



The Dynamics of Language and Gender: Conversational Analysis of Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*

Mehak Ali

PhD Scholar, Lecturer in English, Govt Associate College for Women Basti Malook, Multan

mehaka744@gmail.com

Fatima Khan

M.phil Scholar, Visiting Lecturer of English at Emerson University Multan and UCP Lahore, Multan Campus, E-mail: nain11tara@gmail.com

Urwa Quddus

MPhil English, Lecturer English, Govt. Associate College for Women 98NB, Sargodha

E-mail: urwaquddus87@gmail.com

Muhammad Ishaq

Lecturer in Education, MPhil English Linguistics, Education, Govt. Graduate College Near Civil Lines, Khanewal, Email: ishaqsaqi2010@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper attempts to discuss that in what ways the dynamics of language and gender are revealed through conversation and dialogues by applying Conversational Analysis Approach (CA) on Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* (1985). *The Handmaid's Tale* is the primary text for this research. The selected pieces of the conversation are explained and analyzed by applying Conversation Analysis approach (CA). The research concludes that the role of language in promoting and maintaining women's suppressed and subjugated position by controlling their minds (as they are not allowed to read) and bodies (as they are forced to produce children for upper strata men such as Commanders) is quite obvious. It put special emphasis on protagonist Offer's dialogues how the use of language is related to the notion of gender. The

researcher will employ close reading technique to prove her point. The qualitative method of research would be used as this method provides every minute detail and in depth analysis of the text under consideration by applying close text reading technique. Instances from the original text i.e. *The Handmaid's Tale* are taken and analyzed qualitatively.

Key Words: conversation, analysis, Atwood, language, gender

1. Introduction

This study uses Conversation Analysis to explore the relationship between language and gender in conversation. The data were collected from an excerpt from a novel that imagines a future society where women have been stripped of their previously held rights and are now relegated to passive childbearing companions of high-status women who are not able to bear children. The diverse characters represent the hierarchical social order that, in many ways, mirrors aspects of our own society. Despite the extreme measures that are taken to subjugate and silence women, language manages to transmit feelings and thoughts that have the potential to undermine oppressive power. From the brief excerpts, it is clear to see how thinking and articulating thoughts threaten control and draw resistance. The language shifts of the characters reflect an attempt to communicate and understand personal feelings while also maintaining gendered expectations.

Language and gender show their intricate and complex relationship in a variety of ways, both large and small, in cases existing across the socio-historical continuum regardless of cultural or ideological propaganda that has attempted to link gender conventions to essential human behavior or nature. There is no doubt that different languages encode different conventions and maintain different expectations for their speakers from birth and that people are socialized within language systems that ultimately reflect and reinforce cultural views about men and women. However, the ways in which these broad gender conventions play out are largely negotiated through ordinary, everyday communicative interactions. Consequently, in order to gain a better understanding of how cultural and linguistic expectations of gender are played out in discourse, Conversation Analysis is employed, a methodology that focuses on how speakers involve themselves with each other in conversation. The present study chose to look closely at how female and male characters in selected scenes discussed their lives as viewed from the text and in the representation of its contributing characters.

1.1. Background and Significance

The significance of investigating the correlation between gender and language lies in the impact of this correlation on social reality. As social beings, we use language as a crucial means of social interaction and understanding human life, defining identity and constructing social systems. Meanwhile, gender roles are related to social power. Therefore, to study the

correlation between gender and language means to analyze and reveal the social order formulated by language. As a way of expressing the social reality of language, literature brings stories to readers in a diverse setting, the story of which is proposed to shape the language situation of different genders. Thus, the clash or inequality between genders is often expressed through the different meanings of characters' language.

A novel reflects the predicament of a future dystopian society in which the rise of fertility has caused the decline of women's status. A patriarchal and hierarchical society assigns identity based on family and habitually infuses identity with vocabulary. This paper adopts the theory of Conversational Analysis to discuss the dynamics of language and gender and analyze the correlations between them to explore the gender position through the lens of language. The result underlines the importance of the relationship between language and gender. The dynamic aspects of the gender issue in language always reflect the social context. Defining gender with general language, some cultural facts of direct or indirect rules for constructing gender, and adopting implicit citizenship in the text.

