

Female conscious and Effect of Linguistic Behavior on Gender Discrimination: Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis

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Abstract

The primary objective of this research is to examine the impact of discrimination on the basis of gender on linguistic behaviour. Gender discrimination can be found in every sphere of life but the current study only explore the gender based linguistic behavior. Television programmes and talk shows were consulted for the purpose of determining the linguistic differences between the sexes. The data were analysed with respect to the Urdu language using linguistic variables including hedges, hypercorrect grammar, intensifiers, modal verbs, and special linking words. In order to analyse the data, both qualitative and quantitative approaches were utilised. A method of content analysis was implemented to examine the text. SPSS was utilised to determine the significance of the language used by each gender. Significant differences in language were observed between the sexes. Females were observed to be more cognizant of their language usage. This research exclusively incorporated the informal segments of conversations. For future research, formal conversation should also be used to analyse the data. Additionally, publications such as newspapers and magazines can serve as valuable sources of data for subsequent inquiries.

Keywords: gender discrimination, linguistic behavior, hedges. Hypercorrect Grammar, modal verbs

Introduction

Understanding gender, gender expression, gender identity, sex, and sexuality through the lens of social theory and political action is what feminists mean especially, when they talk about equality and equity. Feminism is a response to these problems that draws on many disciplines. Feminism has evolved over time from an in-depth study of gender inequalities to a more nuanced examination of how gender and sexuality are socially and culturally constructed. Now more than ever, feminist theory is interested in studying power imbalances that arise at the intersections of demographic categories such as socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, and race or ethnicity. Equal rights violations along the intersecting dimensions of ability, class, gender, racism, and sexuality are another target of feminism's critical inquiry. Students who have studied these inequalities in depth will enter the world with an awareness of injustice and the tools to help change any unhealthy power dynamic they encounter. Activists who call themselves feminists typically seek to improve employment conditions, such as by advocating for paid family leave, equal pay, and the elimination of sexual harassment and discrimination. Reproductive rights, domestic violence, equity, and social justice are further topics of focus.

Both critical discourse analysis (CDA) and many feminist language studies are based on a critical viewpoint on unequal social structures that are maintained through language use, with the goals of social transformation and emancipation. In this view, language is analysed in light of the role it plays in maintaining unequal social relations. Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis is the first book to bring together a global collection of works at the interface of CDA and feminist research (including feminist studies of language). This is the first ever assemblage of its kind.¹ The collection was written with the intention of fostering a more complete and nuanced comprehension of the role that power and ideology play in language in upholding a patriarchal gendered social order. Keeping this in mind is crucial in light of the fact that gender, power, and ideological issues have become more nuanced and complex in recent years. To begin, since the late 1980s, feminist discussions and theoretical work have shown that using

universal and totalizing words for 'women' and 'men' is problematic and no longer tenable. Sexual orientation, race, socioeconomic status, and geographical origin are only some of the many forms of social identification that intersect with and permeate the gender category. Gender is also a category that may be thought of as being shot through by other categories. Moreover, patriarchy is not just a set of beliefs; it is an intellectual system that interacts complexly with other ideologies, such as corporatism and consumerism. Second, although it exists to varied degrees and in a wide range of forms across the many societies of today, the processes of gender ideology and asymmetrical power relations in speech are taking on increasingly subtle forms in the current era.

Language is an indispensable instrument for human communication. It is regarded as an aspect of social reality. It serves numerous purposes in constructing and maintaining social existence. Therefore, in accordance with this perspective, language reflects an individual's perception of speech and influences the way in which people's behaviour evolves over time. Feminists and sociolinguists have thus exhibited considerable interest in the correlation between gender differences in language usage and their respective cultural positions. As a result, it has been customary for centuries to distinguish the language of males and females by delineating their linguistic and gender-based distinctions, as well as by explicating how language reinforces preconceived notions about humanity as a whole and females in particular. Additionally, language reveals social distinctions between men and women. The usage of language differs between males and females, according to observations. Observing a male attempt to use the "language" employed by a female indicates that he has exceeded the acceptable boundaries and should be using the language of the opposite sex. For this reason, statements such as "I would characterise her as handsome rather than beautiful" could be considered as exceeding his boundaries. The English language assigns the adjective "beautiful" to females only, while "handsome" is reserved for males. Other languages also contain instances of the same nature; for instance, in Vietnamese, the terms "willowy" and "graceful" are the only words used to describe the attractiveness of young women (Schnurr & Fuchs, 2022).

