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Gender Differences in Using Language: A Case Study of Libyan TV Program

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الاختلافات بين الجنسين في استخدام اللغة: دراسة حالة لبرنامج تلفزيوني ليبي

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Abstract

Interaction between language and gender has always been one of the overheated subjects in sociolinguistics. This study is an attempt to shed light on the gender differences in the language use. It aims to examine three aspects of linguistic differences between men and women: interruption, tag questions, and the amount of talk. It also aims to suggest possible reasons behind this variation of language. To achieve these aims, the researchers used three episodes of a Libyan social program as a source of data. These episodes were chosen randomly. The sample was five presenters in each episode from Libyan society. The outcome of this research showed that there were slight differences between men and women in using language. Furthermore, the results of the study revealed that men interrupted more in conversation and they were more talkative, while women used tag questions more than men. In other words, the gender factor can play an important role in linguistic differences.

Keywords: Amount of talk, Episode, Gender, Interruption, Sociolinguistics, Tag question.

الملخص

العلاقة بين اللغة والجنس أحد المواضيع المهمة والحديثة في علم اللغة الاجتماعي، تحاول هذه الدراسة تسليط الضوء على الاختلافات بين الجنسين في استخدامات اللغة، حيث إنها تحاول أن تستكشف الاختلافات اللغوية بين كلام الرجال والنساء من ناحية المقاطعة والأسئلة الذيلية وكمية الكلام، تهدف هذه الدراسة أيضا لاقتراح الأسباب الممكنة خلف هذه الاختلافات، قامت الباحثات باستخلاص البيانات من ثلاث حلقات من برنامج ليبي اجتماعي يتكون من خمسة مقدمين في كل حلقة. أظهرت نتائج



الدراسة أن هناك اختلافاً بسيطاً بين الرجال والنساء في استخدام اللغة، حيث إن الرجال يقاطعون الحديث أكثر من النساء وأنهم أيضاً أكثر كلاماً من النساء، ووجدت الدراسة أيضاً أن النساء يستعملن الأسئلة الذيلية أكثر من الرجال. من هذه النتائج يستخلص أن الجنس يلعب دوراً في الاختلافات اللغوية.
الكلمات الدالة: كمية الكلام، حلقة الجنس، مقاطعة، علم اللغة الاجتماعي، أسئلة ذيلية.

1. Introduction

The issue of linguistic differences between women and men is one of the controversial issues in linguistics. It has generated significant debates among linguists resulting in massive studies on language and gender. The relationship between language and gender has been one of interesting topics not only in sociolinguistics but also in other fields such as psychology and sociology. In ancient Greek times, many dramas witnessed gender differences in language use, yet language and gender did not attract the attention of anthropologists and linguists until the early of the twentieth century. In the early period of the twentieth century, studies in linguistic anthropology looked at differences across more than one language and defined distinct female and male language forms in many cases.

The discussion about language and gender dates back to Jespersen's book (1922) *Language: Its Nature, Development, and Origin*. Then, in the 1940s, Boulevard seems to inspire linguists like Lakoff with his work in which gender was interpreted as a sociolinguistic variable such as race, age, religion, etc. (Chouchane, 2016).

According to Broadbridge (2003), the topic of language and gender has not become independent until the 1960s when the feminist movement appeared and sociolinguistics advanced. As a result, studies of gender differences in language use have been initiated with international interest, particularly from female researchers, since the 1970s. It really took off in 1975 with three books by well-known linguists which contributed to developing the study by exploring the social roots of gender differences in language use. These books are *Male/Female Language* written by Mary Ritchie Key, *Language and Women's Place* written by Robin Lakoff, and *Language and Sex: Differences and Dominance* written by Barrie Throne and Nancy Hedly. The latter two of these books have continued to greatly influence sociolinguistic work (Chouchane, 2006).

In her book *Language and Woman's Place*, Lakoff (1975) pointed out several features of female speech, such as the use of tag questions, super polite forms, hedging and hypercorrect grammar and pronunciation. These features have attracted the interest of many linguistic scholars. However, there was widespread criticism on Lakoff's work because it was not based on empirical research. It was only the observation of differences that led to the examination of Lakoff's claims (Wardhaugh, 2002). According to Broadbridge (2003), some researchers such as Zimmerman and West (1975), Zhao (2011), and Li (2014) found that men dominate the conversation in a series of ways, such as interruptions and the amount of talking.



Furthermore, there were a number of studies about gender differences in grammatical structures (Brown 1980, Milory and Margrain 1980, Gomm 1981 and Cheshire 1982).

By reviewing studies written by Goodwin (1980,1988, &1990), and Coates (2015) indicated that men, in contrast to women, were found to use direct commands. He adds, in the seventies and early eighties, a great deal of significant work on language and gender was carried out to push this discussion forward, moving on from the simple issue of dominance to examine it in greater detail in terms of language.