1.2. Research Objectives

- Investigate the evolving identity of women as a central theme in **The Handmaid's Tale**, and contrast their roles with the concept of the 'Other.' - Investigate linguistic cues offered by the superior and subordinate characters to reveal concealed power dynamics at play within the narrative. 1. Identify whether the text reflects or shapes relations between genders. 2. Examine if the language serves for the purpose of mirroring or sculpting the gender dynamic through the text. - Look into the extent to which the characters' social conditions may bear on "chauvinist" linguistic behaviour. - Give a brief description of the sub-genre to provide context for the analysis. - Analysis of dialogue reveals the gendered power struggles at play. - Analyze linguistic diversity as a separate mechanism with regard to gender identity. - Examine how the shifting power structures in society may impact social relations and notions of gender identity. - Explore socio-historical reasons for focusing on gendered language as a topic in its own right. - Highlight the behavior of institutions as it relates to linguistic structures of gender. - How does language work towards the social construction of gender identities?

1.3. Structure of the Work

A total of six chapters comprise this work. The first chapter offers a background to the study, the statement of the problem, the purpose of the study, research questions, the significance of the study, the operating definition of key terms used, key assumptions, limitations, and scope of the study. The second chapter, review of the related literature, reports an overview of related literature connected to the study. The third chapter, the dynamics of language and gender, presents a synopsis of theories of gender and language, foundational and empirical research linked to men's words and women's tongues, qualifications and ratings of research, contributions, sets, constraints, and alternatives. While the fourth chapter, methodologies, talks

about research location, study aim, informants, data collection and transcripts, the fifth chapter meant to present the results.

The study's context, social demographics, and sampled language model are included in this paper. The sixth chapter renders a conclusion and recommendations of the study on the dynamics of language and gender, critiquing the posture of conversational relative description in line with documented empirical studies. The examination enlightens that in turn-taking, women act more cooperatively and wait longer following talkovers, significantly permitting the detection of talk violations and incorporating preceding speakers. It also signifies that, ambiguously, status and gender have an effect on these data.

2. Literature Review

This chapter presents a literature review of the scholarly materials related to our study. It begins with an overview of conversational analysis, which intends to identify the ways in which language is associated with both the sex and gender of speakers. Through its analytical procedure, we can observe the different roles that speakers play through language. That is to say, we can explore the representation of gender through language differences. Our examination is based on several previous studies on women's talk in fiction, the use of language in politics, and the representation of gender in political discourse, as well as language and power. These various critical insights constitute the framework required to advance our analysis in the progression of the narrative. In doing so, we bring our examination to the consideration of particular conversational strategies and features that may form gender identity, and examine the details of these in individual turn sequences, within the many conversations and narrative exchanges on which we will draw for our analysis in this study.

The discussion will draw on a wide range of linguistic approaches from which it is feasible to assess the association of gender with the form of speech. Additionally, and as an entirely separate matter, language can also be associated with matters related to sex. In summary, language and speech can refer to different, but connected, aspects of sex and gender, and it is probable that some social elements accessible to the speaker, informing linguistic variation and attitudes toward varieties of speech, are based on sex differences in language usage affecting perception. It is possible to see in the language variations and language attitudes that gender and sex can in fact become confused in which, in general, many of the other factors such as sex itself, are assessed via language. In an analytical procedure centrally concerned with the meaning created through the structure and detail of the conversation and exchanges themselves.

The concept and the study of language and gender are widely spread in the areas of language and social studies, such as sociolinguistics, anthropological linguistics, discourse analysis, communication, and gender studies, gender theory, etc. The idea is that language and gender are major studies on language and communication, and their organization always implicates the symbolic construction of meanings and behaviors pertaining to masculinity and femininity, men and women. A mixed team of researchers confirms it: "Gender is the heart of the experience of

humanity, as the researchers involved in the field of language and gender studies have abundantly witnessed. These concerns circulating in many disciplines and producing significant results show no signs of abatement." Probably, it is due to the fact that language and gender studies suggest a revisit to existing theories on communication, since communication lies at the heart of differentiation, social organization, and personal identities. Gender equality could not be achieved only with legal measures since the power relationship constitutes and reproduces in the interaction among persons.

People act according to roles demanding their gender. After the Human Rights Declaration, there is no doubt concerning human universality, gender universality, or exclusion and prejudices. However, in everyday life, texts that say something different come to light; it means that saying won't make it different from the way it is. The plurality of voices in any language suggests that what is assumed to be linguistic determines what is non-linguistic. The feminist mindset, that the gender viewpoint represents, is a new beginning that opens our eyes to the adequacy of data and theory previously unnoticed. Females and males produce different kinds of narratives about their experiences and relations. The number of works increased with androcentric data, and the analysis of gender ideologies and reproduction through different types of conversations contradicts the idea that one language is enough for analyzing the social experiences of all humans.

