

الاختلافات اللغوية الاجتماعية القائمة على النوع الاجتماعي:
دراسة حالة لتصور الطلاب السعوديين من الذكور والإناث
لاستخدام الصفات

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ملخص الدراسة:

تشير الفوارق بين الجنسين إلى الشخصيات التي تتصرف وتفكر بشكل مختلف اعتماداً على نوعها أو جنسها. الهدف من الدراسة الحالية هو تحديد أنواع ومجموعات التعابير، والصفات التي يستخدمها الرجال والنساء السعوديات لمخاطبة بعضهم البعض. واعتماداً على الجنس، فإن العديد من التعابير الاصطلاحية كانت لها دلالات محددة لا تنطبق إلا على أحد الجنسين. ولا يمكن استخدام هذه العبارات إلا للذكور أو الإناث، بناءً على جنس الشخص المتحدث والأعراف المجتمعية، ووفقاً للمعايير الثقافية السعودية. يتم جمع البيانات بشكل كمي من خلال استبانة تم إعدادها وطباعتها باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية، وتوزيعها على المشاركين من أفراد عينة الدراسة. تتكون عينة هذه الدراسة من عشرين طالبا سعودياً، وعشرين طالبة سعودية من جامعتي: الملك عبد العزيز وجامعة جدة بالمملكة العربية السعودية، وقد تم اختيارهم ليمثلوا عينة من مجتمع البحث. تم تحليل البيانات بالطريقة الكمية للبيانات التي تم جمعها للدراسة، وتم استخدام هذا الأسلوب الإحصائي لتتوافق نتائج هذه الدراسة مع أهدافها وأسئلة البحث. تكشف نتائج هذه الدراسة عن وجود اختلافات لغوية واجتماعية قائمة على النوع، ويتم توظيفها من قبل كل جنس لوصف الذكور والإناث. تعمل الدراسة أيضاً على تطوير علم اللغة الاجتماعي، لا سيما في مجالات اللغة والنوع. برجاء أن تمثل هذه الدراسة مساهمة مفيدة في هذا المجال المهم، تسعى هذه الدراسة. أيضاً. الى أن تُطلع المعلمين والطلاب السعوديين على السمات والتعابير المناسبة للرجال، وتلك التي تناسب النساء

الكلمات المفتاحية: الجنس، القواعد الثقافية، الصفات، التحليل الكمي



Gender-Based Sociolinguistic Variations: A Case Study of Saudi Male and Female Students' Perception of Using Adjectives


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Abstract:

Gender disparities signify characters who act or think differently depending on their gender. The goal of the current study is to identify the types of expressions and adjectives that Saudi men and women use to address one another. However, depending on the gender, many idioms have specific connotations that only apply to men or women. These phrases can only be used for males or females, based on a person's gender and societal norms, according to Saudi cultural norms. Data is gathered quantitatively by a survey, which is printed in both Arabic and English and distributed to participants. Forty Saudi male and female students from King Abdulaziz and Jeddah universities are taking part in this study as a sample of the research community. SPSS was employed for the quantitative analysis of the data gathered. Based on its objectives and research questions, this study found what it set out to find. It discovers the existence of gender-based sociolinguistic variations and how they are employed by each gender to describe males and females. The study also advances sociolinguistics, notably in the areas of language and gender. As a useful contribution, this study informs Saudi Arabian educators and students about the proper attributes for men and women.

keywords: Gender; Cultural norms; Adjectives; Quantitative analysis; Saudi culture



1. Introduction

Language serves as a means of communication and is crucial to human existence. Everyone has their own way of doing it. Therefore, language is a person's identity, both individually and socially.

Conversations, as a part of the language, shape people and allow them to use general language skills and knowledge. Consequently, language does not only reflect cultural views of gender but also shapes an individual's gender identities — the communication practices that are used to define us as feminine or masculine.

Communication between people who are the same gender or who are mixed gender is referred to as "gender communication." Communication between men and women is facilitated by having the ability to recognize gender differences in communication. Gender plays a role in the study of language, so it is important to first comprehend the differences between men and women and how these differences manifest themselves in various ways.

Gender differences indicate unequal behaviors or ideas about characters based on their gender. A person's gender is not basically a characteristic of a person; more mainly, it is something that one does and does regularly in communicating with others.

People are assigned a gender when they are born, and this role follows them everywhere they go: to school, to families, to relationships, and even to different types of media. The types of activities they engage in are quite different (Maccoby 1998). Fagot (1977) argues that certain activities are associated with stereotypically masculine or feminine behaviors (cited in Björnberg 2007). More precisely, these activities become more widespread in our teenage years through communication in society.

