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METHODOLOGICAL JOURNAL****MENTAL ENLIGHTENMENT SCIENTIFIC –  
METHODOLOGICAL JOURNAL**<http://mentaljournal-jspu.uz/index.php/mesmj/index>**THE RESEARCH SURVEY OF THE IMPACT OF GENDER  
DIFFERENCE ON SPEECH AND COMMUNICATION****Gulbahor Nazarova***Associate Professor (PhD)**Bukhara State University**Bukhara, Uzbekistan**E-mail: [gulbahornazarova826@gmail.com](mailto:gulbahornazarova826@gmail.com)***ABOUT ARTICLE**

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**Abstract:** The article discusses the results of the surveys on the impact of gender difference on speech and communication, comparing past and present investigations on the issue. It also explores the differences between men and women speech peculiarities based on the survey results conducted with native English speakers. The results of previous researches conducted by Lakoff R, Tanin D and Cameron M show that there is a distinct difference between men and women's speech in terms of pronunciation, intonation, vocabulary and speech style. However, our research survey results indicate some changes in the previously made conclusions from which it can be concluded that the changes of social status of women have influenced on the speech style and communication strategies.

**INTRODUCTION.** The issue of the impact of gender differences on language has been discussed since the beginning of the late twenties century and it became one of the central research foci in the field of sociolinguistics. A number of studies carried out on the peculiarities of tone, syntactic structure, word choice and etc. in male and female speech proved that there is a clear difference between two genders. Moreover, investigating the phenomenon of language in relation to sociology became a tradition in the field of linguistics. Studying the influence of gender difference on speech and communication is not under the foci of sociolinguistics, but also in the center of the research topics carried out by anthropologists, folk

linguists, grammarians and dialectologists. It is worth noting that gender and language issues in the process of feminist linguistic researches are studied on the basis of different models (framework) and these models created an opportunity to study its influence from different perspectives achieving significant results based on their conclusions. The first research on the specificity of women's speech was conducted based on the stereotypes of that time and in many cases the role of women's speech in language changes was not considered positively. Danish grammarian O. Jespersen [1] dedicated a chapter named "The Woman" in his book "Language: Its Nature, Development and Origin" to the analysis of women's speech expressing his thoughts about the peculiarities of women speech. In his opinion regarding the changes in the language, women contributed to the formation of a "standardized" language by trying to preserve the "purity" using less vulgar and taboo words. However, men's speech differs from women's by embodying the characteristics of "enthusiasm, imagination, creativity". In the process of analyzing women's speech, according to Jespersen, it is implied that men play a more intelligent and important role compared to women by the fact that men's speech is richer in "vibrancy, imagination, creativity" rather than women's speech. In addition, it should be pointed out that Jespersen's opinions about the "shallowness" of the vocabulary in women's speech and their inability to use it effectively were expressed under the influence of the superstitions of that time.

Well-known linguists Lakoff R [2] Tanin D [3], [4] and Cameron M [5] carried out sociolinguistic studies from the point of gender difference in pronunciation, intonation, vocabulary and speech style by studying the differences, the factors of origin of these differences and the change of these factors. One of the first feminist publications in language and gender studies is Lakoff's book "Language and Woman's Place" which was published in 1975. In this book, Lakoff analyzes the peculiarities of women's speech as well as the usage of different language means in conversation. In her opinion, women's speech is subjected to linguistic discrimination in two ways, that is, in the process of teaching them a language and in the process of treating them in the process of using a common language. R. Lakoff emphasizes that in the course of his research, he comes to final conclusions mainly by introspection (analysis of her own speech), by observing the communication of colleagues and friends, various advertisements and announcements in the mass media.

As words are the most active element of language in the learning process, the difference in the speech of men and women is also visible in the choice of words. In this regard, Lakoff's opinion, which emphasizes that women's vocabulary is superior to men's, attracts attention. According to the linguist, women in society spend more time on activities that men spend less