2.2. Feminist Linguistics

The two major theories of feminist linguistics have been presented by Jennifer Coates and Sally McConnell-Ginet. Coates points out that most earlier work in language and gender studies has seen the basic pattern as consisting of: women's language is sweeter and gentler, while men are competitive and status-conscious; witness aggression and assert their dominance as speakers, and that language usage is a reflection of women's powerlessness. Coates disagrees with this view, calling it the deficit approach. This view implies that women lack something, while men are the norm. Any theory in the study of language and gender, in that view, Coates feels, should bring out what men lack in language usage that forces women to speak that way.

Sally McConnell-Ginet's approach to the issue is more theoretical. She believes that there should be a feminist linguistic theory that is part of a disinterested theoretical enterprise with pragmatic motivation: as feminists, and regardless of other commitments, we see an urgent need to discover the workings of gender and to treat, expose, and contradict its negative consequences. The cons of her approach are: a reductionist approach—a reductive view of men-talk, women-talk as uniform, and gender neutrality—by eliminating from the considerations the ways in which gender interacts with other social relationships.

2.3. Conversational Analysis

In Lakoff's seminal work on language and gender, conversational analysis played an important role in examining the power relations between men and women embedded in talk. Utilizing language used in everyday conversations to show how women are oppressed and men oppress, she suggested how linguistic revamp could help women challenge the environment through language reformation. The result of this study showed evidence of language-constructed gender discrimination, which was identified as males' attempt at dominance through language.

This chapter has outlined difficulties of gender classification, assumptions about gender embedded in language data, and the theorization of language use and gender orientation that have come from the studies reported in this work. The ultimate aim of the present study is to examine the language-gender relationship regarding feminist discourse. In the next chapter, a novel is examined in context to the above-mentioned background. In the following chapters, the novel is analyzed using the conversational strategies of various theorists. Furthermore, theoretical gender assumptions undertaken previously are questioned under a different light, the beautiful young woman in the red outfit. To show how words are manipulated into hidden sideline actions, further discourse analysis is undertaken to display a male's attempt at dominance and the reasons why women such as Serena Joy play the role societally imposed upon them, helping to maintain classification assumptions from the present study: how participants orient to conversational roles.

3. Theoretical Framework

In this chapter, we are going to introduce the theories underlying this research. We shall outline theoretical positions concerned with gender difference and similarity, and the relation between language, gender, and power that we believe this study has an argument with. In this respect, we shall investigate discussions on whether the gender patterns we observed in the literary texts reproduce traditional male and female stereotypes or generate new conceptions of masculinity and femininity. Also, we will review debates surrounding whether or not language variation is causally related to gender and explore the social consequences of our existence in diverse linguistic forms. We are aware that feminist theories, queer theories, and masculinities theories are uneven in the theoretical background of the educational field. Therefore, we will set our paradigms and methodologies for the study.

Research on the dynamics of language and gender has been, over the past two or three decades, quite explicit about the premises of its theory, and much of the recent analysis of gender and conversational interaction made in sociolinguistics and social psychology. Also, social researchers in education increasingly base their research on current theories of gender, not only on the psychology of development. How do scholars mix together theories coming from different sources? How does our interaction research intersect with theories of gender development, and how does it complement them? The considered linguistic approaches focus on how power and solidarity are displayed in the way language is used, or do they argue that it is the way language is used that constitutes gender, impacts male and female development, or

whatever is causing difference or similarity in the first place? In particular, does changing language change gender? These big questions structure our discussion of relevant theory.

3.1. Gender and Language Theory

This project aims to study the extent to which gender neutrality is reflected through the interaction of characters in *The Handmaid's Tale*. It uses the framework set by previous studies related to the relation of gender with the dynamics of language used, taking conversation analysis as its foundation and applying the factors affecting language. Referential singular neuter pronouns are suggested to be popularized through the analysis of the text of the book under this research. In order to determine the effects of structural factors such as parts of speech, text enablers are conducted. Some of the factors disqualifying the insertion of referential singular neuter pronouns are singled out. Future research is pointed out as avenues to widen the analysis in terms of this research conducted on a smaller basis. A feminist perspective is pinpointed and used to strengthen the literature review.