Cameron (2007) in her book, *The Myth of Mars and Venus* which refers to the central conceit of gender differences in the language use of Gray' book *Men are from Mars, and Women are from Venus*, challenged the most famous and widespread myths about gender, such as that women are by nature more cooperative, talkative, and polite than men. In addition, Wardhaugh (2002) said that women tend to use more compliments and polite forms than men. In addition, women avoid using an authoritative way of speaking.

1.1. Problem Statement

The issue of studying gender differences in language use lies in the fact that these differences are related to other issues that are more important than the language difference itself. Such differences are linked to dominance in a society and to the different jobs that suit each gender. Therefore, this research represents a study on some linguistic aspects in which the men and women may differ significantly or little. It will analyse gender differences in amount of talk, interruptions and tag questions.

1.2. Objectives and Research Questions

The main objective of the current research is to explore whether there are language differences between men and women. In case there are differences, the current research aims to investigate whether men interrupt more than women and whether women use tag questions more frequently than men. It also tries to know who is more talkative; men or women. To achieve the objectives of the study, the researchers attempt to answer the following research questions:

- Do men speak differently from women?
- Do men interrupt women more often in conversation?
- Do women use tag questions more than men?
- Are women really more talkative than men?

2. Gender Differences in Language Use

According to Lakoff (1975), women and men speak English in different ways. They have been taught to speak differently since childhood. According to Lakoff (1975), several language aspects have been observed in how the language is used differently by men and women:

2.1. Differences in pronunciation



Phonological differences between the speech of men and women have been noticed in several languages. Usually, women's pronunciation is different from men's pronunciation. Shuy (1969) has conducted a study to investigate the differences between male and female pronunciation of "ing". His results revealed that men and women had some phonological differences as 62.2% of men did not pronounce "ing" and that only about 28.9% of women did not pronounce it.

2.2. Differences in vocabulary

Males and females have different styles in choosing their vocabulary to describe things and situations around them. This is, vocabulary differs in more than one aspect, such as adjectives, adverbs, color words, diminutives, pronouns, and expletives. Jespersen (1922) supports the belief that women have smaller vocabulary showing extensive use of certain adjectives and adverbs, more often than men, who break off without finishing their sentences.

2.3. Differences in syntax

There are no specific rules governing different genders' use of different grammar. Despite this, there are many notable differences in most of the world's languages:

2.3.1. Modulation:

During speaking, women tend to be more considerate and tactful. They rarely impose their opinions and claims on others (Lakoff, 1975). In fact, they present an open decision to others through the use of expressions like "well", "I suppose that", "I may be wrong" etc. On the other hand, men tend to express themselves more simply and directly.

2.3.2. Interrogative sentences:

Women tend to use the interrogative forms and tag questions when they take up a conversation because they think this helps the conversation going on well. However, men do not tend to use this strategy during conversation.

The results analysis from recordings of many couples' conversations collected by Fishman (1980) found that women used interrogative sentences three times more often than men did. This point is similar to the difference in intonation between men and women, as pointed out by Lakoff (1975), who noted that women might answer the question with a rising tone, while men may answer with a falling tone to show a firm statement.

2.3.3. Imperative sentences:

Women reduce the structures that indicate the command to ask for something, as they tend to use a polite method that does not negatively affect the addressee. Therefore, they prefer to use sentences with modal verbs, such as "can," "may" and "could". In addition, they use more adverbs to reduce the imperative tone, such



as "perhaps" and "maybe". However, men tend to use a direct method to ask for something in direct imperative sentences.

2.3.4. Correctness of grammar:

Women generally, focus on the grammatical structures of sentences during conversations attempting to be grammatically accurate compared to men, who do not pay much attention to grammatical structures while speaking.

2.4. Differences in their attitudes toward language

Women pay more attention to using standard language than men do. Therefore, women are more committed to the rules of language. That is, people usually tend to omit the preposition included in the sentence, like "She gave it her friend", instead of saying "She gave it to her friend." Men generally use such non-standard forms more than women do.

2.5. Non-verbal differences

2.5.1. Interruption:

Males and females differ not only in verbal language but also in their non-verbal language during a conversation. Many studies agree that women are politer in speaking, more patient, and more inclined to silence (Tartory, 2019). He adds even if women want to speak, they wait until the addressee finishes his/her words. They also encourage the speaker to continue and complete his/her speech. Men are impatient and willing to interrupt the speaker when they want to say something. This affects the amount of speech as well. Tartory (2019) mentioned that there are many studies with conflicting findings. Some of these studies showed that men were interrupted by women (James & Clarke, 1993; Kennedy & Camden, 1983; Murray & Covelli, 1988), while others claimed that there were no differences between them regarding interruptions (Beattie, 1981; James & Clarke, 1993; Leet-Pellegrini, 1980; and West & Zimmerman, 1983).

