

Males' and Females' Language in Jordanian Society

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Abstract—The paper analyzes the difference between the language of male and female speakers, in terms of gender in Jordan in some fields. The paper answers the following question: -Do men and women talk differently, in terms of gender in Jordan by occasion of the gladness, consolation, thankful after banquet and farewell? Thus, the paper aims to find the causes of the differences between male and female in language. The paper indicates that the differences are attributable to the followings: 1.Desire of females to attract attention and get out of the traditional way some words are used. 2. Females' use certain words because they believe that these words are more modern and civilized.3.The tendency to use words which are prestigious. On the basis of this paper, further studies could explore other areas. For example, there could be a comparative study between two groups of males and females. The first group consists of members their ages are between 20 to 30 years. The second group consists of members their ages are between 50 to 60 years. So, we can know the changes of words which happen over a period of time.

Index Terms—English language, Jordan, males' and females' language, Jordanian society, university

I. RELATED LITERATURE (THEORETICAL BACKGROUND)

In several communities, sociolinguistic results clearly show than woman use fewer of the literary Arabic forms than men (Chambers, 1995).

According to Coates (1993), in the case of gender, it was established that in many speech communities female speakers will use a higher proportion of prestige form than male speakers. In other words, the prestige norms seem to exert a stronger influence on women than on men. In addition, (Coates, 1993) quoted from (Lakoff, 1975), the men use stronger expletives (damn, shit) more than women (oh dear, goodness). He found that women use interrogative forms than men. He talked about that men address themselves in public to traditionally male topics more than women: business, politics, and economics. The word chatter, which is nearly always used of women rather than men, has two semantic components: verbosity and triviality. The idea that women discuss topics which are essentially trivial has probably contributed to the myth of women's verbosity, since talk on trivial topics can more easily be labeled too much. Such, as child-rearing and personal relationships are labeled trivial is simply a reflection of social values which define what do as important, and conversely what women do as less important (Coates, 1993) quoted from (Aries, 1976).

Women tended to use prestige language forms more than men. Women use overt, standard prestige norms, but men use covert, vernacular prestige norms. Overt prestige attaches to refined qualities, as associated with the cosmopolitan marketplace and its standard language, where covert prestige attaches to masculine, rough and tough qualities (Coupland, 1997) quoted from (Trudge, 1975).

The women are not expected to use strong expletives such as damn or shit, but are encouraged to substitute weaker ones like oh dear or fudge. This difference in linguistic acculturation between men and women permits men the opportunity to express strong emotions with impunity, an opportunity that women are denied (Fasold, 1990) quoted from (Lakoff, 1973).

The women regularly employ the use of more socially prestigious speech than men. The men use more forceful or decisive speech than women (Scherer, 1979). The informal studies by students which show that women use more reduplicated adjectival forms like itsy-bitsy and teeny-weeny (Scherer, 1979) quoted from (Key, 1975). The women are the hereditary guardians of old fashioned sayings and the meaning of proverbs (Scherer, 1979) quoted from (Jayawardena, 1977).

II. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

Sociolinguistics has been defined as the study of language in its social context. The study of language in its social context means crucially the study of linguistic variation. In different social contexts an individual will speak in different ways, this is called stylistic variation. Moreover, speakers who differ from each other in terms of age, gender, social class, ethnic group, for example, will differ from each other in their speech, this is called social variation.

Sociolinguistics is principally interested in the vernacular, that is speech used spontaneously among people know each other well.

This paper will restrict itself to linguistic variation related to the gender for speaker. It will describe differences found in the speech of men and women in Irbid city in Jordan.

As far as I know, no one writes about the difference speech between men and women in Jordan. Obviously, the paper defines this difference between males and females in speech.

One of the aims of this paper to provide coherent work to be intended both for those with an interest in sociolinguistics who want to study one aspect of variation in depth, and also for those interested in gender differences in general. It will concentrate on sociolinguistic work carried out on Irbid city and throughout will focus primarily on the vernacular Arabic language.