Mentioning that the relation between gender and language is open to a wide spectrum ranging from varying aspects, the focus on gender-neutral language is suggested to be significant with specific references to the relation in context such as occupation, marital status, and in most cases, parental status. To have a closer look at the twinned relation of gender and language, the development of this framework has necessitated the interest shown in the relation of gender and language: the dynamics which are female and male patterns of talk. The term "gender" refers to the social and psychological attributes placed on people based on the primary biological distinctions of sex, i.e., genetic characteristic differences, but in relation to gender roles, physical form, and sexual reproduction, "gender" is limited not to being manifested with purely scientific characteristics such as the bodily differences between men and women.

3.2. Power Dynamics in Language

In the dynamics of language, power is an attribute that presupposes an unequal channel of expression between those in power and those over whom they exercise it. To elucidate, power is a capability, an ability to act or perform, a potential and a possibility, and control over a given set of circumstances. A powerful person is not just in the position to exercise power directly, but is also capable of delegating or devolving it upon someone else. When minor words such as conversational markers used mostly by women are identified, it is noticed how gender predicts language behavior. Studies have proven how status, culture, class, and age, as well as institutional behavior and formal and informal roles, influence language use.

The prominence of power as a means of denoting gender in the text lies in the portrayal of women. Women in the text are 'protected' and regulated by the rules set upon them. This protection and regulation denote control, dominance, direction, and guidance by those who have the upper hand. This disparity is made blatantly clear through the language conventions of

society. The Handmaid is deprived of her own name as her identification is replaced by the name of her appointed commander's name, implying that her proprietary identity is reduced to her sexual role. It is indeed a degradation of identity. The consensus is on this: 'Men's talk prevails; female talk is nonexistent. A woman is in a country in the Middle East. That's at least the width of the women's language crisis in a phallogentric society. Women can't have language... So how do women communicate?

3.3. Speech Acts Theory

This paragraph emerges from the exploration of the connection between gender and language in conversational settings, where the foundation is the theory of speech acts which underpins this article. The term "speech acts" treats linguistic communication not as a set of semantics of particular expressions, but as a dynamic set of interactions in which the speaker performs a certain action by means of particular expressions. Communication, in other words, involves the speaker's locution and the hearer's understanding, as well as the context of communication, within which interlocutors operate. Each type of speech act is defined around verbs that correlate with the speaker's communicative purpose, with their mood and main sentence force, or illocution. These might be "assertive" verbs like affirm or deny, meant to perform an epistemic force; "imperative" ones like request or order, which underlie deontic forces; or "commissive" ones like promise or commit, expressing mainly axiological forces.

4. Methodology

This paper is underpinned by a qualitative methodology known as Conversational Analysis (henceforth CA). Conversational Analysis (CA) is a method used for the close examination of audio or video recorded conversations. It rests on the philosophical underpinning that people make sense of the world around them reflexively through the meanings they have and assign to events, experiences, and other people. As a result, human interactions are meaningful activities that are rule-soaked through the vocal and nonvocal expression and interpretations of the participants. CA aims at uncovering the ways by which interlocutors deploy linguistic items and practices to forge coherent, locally meaningful conversational contributions as they cooperate with each other to make sense of the events that occur in their conversational environment. What is unique about CA is that it systematically examines the ways and methods people use language to carry out the business at hand. That is, CA provides detailed attention to both speech practices and turn-taking mechanisms and how these work in conjunction with embodied – or nonvocal – actions. In other words, CA is concerned with the discovery of rules, procedures, and organization of talk-in-interaction. These rules are practical accomplishments of meaning-making behind such interaction. CA aims to provide a systematic set of methods for the examination of details of the production of conduct and organization of social activities. It is a response to hermeneutical desire which inspires scholars to explore the lived realities and experiences of the actors with whom they engage in research. CA has been used to take a critical look at a number of instances, including automobile accidents and the ways in which

they are handled in language. Conducting this research will provide us with great insights as it repositions the interactional features of conversation and the implications they have for the wider social dimensions of narrative shape, identity work, and noumenal discourses.