2.5.2. The amount of speech:

Although there is a common bias that women talk more than men, empirical studies of a number of social situations, such as committee meetings and online discussion groups, have found the opposite to be true (Mehl et al., 2007). He adds women may tend to speak more at social occasions than men, but they certainly play a second role on formal occasions, and they tend to speak less than men.

2.6. Differences in choosing topics

It is said that women usually like to talk about topics which are different from men`s topics. Men usually talk about things related to the outside, such as politics, sports, and the economy, while women like to talk about topics related to the home, such as cooking, children's studies, home decorations, and fashion (Spender, 1980).

Through this study, the researchers will study and analyse the linguistic difference between males and females in terms of using tag questions, interruptions and the amount of speech



2.7. Causes of Gender Differences in Language Use

The issue of gender variation in language use is not a recent topic. It has been studied since ancient time but it became more researchable after Lakoff`s book which was published in 1975, *The Language and Women`s Place*. Then, studies continued and much research confirmed that men and women use language in different ways. Because of these noticeable differences in their use of language, several investigations have been generated and developed in order to help language and gender researchers identify the factors which contribute these differences in the language use.

Jespersen (1922) has claimed that the taboo can be a cause for language gender differences in some cases. He pointed out that Caribbean men use particular words and expressions that can be uttered only by adult men. An example of male-female differences caused by taboo is found in Chiquito, an American Indian language of Bolivia. For example: "icibaiLsi" is the female word for "my brother," while "tsaruki" is the male word.

According to Boudersa (2020), "a crucial cause of male-female language-gender differences can be attributed to the level of education. It is claimed that the greater the differences between educational opportunities for both sexes, the greater the diversity in male and female speech will be"(p.180). He adds studies of the Arab world have proven the important role that education in these differences, as it has been found that more linguistic differences are discovered in the communities where girls have less education than boys whereas communities which have an equal educational level have less gender language differences.

On the other hand, Barhouma (2002) mentioned that language differences between men and women result from a lack of mixing and living in isolation. When men and women live in isolation without contacting with strange people due to the influence of religious systems or social traditions, the variation between their languages is highlighted.

The culture of the speakers plays an important role in this variation of the language use. According to Cameron (1992), if one supports the difference theory, he/she believes that the cause of differences between males' and females' languages is a result of their belonging to different cultures. In addition, Karlsson (2007) contended that culture divides behaviour into masculine and feminine aspects and restricts language. Even a little boy knows the way in which he should behave because of his fear of being referred to as (sissy).

In contrast, Lakoff (1975), in deficit theory, thought that the variation in language between men and women was due to social factors such as the different roles men and women play in creating language. She believed that the language was dominated by men. Similarly, Ning and Zhang (2010) and other feminist critics say the dominance of men in societies can explain why men speak differently from women. Tannen (1990) demonstrated that the basis for gender differences in language use originated from childhood socialization,



i.e. how boys and girls talk and play in their childhood. She adds boys have been socialized differently from girls, and their discourse reflects such influences.

2.8. Previous studies about language and gender

Zhao (2011) conducted a study titled "*An Analysis of Gender Differences in Interruptions Based on the American TV Series Friends.*" This study focused on the phenomenon of interruptions, its frequency and function in same-sex conversations compared to mixed-sex conversations. The purpose of Zhao's study was to explore the different conversational styles based on the sex protagonists in the American TV series "Friends." The video resources, which were chosen randomly from this famous TV series, were used together with transcripts from nine episodes in different seasons. The length of the video materials was 3:34:40. These episodes and their transcripts were analysed qualitatively and quantitatively to determine the number of interruptions made by the heroes of both sexes. He found that men interrupt women more than the reverse. The results also confirmed the assumption that interruption is a way to show dominance and power.

However, Tartory (2019) conducted research under the title "*Interruptions of Men and Women in Selected Debates of Al-Jazeera Arabic Channel: A Pragmatic Analysis of the Opposite Direction*". He aimed to find out the gender patterns during interruptions in the context of political television discussions in the Arab community. This research adopted qualitative and quantitative methods. The only interruptions of guests who were of the same age were analysed qualitatively and quantitatively in five mixed-sex video-recorded episodes of a well-known political television discussion program. It was *The opposing direction Program* which was broadcasted on the Al Jazeera channel as only the first thirty minutes of each episode were analysed.

The result of this study showed that female guests made more interruptions than male guests, and men reacted severely when they were interrupted. The number of interruptions made by males was 20, whereas the number of female interruptions was 28. It also stated that women interrupted more than men in order to contribute more and direct the topic in favour of their point of view.