According to Eckert and McConnell-Ginet (2003), society sets standards for gendered people. Its role differs depending on how they act and behave in accordance with the norms of where they belong.

In addition, stereotyping affects how individuals are viewed in society. These ways of thinking in society have been believed to be the "right" values for each gender. Humans are rational beings. Men are said to be more understanding than women, but women are said to have greater emotional intelligence; this somehow shows how

members of society stereotype men and women (Fiske 1993). This societal thought is carefully associated with the norms of each society and the idea of the variation of each gender (Eagly 1987).

Stereotypes of gender influence the perception of women and men and also define social categories (Brannon 2010). Conversely, gender stereotyping can negatively affect a member of society who behaves differently from society's gender roles.

According to Stets and Burke (2000), femininity and masculinity are more determined by one's social gender role than by the sex of a person, and society shapes what a good male and female should be like. Due to social standards set by society, gender has become rampant and has had a negative impact on how we view gender in our society. Not only will their personal lives be affected by this, but most especially their social problems, which could change over time. Its definitions vary depending on how they portray and behave within a society's social norms.

Zaghlool and Yahia (2020) indicate that in the present time, a great change has taken place for females in Saudi society. A package of advancements for women's rights has been released by the Saudi government as part of Saudi Vision 2030. These improvements can reduce their discrimination in different areas of life in comparison to their male counterparts. They interact with their male counterparts in almost all domains in the Saudi community. This change has been associated with their empowerment, which is reflected in their different linguistic behaviors in mixed-gender interactions. Thus, gender stereotypes in Saudi Arabia might be changed, as well as all the beliefs about psychological traits and attitudes about masculinity and femininity (Brannon 2010). Gender stereotypes, especially in Saudi Arabia, should be given importance in how masculinity and femininity are defined.

Some adjectives, like adorable, charming, lovely, fantastic, and heavenly, are frequently used by women but infrequently by men. "Using more adjectives to describe things and their feelings can show that women are more sensitive to the environment and more likely to express their emotions with words, which makes women's language more interesting than men's sometimes" (Xia 2013, 1486). Thus, we create our own gender identities through some specific expressions, which the current study focuses on. Therefore, the

researcher focuses on these connotations that are strongly associated with only Saudi women, Saudi men, or both of them.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Based on the gender chosen, many expressions have strong and precise connotations that are only applicable to men or women. These expressions only have important implications that are related to males or females, depending on the indicated gender. However, many expressions have unique meanings that are solely applicable to men or women depending on the gender. According to Saudi cultural norms, the meanings of these terms can only be used for males or females, depending on a person's gender and societal customs. The current research purpose is to determine the nature and categories of expressions and adjectives used by male and female Saudis when addressing each other.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The specific connotations of the study are formulated based on the statement of the problems as follows:

1. To reveal the gender-based sociolinguistic variations among Saudi male and female students' perceptions of using Adjectives.
2. To ascertain the most commonly used connotations by Saudi female university students.
3. To ascertain the most commonly used connotations by Saudi male university students.
4. To determine the similarities and differences in the use of specific connotations by Saudi males and females.
5. To investigate the causes of gender differences in the use of specific connotations among Saudi university students.

1.4. Questions of the Study

According to the study's main objectives, the researcher formulates one main question, which is:

Are there any gender-based sociolinguistic variations among Saudi male and female students' perceptions of using adjectives?

Then, there are sub-questions derived from this question:

1. What are the most frequently used connotations by Saudi female university students?

2. What are the most frequently used connotations by Saudi male university students?
3. What are the similarities and differences in how Saudi male and female university students use specific connotations?
4. What factors contribute to gender differences in the use of connotations among Saudi university students?

1.5. Significance of the Study

The discrepancies in how Saudi men and women use particular connotations demonstrate that there are significant differences between the two sexes' usage of these connotations as well as some changes over time. This research calls for dispelling stereotypes regarding language use and other behavioral disparities between Saudi men and women.

Moreover, it analyzes the gender representation and perception of some specific connotations among university students in Saudi Arabia. These expressions have strong connotations that are only linked with males or females depending on the specific gender. Therefore, the present study aims to discover how males and females are revealed through a survey of the connotations used by each gender. It is expected to contribute to the linguistic field, particularly the language and gender sub-field because this research analyzes connotations for each gender. For a practical contribution, this research aims to give teachers and students in Saudi Arabia the knowledge of how males and females should be attributed. This is so that they can decide whether it is suitable or not to use certain connotations according to Saudi norms.

