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Research Article

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF MALE AND FEMALE ORAL SPEECH IN MODERN ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT

The article evaluates gender differences in the oral speech of men and women in such aspects as verbosity, balance, response construction, non-verbal communication, lexical component, etc. The study was conducted on American and British talk shows, interviews differing in subject matter and style. The obtained results show that men and women have problems with communication with men and women.

KEYWORDS

Speech, gender differences, verbosity, hedging, talk show.

INTRODUCTION

Gender studies are a new interdisciplinary field of scientific research that studies male and female behavior, thinking, communication, society's attitude towards the individual and the possibility of its self-realization depending on gender-role stereotypes created not by nature, but by society itself.

In our study, a comparative analysis of the characteristics of male and female oral speech was carried out on the material of the talk shows The Andrew Marr Show and Late Show with David Letterman, aired in 2013-2014. The expediency of choosing this type of program is due to the fact that it is talk shows that provide rich material for the analysis

of gender differences in the oral speech of both sexes, since speech is the way people communicate, the way they develop and maintain relationships. It's a big part of our daily lives and how we use language defines us.

The Andrew Marr Show is an hour-long British television program broadcast on BBC One. The host conducts interviews with politicians. "The Andrew Marr Show" is a talk show of a political nature, in which the speech of the participants is devoid of emotional coloring, obscene language and slang.

Late Show with David Letterman is an American late-night talk show on CBS, hosted by renowned television journalist David Letterman. The guests of this show are not shy to express themselves the way they want to, the speech of the characters is very bright and lively, as they are the stars of show business.\

For our study, we selected thirteen episodes of The Andrew Marr Show, which included six interviews with male respondents and seven interviews with female respondents. Women's interviews average 57 minutes 36 seconds, while men's interviews average 94 minutes 44 seconds. All interviewees are prominent British politicians who are accustomed to such conversations. Topics of conversation - politics and current events in 2019-2020.

The Late Show with David Letterman talk show features eight interviews, including four interviews with male respondents and four interviews with female respondents. The average length of the women's interviews was 42 minutes 41 seconds, while the men's interviews generally lasted 49 minutes 26 seconds. A qualitative analysis of the material we have selected helped to trace the differences between men

and women according to the following characteristic distinguishing features:

1. Verbosity

There is a stereotype that women talk more than men. However, research data show the opposite. Men talk more than women in almost all situations. Women speak 66% of the total interview time, while men speak 70%. The revealed average percentage of utterance duration shows that men are more verbose than women. In an interview with The Andrew Marr Show, we can note that the highest percentage of male interviewees belongs to Lord Mandelson, who speaks 77% of the total interview time. The highest percentage for a female speaker is only 71%. It should also be noted that interviews with male respondents are usually longer in time. The average interview time for men was 15 minutes 28 seconds, while interviews with female respondents averaged 8 minutes 14 seconds. This fact again proves that men speak more than women. On the other hand, it can also be argued that this fact tells us about the ratio of time allocated in the media for interviews with men and women. This may be due to the fact that high-ranking officials, such as prime ministers or party leaders, are of greater interest to the public and therefore take up more airtime. The two longest interviews used for this study are with David Cameron (23 minutes 38 seconds) and with Ed Miliband (21 minutes 22 seconds). These people are the leaders of the biggest pariahs in the UK, which may explain the length of their interviews.

2. Mitigation (Hedging)

"Eliminating" are linguistic forms used to convey uncertainty or reduce influence in a conversation. The

study showed that women are more likely to soften their statements than men. Consider an example:

Harriet Harman: Well, I hope that they will listen to the arguments and be very much in favor of it. I mean what is important I think, is that members of parliament will decide the shortlist.

This statement shows that Harriet Harman, when talking about changes in the policy of one of the members of the party, uses the technique of "softening." She uses the phrase "I think", which is the most common form of "softening" in spoken language.

Another widely used example of "softening" in an interview is "you know". This construction is almost exclusively used to express uncertainty or indecision. In some cases, however, it is used more forcefully, as in the example below:

Ed Miliband: I didn't think that was the way politics should be practiced and I think most people would know this about me.

Andrew Marr: Did you know this about the briefing or seen the leaks.

Ed Miliband: Was more you know what it is like politics.

Rachel Reeves, whose interview is 8 minutes and 34 seconds long, uses only two "softening" options, while Yvette Cooper uses 30 cases in a 9 minute interview.

"I think" and "you know" are used in all interviews for both genders, while other emollients are used only once, such as "I'm not sure" or "appear to be". Men often use constructions containing adverbs, demonstrating their confidence in their statement. For example, "definitely" or "certainly". Quantitative analysis showed that men and women use softening in their speech about the same number of times.