Jovanović and Pavlović (2014) study aimed to explore the extent to which English and Serbian speakers used tag questions as strategies for communication purposes. In this study, the interviews were randomly selected from both English and American online newspapers and magazines from the previous 50 years. The English language corpus consisted of 100 interviews with a total word count of 422,000, while the Serbian corpus consisted of approximately 191,000 words contained in 100 interview transcripts, sampled from online sources in Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to make the corpora as diverse as possible and cover the two languages' varieties. These interviews were quantitatively analysed.

The results of this study demonstrated that the use of tag questions was not related to language, but rather it was connected to culture as it was used as a marker of politeness in their culture. Moreover, the results



of this study showed that men and women used tag questions equally; the 50% share of the overall usage supports it. However, the frequency of using tag questions in the Serbian language was different. Women slightly used tag questions more than men, 60%, and 40% respectively.

However, Hanafia and Afgari (2014) conducted a study on gender difference in the use of tag questions at the Islamic Azad University in Iran. This study aimed to examine whether men and women use the language differently. The sample of this study was composed of 120 students, 60 males and 60 females. The results of this study explained that there were statistically significant differences between these groups in the use of tag questions. The study found that men use tag questions more than women do, which is equivalent to 71%, while the percentage of women who used tag questions was 29%.

Matthias et al. (2007) conducted a research study concerned with the differences for speech between men and women. The sample of this study was five participants from the USA and one participant from Mexico. The researchers recorded audio extracts from the real lives of participants-men and women- to test hypotheses. The device was programmed to record for 30 seconds every 12.5 minutes over eight days. Then, the researchers analysed this data quantitatively to find out the quantitative difference in the number of words used daily by men and women. The result of this research was that women used more words than men in daily life. In other words, they confirmed the view that women are more talkative than men.

On the other hand, Li (2014) conducted a research study that focuses mainly on differences in the amount of speech. The proposed research examined language and gender in *Desperate Housewives* based on conversational analysis as it is a theoretical framework. The data was gathered from the television show "Famous American TV *Desperate Housewives*". It contains many daily conversations between men and women. The researcher randomly selected one episode from each season to be analysed. The methods used in this research can be classified as a mixture of quantitative and qualitative analysis. The researcher used the comparison and contrast method to conduct a scientific and systematic study before reaching the results of his research. In terms of the amount of speech, it is found that men occupy a higher percentage of the total number of words and sentences in all eight episodes. The statistics showed that men were more talkative than women.

3. Methodology

This study aims at identifying the linguistic differences between men and women in Libyan society from three aspects: the number of interruptions they make, their use of tag questions, and the time they spend talking. The present work is based on a quantitative approach for collecting and analysing data in order to investigate the problem more clearly. The instrument of this investigation is a video recording. Three episodes of the social



entertainment program *Sahrya* (مسهرية) are taken from the 218TV channel's website for the year 2020. Video recording is available qualitatively as a research data-gathering tool. It allows the researcher to record and reply to the picture and sound of an event.

3.1. The Sample

The population of this study is Libyan society. The sample was selected randomly. It has been taken from three mixed-sex recorded episodes of the Libyan program *Sahrya* (مسهرية) which was broadcasted on 218 TV channel.

In details, the three chosen episodes were episodes' numbers 13, 15, and 17. These episodes were chosen randomly. Each one contains five presenters from various areas. In the first episode, there are three females and two males. One of them is from the eastern area, while the others are from the west. The second and third episodes contain three males and two females. As shown in Table (1), three of them are from the east, and the rest are from the western area.

Table 1. Indicates the number of participant from different areas.

Episodes	No. of the participant	No. of the females	No. of the males	From the west	From the east
13	5	3	2	4	1
15	5	2	3	2	3
17	5	2	3	2	3

3.2. Data Collection

The three chosen episodes of the selected program were watched first to get a general idea of these episodes, and in the meantime, the duration of each male and female conversation was calculated to find out who speak more. After that, the video materials were watched again carefully to check and identify the number of interruptions made by both genders in order to compare the use of interruptions between male and female speakers and to find out who used more interruptions. Furthermore, the researchers identified and calculated all the tag questions used by males and females in the three chosen episodes to see who use tag questions more; men or women.

3.3. Data Analysis

The researchers analysed the linguistic differences between males and females in the first thirty minutes of each episode quantitatively to find answers to the research questions. These differences were judged by the researchers according to the three aspects which are already outlined. After the process of data collection, the linguistic differences between males and females are documented. The number of interruptions and tag



questions and their percentage of occurrence for each gender were provided. After that, the investigators counted the length of speech and also the percentage of each gender in the first thirty minutes of the episodes.

