• Warning • Insult
Ivy:	Yes, amar background eirokom	• Replies angrily
Shamim	Pura angul tule kotha bole.	• Complaints

Rest of the transcripts, along with features noted down, is presented in the table at the end of

the paper.

Chapter 5 Discussion

This study was aimed at discovering the answers of the research questions. The findings are indicated question wise in this chapter.

5.1 Introduction

Bengali people are very good in making social conversations. Some are friendly, polite, close, while others are always in heated mood, and as a result end up quarrelling verbally. The social construction is that people should respect elders maintain their cultural values they always try to keep conversations polite and in normal mood. Also, according to the context of our country, manner is very important. While communicating, speakers have to be aware so that none feels insulted or embarrassed. Manner and politeness, in this case, are in interrelated.

5.2 Discussion

A common positive politeness strategy is that of seeking agreement and avoiding disagreement (Cutting.2008). It is important that people make conversations directly in a friendly and polite manner without any sort of scope from disagreement and extreme arguments. This will be possible only when conversations will go on with the natural flow e.g. the tone and the manner of asking. One friend can say to another- "Bhai please tor boi gula de na naile ami onek bipode porbo , Sir boka boki korbe," In case of official gatherings or formal interviews, it is seen that politeness rules are followed very precisely. Mostly, speakers, there, use very formal and negative manner. Also, they are bound to use rude manners if they want to reject or refuse or say something negative.

However, in the three conversations of this paper, none of the speakers greeted each other in the beginning of the conversations. In Bangladeshi context, greeting is considered as a part of politeness. Here, only in the telephone conversation, male speaker has repeated "hello". However, due to the presupposition the speakers have about one another, the female hardly shows any interest in talking to the male speaker. Rather, she chooses to use the backchannel e.g. 'hmm' to imply that she is aware and listening to him. The telephone conversation then turns out to consist of many heated arguments and bold utterances through which both genders attack one another without trying to save anyone's face. To make the situation worse, being unable to control the conversation, the man starts to talk in ordering, threatening tone and also give several long utterances. At times, he even tried to confront the female listener. For instance

- Confront-"Ami kishumi k jiggeshkorsi? Bolamk".

- Order- "bolamak"

- Example of dominance – "Age reply de. Etokothabolish kn. Bolkakejiggeshkorsi".

- Insult- "actually, I do not trust you", "Remember you got slapped from 2 junior girls",

- Threat – "Thapraydatfeledibo", "karsathekothaboltesosbujheshunekothabol", "Mitutomar face dekhtechayna, r shumi o same" etc.

- Insult- "Tuiektabeyadop"

- Threat- "Chinos amare", "Mind your language ok" etc

Since both speakers, in the telephone, were continually interrupting each other, the conversation ended up in heated arguments that brought lots of warning, disappointment, threats etc. These are the features of the face threatening act found in all three conversations.

Even in the political talk show, it is seen that the guests violated the politeness theory and made the context completely informal. The setting of the conversation is the studio of Ekattor Television, where talk shows are arranged in the indoor studio of Ekattor Television. There, the context is quite formal. However, since this conversation took place due to the continuous pressure of the political powers and this part of the talk show waspublished on internet-based channels, not TV. The reason is to show the real scenario of the conversation when the talk show has been off for a short commercial break. Utterances made by the participants are not properly ordered. So, there is no sequence maintained in this conversationIt is about the mysterious seven murder case of Narayanganj. Therefore, the scene is very serious, violent, aggressive and unfriendly. Instead of addressing each other as "apni", they started as "tui", threw lots of threats and insults at each other and continued attacking one another till the program has been broadcasted live.

For instance, the tone becomes aggressive when Shamim Osman says, "Ek baaper meye hole tui Narayanganj e ayy". Ivy replied, "Tui Shamim Osman deikha ki mone koris, tui sara Bangladesh er kisu ekta hoye gesis?"

