

A Corpus-Based Comparative Analysis of Socio-Linguistic Features in the Genderlect of American and Pakistani English TV Talk Shows

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Abstract

This study examines the depiction of gender in Pakistani and American television discussion programmes. The primary objective is to determine if the talk shows in both countries (i.e., Pakistan and America) display typical gender stereotypes or whether they challenge dominant views of gender and promote fresh depictions. To accomplish this objective, content analysis is performed to examine the sample comprising Pakistani and American television talk programmes. Specifically, programmes broadcast on Pakistani and American general-interest networks have been chosen. Results indicate that only individuals with binary gender expressions (female and male) participated. Males are likelier to play a prominent role in these programmes, particularly as the host position, which is essential to the format's dynamics. As a rule, female characters are less powerful and use significantly less humour than their male counterparts in these talk shows in Pakistan and the United States. On the other hand, late-night talk shows are known for their inclusivity in featuring both male and female guests. They are open to discussing a wide range of topics, from intimate and political matters to current affairs and private issues, without gender bias. The primary conclusion of this study that can be reached is still problematic in terms of gender (male and female) representation, mainly owing to the absence of female players in dominating positions and the preconceived notions about women when they do humour as a host of the programme.

Keywords: Genderlect, Humour, Respect, Culture, Stereotypes, Talk Show

Introduction

Language is one of the distinctive qualities of people that has attracted curiosity throughout history. After a lengthy development period, linguistics has broadened into various areas, such as studying human language. Like the notion, gender is also an inherently communicative phenomenon enacted and mainly constructed through language.

Shah et al. (2021) stated that exploring language variation and its connection to social factors has long been a focus of interest in sociolinguistics. One area that has garnered specific attention is the examination of gender differences in language use, leading to the development of the field of gender and language. While former exploration has handed precious perceptivity into the sociolinguistic features of genderlect, there's still a need for further comprehensive and data-driven examinations. In this study, the researcher aims to address this gap by conducting a corpus-grounded analysis of the sociolinguistic features of genderlect.

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Genderlect refers to the verbal patterns and actions associated with different genders, erected by a complex interplay of social, artistic, and cerebral factors. The genderlect approach is just one lens through which we can dissect language use. Race, class, and creative background can also impact language use and communication patterns (Shah et al., 2021). Thus, a more comprehensive analysis would also consider these other factors. By exercising a corpus-grounded approach, we can examine an extensive and different collection of language samples, allowing for a more systematic analysis of genderlect features. Corpus linguistics provides a precious tool to probe the frequency, distribution, and operation patterns of specific verbal features in different gender groups. This system enables us to identify quantitative and qualitative differences in language use, slipping light on how gender shapes communication practices.

Inspired by the interesting trend in linguistics, the researcher wants to analyze the sociolinguistic features of Pakistani and American genderlect. He worked on the use of humour, identity, and respect and how these sociolinguistic features are used by each gender of interlocutors in American and Pakistani talk shows. Then, he went for the frequencies of sociolinguistic features to check whether they differ in the same gender groups compared to the opposite gender groups. Furthermore, the researcher compared the analyzed sociolinguistic features of Pakistani and American genderlect.

It is mandatory to discuss that the research does not seek to reinforce or essentialize gender differences but instead focuses on contributing to our understanding of the sociolinguistic complexities surrounding genderlect. By engaging a data-driven approach, we hope to provide empirical substantiation that adds nuance and depth to the ongoing conversation on gender and language. This exploration can have counteraccusations for fields like communication studies, sociolinguistics, gender studies, and language education, contributing to a more detailed understanding of the part of language in shaping and reflecting gender dynamics.