More specifically, the paper will try to answer the following question: Do men and women talk differently, in terms of gender in Jordan by occasion of gladness, consolation, thankful after banquet and farewell?

III. METHODOLOGY

In this paper, the author attempts to answer the following question: Do men and women talk differently, in terms of gender in the city of Irbid in Jordan by occasion of the gladness, consolation, thankful after banquet and farewell?

A questionnaire is used as a neutral tool so as to find out the differences in speech between male and female in Irbid.

The language which is used in the questionnaire is Arabic and as such it was straightforward for respondents to answer the questions in the questionnaire. For purpose of the paper the author distributed the questionnaire among respondents in the city of Irbid. There are 60 respondents. Thirty respondents are males and the other thirty are females. Ages of the members of the sample study are between the ages of 20 to 30 years. The social and economical levels of members of the sample is somewhat is similar.

Recently for the purpose of this paper, the author translated the questionnaire from the Arabic to English language.

The questionnaire was designed to find out in particular about differences in speech between men and women. It is the central instrument in the systematic collection of dialect.

It may seem an innocent tool of research, but besides determining in advance what linguistic items are to be scrutinized, it predetermines in other ways what is to be included and what no.

The questionnaire was filled in completely by the researcher to save the time and helping the illiterate people to give the answers.

The questionnaire included information about age, education and gender as it is shown in the appendix.

IV. DISCUSSION AND DATA ANALYSIS

This study clarifies differences in speech between males and females in city of Irbid in Jordan in the following occasion: gladness, consolation, thankful after banquet and farewell.

There are many synonymous which Jordanians use in the mentioned occasions. But the researcher concentrates on the words which are used too much as shown in the appendix.

The researcher uses two types of tables (look to tables' number 1 and 2). The first table clarifies the words which are used in each occasion and are expressed by overt figures. The second table includes the same words which are expressed by percentage.

The researcher analyzes the participants' respondents to the questionnaire to calculate and tabulate the overt figures. The percentages of the words are used by males and females in sample of the study.

We compare the results between males and females respondents in order to discover the differences which might attribute to gender.

TABLE 1
THE DIFFERENCES IN SPEECH BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN IN THE CITY OF IRBID IN JORDAN

The Occasion	Using of The Words According To Gender			Total
Gladness:	Mabrook	Mubarak	Tahanenah	
Males	19	7	4	30
Females	17	13	0	30
Consolation:	El-baqieh bhyatko	Yrham mafaqato	El-omor elko	
Males	13	13	4	30
Females	5	8	17	30
Thankful After Banquet:	Shukran	Daimeh	Bil-afrah	
Males	4	20	6	30
Females	2	15	13	30
Farewell:	Mah assalameh	Be-aman Allah	Bye	
Males	18	6	6	30
Females	17	2	11	30

TABLE 2
THE DIFFERENCES IN SPEECH BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN IN THE CITY OF IRBID IN JORDAN

The Occasion	Using of The Words According To Gender %			Total			
Gladness:	Mabrook	Mubarak	Tahanenah				
Males	64	23	13	100			
Females	57	43	0	100			
Consolation:	El-baqieh bhyatko	Yrham mafaqato	El-omor elko				
Males	43	43	14	100			
Females	17	27	56	100			
Thankful After Banquet:	Shukran	Daimeh	Bil-afrah		Be-aman allah	Bay	
Males	13	67	20	100	6	6	30
Females	7	50	43	100	2	11	30
Farewell:	Mah assalameh	Be-aman Allah	Bye				
Males	60	20	20	100			
Females	57	7	36	100			

From tables' numbers 1 and 2, it is noticed that there are some differences in the using of words by males and females as follows:

First: In gladness occasion, males and females use "mabrook" more than other words. Males use "mabrook" 19 times, "Mubarak" 7 times, and "tahanenah" 4 times out of 30 respondents. On the other hand, females' use 17 times, 13 times and did not use "tahanenah" respectively.