time on, such as shopping and choosing gifts. When choosing a gift or buying clothes, women pay more attention to color, and the names of colors that are not in men's vocabulary are observed in women's speech. Lakoff distinguishes the following features of women's speech are: 1) choice of words and the level of their use; 2) syntactic rules; 3) tone and other suprasegmental speech tools. For example, the words denoting colors such as *azure*, *mauve*, *aquamarine* and *beige* are not understandable for men as they do not use such words in their speech. The diversity in women's color vocabulary suggests that there are more important issues (eg, religious, political) for men than describing an object's exact color, or that women make less important decisions, such as distinguishing between colors. Researchers Ning and Day [6] found out that men and women also differ in their choice of conversation topics. Uzbek researchers L. Ibragimova, M. Abduvahabova [7] conducted comparative researches on the impact of gender difference in speech through the analysis of the texts of Uzbek and English fairy tales and folklore samples.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS.** The possibility of gender differences in speech and the emergence of gender stereotypes based on changing economic conditions was also observed. Since words are the most active element of language in the process of studying gender differences in communication, the difference in the speech of men and women is also visible in the choice of words. In addition, in the process of communication, a number of differences in the choice of the topic of conversation also appeared. Several studies have found that the concept of speech "hedges" is more common among women. [8]

Gender differences can also be observed in the process of joking. Sociolinguistic studies of male and female jokes show that men use shocking jokes mainly for competitive purposes, while women use jokes based on life events. The strategy of using humor based on life experience in the process of communication is more typical for women and is used more often than men, and because of this, women use it to make a positive impression on the interlocutor.[9]

It should be noted that the results of Lakoff's research presented above were carried out long ago and the degree of difference in gender in everyday communication due to its increase and changes in society may change.[11] In order to do define this supposition, we conducted a research survey with native English speakers based on a written questionnaire and Quartics survey tool. The main objective of the research is to investigate the extent to which the issue of gender differences in language and communication is close to reality, how time changes have an effect on the gender difference. The survey was conducted among students and professors of the Michigan State University in the USA. The questionnaire consisting of twelve questions

was given in two forms: written and using Qualtrics. A total of thirteen people took part in the survey. There are five survey participants in the table who did not specify their gender.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.** The following table demonstrates the results of the survey:

**Findings and Analysis Findings of Participants' multiple-choice questions**

**Table 1. Different types of language use**

**Participants: 13**

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Male (%)</b>	<b>Female (%)</b>	<b>Not indicated</b>
<b>Number of participants</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>
What type of language do you usually use in a conversation?	1(7,6%) -formal 0-informal	0-formal 7 (53%)-informal	1(7%)-formal 3(23%)-informal
In a conversation do you talk	0-loudly 1(7,6%)-softly	6(46%)-loudly 1(7,6%)-softly	2(15.3%)-loudly 3(23%)-softly
In a conversation, do you use hedges? (Sort of, I mean, actually, really, well...)	1(7,6%)-yes 0-no	7(53%)-yes 0-no	5(38%)-yes 0-no
In a conversation, do you use tag questions? (... isn't it? .... don't you?)	1(7,6%)-yes 0-no	4(30%)-yes 3(23%)-no	4(30%)-yes 1-no
Do you use taboo or slangs in your speech? ("Hell", "Damn", "God damn it")	1(7,6%)-yes 0-no	6(46%)-yes 1(7,6%)-no	2(15,3%)-yes 2(15,3%)-no 1-sometimes
Do you use intensifiers like "so", "such", "pretty", "quite" in your speech?	1(7,6%)-yes 0-no	4(30%)-yes 3(23%)-no	7(53%)-yes 0-no
In a conversation, do you use minimal pairs? (yeah, mhm, right)	1(7.6%)-yes 0-no	7(53%)-yes 0-no	4(30%)-yes 1-no
In a conversation, do you use the phrase "oh, my goodness"?	1(7,6%)-yes 0-no	5(38%)-yes 2(15,3%)-no	3(23%)-yes 2(15,3%)-no
Do you wait for your turn in a conversation or you interrupt?	1(7,6%)-I wait my turn 0-I interrupt	7(53%)-I wait my turn 0-I interrupt	3(23%)-I wait my turn 1(7,6%)-I interrupt 1(7,6%)-both
Do you tell jokes in a conversation?	1-yes 0-no	6-yes 1-no	4-yes 0-no 1-sometimes
Which sentence given below do you prefer to use for asking something?	1(7,6%)-Hand me the <i>Sport Magazine</i> by the sofa! 0-Please, will you hand me the <i>Sport</i>	3(23%)-Hand me the <i>Sport Magazine</i> by the sofa! 3(23%)-Please, will you hand me the	5(38%)-Hand me the <i>Sport Magazine</i> by the sofa! 0-Please, will you hand me the <i>Sport</i>

	<i>Magazine by the sofa?</i>	<i>Sport Magazine by the sofa?</i> 1(7,6%)-not answered	<i>Magazine by the sofa?</i>
In the following dialogue, who is A and who is B? Write your choice.	1(7,6%)-Correct answer	7(53,8%)-Correct answer	4(30,7%)-Correct answer 1(7,6%)-teacher/another teacher