Statement of the Research Problem

Language is a complex and ever-evolving entity, and the emergence of new varieties can bring about new challenges in communication. As the number of varieties within a language increases, the eventuality of miscommunication between different groups also grows. In particular, there's frequent dissociation between how males and women communicate, leading to misconstructions and conflicts. This problem is especially applicable in English media, where gender differences in communication can profoundly impact how dispatches are perceived and understood. The current study, "A corpus-grounded relative analysis of sociolinguistic features in the genderlect of American and Pakistani English television talk shows," seeks to examine these differences in communication patterns between genders in American and Pakistani English television talk shows. By assaying a large corpus of spoken language data, the researcher identifies the most salient features of genderlect and exfoliates light on how gender shapes communication in different artistic surrounds. Eventually, the study can help us understand how gender differences in language usage impact communication and develop strategies for advancing further effective and inclusive communication across genders.

Research Questions

The following are the research questions:

1. In what ways are the sociolinguistic features (i.e., recognition and respect) used differently by men and women in American and Pakistani English TV talk shows?
2. How are the frequencies of each sociolinguistic feature different in same-gender groups compared to opposite-gender groups?

Study Objectives

Research objectives are as given below:

1. To find out how men and women use sociolinguistic features (i.e., recognition and respect) differently in American and Pakistani English TV talk shows.
2. To know whether the frequencies of each sociolinguistic feature will differ in the same gender groups compared to opposite gender groups.

Study Significance

This corpus-based comparative analysis of sociolinguistic features in the genderlect of American and Pakistani English TV talk shows holds significant importance for understanding the cultural, linguistic, and gender dynamics in these contexts. By examining language use and communication patterns, the research provides insights into the representation of gender in media, the influence of culture on language practices, and the broader implications for societal attitudes and power dynamics. This study's results contribute to the sociolinguistics field, promote cultural exchange, and offer practical implications for media practices.

Literature Review

Many people are accustomed to seeing genderlect on television. Television programs frequently depict cultural conventions and customs, making learning simple. Several television programs investigate the genderlect theory by portraying characters in their typical genderlects. Many academics and authors have tried to comprehend the idea of male and female character dialogue by examining programs.

Hidalgo (2016) stated that there are several varieties of men and women. Thus, they do not group in uniform ways. As a result, there are more genderlects than just one for men and one for women. Genderlect patterns are prevalent in many different kinds of television programming, but they can be particularly problematic in the context of comic comedies. A researcher at "Boston College" evaluated how characters spoke to their significant others in various television comedies to determine how well their genderlects contradict each other. They sought to demonstrate that men would become more powerful and status-conscious while women would concentrate more on their feminist ideas (Walsh et al., 2008).

The research about depicting men and women's gender roles in the American television series *Gossip Girl*, starring Chuck Bass and Blair Waldorf, Rahma and Setyaningsih (2022) states that compared to Blair Waldorf, Chuck Bass offers and asks more questions. On the other hand, Blair Waldorf makes more requests, offers opinions, and assigns responsibility than Chuck Bass. Chuck Bass perpetuates that males produce more offers and ask more questions to learn more. Blair Waldorf portrays women as cooperative and making more requests during social interactions than intimate ones.

Djalilova (2022) stated that the characteristics of male and female oral and written statements, as well as the structure of the text, point to the existence of gender variations in speech behaviour, which calls for a more detailed analysis. One more illustration of gendered communication in TV can be found in a *Journal of Males' Studies* article that examines how men are portrayed in well-known comedies. The research concentrated on the representation of males in popular TV programs and how well these characters matched the stereotypes of men. They then examined how well these male characters fit within the stereotypical male genderlect communication style.

Gender-based Linguistic Biases

The study of gender and language covers many motifs about how gender is expressed and understood via language. Studying gender-grounded language impulses is one particular

exploration of content in this discipline. This relates to how language use, constantly through subtle or implicit suggestions, can immortalize or support gender conceptions and impulses. The operation of gendered pronouns is a well-known case of verbal prejudice grounded on gender. According to exploration, using mannish pronouns to relate to someone whose gender isn't known can show that the referent is a man (Gabriel & Griffiths, 2004). This might impact retaining procedures and other aspects of life where gender might play a part. Analogous to this, it has been demonstrated that using unsexed language in job announcements contributes to hiring disagreement depending on gender (Gaucher et al., 2011).

