Paper in Conference Proceedings
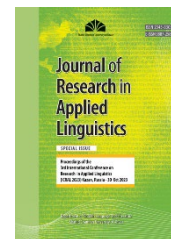
Investigating the Distinction of Phonetic and Lexical-Grammatical Features in Masculine and Feminine Speech in English

Aida Rustamovna Nurutdinova[1], Zulfiia Khanifovna Fazlyeva[2], Anna Romanovna Bogdanova[3]

[1]Department of Contrastive Linguistics, Kazan Federal University, Kazan, Russia; *AiRNurutdinova@kpfu.ru*

[2]Department of Contrastive Linguistics, Kazan Federal University, Kazan, Russia; *mega.sppa@mail.ru*

[3]Department of Contrastive Linguistics, Kazan Federal University, Kazan, Russia; *Anna_R_Bogdanova2023@gmail.com*

Abstract

In this paper, we examine one of the trickiest and least understood topics: the distinctions between men's and women's speech. Even though the subject of gender's impact on language has been around for a while, there are still many areas that need investigation. Only a few aspects of English speech patterns used by men and women have been examined in this paper. We have already mentioned a few recent developments in the English language, but this problem needs closer examination, which is why it will be covered in-depth in a later study. Since the differences in speech are most noticeable at these levels, morphological, phonetic, and lexical features are the main areas of study when examining the characteristics of male and female speech. Certain traits of English people, their mindset, and their history will become clearer with the help of a thorough linguistic analysis of gender features. The path of democracy, which entails streamlining the social structure and instituting formal equality for all demographic groups, has been adopted by English society. Further research is necessary in this area as there is currently insufficient evidence to support the claim that the two language variants differ phonetically.

Keywords: Linguistic; English Grammar; English Language.

1. Introduction

During the mid-1900s, American scientists made observations about the linguistic differences between male and female speech in various languages, which linguists found to be significant. The 1970s saw the emergence of the first comprehensive studies on the influence of gender on language, which were associated with the feminist movements' fight for equal rights. Lakoff's (1975) groundbreaking, albeit contentious, study Language and the Status of Women examined the social factors that contribute to women's speech, searching for the roots of women's speech in social factors. A number of English-language books were published in the 1970s, including Shonagon's (1998) The English Language and Women and Ide's (2000) Women's Speech, Men's Speech. Kryuchkova (1980) has published works on English language and womanhood more recently. Her Women's Words was published later. The emphasis was on intonation, word order in sentences, differentiation between speaking styles, and politeness level. Throughout the Middle Ages, upper-class women's speech was distinguished by the use of more refined, elegant language and a large percentage of English words rather than Chinese ones. Given this, a lot of English linguists worry that the lines separating male and female speech are gradually becoming less distinct, and they think this is causing the English language to lose its beauty and individuality.

Conversely, some people support these modifications, believing that equality has contributed positively to the advancement of English society. However, some contend that the deeply ingrained values and customs of English society—which honor its heritage and culture—make it impossible for borders to completely vanish. Thus, the following goals were established: To categorize and examine the differences between male and female English speech patterns in order to support or contradict the notion that there are two linguistic varieties in English—male and female—that differ from one another grammatically and lexically. To shed light on the reasons behind the variations and ascertain how a person's gender, age, social standing, and circumstances affect the language they choose to use.

In "Notes by the Headboard," Shonagon (1998) stated: "It happens that people call the same things by different names." The meaning of the words is the same, despite their differences. The monk of Buddhism speaking. A man's

words. The female speaker's words. Kryuchkova (1980) classified social differentiation into two categories: professional differentiation and non-professional differentiation. These categories represent the various paths that social differentiation can take.

2. Literature Review

The speech signal conveys phonological, semantic, and syntactic information about a word, as well as indexical information that conveys paralinguistic details about the speaker, such as age, gender, and emotional state, as well as their background in terms of geography and economic status (Dezhina, 2011). Many spoken word recognition models make the assumption that, following a process of normalization that removes many sources of variability in the speech signal, including indexical information, lexical representations are stored in an abstract form in memory (Ermakovich, 2015). Alternative models of spoken word recognition to these abstractionist models propose that the lexicon has many exemplar representations, each with comprehensive details about the word and the speaker. Numerous studies that show that altering the speaker's identity during different stages of the experiment lowers performance levels in a range of word recognition tasks compared to single-talker conditions provide compelling evidence for exemplar models of the lexicon (Ruth & Meyer, 2001).