2. Literature Review

With the general development of women's activist work in several scholarly fields, it is not really surprising that the connection between language and gender has attracted attention in recent years. In accordance with this, Barczewska and Andreasen (2018) examine how male and female speakers of academic spoken English use adjectives in the Michigan Corpus of Spoken English according to Lakoff's (1975) theory. The researchers compare how men and women use specific adjectives like good, bad, big, small, pretty, ugly, important, and different. Additionally, they try to determine

whether these adjectives are more "feminine" or "masculine," or whether women use a wider range and more adjectives overall than men.

In her 2016 study, Cress explores the relationships between the adjectives used to characterize female and male characters in fairy tale literature, as well as how the information might reflect and reinforce cultural gender norms. The data collection is taken from the English translations of two stories that appear in the Grimm brothers' work: "Ashputtel" and "Hans in Luck." The researcher gathers trends and data about the appearance and shifts in adjectival use towards males and females. The characters are of relative age, and the stories' lengths ranged from about 2000 to 2500 words. These are the factors primarily used in an attempt to track trends across as even a corpus as possible, thereby minimizing how many factors may influence the change or differences in adjective use for either gender.

Mohindra and Azhar (2012) focus on gender differences in communication patterns. According to them, effective administration must create successful communication within a diverse workforce. Therefore, a diverse workforce is one in which differences are accepted rather than denied. In order to create a healthy working environment, both sexes must communicate effectively and recognize their differences. Male and female colleagues in an organization were tested on their communication approaches using two quizzes.

According to Li (2014), language and gender studies in a specific context merit investigation. So she investigates language and gender in a TV show called *Desperate Housewives*, which uses conversational analysis as its theoretical framework. She selects one episode from each of the eight seasons to serve as her data source, and she uses comparison, contrast, and quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques. The amount of talk and turn-taking differences are the main focus. The results based on the amount of talk appear to show that men are more talkative than women. Men take the turning floor for a longer period of time, according to the results.

Netshitangani (2008) investigates gender differences in communication styles and how they affect women in rural African educational settings. In Limpopo Province, South Africa, a

qualitative study is conducted using qualitative research methods to investigate the communication strategies of a female principal. The purpose of the study is to find out how communication affects the managerial duties of the principal. As a result, the participants and the site are chosen using reputational sampling. Six male and female teachers at the same school, as well as the female principal of the secondary school, are observed for one month. The results show that the female principal is an effective communicator who frequently overcomes cultural barriers by deviating from the norm. Additionally, the female principal's communication style is influenced by the environment in which she works as a woman, mother, wife, African, educational manager, and unique individual. By using standardized categories to analyze a database of more than 14,000 text files from 70 different studies, Newman et al. (2008) investigate gender differences in language use. In a sizable data set of written and spoken text samples, they investigate language usage differences between genders using a computerized text analysis tool. As a result, a thorough analysis of linguistic differences between genders is carried out. The survey is the result of two different methodological developments combined. They can conduct a thorough linguistic analysis of each individual text in their archive using the text analysis program Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count, which is the first. The creation of a text archive represents the second methodological advance. Over the course of the past ten years, they have built up a sizable corpus of more than 500,000 text files for the LIWC development. The results of the study show that women use words associated with social and psychological processes more frequently than men, who use words associated with object properties and impersonal topics.

A study by Ahmad (2014) examines the relationship between gender differences and workplace communication in the UAE. Thus, he examines the true nature of any communication differences between men and women at work. A qualitative study is being conducted on 418 UAE citizens, including 200 Emirati women and 218 Emirati men, whose ages range from 20 to 55. The results partly corroborate Tannen's (1990) and Gray's (1992) studies, but they also contain some fresh, intriguing, and specific UAE findings. They include directness and tone of communication, group communication,

communication with other nationalities, body language, forming and expressing opinions, and receiving feedback.

Shawcroft (2014) investigates whether there are gender differences in text message use and, if so, what are they. Convenience sampling is used to select the study participants. The sample includes 27 participants between the ages of 18 and 35, with 14 females and 13 males. Participants' data is collected through focus groups. The focus group approach promotes group discussion as well as the spontaneity of response. Two of the groups are made up of females, while the other two are made up of males. The constant comparative approach is used to analyze the transcripts of the focus group sessions. In the study, gender differences were identified in areas such as the recipient of information, the gathering of information, the entertainment provided, ending relationships, arguing, privacy, text shorthand, and slang.