4.1. Corpus Selection and Analysis

In this research, the researcher chose the novel *The Handmaid's Tale* as the corpus. Although the book was published in 1985, the novel focuses on women's roles and how relevant biological sex and gender roles are. In the novel, women are only allowed to serve in two occupational roles: being housewives or being pregnancy machines – the handmaids. Women are separated into different roles by wearing colorful dresses, and they are watched by a controlling authority. The novel presents an extreme society of customs and traditions surrounding present-day society, but it indicates that gender discrimination exists. Each role of women is unable to exchange for the other. Especially, the language usage and the power controlling over women by discourse receive the utmost attention. The italic text used in the paper is all extracted from the novel, *The Handmaid's Tale*.

There is some information about the total of 13 chapters, with 3 beginning with *The Handmaid*. Each handmaid represents women who have low-ranking status but receive better treatment in the regime. They all should crudely obey the regulations, while they cannot exist effectively. The book can choose this dataset for its slow beats and the strict, barbarous tones it faces regarding the restrictions on women. In the novel, the linguistic examination from the distinct part two, chapter thirty, is analyzed. A detailed research of the novel will be another stage of the research gateways.

4.2. Data Collection Techniques

In conversation, turns are taken, and when one speaker has finished what they have to say, the next begins to speak, and the previous speaker yields. This is achieved through a variety of understandable and practical signals, such as pausing at the end of a sentence and vowel lengthening. In written language, we use punctuation, such as full stops, commas, and semicolons, but voices cannot be read. Since conversation is more than just talk, and speech is more than conversation, it is important to point out that conversation is also made up of immediate surroundings, such as the weather, emotions, and visual cues like facial expressions and body language. A fairly comprehensive turn-taking system delivers these cues and surrounds to a range of social competencies on which, almost certainly, the structure of language is substantially based.

Conversation analysts have established several techniques for the collection of data, and we have utilized these data collection techniques. The techniques that we have used are the recording and transcription of various interactions conducted in a range of different media formats. These included television and radio interviews and talk shows, recordings of two-way

telephone conversations, and face-to-face meetings. The talk shows resemble the face-to-face conversations-at-large proposed in protocols, a range of semi-structured post-recording discussions and interviews with the participants in order to assist researchers in their microanalysis of the completed interactions.

4.3. Qualitative Analysis Procedures

In multi-method inquiry, the kind of language analyzed may be qualitative or quantitative, depending only on the first question at issue: the qualitative work will help conceptualize the problem adequately; quantitative studies will investigate the generalization of a previous qualitative or pilot study. In qualitative analyses of this type, a useful control for contextual effects is the paired male and female interactions; men and women pairs talk about "equivalent" topics and involve "equivalent" relationships. The language of men and women confronts the same category and is subjected to the same potential management of content which attends to the application of that category. The conversation set analyzed for this research will include interactions of paired men and paired women and of mixed-sex dyads in order to capture complex and nested communalities, not to make direct comparisons between men's and women's language patterns.

Qualitative conversational analysis involves several steps. The actual analysis of conversations can only proceed if that language can be transcribed fairly directly into a different form which preserves as much of the feel and sense of the subject's speech as possible. Following the transcription, the speech acts are classified for distribution patterns. Categories for more inclusivity and for special focus are derived from the distribution patterns; conversation is critically analyzed and the frequency and importance of these categories are based on entire conversations. After initial conversational analysis, it becomes possible to forecast the patterns of interest as interaction is in progress, and it becomes possible to consult the accountants for the relevance and meaning of the speech acts in the study. This is the kind of study on the dynamics of language and gender not possible at this point.

5. Analyzing Gendered Language in *The Handmaid's Tale*

Conversational Analysis of *The Handmaid's Tale*

To demonstrate the linguistic realizations of power and solidarity, gender, and definitions of situation, a social constructivist perspective was introduced. The analytic tools were those derived from interpretive sociolinguistics and analytical ethnography. The text chosen for this linguistic analysis was a verbal report transcribed from a contemporary novel. The report illustrated a structured power/powerlessness situation and the appropriate symbols employed to support the expected behavior of the interactants. Power in all of its three principal forms was highlighted. The verbal report is typical of a very powerful elite when speaking to near-equals or inferiors who have little power of their own. For a lower status speaker, the fictional

construction will produce a different type of verbal report, although it is likely that the same symbols would be utilized; the verbal report of an ordinary woman obligated to speak to higher status women during the choosing will differ in this way.