We should be able to witness influences of other aspects of indexical information at other levels of linguistic processing than have been previously observed if the lexicon does in fact use exemplar representations—containing both linguistic and indexical information—to process spoken words. Prior research usually involved altering the speaker's identity and evaluating the impact of this alteration through standard word recognition tasks to appraise the lexical access process. In this study, we investigated whether the speaker's gender would affect a language process that follows lexical access: determining a word's grammatical gender. The English language does not distinguish between grammatical gender and number. For example, it distinguishes between singular and plural words (car vs. cars). Grammatically speaking, words are classified as masculine, feminine, or neuter in about a third of the world's languages that distinguish between genders (Clare, 2001). These languages include Spanish, German, and Russian, among many others. For a sentence to be grammatically correct in that language, grammatical gender markers in the words within the sentence must agree and be applied appropriately to each other (Anvarovna, 2020, Kirilina, 2003).

3. Methodology

We primarily focus on normative colloquial speech, where gender differences in speech are most noticeable. English literature, television shows, and English Internet resources are used as sample sources. Descriptive, contrastive, and comparative methodologies are employed. The role of gender in language is currently the subject of a good deal of pertinent research, including works by Alpatov (1980) titled "Language and Society," Nakamura (1997) titled "Research of Language and Gender," Kryuchkova (1980) titled "Language, Its Nature, Development and Origin," Shonagon (1998) titled "On the Question of Differentiation of Language by Gender of the Speaker," and Lakoff (1975) titled "Language and Place of Woman." While a great deal of literature has been written about English women's language, very little research has been done on men's speech. Shibamoto (2000) specifically discussed the language used by English women. The speech of English women in executive roles was examined by Abe (2001). Ide (2000) attempted a global comparison of women's language usage.

4. Results

The "submissive" role that women play in society makes women's speech seem abnormal. However, male speech shouldn't be viewed as the norm; it isn't a stand-alone equivalent subsystem and contributes just as much to the subsystem as does female speech in terms of literary norm. It is incorrect to assume that psycho-socio-linguistic factors produce the phenomenon of women's speech while ignoring the fact that men's speech is a phenomenon that merits investigation. Nakamura (1997) asserts that the roots are in cultural distinctions, with men and women creating their own distinct subcultures. Soviet (1990), but non-linguistic elements are also taken in, like communication conventions. According to Shakirova & Ismagilova (2020), the following elements have an impact on emphasizing one's belonging to a specific group: politics, media, religion, race, ethnic origin, and geographic diversity. However, we shouldn't minimize the significance of the individual who, despite being a part of a subculture, employs a particular communication strategy to accomplish their goals. Nonetheless, there are distinctions between the male and female forms of the English literary

language in practically every aspect of the language system; the most striking distinctions are found in the domains of grammar and vocabulary.

British speakers who work in the service sector or on television have a high tone and an ascending intonation. Given that the speaker does not force his viewpoint on the listener and leaves room for the listener to make their own decisions, the high-pitched intonation lends the speech a more courteous and less categorical tone. Regardless of the language used, people will perceive a high-pitched tone as being friendlier, more sentimental, and more courteous than a low-pitched, flat tone.

Kindaichi (2020) reports that women utilize high-pitched tone intonation more frequently than men (60% of the time), at 84% of the time. One area of the English language where variations in usage are most noticeable is the personal pronoun system. The system of first and second person pronouns is where the differences mostly manifest themselves (there are no differences for third person pronouns). It is evident that, with the exception of the politeest and rudest circumstances, first person principal pronouns are typically used. For the younger and middle generations, Kindaichi (2020) is widely acknowledged.

The most obvious distinction in the English language is found in the way emotions are expressed through modal expressive particles and interjections, which can appear at the start or end of a sentence. The English language relies heavily on the modal expressive particles to convey the speaker's attitude toward the other person or the topic of the discourse. English speakers have thus developed these particles and other auxiliaries that convey uncertainty, desire, caution, etc. because they would rather keep a phrase unsaid and steer clear of categorical statements. The grammatical structure is unaffected by the modal expressive particles, but the utterance nuance is. The majority of modal expressive particles occur in everyday speech. English speakers observe that when something is said without a particle, it is understood as a straightforward affirmative sentence. It is stated that the speaker does not attempt to facilitate communication, express interest in the other person, or ask the listener to agree or take action in response to what is said.