Karlsson (2007) examines the variation in language use between men and women. The research includes a quantitative and qualitative investigation. The survey has 80 participants who read a dialogue with implemented attributes. They are given a questionnaire, and the participants are required to answer specific questions on the one hand (yes or no). On the other hand, the questionnaire includes questions with "free answers," which results in a wide range of responses. According to the study, there are both differences and similarities between different age groups of the same gender. Females appear to be more consistent in their responses, according to the survey.

In almost every way, men and women can be equals in business, whether by experience, professional experience, educational background, or intelligence. Men and women can be very different in one area, despite their similarities: communication. According to Mohindra and Azhar (2012), we might just be able to solve the gender communication knots, get the job done faster, and make the working environment less stressful if we pay attention to gender differences. It is only through identifying the differences and bridging the communication gap between the sexes that an organization can achieve a healthy working atmosphere. So, they conduct two quizzes to explore how male and female employees

communicate in an organization. The results appear to show that the gap or disconnection between males and females still persists.

Tannen (1990) describes women's and men's speech styles as "rapport-talk" and "report-talk," respectively. Conversations in private settings are described as "rapport-talk" for women, while conversations for information are said to be "report-talk" for men (77).

Men talk more about things and objects, and women speak more about people, according to Pennebaker (2011). Despite the fact that many studies have examined parliamentary discourse and gender in particular, it will be more useful to understand how Saudi women behave as newcomers in politics by examining their linguistic behavior in a male-dominated setting.

Understanding gender differences in communication helps both sexes communicate more effectively. In Xia's (2013) study, she discusses how women and men use language differently in terms of pronunciation, intonation, vocabulary, syntax, manners, attitudes, and non-verbal communication. So, she uses West and Zimmerman's (1987) research on interruptions in a conversation to explain the differences and changes between males and females. The result of the study shows that men continue interrupting others' talk, while women are more patient.

Michael et al. (2010) investigate the differences in Malaysian men's and women's speech styles. They believe that a significant interest lies in sociolinguistic variations associated with gender. The research focuses on the linguistic features or structures that Lakoff (1973, 1975) has selected. The use of questions, hedges, adjectives, verbosity, and politeness are five linguistic features that are highlighted in particular. The study looks into the speech styles of male and female television and radio presenters on local entertainment shows. It is limited to four Malaysian television and radio presenters (two males and two females). Only the five linguistic features are considered in order to investigate gender differences in speech. In a fifteen-minute talk, four different speakers utter 24 questions, resulting in four transcriptions. According to the study, the most noticeable overall female difference in the fifteen minutes of talk is in the frequency of questions, where females outnumber males.

According to Zendedel and Ebrahimi (2013), in Simin Daneshvar's social novel Savushun, they examine language usage in both genders in Persian society. The study examines eight differences proposed in Robert Lawrence Trask's (1995) book "*Language: the Basics*" to see if they occur only in English-speaking societies or if they occur in other communities too. The results show that some Trask differences are more common in Iran than others. Women appear to be more polite and conservative in their speech than men.

3. Methodology of the Study

3.1. Research Design

To achieve the aim of the study, a quantitative survey is used. Creswell (2015) considers survey designs as "procedures in quantitative research in which investigators [direct] a survey to a sample or to the entire population of people to describe the opinions, behaviors, or characteristics of the population" (379). This approach was selected because the research's objectives and questions about gender perceptions of particular connotations suggest using a survey method to measure the frequency of gender perceptions toward the 12 selected connotations. In order to gather these opinions from the participants, a survey is the best type of research design. Moreover, it is used for rapid data collection as well as for large-scale sample gathering.

3.2. Data Collection

As mentioned above, the instrument of this study is a survey, which is a selective one of Mohindra and Azhar's (2012) study on gender communication. Participants have received printed Arabic and English forms of the survey. Under each particular connotation, they are asked to select the gender that the word best describes in a workplace. There are 12 multiple-choice questions in the survey, each with three choices. Additionally, each question requires students to choose one specific answer (see Appendix 1).

3.3. Participants

Participants in this research include 40 Saudi students from King Abdulaziz and Jeddah universities. They have been chosen from

different departments with various educational degrees. Subjects are asked to respond to 12 questions by selecting a connotation that can only be applied to men or women, based on their gender. Among the participants, 20 are males and 20 are females. Their ages ranged from 19 to 24.

3.4. Data Analysis

The study uses SPSS to conduct a quantitative analysis of the survey data. After this, a qualitative analysis is done by relating the frequency of the particular connotations that are specifically associated with males or females, depending on their gender. This is done as a means to examine their similarities and differences. The researcher aims to determine whether the mean scores of male and female students differ statistically (Warner 2013). Thus, the researcher interprets the results, which are shown in the graphs, through both descriptive and inferential methods (Creswell 2014).