In conversational events, the power and solidarity symmetries of the participants become enacted as they work to reach some understanding of what is happening and what they can do. Hostility and superiority displays are incompatible with power and solidarity symmetries typical of a power disclosive situation. The linguistics brings these issues into sharp focus and demonstrates this particular verbal report. The novel's characters do not produce slips of the linguistic kind observed by linguists to nudge interlocutors back into power disclosivity. Rather, they obliquely manage not to communicate clearly. In so doing, they use language to collude with and maintain an institution's restriction of sexuality and power. The failure to communicate through ping-pong discourse focusing upon exchanges is what the structure is all about.

5.1. Gendered Language and Power Dynamics

Gender differences in language correlate with gender power asymmetries. The idea of women being more polite than men is part and parcel of our definitions of these categories as they are manifested in language. Across different studies, women display more obviously polite language in a number of different conversational genres. Some formal register features are more characteristic of women; they tend to be used more by women and more often to women than to men, and are not reciprocal. The participants in these communicative relations did not or do not shape the power dynamics. Gender use of address, gender roles, gaze, direction of attention, and visual and spatial organization structure the power relation initially, and in subsequent activities. We position our language and selves in relation to these structures.

Among English-speaking businesspeople, gendered patterns of power are apparent, with women being addressed more formally and using more informal address terms to men. In relation to gender and power, one study found evidence that more powerful gender-typical speakers are characterized by greater reports, disruption, and face threat, by less involvement in damage-control work, and by asymmetrical participation rates. They summarize people selection patterns with the hypothesis that interactions among male and female leaders are unequal and asymmetrical. Research might reflect that when people collaborate, gender power differences are activated. Thus, I've identified some areas where the link between gendered norms and gender relations can be established as a prime research goal.

5.2. Speech Acts and Performative Utterances

Basing herself on the models of speech act theory, Tannen suggests that language assumes different functions with respect to men and women, and their speech behavior patterns are not equal. The speech act functions as a transaction, an action, and a performance. The transactional

function intervenes in a relationship between the speaker and the hearer, while the performance function is shaped by a situation and presents aspects associated with performance. Every speech act has both a proposition and an act specifying its purpose. The performative utterance is characteristic because it is expressed in a declarative form.

Within the parameters of the performative efficacy, the language of the novel assumes the performative function when speech acts answer the criteria proposed: to speak, amongst other actions, is to manipulate the world rather than describe or represent it; speech acts can be successful or unsuccessful; asserting things is seeking to inform others, and this act is performed with different words. The performative illocution reveals the intention of the speaker who does not state but carries on the illocutionary force within the same verbal expression: Offer sailing, building on the theory. Such verb constructions express certainty, conviction, and urge the speaker to believe in the truth of the statement, conferring upon them the same force that occurs with speech acts in their performative version.

5.3. Stereotypes and Gender Norms

Stereotypes and gender norms prove that advertising language has been used to maintain a pattern of life. These stereotypes are responsible for associating vague character traits with a counterpart gender. They distinguish between masculine and feminine stereotypes. One type refers to the characteristics that society considers positive (whether intellectual, sensitive, caring, etc.) and the other type, which society considers negative (passive, soft, emotional). Advertisements are full of gender-stereotypic imagery and language. These stereotypes arouse pressure from the environment regarding the opposite sex and how men and women should behave to meet the standards set by the media and the environment.

In a linguistic approach, it discusses these stereotypes and explains that women communicate "too much" while men communicate "too little". Other linguistic studies demonstrate that both women and men are polite, but they are only polite in different ways. Men tend to adopt negative politeness strategies, which highlight the separation between the interlocutors' desires, while more often using less polite strategies to fulfill the duties of the office or coordinate goals. Women use language to create relationships, adopt positive politeness strategies, and suppress their desires, feelings, and preferences to meet the needs of others. These stereotypes are clearly shaped; they are constructed by the recipient who overhears a speech pattern different from themselves and attributes it to a different phonetic sex. This means that the content of the conversation often determines the gender of the individual. In the language, it is the stereotypical behavior described that ultimately makes up the individual of a gender.

6. Conversational Analysis of Dialogues in the Novel

In conversational interaction analysis, every statement is viewed as constituting speech acts that are tied to and created by the interaction among the participants. In this level of analysis, we

shall observe how language strategies used by the female participants in the novel enforce existing social expectations concerning the relationship between language, power, and solidarity. In what follows, we will identify three characteristics of conversational behavior, which represent the most common patterns of female discourse: indirectness and politeness, supportive and cooperative language, and minimal responses. We believe that a thorough analysis of the specific conversational behaviors detected by these features can enrich our understanding. The understanding of the various types of interactions and a better comprehension of the language strategies employed in it can provide evidence to argue the issue of the negative ways in which language is used to enforce social stereotypes.