4. The Results

4.1. Genders use of interruption

The researchers analysed three randomly chosen episodes from the selected program which was broadcasted on 218 channel in 2020. The period analysed was only 30 minutes from each episode. The number of interruptions each presenter used and the time during which these interruptions occurred were calculated.

The results revealed that, the total number of interruptions made in the first episode, which was episode 13 of the program, were 15, as distributed in Table (2).

Table 2. Indicates the number, the time and the percentage of interruptions in the 1st video.

The participants	No of interruptions	The time	The percentages
A women (Azad)	The first	3:15	40%
	The second	8:37	
	The third	13:10	
	The forth	21:45	
	The fifth	24:09	
	The sixth	25:47	
A women (Noor)	The first	07:11	26.6%
	The second	07:29	
	The third	12:10	
	The forth	27:01	
A women(Abeer)	Only one	09:23	6.7%
A man (mohammad)	The first	02:37	26.6%
	The second	08:03	
	The third	10:42	
	The forth	24:51	

From the Table (2), it can be obviously seen that the woman (Azad) interrupted six times in various minutes, four times with a man and twice with a woman. Thus, she recorded the highest rate of interruptions at 40% of total number of interruptions in this episode. Another woman (Noor) interrupted four times; two interruptions were in the same minute with a man and the other two were in different minutes with women. Furthermore, Abeer interrupted only once at the beginning of the episode, and the interruption was done to a man. It was the least rate of interruptions which was equivalent to 6.7%. On the other hand, one of the men



(Mohammad) made four interruptions within thirty minutes of the episode, as these interruptions were three times with women and once with a man, equivalent to 26.6%.

In the second episode of this social program, which was episode 15, there were five speakers; three men and two women. Only two men and a woman interrupted in the first thirty minutes. The total number of interruptions made by the speakers in this episode were 16, as distributed in Table (3).

Table 3. Indicates the number, the time and the percentages of interruptions in the 2nd video

The participants	No of interruptions	The time	The percentages
A man (Mohammad)	The first	09:32	37.5%
	The second	15:21	
	The third	17:06	
	The forth	17:48	
	The fifth	19:40	
	The sixth	27:20	
A man (Ali)	The first	19:48	25%
	The second	24:50	
	The third	27:00	
	The fourth	27:39	
A women (Azad)	The first	16:37	37.5%
	The second	17:30	
	The third	18:18	
	The fourth	23:22	
	The fifth	24:40	
	The sixth	27:28	

According to Table (3), it can be clearly noticed that one of the men (Mohammad) and the women (Azad) made the same number of interruptions in this episode; they interrupted six times in different minutes, achieving the highest rate of interruptions in this episode at 37.5% each. Regarding the man, five of those interruptions were with men and only one with a woman. On the other hand, the women made all of her interruptions with men. The interruptions were also used by another man (Ali), twice with women and twice with men. This was the lowest percentage in this episode, which was equivalent to 25%.

In the third episode, which is episode 17 of the program, there were five speakers; three males and two females. However, two males and only one female made interruptions in the first thirty minutes. The total



number of interruptions made by the speakers in this episode were 14, which was the same as in the first episode. Table (4) shows the number of interruptions, time in which the interruption was made, and the percentage of interruptions for each participant.

Table 4. Indicates the number, the time and the percentages of interruptions in the 3rd video.

The participants	No of interruptions	The time	The percentages
A man (Adam)	The first	01:57	50%
	The second	04:08	
	The third	05:47	
	The fourth	18:40	
	The fifth	25:24	
	The sixth	26:00	
	The seventh	26:42	
A women (Azad)	The first	03:19	14.3%
	The second	11:40	
A man (Mohammad)	The first	12:12	35.7%
	The second	14:25	
	The third	25:35	
	The fourth	28:01	
	The fifth	28:47	

It can be noticed from Table (4) one of the men (Adam) interrupted seven times; they were twice with a man and five times with women, achieving the highest rate of interruptions at 50%. The other man (Mohammad) made five interruptions, twice with a woman and three times with men, equivalent to 35.7%. On the other hand, a woman made two interruptions, both of them with a man, equivalent to 14.3%.

In terms of quantity, the results explained that men used the interruptions twenty-six times, equivalent to 58% of the total number of interruptions in the three chosen episodes. In contrast, women used the interruptions about nineteen times, which is estimated at about 42% of the total number of interruptions in the three episodes (Figure 1).