Research Objectives

The objectives of the study are:

- I. To examine linguistic characteristics by analysing terms in accordance with the speech styles of both genders (male and female) in the perspective of FCDA.
- II. To determine the frequency and percentage usage of words that are used informally by both sexes (male and female) in order to distinguish the usage of specific sociolinguistic variables.

Literature Review

Women and men are polar opposites, both biologically and culturally (Barron et al., 2022). According to Lakoff (2004), this discrimination based on gender treats women's speech as inferior and handicapped because it differs from men's. As a result, some have resorted to using an ineffective and unorthodox method to boost their social position. It is important for women to establish their own personal style while yet adhering to the norms established by men. However, it is unclear from these guidelines whether or not men and women are required to communicate using the same language and conversational strategies. Languages are distinguished from one another by the goals they seek to achieve and the status they have in society.

There has been extensive study into the correlation between gender and language, with researchers taking what has been termed a "sex difference approach" to comparing and contrasting male and female linguistic practises. Research findings are notoriously difficult to generalise from due to significant gender differences in how men and women use language depending on factors such as social role, cultural background, and other environmental factors. Taking into account the factors that affect relatively simple speech patterns or vocal intonation is a good way to evaluate the complexity of language usage and its perception. The size of a person's larynx is a good indicator of the frequency range of their voice. Since men tend to be

larger than women, their voices tend to be lower. However, this health issue is not as simple as it seems. Speakers have a lot of leeway in deciding where to place their voices within the range, despite the fact that changes in size are largely controlled by variations in basal fundamental frequencies (the lowest tone a speaker can generate). Therefore, it is claimed that there is no predicted pattern in the relationship between fundamental average frequencies at the base (Rogers, Cook, & Guerrero, 2022). This may suggest that women are more likely to be expected to use a voice frequency in the middle range, while men are more likely to use a voice frequency in the lower range. This makes it clear that homophobic societal stereotypes apply equally to men and women, with the former being linked to low-pitched accents and the latter to high-pitched ones. However, the lynch's physical stature is a major factor in determining its vocal range. Furthermore, sexism plays a major role in determining whether or not a person uses the language with a low or high tone. It's also possible that specific conceptions of gender roles, which are open to change, are the driving force behind these customs.