3. Construction of answers

It is known that politicians often do not directly answer the questions posed, which can damage their career or personal image. Issues on which parties or a particular person do not have a clear point of view. The results of the analysis give us grounds to assert that men answer questions less often (38%), and at the same time, there are much fewer direct answers from them (16%) than from women, and much more hidden answers (46%). Women answer questions much more often (43%) than men, but the percentage of direct answers (27%) is almost the same as the number of hidden answers (30%).

4. Open resistance

When women do not want to answer questions that are incorrectly asked or questions that they do not have an answer for, they tend to point out flaws in the questions asked and their insufficient wording. Thus, they evade the answer and get the opportunity to maintain their reputation. Let's consider two examples. In the first, Natalie Bennett talks about ecology:

J.L: What is greater priority, economic growth or protecting the environment?

N.B: That's an entirely false dichotomy because what we need to do is invest in things like home insulation in renewable energy.

And in the second, Harriet Harman answers questions about trading:

A.M: It will be the activists who are more likely to come in inevitably then that is going to tilt the labour party more in a trade union direction it is obvious, it is kind of night follows day isn't it?

H.H: Well I don't know what you mean about your trade union direction?

In the first example, Bennett dismisses the question itself and implies that she is unable to answer the question due to its dichotomous nature, while Harman uses Mar's question against him. Men in such situations often do not answer such questions, or deviate from the topic, or change it. For example:

1. A.M: So, you must have a number, you must have».
D.C: Do not have a number.

2. A.M: Do you think it worked so far? Cus I mean there is been a lot of criticism saying these vans didn't work anyway, so?

T.M: I will not answer that question.

From these dialogues, we can conclude that women are more polite when talking and are able to respond more subtly in such situations.

5. Non-verbal communication

Most non-verbal gestures are learned, and the meaning of many movements and gestures is culturally determined. Women attach great importance to the tone of the conversation, painfully reacting to the tightening of the tone. Men, on the other hand, perceive a categorical tone, if it is appropriate, as a rule, without any negative emotions. Thus, there are types of non-verbal communication that can be divided into those that are inherent in men and those that correspond to women. Women are more sensitive to manifestations of non-verbal communications. In this regard, women are much more likely, and, as a rule, unconsciously, use non-verbal communications in certain situations. Men, unlike women, pay much less attention to non-verbal communication, interrupt other people more often and, first of all, want to be heard during a conversation.

In addition to the results presented above, the analysis also included the use of non-verbal responses. Throughout the interviews, all women use both verbal and non-verbal minimal interview responses (head nods). Women nodded in agreement 26 times, while men did not, and only David Cameron used a verbal minimal response to show agreement, as in the example below:

A.M: If I go to America, I get a slip of paper and have to tear of part of it and they know then I leave again.

D.C: Yeah.

6. Lexical level

Differences in vocabulary can be shown in the following aspects:

• Profanity

Women are more likely to avoid profanity and swearing, pay attention to their speech, and worry about how their words might affect others. Instead of swearing, women are more likely to use "Oh, dear, my God" to express their emotions. You can hear from men: "Damn, fuck you, hell" much more often. During interviews, men are twice as likely to use obscene language (28 times) than women (14 times). During times of surprise or surprise, men are more likely to say the word "fuck" than women.

Slang

The use of slang in one's speech is also observed more on the part of men (25 cases) than on the part of women (20 cases). However, the difference between men and women in the use of slang is not as big as in the case of profanity. Examples of used slang words and expressions from interviews: "Get a life", "lightening up", "bottom line", "diss", "kudos", "botch", "mate", "row", "dodgy", " legit".

Adjectives

Adjectives are often used in speech to make it brighter, more expressive, more eloquent, which is why women so often like to use them in their speech. You can often hear from them: adorable, charming, lovely, fantastic, heavenly, etc. Male speech is more concretized and devoid of emotional overtones. The use of a large number of adjectives allows women to better describe things and their own feelings, which indicates their greater sensitivity to the environment, which in turn makes the female language more interesting than the male one. Women use more complex constructions when describing a color palette. In female speech, you can often find such words as: mauve, lavender aquamarine, azure, magenta, etc. The male half did not use these words in any interview.

Adverbs

There are also differences in the use of adverbs between men and women. Women tend to use amplifying adverbs such as awfully, pretty, terribly, vastly, quite, and the phrase "It was so interesting!" is also often said. The opposite sex uses adverbs such as: very, utterly, really.

Diminutive words

Women like to use words that mean "small", such as "bookie, hanky, and panties". They also like to use words that show affection: dearie, sweetie. In addition, they use words that show politeness: "please, thanks", and also often use euphemisms.

Based on the above analysis, we can confidently speak about lexical and stylistic differences in the speech of men and women, due to their gender. The concept of gender identity is formed in the process of socialization, and is the result of the assimilation of gender stereotypes.

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