4. Results and Discussions:

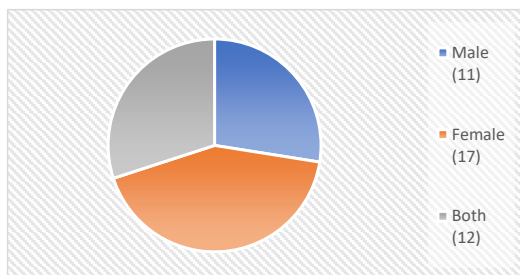
The study's goal is to find the relationship between Saudi male and female students of King Abdulaziz and Jeddah universities and their perceptions of using many expressions and connotations that are only associated with males or females. The researcher identifies gender as the independent variable of this research, while the dependent variables are the selected connotations that are perceived by the students of both genders. First, the data based on the survey are identified in terms of the type and frequency of certain connotations that Saudi male and female university students express when communicating with other same-gender or mixed-gender individuals. Then, these data are described and analyzed sequentially, one by one, as shown below.

4.1. Gender Perception of Using the Connotation Logical:

In graph 1, the result shows that 27% of the participants believe that males are logical. On the other hand, 42.5% of the participants believe that females are more logical, while 30% of them think that both males and females can be logical. From this perspective, when

using language in a conversation, we can attribute gender differences to social causes rather than physical ones (Xia, 2013).

Graph 1

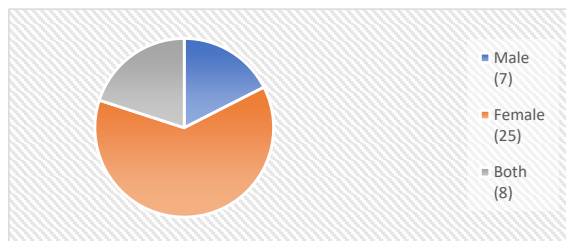


It is imperative to consider using this connotation, as it implies that women in the workplace would speak in a way that is stereotypically considered "manly." As it turned out, female speakers still distinctly show more frequent use of adjectives in this typically male context (Żmigrodzki 2021).

4.2. Gender Perception of Using the Connotation Talkative:

In Graph (2) below, the majority knows that women are much more talkative, at about 62.5%, while this behavior seems quite impossible for men, as only 17.5% of the participants believe that males are talkative. Moreover, 20% attribute it to both genders. So, the analysis shows that women's tendency to talk is greater than expected.

Graph 2



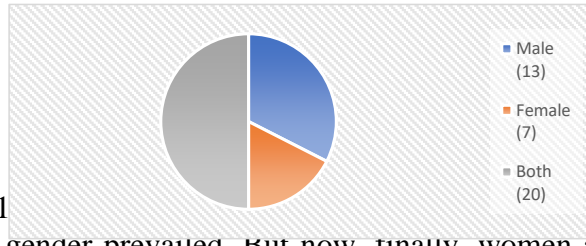
It is generally acknowledged that women are more talkative. There have been a number of studies that support this claim. For instance,

Mehl et al. (2007) assume that women are generally more talkative than men. Hammond (2013) found that women use an average of 20,000 words a day, compared with 7,000 words for men.

4.3. Gender Perception of Using the Connotation Funny:

In Graph (3), 32.5% of the participants attribute this connotation to males and believe that they are funnier, while 17.5% of them believe that females are also funny, and 50% of the participants think that it would be true for both males and females to be funny. The analysis shows that there is no difference between the two genders; both of them can be funny.

Graph 3

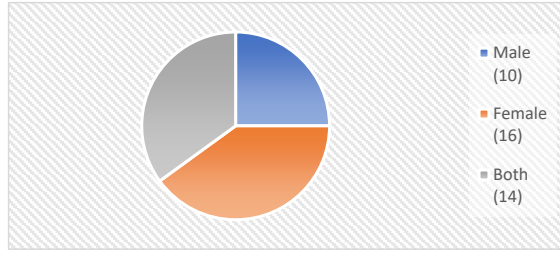


Kealey (2013) states that men are the funnier gender prevailed. But now, finally, women are having their moment in the comedy spotlight.

4.4. Gender Perception of Using the Connotation Intuitive:

In Graph 4, the majority knows that women are much more intuitive than men. About 40% of the participants believe that women are more instinctive, while 25% of them think that males are intuitive, and only 35% attribute it to both genders.