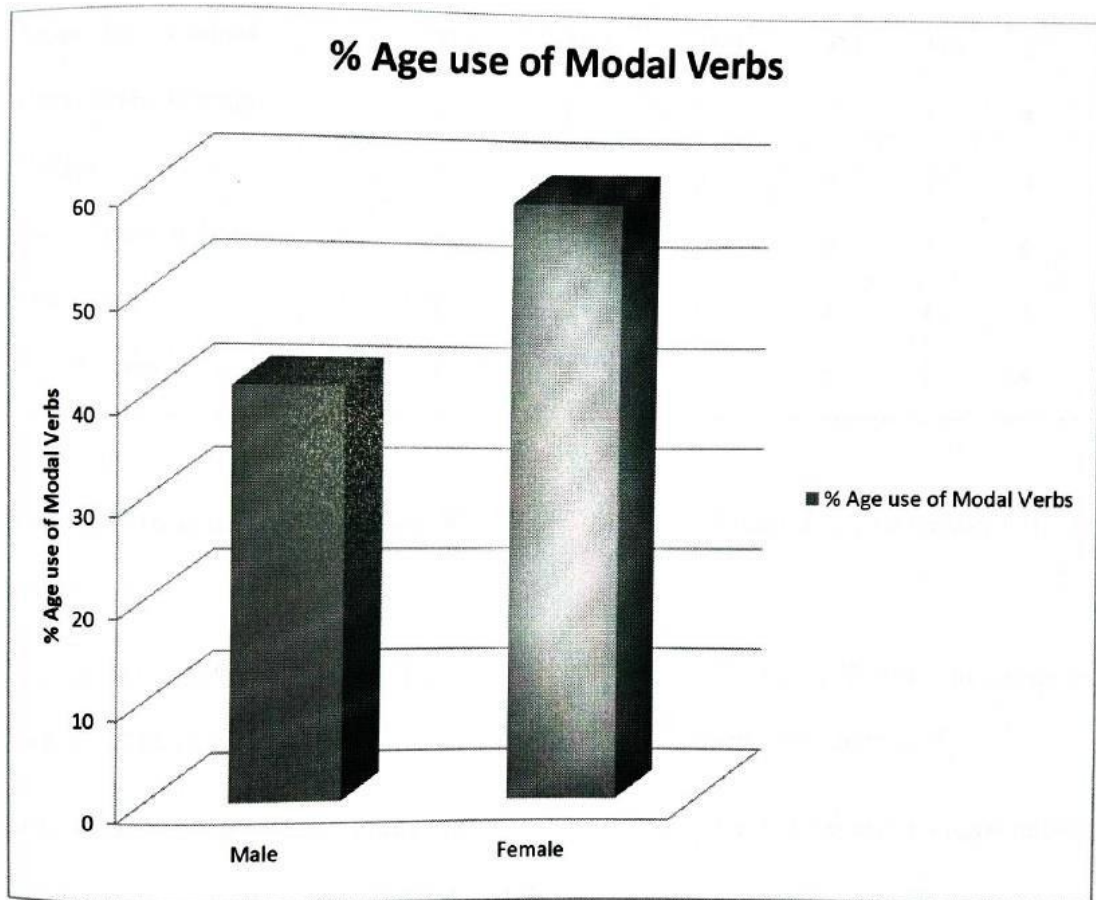
Several studies have linked shifts in a woman's social position to a momentary drop in her average fundamental frequency of speech. To evaluate the frequency of language use and draw conclusions by comparing male and female speakers, it is not enough to look at only one aspect of language, such as voice range (Birkelund et al., 2022). Many psychologists have suggested that other aspects of human experience are more complex than language (Najjar et al., 2022). Social norms determine when a situation or conversation can be considered casual or informal. Due to technical limitations, these research have typically relied on experimentalist-provided context sentences in speech laboratories rather than recordings of actual speech. It's still unclear, though, if these statements come from real life or not. However, the results of this study imply that women view experimental situations differently from traditional ones. Women, it appears, are more circumspect in their use of language than men are (Pitot et al., 2022).

The term "speech register" refers to the various linguistic styles that emerge depending on context. Several studies have suggested that men and women use contrasting varieties of conversational language depending on the nature of the topic being discussed. "Speech registers" is the phrase that works best to define these linguistic subsets. Several researchers in a scholarly journal have proposed a method for systematically evaluating the several tiers of sentence structure in order to better understand female language (Butler-Barnes et al., 2022).

Data Analysis

This chapter provides an overview of both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. The initial segment of this chapter is devoted to quantitative analysis. In this section, distinct tables are provided for each linguistic variable, detailing the number of clips and the number of uses of that variable. A minimum of three females and three males have been selected for each linguistic variable variety. The percentage usage of each linguistic variable is represented graphically following the entry of pertinent data into each linguistic variable. To create a graphical representation, the usage percentage of each linguistic variable was calculated. In the second section of this chapter, a qualitative analysis of all data and a comparison of hypercorrect and correct grammar will be presented.