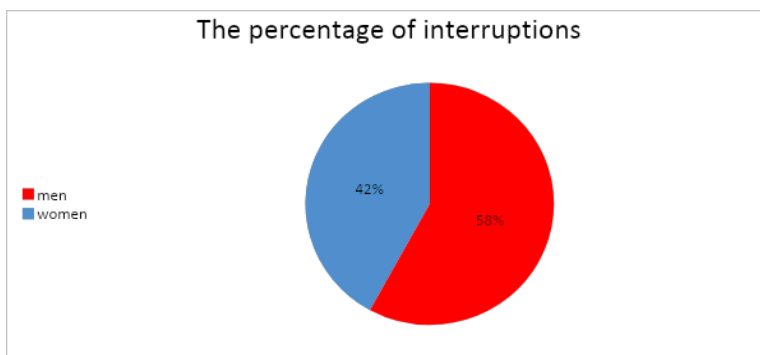


Figure 1. It shows the percentages of interruptions used by men and women.

4.2. Gender pattern in use of tag question

In this section, the main purpose is to explore any significant difference between men and women with regard to the use of tag questions. The researchers worked together to analyse the first thirty minutes of the three episodes. In the first episode, which is episode 13 of the program, only two women and a man used tag questions in the first thirty minutes of the episodes. The total number of the tag questions used in this episode was eight, as explained in Table (5).

Table 5. Indicates the number, the time, the responses and the percentages of the TQ in the 1st video.

The participants	Number of TQ	The time	Responses	Percentages
The first women (Azad)	The first	01:38	No	62.5%
	The second	02:37	Yes	
	The third	03:16	Yes	
	The forth	06:19	Yes	
	The fifth	10:38	Yes	
The second women (Noor)	Only one	01:54	No	12.5%
The man (Mohammad)	The first	02:30	Yes	25%
	The second	28:48	Yes	

From the Table (5), it can be observed that one of the women (Azad) used tag questions five times constituted 62.5% of the total number of tag questions in the chosen period of the episode. This percentage was the highest in this episode and all of her questions have been answered except the first one. The other woman (Noor) used tag questions only once in the first minute, recording the lowest percentage; 12.5%. She did not receive any response from the participants. On the other hand, the man used tag questions two times, the first one was in the beginning of the video whereas the second was in the end which constituted the percentage of 25%. He received answers for both tag questions he used.



In the second episode, which is episode 15, there were five speakers; three males and two females. However, only two participants used tag questions in the first thirty minutes of the video. The total number of tag questions used in this episode were seven, as distributed in Table (6).

Table 6. Indicates the number, the time, the responses and the percentages of TQ in the 2nd video.

The participant	Number of TQ	The time	Responses	The percentage
The man (Ali)	The first	05:54	Yes	85.7%
	The second	06:55	Yes	
	The third	08:28	Yes	
	The fourth	11:42	Yes	
	The fifth	12:47	No	
	The sixth	15:15	No	
The woman (Azad)	Only one	23:28	Yes	14.3%

From Table (6), it can be obviously seen that the first user of tag was a man (Ali) who used it six times in the first fifteen minutes of the chosen period for this project with a percentage of 85.7%. He was answered for the first four questions, while he did not receive responses to the last two questions. However, the other user of the tag question was a woman (Azad) who used it only with a response in the last ten minutes of the chosen period of this episode. It was estimated 14.3% of the total number of tag questions.

In the third episode, which is episode 17, there were five presenters; three males and two females. Only three participants used tag questions in the first thirty minutes. The total number of interruptions used in this video were nine, as clarified in Table (7).

Table 7. Indicates the number, the time, the responses and the percentages of TQ in the 3rd video.

The participant	Number of TQ	The time	Responses	The percentage
The man (Adam)	Only one	02:34	Yes	11.1%
The man (Mohammad)	Only one	25:37	Yes	11.1%
The woman (Azad)	The first	00:23	No	77.8%
	The second	03:47	Yes	
	The third	05:41	Yes	
	The fourth	07:17	Yes	
	The fifth	11:33	Yes	
	The sixth	17:10	Yes	
	The seventh	25:49	Yes	

From the Table (7), it can be concluded that two of the users of tag questions were men (Adam & Mohammad) who both used tag questions once during the first thirty minutes of the video. They received

responses to their questions. On the other hand, the woman (Azad) used tag questions more than the other two men in the chosen period. The number of the tag questions she used was seven in different minutes with a percentage of 77.8 and she received answers for all her tag questions except the first one.

In terms of quantification, the results showed that women used tag questions fourteen times with a percentage of 58.3% of the total number of tag questions used in three episodes. On the other hand, the men used tag questions ten times 41.7% in the three episodes.

The Figure (2) presents the total number with the percentage of tag questions used by men and women in all episodes chosen for this study.