Research has also looked at how gender-based language biases can influence how people are seen according to their gender identification. For instance, research has shown that people who don't fit into established gender roles may experience prejudice and unfavourable opinions because of the way they use language (Leap, 2015). Similar difficulties may arise for transgender people in locating language that appropriately portrays their gender identification and steer clear of misgendering (Baker & McHugh, 2016).

Communication Styles of Men and Women

According to studies (Holmes, 2006; Tannen, 1990), men and women communicate depending on their socialization gestures. For case, men tend to intrude more constantly and use further blunt language, whereas women generally use more qualifiers, label queries, and barricade statements (Lakoff, 1975; West & Zimmerman, 1983). Men use more competitive language than women do, according to Tannen (1990). Women also speak more collaboratively. Particularly in mixed-gender organizations, these dissonances can beget misapprehension and misconstructions between men and women.

Factors Influencing Genderlect

Power dynamics, cultural and social conventions, and individual differences all impact how men and women communicate (Tannen, 1990; Holmes, 2006). For this case, Tannen (1990) stated that men are socialized to be more assertive and competitive, whereas women are mingled to be more gracious and regardful. As persons with further authority generally speak more directly and assertively, power dynamics can also affect communication styles (Holliday et al., 2010). Genderlect is told by individual variations similar to personality rates and communication capacities (Holmes, 2006).

According to exploration, natural variables impact genderlect. Variations in communication styles have been connected to hormonal differences between men and women, similar to testosterone and oestrogen situations (Halpern, 2000). According to studies, antenatal hormone exposure can alter how well a person learns to communicate and acquire new languages (McHale & Crouter, 1996). Although natural variables may contribute to gender variations in communication, it's essential to note that they don't influence genderlect patterns alone. Artistic morals and socialization processes powerfully tell Genderlect. Children are exposed to gender-specific socialization practices at a youthful age, affecting their communication (Bussey & Bandura, 1999). Unsexed communication habits are developed in part by parents, classmates, and the media. For example, boys are socialized to value fierceness and independence, whereas girls are encouraged to share in collaborative and affiliative communication (Maltz & Borker, 1982). Communication styles vary across countries and societies due to artistic conventions and ideals about gender places (Hofstede, 1984). Genderlect is also told by individual characteristics similar to personality factors and communication preferences. According to exploration, extraversion, affability, and fierceness exemplify particular traits that men and women may differ in within their gender group (Feingold, 1994). Also, preferences for communication styles may vary depending on

individual communication pretensions and ways (Burgoon & Hale, 1987). The variety seen in genderlect patterns can be attributed to these particular variations.

Methodology

The Nature of Research

The study employed a quantitative approach to probe the socio-verbal features of American and Pakistani English television talk shows. The study data was collected from various talk shows from both countries, guaranteeing a different representation of verbal features and cultural settings. The selection criteria for the talk shows concentrated on the themes of social or political conversations, as these motifs frequently showcase distinct language use and communication patterns.

Data Collection and Analysis Procedures

The current study consists of Forty (40) talk shows retrieved from YouTube, covering a range of programs broadcasted on some Pakistani and American channels in the English language. These talk shows represented various programs with various formats and themes. Twenty (20) talk shows from each country's official channels were selected for analysis to ensure a balanced representation of both countries. This selection process aims to capture a variety of perspectives, topics, and interview styles in Pakistani and American TV talk shows.

Both interviewers and interviewees were purposively selected from these talk shows to analyze the sociolinguistic differences in speech of genders (i.e., male and female). The selection criteria ensured the inclusion of both male and female individuals in their respective roles as interviewers and guests. This deliberate selection aimed to capture the distinctive sociolinguistic features and communication patterns associated with each gender in the context of TV talk shows.

It is mandatory to note that the selection of talk shows from official channels and the thoughtful presence of male and female members allowed for a representative analysis of genderlect in TV talk shows. By examining the speech patterns and linguistic features of different genders in these programs, the research aims to shed light on the sociolinguistic features and gendered speech acts within the context of television talk shows.