Graphical Representation of Linguistic Variable “Modal Verbs”



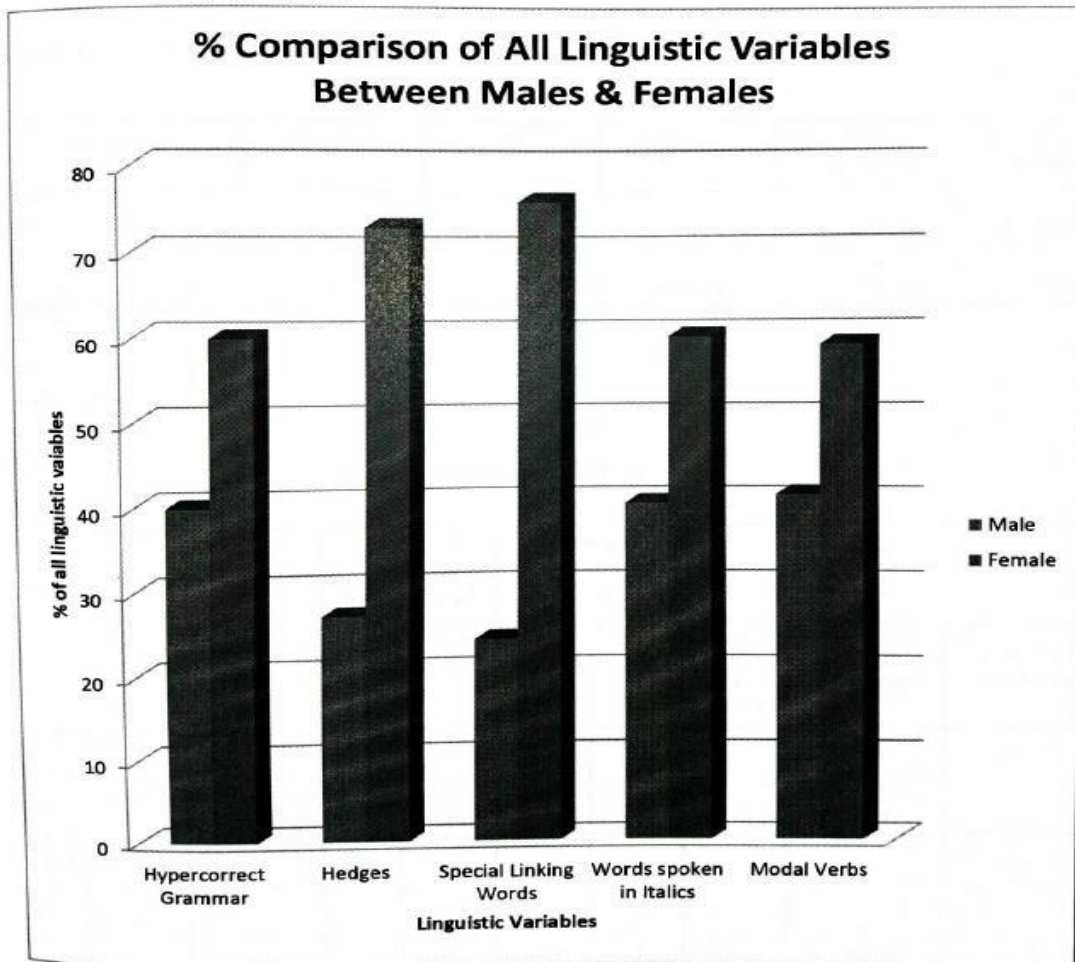
usage of linguistics variables (Special Linking Words, Hypercorrect, Hedges, Modal Verbs) with respect to eight clips for both genders.

06, M-1 and M-2 used "hypercorrect grammar" an average of once and twice, respectively. However, F-1 was used three times, F-2 and F-3 were used four times, and the grammar was completely incorrect. M-1, M-2, and M-3 utilised hedges an average of 02 times, while F-1, F-3, and F-2 utilised hedges an average of 04 times and 03 times, respectively. M-1 and M-3 utilised "special linking words" an average of twice, while M-2 utilised them once. In contrast, F-1 and F-2 utilised "special linking words" three times, and F-3 utilised them four times.

The average number of times words spoken in italics were used by M-2 & M-3 was three, while M-1 used it twice. F-1 & F-2 utilised it four times, and F-3 utilised it five times.

On average, M-1 and M-2 employed modal verbs three times, while M-3 and F-3 utilised them four times and F-1 and F-2 utilised them five times.