5. Discussion

These particles are crucial to English speech because they add subtlety to the speech and convey the speaker's mood and emotional state. We can observe a trend toward leveling in the modern English language when examining the current state of the system of modal-expressive particles. The vocabulary used in speech cannot clearly distinguish between masculine and feminine speech. Some words that were once common among women have been preserved over time and are now included in the lexicon of contemporary women. Older women tend to retain more feminine vocabulary in their speech and use it more frequently. et al. Shelestova (2021). Men of a certain age do not speak very differently from other age groups. The younger generation's speech also exhibits variations. The use of modal expressive particles and even personal pronouns is becoming more common in younger generations' gender speech. The fact that more and more women are employed and are required to speak in what is perceived as masculine language at work gives us the right to discuss homogenization. Another significant factor is their profession. The conservative members, who criticize the lack of machismo and rudeness in the language, are concerned about its extinction. The language is a dynamic, ever-evolving system that reflects the needs of its speakers. Language is influenced by both societal and extralinguistic factors. Over the centuries, speech has evolved; however, the modern era has seen an acceleration of this evolution for a number of reasons, including: growing international economic and cultural ties; growing influence of mass media; quickening life's pace; and social changes.

6. Conclusion

Since language is a complex phenomenon that is influenced by many socio-psycho-cultural factors, a thorough investigation of the factors that contribute to language differentiation is necessary. One can draw the following conclusions: Many languages exhibit linguistic differentiation, but the degree to which it manifests itself varies primarily depending on the unique social and cultural norms of the community. Both subsystems are comparable and deserving of research attention. Phonetics deals with sound reduction, assimilation, and lengthening. The intonation of female speech is high pitched. Speech from men is more neutral. Speech patterns are changing as a result of the impact of these changes on contemporary society. Men are starting to use the particles that are customary for women's speech, and women's speech is generally less courteous, as evidenced by the words that were once thought to be vulgar in the male language.

Acknowledgement

References

Abe, H. (2001). The speech of urban professional English women. UMI., p.168.

Alpatov, B. M. (1980). The System of 1st and 2nd Person Personal Pronouns in Modern English. Theory and typology of pronouns, Nauka, Moscow, c.71.

Anvarovna, M. Y. (2020). Lexical and Semantic Gender Features of the Text. European science review. https://doi.org/10.29013/ESR-20-3.4-52-57.

Clare, W. (2001). Gender and Discourse: Language and Power in Politics, the Church and Organisations. 1. publ. – Harlow: Longman.

Dezhina, T. (2011). About some features of the speech behavior of men and women, Philological Sciences. Questions of theory and practice, 1.

Ermakovich, S. P. (2015). Gender Studies in Russian Linguistics. Slovo.ru. Baltic accent, 4, 23–28.

Ide, S. (2000). Women's Language in Japan. Women's Language in the World. GS, 3, p. 358.

Kindaichi, N. (2020). Nihongo (English Language). Tokyo, p. 47-52.

Kirilina, A. V. (2003). Some results of gender studies in Russian linguistics. Gender: Language, Culture, Communication. Materials of the Third International Conference. – M.

Korkonosenko, S. G. (2006). Fundamentals of the Theory of Journalism. – SPb.: Veche.

Kryuchkova, T. B. (1980). About the Male and Female Varieties of English. Questions of linguistics No. 3. Nauka, Moscow, p. 58-68.

Lakoff, R. (1975). Language and Women's Place. Harper, New York, p. 36.

Nakamura, M. (1997). A Study of Language and Gender. Asahi shinbun.

Nurutdinova, A. R., Shelestova, O. V., & Baez, I. V. (2021). Linguistic and didactic aspects of the "linguistic consciousness" formation in teaching foreign languages: grammar skills formation. Revista EntreLinguas, 105-114.

Ruth, W., & Meyer, M. (2001). Methods of Critical Discourse Analysis. – London: Sage Publications.

Shakirova, D. S., & Ismagilova, G. K. (2020). World images mythological floral motifs of the English, Russian and Tatar language. Utopía y Praxis Latinoamericana, 25(12), 356-362.

Shibamoto, J. S. (2000). English Women's Language. Academic Press Inc.

Shonagon, S. (1998). Notes at the Headboard. Arts Literature, Moscow, p. 29.

Soviet, H. I. (1990). Big Russian-English Dictionary. Encyclopedia, Moscow.