As the research at hand is a corpus-based analysis, the researcher used the software AntConc, Anthony (2014) to ensure things were understood and understood in analyzing the data. Corpus analysis is a type of textual analysis that allows researchers to compare textual pieces on a wide scale (sometimes known as "distant reading"). It will enable the researcher to detect things he discovered otherwise when reading the transcribed discussion programmes.

Theoretical Framework

Deborah Tannen's (1990) Genderlect theory serves as a theoretical frame for understanding the differences in communication styles between men and women. This proposition posits that gender plays a significant part in shaping how individualities communicate and explores how these differences can lead to misconstructions. According to Tannen (1990), men and women frequently engage in distinct speech patterns and styles, which she refers to as genderlects. Colourful social, artistic, and natural factors tell these genderlects. Tannen argues that men generally employ a report communication style, fastening on conveying information, asserting dominance, and achieving status. On the other hand, women frequently use a rapport style of communication, emphasizing structure connections, fostering connections, and seeking closeness.

By employing Tannen's Genderlect Theory as a theoretical framework, the researcher gained insights into the complexities of gendered communication, the impact of societal expectations

on communication styles, and the potential for miscommunication and misunderstanding between genders.

Corpus Analysis Tool: Antconc

AntConc, a freeware corpus analysis application, was employed by the researcher to analyze the text and sort concordances. Concordance is all about listing every occurrence of a word in a corpus or text and the preceding and following words. When people in corpus linguistics talk about concordances, they usually mean a simple "Key Word in Context" (KWIC) concordance. Concordance is merely a method of visualizing facts. The sorting word and its co-text are arranged so that the textual surroundings and visual patterns preceding and following the search term are easily analyzed. Concordances (and wordlists) are text changes that allow the analyst to examine the text from multiple perspectives, according to Barlow (2004).

Analysis and Discussion

Analysis

During our analysis, individuals were meticulously identified and subsequently coded. This comprehensive study encompassed twenty distinct programs hailing from two diverse nations: Pakistan and America. The cumulative dataset amounted to an impressive 13 hours and 33 minutes of content, each episode averaging approximately 40 minutes. Notably, in all but one instance, the hosts of the programs were male, with a lone female serving as a guest-cum-host in a specific Pakistan talk show.

Recognition per Country

In this section, country-specific recognition data are compared. The nation with the biggest number of participants is the U.S., which has a diverse sample that has been analyzed; the U.S. also gets the maximum number of hours in the sample (8 hours), while Pakistan accounted for the remaining hours.

The United States has the majority of male and female participants (55 per cent of males and 60 per cent of females, respectively, out of all the samples), while the remaining participants were from Pakistan. 55% of the sample's total number of male participants is found in the U.S. Male participants are almost equally represented in both geographic regions. Vis-à-vis the participants in the preceding section, a similar structure is used to explain the analysis per country, first addressing ethnicity and age separately, then combining both groups to reveal the most prevalent participants' profile per state.

Respect per Country

When we discussed respect, the objective was to determine the prevalent roles for men and women, and in this case study, by country. The top-level three values in every country mentioned in this research are highlighted so that only the most pertinent information is discussed.

In Pakistan, the top three jobs are collaborator (23.8%), guest (56.9%), and assistant (7.7 per cent). The highest proportion of all nations, 82.4 per cent of participants, play the role of guests, followed by the position of collaborator (12 per cent), while the function of programme host accounts for 6 per cent of the total roles. The United States has the most significant disparity, where most participants play the role of performers (34%), followed by the role of player or responder (15.2%). Some of the screenshots from the corpus analysis tool, Antconc, while analyzing the concordances in Pakistani TV talk shows used for respect are as given below:

Figure 1(a): Concordances in Pakistani TV talk shows

The next step in examining gender representation is to determine which gender is more prevalent in each position and to emphasize any analysis that contradicts the predicted dominance of men in a three-to-one ratio.