Graph 4

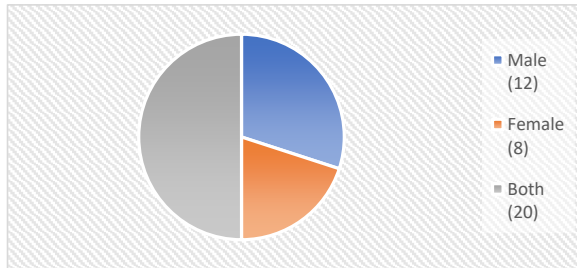


Intuition is defined by Day (2011) as making the right decision on the spot without adequate traditional information. Artemis (2012) questions whether women are truly more intuitive than men, or if it is just the way women are socialized to empathize with others. Based on this study, the majority of the participants know that women are much more intuitive than men.

4.5. Gender Perception of Using the Connotation Gentle:

Regarding the connotation of "gentle", the results of this study reveal that 30% of the participants believe that males are gentle when they speak, while 20% believe that females are also gentle. The connotation of "gentle" can be defined as being kind or generous.

Graph 5



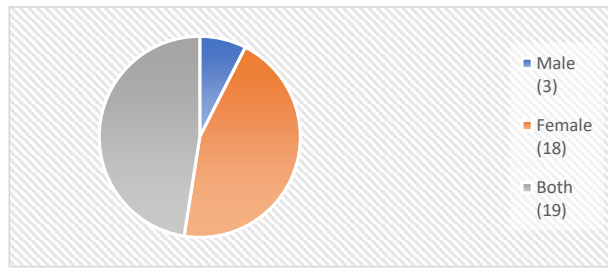
Petter (2017) believes that women are prone to being kinder and more generous than men. However, according to the current study, 50% of the participants believe that both males and females can be

gentle. So, being gentle does not have to be referred to only men or only women; it can be referred to both of them.

4.6. Gender Perception of Using the Connotation Fashionable:

In Graph 6, the participants believe that males are not as fashionable as females. Only 7.5% of them think that males can be fashionable, while 45% believe that females are much more fashionable. However, 47.5% of the participants consider both males and females fashionable.

Graph 6



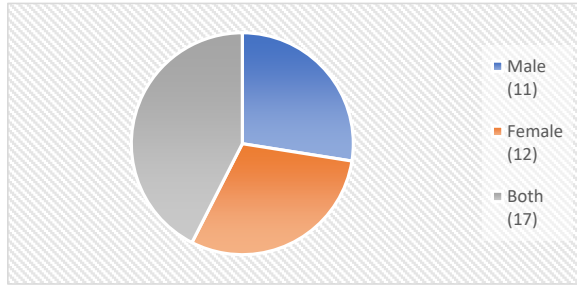
Style and fashion have always been about women, but with the development of the internet, it has been found that men can also be fashionable and dapper. Their fashion industry has experienced more growth than women's for the last couple of years (Saver 2016).

4.7. Gender Perception of Using the Connotation Critical:

To be critical means to express adverse or disapproving comments or judgments. Some researchers believe that females are always expressing their reasoned opinion on any matter that involves a judgment of its value, truth, or technique. However, the results of this study demonstrate that the majority of the participants, about 42.5%, consider that both males and females are critical while

speaking. Whereas only 27.5% of the participants consider males to be critical, and 30% of them believe that females can also be critical.

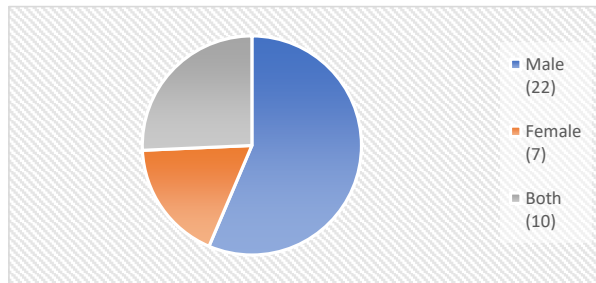
Graph 7



4.8. Gender Perception of Using the Connotation Outspoken:

Regarding the way of being outspoken in using language, Haas' (1979) study concludes that males are generally more assertive and directive than females. 56.4% of the participants, according to the findings, believe that males are more direct and open in their speech or expression. Whereas, 17.9% believe that females are not explicit in their speech. However, 25.6% of the participants consider both males and females to be outspoken, as graph (8) shows below.