Noteworthy results of the survey are highlighted in yellow and discussed. For example, the level of the use of hedges in speech is determined by the affirmative answer in both genders. In his research, Lakoff found that “hedges” (sort of, I mean, actually, really, well) can be found more often in women’s speech compared to men’s. In addition, the use of the words “taboo” and “intensifiers” was given an affirmative answer by representatives of both genders. Such speech patterns are very rare in men’s speech, because they tend to speak more boldly than women during communication, as reflected in Lakoff’s research. Yet, this was not proven in our questionnaire research. In the selection of “additional” words, women use “oh dear”, “goodness”, more in contrast to men in order to maintain the characteristics of politeness. In men’s speech, words such as “shit”, “damn”, “hell”, “god damn you” are part of their active vocabulary. These conclusions are also presented in Lakoff’s research. But in our questionnaire, it was noted that women also actively use such words.

In the Qualtrics survey there were five respondents who are all female and the following table represents their reply:

### Findings and Analysis Findings of Participants’ multiple-choice questions

**Table 2. Different types of language use**

**Participants: 5**

	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Female (%)</b>
	<b>Number of participants</b>	<b>5</b>
1	What type of language do you usually use in a conversation?	3 (60%)-formal 2-(40) mix of both, it depends on a situation
2	In a conversation do you talk	3(60%)-loudly 1(20%)-both 1(20%)-medium tone
3	In a conversation, do you use hedges? (Sort of, I mean, actually, really, well...)	4(80%)-yes 1(20%)-sometimes
4	In a conversation, do use tag questions? (... isn’t it? .... don’t you?)	3(60%)-yes 1(20%)-sometimes <b>1-</b> Not often
5	Do you use taboo or slangs in your speech? (“Hell”, “Damn”, “God damn it”)	4(80%)-yes 1(20%)-no

6	Do you use intensifiers like “so”, “such”, “pretty”, “quite” in your speech?	5(100%)-yes 0-no
7	In a conversation, do you use minimal pairs? (yeah, mhm, right )	3(60%)-yes 2(40%)-no
8	In a conversation, do you use the phrase “oh, my goodness”?	3(60%)-yes 2(40%)-no
9	Do you wait for your turn in a conversation or you interrupt?	2(40%)-I wait my turn 2(40%)-I interrupt 1(20%)-depends on situation
10	Do you tell jokes in a conversation?	3(60%)-yes 1(20%)-no 1(20%)-once in a while
11	Which sentence given below do you prefer to use for asking something?	2 (40%)-Hand me the <i>Sport Magazine</i> by the sofa! 3(60%)-Please, will you hand me the <i>Sport Magazine</i> by the sofa?

In the Qualtrics survey five out five respondents were women which the analysis difficult and make comparison between male/female speech. The distinguishing features are highlighted as well. However, the results demonstrate that Lakoff’s theories are partly true as women’s speech is more sensitive and polite. For example, hundred percent of women responded that they use intensifiers in their speech as they tend to be more effective and specific to present their ideas during conversations. However, in the use of taboo words and slangs the percentage is 80% which shows that not only men but also women like to use these kinds of words. The same can be noticed in the question about using jokes which points out that 60% women tell jokes during conversation. The question about the choice of statement to ask for a magazine, 60% of women use polite option which is a proof that women are less direct and more gracious in a request.

**CONCLUSION.** Through the thorough study on the impact of gender difference on speech and communication the following conclusive viewpoints have been made. Firstly, study of the impact of gender differences in speech and communication, the interest to the study of man and woman speech has risen mainly in the 60s and 70s. These studies found distinct differences in their speech due to social background. [12] In women’s speech it was observed more “standard” English features than men because it was a requirement of the time. Second, further researches have also identified the difference between the genders in the pronunciation, word choice, syntactic structures which emphasizes that women’s vocabulary is superior to men’s.[13], [14] The reason for this is concluded as women in society spend more time on activities such as shopping and choosing gifts. Thirdly, as a result of the changes in society in terms of women’s



role and status, some previous research conclusions can not be proved. The uniqueness of each nation's culture is also reflected in the language.[15] Overall, humanity uses language to achieve a specific goal that reflects personal or social values, and the limitation of language use due to the social environment mainly causes gender differences. The social context is an important link between gender and language. The way the interlocutor speaks during the communication also differs in the role that people play in the social environment.

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