

THE DIFFERENCE OF MALE AND FEMALE CONVERSATIONAL INTERACTION IN THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES

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Abstract:

Communication problems and conflict may occur between partners in intimate dyads when systematic gender differences in language contribute to misinterpretations. Regardless of gender, all human beings have a basic need for communication as a form of an expression. In the late twentieth century gender-related differences in communication were most studied in the United States.

Keywords: communication, gender, conversation, male, female

In interpersonal communication women and men appear to have different primary goals. Women usually use communication to build relationships with others. They do this by expressing empathy, including and responding to others, sharing feelings and ideas, and giving verbal support. Men, on the other hand, are more likely to use communication to give information, establish and assert individual status, achieve results, and gain and keep the conversational stage.

Generally, women and men adopt distinct styles of interpersonal communication. The contrast noted is between women's conversational emphasis on process and men's emphasis on outcome. In practice, this is manifested in women's attention to the dynamics of communication, while men adopt a more instrumental style that focuses on results of talk. Related to other differences in style, women tend to communicate interactively, while men are more likely to communicate using sequential monologues.

Furthermore, another characteristic of men's conversational style are extended monologues in which speakers talk in sequence and each speaker holds the conversational floor for a longer period of unshared time. While on the other hand, a talk between women friends typically involves rapidly executed back-and-forth exchanges and the conversational floor is shared as each speaker talks for only short periods before the other speaks.



Another gender-related difference in style is about how the content of talk is narrated. Generally, men follow a linear style of presentation in which events are highlighted in a climactic sequence, and a story has a clearly defined plot. Women tend to follow multiple-track, style of presentation in which events, people, relationships, and feelings are described within contexts. In women's narrative style plot and a climactic sequence are not necessarily found, since relationships, people, and feelings are more emphasized than an event-focused plot. There are several explanations for gendered conversational dynamics, they fall into two broad and oppositional categories: essentialist and constructionist accounts. Essentialist explanations share the principle presumption that some basic, innate quality in women and men accounts for their specific communication behaviors. However, the most obvious form of essentialist explanation is rooted in biology and genetics. For instance, women's nurturing, inclusive communication style is explained by the greater presence of the hormone estrogen, while men's more aggressive communication style is explained by the greater presence of the hormone testosterone. Another biological explanation traces communication differences in the brains of the two genders. Women have greater development of the left hemisphere and corpus callosum connecting the two lobes that governs integrative and synthetic thinking, which enables the weblike structure of women's communication. Men on the other hand, have greater development of the left lobe, enabling the linear, analytic thought which is a characteristic of men's communication.

Constructionist explanations share the fundamental assumption that gender is socially constructed, not innate. Constructionists believe that beside from a few quite obvious differences, such as reproductive organs, differences between women and men are constructed and sustained through social practices that reflect the prevailing ideologies in various societies. Cultural theorists argue that the institutions and practices that make up cultures reflect and reproduce distinctly gendered identities. For example, institutions like the military, religion, and schools are hierarchically organized, with men occupying positions of greater power than those assigned to women. Furthermore, practices such as granting maternity leave, but not paternity leave, represent and preserve the cultural expectation that women should be the primary caregivers. A recent addition to the cultural group of accounts is standpoint theory. Standpoint theorists trace how intersections among class, gender, race and



other social groupings influence group members' experiences and, as well as, the identities they form and the patterns of communication they develop.

Some scholars believe that males and females are socialized into different communication cultures and argue that the games girls and boys play teach the sexes different rules about communication. Another constructionist view is psychoanalytic theory. Psychoanalytic theory deals with unconscious processes of identification and internalization through which gender is constructed. The fundamental principle of newer psychoanalytic accounts is that core personality is shaped by relationships in the early years of life. Mothers being usually first primary caregivers form distinct relationships with sons and daughters. As there is a basic identification between mothers and daughters, girls typically develop gender identity within a relationship, while boys develop gender identity apart from a relationship.

Differences in women's and men's communication have pragmatic consequences for personal identity and interpersonal relationships. Gendered conversational dynamics complicates interaction between women and men. Women are often disappointed and frustrated in relationships with men because women reveal themselves and reach out for connection while men, on the other hand, maintain emotional reserve and independence. Also men may be unsatisfied when women respond to their problems by providing empathy and emotional support instead of instrumental assistance. Furthermore, women and men may also fail to understand and appreciate one another's narrative patterns. The lack of details and contextualizing in men's narrative method may be frustrating for women, while men are frustrated by the presence of rich detailing and contextualizing in women's narratives. Gendered conversational dynamics are generalizations that do not apply to all women and men everywhere and do not represent absolute dichotomies between the sexes.

It seems clear that other things being equal, women and men do have a preference for different conversational styles. Women – in most western societies at least – prefer a collaborative speech style, supporting other speakers and using language in a way that emphasizes their solidarity with the other person. Men, on the other hand, use several conversational strategies that can be described as a competitive style, stressing their own individuality and emphasizing the hierarchical relationships that they enter into with other people.



The List Used Literature

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