There are positions where men and women hold proportions comparable to their anticipated representation. This occurs in the capacity of the participant, responder, and visitor (36 per cent women and 64 per cent men in both cases). In the capacity of an audience member, females and males are equally represented. However, in all other roles, males significantly outnumber females (they account for 85 per cent of participants who perform as helpers, 78 per cent of performers, and 87 per cent of collaborators).

To provide a comprehensive analysis of the debate, only dialogues or actions lasting more than 58 seconds were coded; only conversations lasting one minute or longer were considered to develop the final findings. This filter removed 812 of 4081 rows. Our research has also eliminated certain portions, including the opening, conclusion, and transitional sections, so the host can preview the next episode by providing impartial information and naming the guests.

In addition, the item on artistic or musical performance was omitted from the study since participants did not mention a specific topic while singing or performing a creative act. Thus, roles are assumed, and humour is used. In this research, male participants are more dominant than predicted; nonetheless, there are two categories in which women are overrepresented: answering questions and completing surveys (40 per cent of participants who answer questions are women). There are also several instances in which males dominate females. This occurs in the roles of questioning and presenting, in which all participants are male, and in the roles of leading the talk (94 per cent of participants who led the conversation are male), observing (84.5 per cent), and being quiet (81.3 per cent). In this instance, there is no apparent pattern of males displaying an overabundance of active roles in conversation since they equally show an overabundance of quiet and passive roles; instead, the overrepresentation occurs in various positions without any rationale.

The participants' conversation topic is an additional important feature of their discussion. Analysis indicates that the most prevalent topics are current events (22.2% per cent), professional careers (22.3 per cent), personal (14.2% per cent), and political concerns (12.6 per cent). The topic with the lowest frequency is culture (5%), followed by shared themes (6.3%), which include debating the episode being evaluated, the show, or the channel on which it airs. There are no gender representation abnormalities when assessing the participant-discussed topics in American TV Talk shows. The proportion of male and female participants in the majority of issues (70 per cent vs. 30 per cent) is comparable to what was predicted, except for

business themes (82.6 per cent) and politics, where the proportion of male participants is more significant than anticipated (80.9 per cent). The first of these themes, business topics, may be disproportionately represented by males since presenters mainly address corporate issues, while more than 90 per cent of the sample's hosts are men.

Female participants are more likely to talk about professional (19.1 per cent), current events (24.2 per cent), and personal concerns (18.5 per cent). In comparison, male participants are more likely to discuss individual matters (14.2 per cent) and professional (21.5 per cent while current events (21.5%). Some of the screenshots from the corpus analysis tool, Antconc, while analyzing the concordances in Pakistani TV talk shows used for respect are as given below:

Figure 1(b): Concordances in Pakistani TV talk shows



Discussion

Recognition and Coding of Individual

The study at hand focused on the representation of genders on TV talk shows in Pakistan and the United States. We found significant differences between the number of men and women who host the shows. According to Deborah Tannen's Genderlect theory, men and women have different communication styles that can impact their interactions. Tannen says that men usually talk to show they are independent and have high status, while women typically talk to be close and have emotional connections. The large number of male hosts in our data matches what Tannen noticed about men often taking charge, which shows how society sees men as being in control in public conversations.

Recognition per Country

The data on recognized individuals indicated that the United States had a higher participation rate and more female representation than Pakistan. Tannen's idea is that the culture you grow up in affects how you talk about gender. In America, where people are working for gender equality, there is a big focus on giving women a chance to be part of public conversations. Tannen says that how we talk is influenced by our culture. Men and women speak in different ways depending on their surroundings.

Respect per Country

Studying how men and women are treated in different countries, we found that in Pakistan, they often have roles like helpers and visitors. At the same time, in the United States, they are usually seen as leaders and people who react to situations. Deborah's Genderlect theory offers

a framework for comprehending these conclusions. She thinks that men talk more to show they are essential, and that's why there are more male performers in the US. Women in Pakistan are frequently assigned traditional roles as hosts and helpers. They talk in a way that helps maintain good relationships, consistent with Tannen's idea of how women communicate. Utilizing a computer program known as AntConc, we analyzed how respect is discussed on Pakistani television. Our study found that cultural beliefs in Pakistan affect how people believe men and women should act. According to Tannen's theory, societal norms impact our communication patterns and provide insight into the connection between gender roles and mutual respect.