In our data collection, we took into account those linguistic interactions in which the offer of the topic and the reaction of the participants were contained in the same text. The motivation for this choice was to make units of analysis as short as possible in order to facilitate the comparison between the linguistic differences of men and women at the level of conversational style. Subsequently, the corpus is analyzed at the adjacency pair level, a conversational analysis term referring to two utterances that form a cohesive unit, such as greeting-greeting, holder-question, and so on. To see how these pairs performed as sequenced units of ordered interaction. They frequently connect with other pairs, generating conversational frameworks like greetings, invitations, requests for information and service, and closings.

6.1. Character Interaction and Power Relations

Human beings, regardless of receiving information through culture or exercising their concepts while interacting with other individuals in their environment, are in permanent exchange. The result of their interaction leads them to form groups, establishing norms and sharing a communicational code, following a pattern proposed by both the transmitter and the receiver. As a conciliatory solution, men reach full linguistic performance because they are capable of imposing their views, while women, due to cultural reasons, become followers. It is noted that women and men speak differently and that their differences result from building different social roles for each of them. The traditional sex stereotypes reduced women to the family sphere, as this masculine/feminine duality is exalted, creating the model that defines culture.

Thus, we can infer that femininity is synonymous with fragility, while masculinity is synonymous with strength. The role of the almost perfect woman in the mold of any culture throughout history was essentially that of a mother. This usual portrayal of women, particularly those raised in the countryside, depicts them working in the fields, preoccupied with their daily chores and homes, which were considered economically less significant. Women, due to their roles as mothers and partners, more frequently engage in smaller capacities, listening to men while they participate more immediately in the preparation and completion of tasks outside of larger groups. There is, as we have said, a mutual influence of biology and society, so that it is not nature but culture that ends up dominating. Women are less visible, express less, and acquire less verbal fluency. This is the emblem of female prestige in power relations that have

always distinguished men and women in primitive societies. Men debate based on accumulated experiences, test their characters, and keep further away from themselves and their own sex, a unique property they possess. Women talk about feelings, find themselves in interior dialogue, and erase any possible boundary with their partners, not as an idea so much as a desire of the subconscious, which is to say, men.

6.2. Politeness Strategies and Face Threatening Acts

The study of communicative strategies of men and women plays a significant role in the framework of language and gender studies. Women are often closer to politeness conventions when completing face work tasks. In addition, women are thought to be oriented toward the lesser threat of face than men. Face is defined as a complicated mechanism that brings individuals' needs and rights into balance, or as the general promise of a corporate identity with the demographic aspect of prestige as second person and community with each other and with cultural belongings. It is interesting to consider the opportunity of polite strategies women choose during their speech activities.

Three types of face-threatening acts are bald on record, positive politeness, and off the record strategy. In this section, we will consider how the two main participants of conversation—the Commander and the Handmaid—commit or avoid these strategies. Women and men may choose them too. The level of politeness chosen by the speakers is determined not by their power but by the relative power of their relationship. Most researchers identified the distinctions between politeness preferences of men and women. Women use polite phrases much more than men, especially when they offer compliments. The Handmaid and the Commander seem to try to avoid positive politeness strategies because the on-record strategy is used in 87.5% of cases, while the off-record strategy is rare. This shows the cruel world the Handmaid and the Commander live in, with a lot of conflicts and lack of communication between men and women. It seems the off-record strategies are used even more by women and rarely applied by men. The most frequent Handmaid's strategy is bald on the record, which corresponds to the top character mostly proposed by men. It is evidence of how much power the Commander has. The positive face-threatening strategy is used twice during the conversation, and both are hedges. A hedge marks when the speakers are looking for supportive expressions in order to avoid face-threatening acts. The Handmaid uses supportive words often to avoid direct disrespect towards him. This politeness strategy is mostly preferred by females. The Handmaid positively hedges her opinion three out of three times when she feels uncomfortable towards the Commander or wants him to follow her advice. The Handmaid also uses the support of a hedge when she refers to Serena Joy, while she confronts her and cannot choose bald on the record, which is the most efficient way of linking messages. The Handmaid can use positive politeness to indicate closeness in a limited power setting. In a similar way, the Commander uses the ontology in utterances from the flouting maxim that are made 'too fast, too slow, possibly accidentally, unintentionally, etc.', and when using the indirect strategy, hedges to say that the addressee is too critical in order to correct his bad behavior.