Graphical Representation of all Linguistic variables



Linguistic variable	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean			
Hypercorrects	Males	3	1.3333	0.57735	0.33333			
	Females	3	3.6667	0.57735	0.33333			
		Levine's Test for Equality of Variances		T-test for Equality of Means		T-test for Equality of Means		
		F	Sig.	T	Df.	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference
Hypercorrect Grammar	Equal Variances assumed	0	1	-4.95	4	0.008	-2.33333	0.4714
	Equal Variances not assumed			-4.95	4	0.008	-2.33333	0.4714

According to tables 07 and 08, the values for males (M=1.333 SD 0.57) and females (M=3.67 SD 0.57) differed significantly (T (4) = -4.95, p=0.08).

This result indicates that, on average, females employ more hypercorrect grammar than males. A notable distinction exists between the linguistic patterns of males and females.

Hedges

Linguistic Variable	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean			
Hedges Independent	M	3	2	0	0			
	F	3	3.6667	0.57735	0.33333			
		Levine's Test for Equality of Variances		T-test for Equality of Means		T-test for Equality of Means		
		F	Sig.	T	Df.	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference
Hedges	Equal Variances assumed	16	0.016	-5	4	0.007	-1.66667	0.33333
	Equal Variances not assumed			-5	2	0.038	-1.66667	0.33333

The data in tables 09 and 10 indicate a statistically significant difference in the values between the male condition (M=2.00 SD 0.00) and the female condition (M=3.67 SD 0.57): $T(4) = -5.0, p=0.007$.

This finding indicates that females employ hedges to a greater extent than males. A notable distinction exists between the linguistic patterns of males and females.

Special Linking Words

Linguistic Variable	Gender	N		Mean		Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	
Special Linking Words	M	3		1.6667		0.57735	0.33333	
	F	3		3.3333		0.57735	0.33333	
		Levine's Test for Equality of Variances		T-test for Equality of Means		T-test for Equality of Means		
		F	Sig.	T	Df.	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference
Special Linking Words	Equal Variances Assumed	0	1	-3.536	4	0.024	-1.66667	0.4714
	Equal Variances Not Assumed			-3.536	4	0.024	-1.66667	0.4714

There was a statistically significant difference in the values for males (M=1.666 SD 0.57) and females (M=3.33 SD 0.57) under conditions T (4) = -3.53, p=0.024, as shown in tables 11 and 12.

This result indicates that, on average, females employ a greater number of linking words than males. A notable distinction exists between the linguistic patterns of males and females. This result indicates that, on average, females employ more intensifiers than males. A notable distinction exists between the linguistic patterns of males and females.

Linguistic Variable	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Modal Verbs	M	3	3.3333	0.57735	0.33333
	F	3	4.6667	0.57735	0.33333

This finding indicates that females exhibit a greater propensity for employing modal verbs than males. A notable distinction exists between the linguistic patterns of males and females.

When "hypercorrect grammar" is present, eight segments are selected for linguistic variable analysis. Observing table 17 for the second through fourth segments, M-1 hypercorrected grammar only once. Two times in the fifth and sixth snippets, M-1 utilised "hypercorrect grammar," and three times in the seventh clip.

In contrast, with regard to females, F-1 utilised 1.01 times of "hypercorrect grammar" in the first recording. The second clip contained two instances of "hypercorrect grammar,"

the third clip contained four instances, and the fourth clip contained six instances of "hypercorrect grammar." F-2 utilised 02 time [hypercorrect grammar] in the initial recording. The second clip contained four instances of "hypercorrect grammar," the third clip contained five instances, and the fourth clip contained six instances. F-3 used the time in the first and second clips to "hypercorrect grammar" by three times. F-3 is utilised six times in the third segment, which is an instance of hypercorrect grammar.

Therefore, drawing from the aforementioned data and information, it can be concluded that females, on average, employ more hypercorrect grammar when communicating across cultures.

F-1 represents the first female, F-2 represents the second female, and F-3 represents the third female.