Again, it could be seen from the above data that the two groups (males and females) use different words.

These differences are seen more clearly in situations of the second and third columns as shown in tables 1 and 2, where males use "Mubarak" 23% and "tahanenah" 13%, and females 43% and 0% successively.

In other words, there are no big differences in the use of word "mabrook" by both males and females. The word "mabrook" is used by nineteen respondents of males and seventeen respondents of females out of thirty participants for each category for males and females.

Second: A general look at tables 1 and 2 shows that there are some differences in using the words by two groups in occasion of "consolation". Sample of study from males tends to use "Al-baqieh bhyatko" and "yrham mafaqato" more than females.

The big differences are between using of word "El-omor elko" and using of "El- baqieh bhyatko". Females use this word "El-omor Elko" four times more than males. In my point of view, females tend to use "El-omor Elko" too much in comparison with using of "El-baqieh bhyatko" and "yrham mafaqato" because the belief that these two words are less modern and civilized from "El-omor elko". The reason for this thought that the letter's" in word "El-baqieh bhyatko" and in "yrham mafaqato" are used often by the rural people. So, females avoid using the words which include these letters to give impression that they are more modern and civilized.

Third: The data indicate in tables that using "shukran" to express thankful after banquet is very limited, where males use it by 13% and females by 7%.

We think that using this word very little because it is traditional word and most of people use it in all occasions whatever are little or huge. So, we think that the use of "shukran" after banquet is not an expression of gratitude as "daimeh" and "Bil-afrah".

For this reason, we find that males and females use these two words too much comparative with "shukran".

Fourth: Males use "mah essalameh" 18 times out of 30. They use "Be-aman Allah" and "bye" 6 times respectively. This equal is 20% for each other. Females use "mah essalameh" 17 times out of 30 participants. It means that the usage of "mah essalameh" by males and females is similar. In other words, there is no big difference between males and females in using "mah essalameh".

The analysis emphasizes that females' use "Be-aman Allah" only 2 times out of 30 persons (i.e. 7%). This is against of researcher's expectation, where is expected that females use this word more than males because it has great intimate.

According to the data mentioned in the tables, we can say that males and females use "bye" with 20% and 36% successively. Using of word "bye" gives indication that males and females tend to using of prestigious form especially by females.

V. CONCLUSION

This paper has explored the differences in language use based on gender- males and females- in the case of gladness, consolation, thankful after banquet and farewell. The paper found that most of females' respondents like to attract attention by avoiding the use of old and ancient words. Rather, females prefer to use more modern and civilized words. Moreover, males and females tend to use more prestigious words rather than old words.

The author believes that what seems to be old and ancient words are as important as new and modern words. Males and females should not shy away from using old words. These words are important part of the heritage that should preserve over generations.

Further studies could examine the social and cultural logic for the different uses of words between males and females.

APPENDIX A THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Respondent,

The researcher is conducting a study entitled “Males’ and Females’ Language in Social Interaction in Jordanian Society”. You are kindly requested to answer the items of this questionnaire carefully and accurately. Rest assured that the information obtained in the course of this study will be kept confidential and used only the purposes of academic research.

1. General Information

Name:

Gender: Male Female

Nationality:

Age:

Level of Education:

2. Please respond to these questions as realistically and honestly as possible.

3. Put (M) under the word which is used by Males and put (F) under the word which is used by Females in the following table:

USING OF THE WORDS ACCORDING TO THE GENDER

Occasion	The Words		
Gladness:	Mabrook	Mubarak	Tahanenah
Consolation:	El-baqieh bhyatko	Yrham mafaqato	El-omor elko
Thankful After Banquet:	Shukran	Daimeh	Bil afrah
Farewell:	Mah essalameh	Be-aman Allah	Bye

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