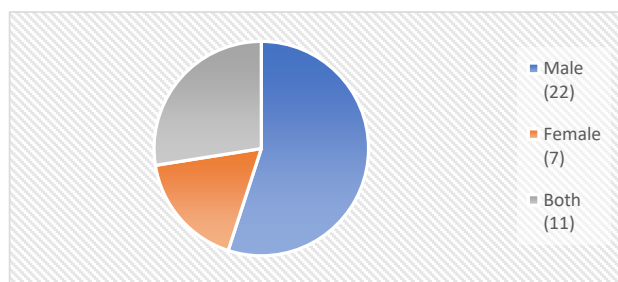
Graph 8



4.9. Gender Perception of Using the Connotation Aggressive:

In graph (9), 55% of the participants believe that 55% of males are aggressive, and only 17.5% believe that females can be aggressive. Being aggressive does not have to be reserved for males. Therefore, 27.5% of the participants believe that both males and females can be aggressive.

Graph 9

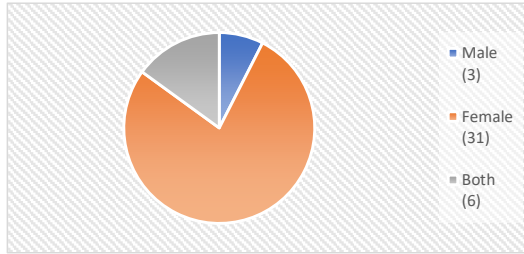


According to Campbell and Muncer (1987), a female's aggression can often come from excessive stress and a loss of self-control. Meanwhile, male aggression can be understood as an attempt to exert control over others as a result of a lack of self-esteem.

4.10. Gender Perception of Using the Connotation Emotional:

In graph (10), the result clearly shows that 77.5% of the participants believe that females are much more passionate than males. Only 7.5% of the participants consider males as emotional. It is true that sometimes males can be emotional, so 15% believe both genders are emotional.

Graph 10

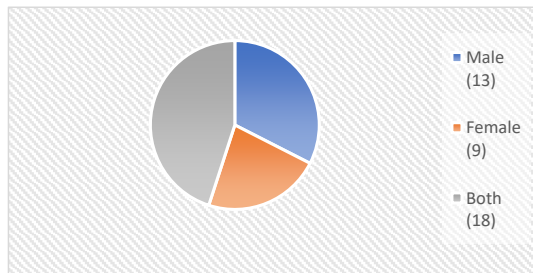


Schmitt (2015) questions whether women are more emotional than men. He finds out that males could also be described as more emotional than females. The results of this study indicate that women tend to express their feelings more freely and sympathetically than men. According to Xia (2013), women “usually [think] about the effect their words will have, so they often appear to be more polite. On the contrary, men appear to be rash, and they just say what they want to say and seldom care what others think, so men’s speech is usually blunt and solid” (1488).

4.11. Gender Perception of Using the Connotation Manipulative:

In graph (11), the results demonstrate that being manipulative can be attributed to both males and females. About 45% of the participants believe that this connotation can be applied to both genders. Anyhow, 32.5% believe that males are more manipulative, while 22.5% believe that females are also considered to be manipulative.

Graph 11

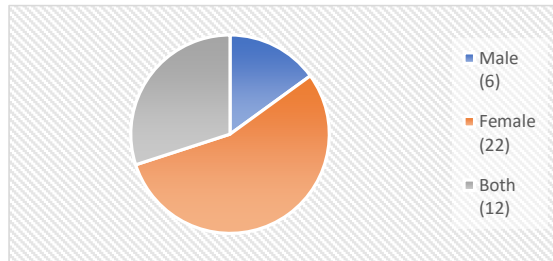


Strong (2021) defines a manipulative person as someone who twists the thoughts, actions, wants, and desires of others into something that better suits how they see the world and merely molds them into what they want. Ch (2014) mentions that recent studies find women to be the more manipulative sex in at least one major life domain. However, the findings of this study demonstrate that being manipulative can be attributed to both males and females.

4.12. Gender Perception of Using the Connotation Interrupt more:

In graph (12), many scholars believe that men interrupt more than women, but as the results show, 55% of the subjects recognize women as interrupters, while 15% of them believe that men do interrupt more. However, the results show that 30% of the participants believe that both genders can interrupt others when they speak.

Graph 12



In terms of interruption, some scholars believe that in a debate between a man and a woman, the man makes the interruptions and the woman tries to listen more. Shore (2017) suggests that men interrupt more often to talk. In conversation, women are less inclined to interrupt each other when enhancing connection. However, this study proves the opposite. It reveals that 55% of the subjects know that women are interrupters, while 15% of them believe that men interrupt more. This indicates gender differences among both sexes.