Again, Shamim utters, "Azaira pechal bondho kor, khali meye manush bole shojjo kortesi". That time Ivy replies, "Are, meye manush deikha ki? Kobori re marte gesos abar meye manush ki?". Here, Ivy has a presupposition that Shamim Osman does not bother to beat or kill anyone. Shamim Osman makes it clear that he usually does not tolerate at all but he is controlling himself only because Ivy is a woman. In this situation, his speech becomes an action for others, thinking that Shamim Osman is really controlling himself in this situation. Due to these sorts of talk exchange, throughout the whole talk show, there were hardly able to show any respect for this other, let alone politeness.

The same happened in the face to face group conversation, where 3 boys and 3 girls were fighting to decide who will complete the group work. When the boys try to avoid the work and insult the girls talking about their manners, the girls are seen to attack back with the same strategy that boys followed. One can see the equal use of FTA's and aggressiveness in the group conversation as presented in the table below.

Female 2	Beyadop, manner janona	Insult
Male 1	Ayymeye, tumi manner janona? Tomar senior amra	Attack back and insult
Male 2	Faulkotogula	Insult
Female 3	Shut up shut up shut up, shobaichupkoro, plesaseeee, stop it.	Order and request
Female 2	But eicheletohthambena, thambe?	Tag question
Male 1	Oiimeye, tumi chup koro,.Etto kotha kn bolo….	Argues
Male 2	CCCCHHHHUUUUUPPPPP	Interrupts, order

The above table shows a small segment of the heated argument amongst the students.

5.3 Research Questions

Question 1- Do men and women talk differently?

Analysis: Definitely, men and women talk in a different manner. However, the way they deal topic wise is not same for all conversations. Looking at the table of the data results, it is seen that the talking style of both gender is very unpredictable. The number of times men

interrupted in the first conversation is in no way similar to the frequency for the second and third conversation. However, the table depicts a ratio for the threatening utterance and order. In both the telephone conversation and face-to-face conversation, the ratio of order men showed to the ratio of order woman showed is same, that is, 2:1. Also, the earlier theories stated that men use backchannels more to show their least interest in the topics women talk about. However, the present data reveals that not man, rather it is a woman who has used "hmm" 4 times and revealed that she is not interested in what the man is saying. Therefore, it can be stated that the way men talk and the way women talk is different because they deal with the contexts in a different manner. Previously woman used to remain silent while man uttered something. Now, woman replies when it is needed.

Question 2- Do male speakers try to dominate while speaking?

Analysis: According to the data results, in face to face conversation, both men and women use threats. The ratio is equivalent. Therefore, it can be said that, in this era, there is no chance of the patriarchal gesture to dominate the conversation and distinguish women during conversation. In case of the telephonic conversation, if men order 4 times, women reply back and orders 2 times. Again, men insult women more during all three conversations: telephone, face to face, and the talk show. It implies that men have the tendency to dominate woman. However, this demeaning attempt is not successful since the number of times woman attacked back with insults is almost close to the number of times men did it.

Question 3- Does gender influence speech style?

Analysis: Gender does not influence speech style. From this paper work, as a researcher, I have found out that there are no certain rules as to what woman does and man does not or vice

versa. Both gender have used threats, interrupted each other, and carried out the conversations. When one insulted, the other replied back. In the telephonic conversation, interestingly, the female voice turns out to be bold and straightforward: "Actually, I do not trust you". This single deed represents that Bangladeshi woman are no longer hold by the social barriers where woman are supposed to look down, remain silent, and sacrifice speech independence.

Chapter 6 Conclusion

In everyday life, people always need to converse amongst themselves to share knowledge with each other. These help in sharing emotions with each other and make themselves happy. To share emotions, and knowledge, one needs to use language. In other word, people use language with a certain purpose. Therefore, it is upto the user to utilize their proper chances of talking. The decision lies up to them whether they will use language as needed or they will remain silent based on their gender.

To conclude, it can be said that language itself cannot and does not create any difference between gender. It is people who find the link with language and tries to create distinctions between male and female. However, these differences in vocabulary, topic selection, tone do not occur based on any pattern or rules. In 2018, there are no certain rules as to what woman can and cannot say. Rather, it is era of gender equality in all sectors, including language. Therefore, we, the users of language must believe in ourselves and learn to use language for making successful communications and conversations.

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