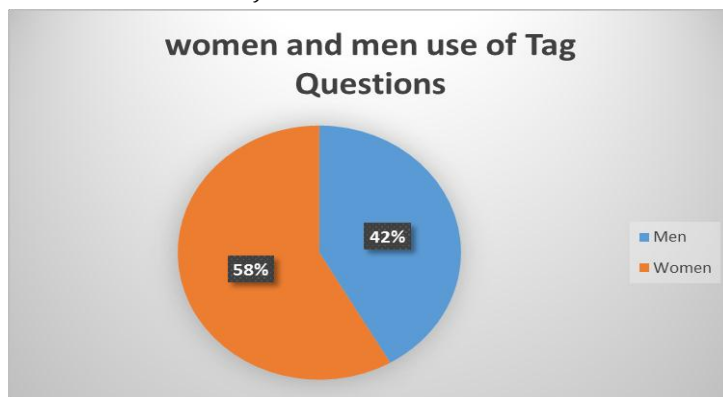


Figure 2. It shows the percentages of tag questions used by men and women.

4.3. Speech amount of both genders

The researchers analysed the speech to show the differences in the amount of speech between male and female speakers during three episodes of the selected program. The period of time in which the speech was analysed only 30 minutes from each episode. Then, the time each person took to speak was calculated using the manual timer, and the statistics for each episode were identified.

Regardless of pauses, the total time taken by the speakers during the first fifteen minutes of the first episode, which was episode 13, was 20:01 minutes, as distributed in Table (8).

Table 8. Indicates the time that participants spent speaking and the percentages of speaking in the 1st video.

The participants	The time	The percentages
A woman (Azad)	08:51	44.2%
A woman (Noor)	02:36	13%
A man (Mohammad)	03:38	18.2%
A woman (Abeer)	01:30	7.5%
A man (Esam)	03:26	17.2%



From the Table (8), it can be clearly seen that Azad (female) took the longest period of time talking, as she spent 08:51 minutes talking. Then, Mohammed (male), who in turn took 03:38 minutes to talk, immediately followed her while Abeer (female) spent the shortest period talking as she talked for just 01:30 minutes.

The total time taken by males and females in speaking and the percentage of speaking time of the two women and three men are shown in the Table (9).

Table 9. Indicates the total time and the percentages of speaking time for females and males in the 1st video.

The participant (gender)	The time	The percentage
Females	12:57	64.7%
Males	07:04	35.3%

It can be obviously noticed that women spent more time speaking as they totally talked for 12:57 minutes (64.7% of the episode's time), whereas men spent only 07:04 minutes (35.5% of the episode's time).

In the second episode, which was episode 15, there were five speakers; three males and two females. Regardless of pauses, the total time taken by the speakers during this episode was 23:59 minutes, as distributed in Table (10).

Table 10. Indicates the time that participants spent speaking and the percentages of speaking in the 2nd video.

The participants	The time	The percentages
A man (Ali)	07:05	29.5%
A woman (Mona)	02:14	9.3%
A woman (Azad)	05:43	23.8%
A man (Mohammad)	03:44	15.6%
A man (Ibrahim)	05:13	21.8%

As it can be clearly seen from the Table (10), Ali took the longest period talking; 07:05 minutes. Then, Azad who in turn took 05:43 minutes to talk immediately followed him. Mona, who spent 02:14 minutes speaking, took the shortest period of speaking.

The total time taken by males and females in speaking and the percentage of speaking time of the two women and three men is shown in Table (11).

Table 11. Indicates the total time and the percentages of speaking time for females and males in the 2nd video.

The participants (gender)	The time	The percentage
Females	07:57	33.1%
Males	16:02	66.9%



It can be obviously noticed that men spent more time speaking as they totally talked for 16:02 minutes (66.9% of the episode's target time) whereas women spent only 07:57 minutes; 33.1% of the episode's target time.

In the third episode, which was episode 17, there were five speakers; three males and two females. Regardless of pauses, the total time taken by the speakers during this episode was 22:23 minutes, as distributed in Table (12).

Table 12. Indicates the time that participants spent in speaking and the percentages of speaking in the 3rd video.

The participants	The time	The percentages
A woman (Azad)	04:57	20.6%
A man (Mohammad)	06:02	27.1%
A woman (Mona)	02:16	9.7%
A man (Adam)	03:51	15.8%
A man (Esam)	05:17	23.6%

Table (12) shows that Mohammad took the longest period of time talking, as he spent 06:02 minutes. Then, Esam, who in turn took 05:17 minutes to talk, immediately followed him. However, Mona spent the last time talking.

The total time taken by males and females in speaking and the percentage of speaking time of the two women and three men are shown in Table (13).

Table 13. Indicates the total time and the percentages of speaking time for females and males in the 2nd video.

The participant (gender)	The time	The percentage
Females	07:13	32.2%
Males	15:10	67.8%

It can be obviously noticed from Table (13) that men spent more time speaking. They totally talked for 15:10 minutes (67.5% of the episode's time), whereas women spent only 07:13 minutes (32.2% of the episode's time).