5. Conclusion

The results reflect how Saudi male or female university students feel about particular expressions that have special connotations depending on the gender; some are only associated with males or females, while others can be attributed to both of them. Most of the time, the results are very close, but in some cases, they are clear. It is noted that there is a corresponding significant relationship between the two as stated in the graphs, which adheres to the following conclusions.

The highest connotation frequencies that are associated with females are 'emotional,' 'interrupt more,' 'talkative,' 'fashionable,' 'logical,' and 'intuitive.' The results support earlier research that indicated women are more emotional than men. Mohindra and Azhar (2012) claim that "still, women are found to be more emotional yet intuitive, and being diplomatic is something that has been in them since ages" (23). Furthermore, a study by Burleson et al. (2009, 2010, 2011, 2016) shows that "women tend to reveal more support, emotions, and intimacy behaviors to build positive relationships with their peers than men." According to Mohindra and Azhar (2012), "talkative was a trait associated with women, but now we see that even males are finding space and points to be more talkative ... Fashionable is a term that earlier used to be synonymous with a lady, but now we have seen a shift as even other genders are finding reasons to look good" (23).

On the other hand, the results show the highest connotation frequencies that are associated with males, which are 'aggressive,' 'outspoken,' 'manipulative,' 'funny,' and 'gentle.' Mohindra and Azhar (2012) believe that men are rational and logical yet funny; however, women have the edge over men, although anyone might have the combined traits. Although it is in women's nature to be more emotional than men, that does not mean that men are not capable of being as sensitive or caring as women. This somehow implies that their personality does not have anything to do with their position as the second sex.

The research results are clear and persistent. One of Lakoff's (1975) core theories about women's language is supported by the fact that female characters, despite being intelligent in their professions, use

expressions more frequently than male speakers. One of the main components of the now-outdated deficit approach, which believed that women's language was inferior to men's language, is this language feature (Zmigrodzki 2021).

To summarize, men's and women's differences in some aspects of the use of specific connotations show that there are many differences in how the two sexes use these connotations and that there have been some changes over time. As a result of the findings, stereotypical beliefs about the language usage of Saudi men and women, as well as other differences in their behavior, must be dispelled. However, the fact that this issue is now being raised and questioned is a good start (Arvidsson 2009). Language, as a tool for human communication, will gradually improve, requiring both men's and women's efforts. The above analysis clearly identifies the complicated relationship between gender and language. Because language is an important communicative tool in human society, knowing about gender and language is extremely advantageous in this field of sociolinguistics.

6. Recommendation

The investigator would like to offer the following recommendations and ideas in light of the study's findings:

1. It should be suggested that more attention be paid to this area of studying adjectives in the foreign language teaching program, as the acquisition of adjectival pragmatic use represents a cornerstone in the process of learning a target language.
2. Selected cultural facets of the target language should be incorporated into English language instruction in schools.
3. Drills and exercises that promote or cater to proper language practice should be included in the curriculum.

7. Suggestions

It should be pointed out that researchers are still revealing more and more detailed differences between males and females in language usage. This study is a little contribution to the debate about linguistic differences across genders. Therefore, further research on other features of linguistic differences such as turn-taking, use of hedges, and tag questions is required to reinforce the concept of gender-

based linguistic variations. Finally, the researcher suggests that additional research be done in investigating the use of adjectives using the methodology of the community of practice (CofP) framework to examine how language and gender are related.

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Appendix

Survey


Thank you for giving us the time to participate in this survey. You are kindly requested to fill out the section relating to personal information. Then, please choose, under each connotation below, which gender the word best describes.

Age:

Gender:

Educational level:

- 1- Logical
 - a) Male
 - b) Female
 - c) Both
- 2- Talkative
 - a) Male
 - b) Female
 - c) Both
- 3- Funny
 - a) Male
 - b) Female
 - c) Both
- 4- Intuitive
 - a) Male
 - b) Female
 - c) Both
- 5- Gentle
 - a) Male
 - b) Female
 - c) Both
- 6- Fashionable
 - a) Male
 - b) Female
 - c) Both
- 7- Critical
 - a) Male
 - b) Female
 - c) Both
- 8- Outspoken
 - a) Male
 - b) Female
 - c) Both
- 9- Aggressive
 - a) Male
 - b) Female

- 
- c) Both
- 10- Emotional
- a) Male
- b) Female
- c) Both
- 11- Manipulative
- a) Male
- b) Female
- c) Both
- 12- Interrupt more
- a) Male
- b) Female
- c) Both