Gender Representation in Roles

Significant variations were detected between men and women in various occupations. Men mostly did essential jobs like helping, performing, and working together with others. Most women performed duties that required interacting with others, such as providing answers and completing questionnaires. Tannen's Genderlect Theory says that men and women talk differently. Men usually show their independence and status by being active in conversation, while women try to build relationships and support others by being interactive. The differences we saw in the roles people have in the media match Tannen's theory that how men and women communicate affects how they are represented.

Restricting the Presentation of Art or Music Performances

We consciously decided to exclude art or music performances from our study to concentrate on essential discussions. Tannen's idea can help us understand why these performances, where people act a certain way and make jokes, were unimportant for our analysis of how gender is shown and respected. These shows might not show how people talk to each other. Instead, they may show planned conversations that don't fit with Tannen's ideas about how men and women usually communicate.

Representation of Men and Women in Active and Passive Roles

Our research found that men were the ones who mostly asked questions, spoke, and led conversations, and also were the ones who mostly watched and stayed quiet. Tannen's Genderlect Theory says that men often use talk to show they are in charge and to control how conversations go. This is why they are more often in charge of conversations. However, men still have power even in quieter roles, which shows that there may be a complicated situation where they are always present and in control. This could be because they are trying to show their importance. The discussion topics differed based on gender. They talked about what was happening in the world, their jobs, personal stuff, and political issues. On American TV shows, men usually talk more about business and politics, while women talk more about their personal lives and jobs. Tannen's theory says that men often talk about facts and important things to show they are essential, while women talk about relationships to make connections. Our research shows that how men and women communicate affects the topics they like to discuss in the media.

Images from AntConc showed how Tannen's Genderlect Theory applies to our study, which supported the idea even more. The theory explains why there are differences between men and women in the way they talk and act. It shows how the culture and society of Pakistan and the United States affect the way people communicate in media.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study set up that the gender imbalance in discussion is harmonious with former exploration, with men being dominant in this particular sample. This patient trend observed in

colourful media reinforces the notion of manly dominance in the public sphere. Likewise, the study set up that men were overrepresented in conversations of business and political issues, indicating the significance of the part of the host and manly dominance in these motifs. This suggests that the public arena is still primarily dominated by men, which can have significant counteraccusations for gender equivalency and representation. In discrepancy, womanish actors were more inclined to bandy particular motifs than their manly counterparts, pressing the continuity of traditional gender places and conceptions. Also, the study showed that womanish actors were less humorous than manly actors, which can be seen as further substantiation of the impact of gender conceptions on communication.

Even though this overall end is enormous and ought not to be disregarded, it is additionally a fact that this task reinforces the idea of a profound open arena. This is proven by how female and male members shared well-known subjects of conversation (in outright terms, or at least while inspecting the most prominent subjects of discussion of both male and female members) and subjective perceptions made during the investigation, which have previously been featured. This observation highlights the significance of recognizing that gender representation in the public sphere isn't solely determined by the actors' number but also by the nature and quality of their benefactions. Both manly and womanish actors bandied analogous motifs, suggesting a public sphere where both genders can engage in meaningful discussion. Still, it is also pivotal to note that the study set up that women are still underrepresented in specific motifs, similar to business and politics, which are traditionally associated with manly dominance. This highlights the need for uninterrupted sweatshops to promote gender equivalency and representation in all aspects of public life.

To sum up, the researcher provides a detailed understanding of gender representation in the public sphere and emphasizes the significance of considering both quantitative and qualitative aspects of participation in media contexts.

It is worthy writing that genderlect theory is just one lens through which we can analyze language use in talk shows: race, class, and cultural background influence language use and communication patterns. A more comprehensive analysis would take into account these other factors as well.

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