In conclusion, the researchers worked on analysing the three episodes together and counting the differences in the percentage of the amount of speech between males and females during the three episodes. The total time analysed from the three episodes was an hour and a half. Excluding the pauses, the speaking time was 01:06:23, distributed between males and females as in Figure (3), in addition to the percentage of time that males and females took to speak in relation to the time of the three episodes.

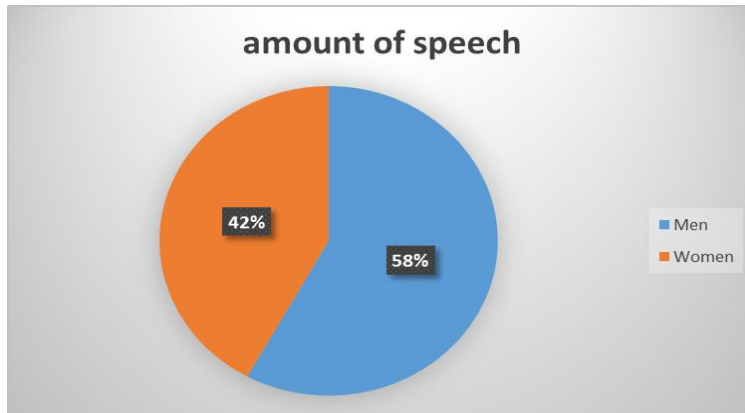


Figure 3. It shows the percentages of speaking time for both men and women.

5. Discussion

The aim of the present study is to investigate the hypothesis that there are gender differences in language use. The current research tries to investigate the hypotheses which say that women make more interruptions, use more tag questions and are more talkative than men. Overall, the results revealed that there were slight gender differences between men and women in the use of language.

In terms of who makes more interruption, this research stated that men made more interruptions in the second and third videos than in the first one. The total number of men's interruptions in the selected episodes for this study was more than women's, which is estimated to be approximately 58% and 42%, respectively.

This study is in agreement with Zhao's (2010) study which revealed that men made more interruptions than women. However, it is completely opposed to Tartory's (2019) study which stated that women used more interruptions than men.

The reason, as pointed out by Lakoff (1975), West and Zimmerman (1983) and Zhao (2010) may be that men feel they have to be stronger and more dominant when it comes to argue with women. It may also be due to women feeling of shyness when they talk.

When gender differences in the use of tag questions were identified and analysed, it was found that men used tag questions less than women, 42% and 58%, respectively. Therefore, this study agrees with what was concluded by Jovanović & Pavlović's (2014) study in which the researchers concluded that women used tag questions more than men. On the other hand, it is not in accordance with what Hanafia and Afgari (2014) argued in their study which indicated that the men used tag questions more than women.

The reason for this difference may be due to the fact that women speak more politely than men. In Lakoff's book (*Language and Women's Place*), it is discussed that women are less confident, so they tend to



use tag questions more than men. Women's curiosity can be the reason for their use of tag questions. It can also not be ignored that the dominance of men and their position in society do not allow them to use tag questions to a large extent in conversation.

Investigating the amount of speaking, the results were different from general opinion. It is discovered that men were more talkative than women, 58% and 42% respectively. This research agreed with what was stated by Li's (2014) study, which illustrated that men speak more than women. On the other hand, the results of this study were not in agreement with the results of Mathias' (2007) study which stated that women are more talkative than men.

According to Lakoff (1973), the differences between genders in the amount of speech may be a reflection of some men's tendency to dominate the conversation when they interact with women. Women's feelings of shyness can serve as a deterrent to speaking too much.

6. Conclusion & Recommendations

Men and women tend to belong to two different social groups, which in turn create gender differences in language use. The proverb, "Men are from Mars and women are from Venus," encouraged the researchers to study this controversial topic and investigate if there are linguistic differences between genders. The researchers analysed the selected episodes to investigate these differences from three aspects: the number of interruptions, the number of tag questions, and the amount of speech.

The results of this study proved that there are linguistic differences between men and women, despite the fact that these differences are slight. This study revealed the use of interruptions and tag questions were in agreement with general and common facts among people who say women use interruptions and tag questions more than men. Women's extensive use of tag questions may be due to that women are politer in their speech and they want to show their hesitation in speech. However, the amount of speech came as a surprise even to the researchers themselves as the men in this study were more talkative than women. One of the reasons may be that men are more powerful and dominant than women, and men want to control speech.

This study may help those who are specialized in sociolinguistics to get feedback on how gender variables can affect using language. In fact, the current study deals with only three common aspects of linguistic differences, which are interruption, tag question, and amount of speech.

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