When "correct grammar" is present, eight segments are selected for linguistic variable analysis. Upon examination of table 18, it is evident that M-1 utilised "correct grammar" three times in the first clip, four times in the second and third clips, and seven times in the fourth and fifth clips. Five times in the first and second excerpts, six times in the third through fifth clips, and seven times in the sixth clip, M-2 used correct grammar. Correct grammar was used 03 times in the first clip, 4 times in the second through fifth segments, and 5 times in the sixth through seventh clips.

Alternatively, when considering females, F-1 utilised "correct grammar" for the second time in the first recording. Three times in the second through fourth clips, F-1 used "correct grammar," four times in the fifth clip, and once in the first through second clip, F-2 used "correct grammar." In the third film, F-2 employed the usage of "correct grammar" at 02 time. Three times in the fourth and fifth segments did F-2 use "correct grammar," while F-3 used "correct grammar" once in the first clip and twice in the second through fourth clips. Five through six segments contained one instance of correct grammar (F-3).

Therefore, drawing from the aforementioned data and information, it can be concluded that females, on average, employ more "proper grammar" when communicating across cultures. According to tables 20 and 21, the values differed significantly. For males ($M=1.333$ SD 0.57) and females ($M=3.67$ SD 0.57) in the case of a hypercorrect year, $T(4) = -4.95$, $p = 0.008$; $T(4) = -4.95$, $p = 0.008$. In contrast, for males ($M=5$ SD 1) and females ($M=2.3$ SD 0.57) with regard to correct grammar, $t(4) = -4$, $p = 0.016$.

This result indicates that, relative to males, females employ more hypercorrect grammar and less correct grammar. A notable distinction exists between the linguistic patterns of males and females.

Qualitative Examination

A procedure that occurs continuously throughout the data compilation and evaluation of the project, qualitative analysis begins with data entry and concludes with its analysis.

Extremely Correct Grammar

Hypercorrect grammar refers to the use of nonstandard language that results from the excessive application of a purported norm of sentence structure. An individual who writes or speaks unknowingly employs hypercorrect grammar because he believes he is using the proper form of grammar. The application of an illogical grammatical rule in an authentic situation leads to hypercorrect grammar. The linguistic variables chosen for the analysis of hypercorrect grammar revealed, in accordance with my research, that the usage of hypercorrect grammar by the sexes differed significantly.

In discourse, men typically employ the language they have learned; they rarely alter the language, particularly on a phonological level.

Based on my research, there is a greater propensity for hypercorrect grammar usage among females in comparison to ten males. Males employed 40% hypercorrect grammar, while females utilised 60% hypercorrect grammar, according to my interpretations. During conversation, the substantial disparity in language usage between the sexes becomes evident.

Hedges

Additionally, it has been noted that females employ hedges to a greater extent than males.

In general, females employed a greater number of hedges than males.

Thirty percent hedges were utilised by males and seventy percent by females in sociolinguistic discourse.

For instance:

Within a brief period of time, a female has utilised two hedges in a single clip.

F-1: I think ap sai kah rhy hn

F-2: Mera khayal hy inn ko pata hi nai hy

As for as male is concerned, they did not use hedges during conversation.

3.1 Conclusion

It is exceedingly challenging to obtain the correct responses to the inquiries that were posed at the outset of the research endeavour. Regardless, the present research provides a comprehensive comprehension of pervasive facets pertaining to language usage, behaviour, and differentiation. It has been noted that significant variations existed among the languages spoken by various individuals. To begin with, the research establishes a substantial disparity in the application of various variables between the sexes. Conversely, the study also determined that females exhibit a greater propensity for hypercorrect grammar usage and a more refined approach to language usage in comparison to males. The omission of the glottal sound 'h' in the Urdu language by female speakers provides further evidence that their speech patterns differ. The evolution of languages is a dynamic process. Therefore, research is imperative regarding the development and progression of the Urdu language. With any luck, this research will contribute to the field of language by illuminating the phases of language formation and the ways in which they differ by gender. It will expand the scope of research in this field even further. This research will also provide support to the Urdu-speaking community, particularly in Pakistan, by examining the ways in which it evolves and differs among speakers. It is expected to make a valuable contribution to the advancement and provision of Urdu.

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