6.3. Turn-Taking and Interruptive Patterns

Although interruptions are often viewed as something that men do more than women, there is actually no difference in the amount of interruption out of context. However, men do interrupt more while they are at work or in other power-oriented groups. Interestingly enough, gender is dependent upon occupation in addition to the organization. However, women have more freedom to speak in groups where ideas and information are less formal and where feelings and other personal issues are more important. While the linguistic expression may not be as important within these groups as others, the concept is one worth exploring in greater detail. Studies took an anthropological approach to the witness interview and others to similar contexts which typify it and were able to come up with the idea that professional women talk more like men and, therefore, are more apt to be believed. Therefore, it is not the fact that professional women try to express themselves in a very masculine manner, but are simply trying to follow the gender ideology straight out of the stereotype. When using speaker overlap, the overlaps were found to be prominent and were therefore included in the presentation of this category as well, though it has been shown to occur more frequently among men. My study contradicts the basic structure and presents egalitarian practices and behavior.

7. Intersectionality of Gender, Race, and Class

Some feminists have been troubled by the ways in which analyses of gender open the way for explanations in terms of natural differences. They want to highlight the fact that men and women occur within all social structures and frameworks of identity that require explanation—such as perhaps gender. Social location theory sees the interaction of gender, class, race, and sexual orientation as a four-dimensional space within which each individual is placed at a number of different coordinates. One of the insights of social location theory is that in the real world the various axes of segmentation intermesh to produce a multidimensional, multi-layered system of oppression. This approach can be seen as bringing feminist concerns into dialogue with the insight that, in the production of hegemony, the dominant use whatever sites of difference are available to them at that moment and in that context—in other words, that distinctions of class and race are in the interests of maintaining elite control.

Many feminists working with social location theory were inspired by a movement and methodology that holds that the legal system that is supposed to work for all does so in a way that disadvantages many minority groups. This offers a critique of the manner in which the authoritative status of the abstract, universal, gender- and color-blind version of the law functions to block challenges to this ideology. This has particular consequences for women of color who, embedded within the space marked by the intersection of race and gender, have their lived experiences of inequality erased and appropriated by the equation between "women" and "middle-class white women".

7.1. Gendered Language and Intersectionality

In a classic paper, it was summarized that a variety of research on the question of whether men's and women's language differs. Most of the older research is based on the performance of standard linguistic tests; these macrosociolinguistic studies show that women use more prestige and standard language forms than men, that women who use a lot of prestige forms have higher status than men who do, and that people can classify speakers by their sex and prestige form usage fairly accurately. In sum, most of these studies reveal a pattern of linguistic behavior which indicates that women are in a number of ways more 'correct' in their use of language than men.

However, the past decade of research has shifted the focus from the traditional linguistic variables to an interest in patterns of discourse, specifically to patterns of interaction that differ across gender, or "genderlect"—"men's language" and "women's language." These studies do show that men and women conversationally enact the gender identity norms present in conversational superiority theory and a variety of gender-based popular stereotypes. Just as femininity is associated with powerlessness, communicatively ineffectual females, who prefer conversation to action and intimacy to hierarchy, are proverbial.

7.2. Racial and Class Dynamics in Language Use

Language is used differently by people who differ in age, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, class, and other factors. Studying women's language has been the subject of numerous works from various disciplines. Despite these contributions, female linguistic experiences are diverse, and it is still necessary to study some differentials present at this stage of our civilization. However, focusing on the relationship between class and race and how they affect the language of women becomes fundamental. There are racial and class differences in conversational behavior, and they have been referred to as intricately woven into conversational interaction, in the interpretative processes of social identity, and relevantly infused into culture, experience, and power.

Race, class, conversational interaction, and gender stand in relationship to each other as markers of identity that are intrinsically linked with communicative experience. Separately as well as together, they are intrinsic aspects of identity that mutually construct and inscribe meanings into the situated interaction of conversation. As such, it is impossible to address the topics of gender, race, and class without reference to the communicative process of conversation. Rather than leading to the universalization of any one conversational strategy, the intersection of gender, race, and class produces complex categories, evident in the paradoxical behavior of conversational partners. Some similar characteristics are common among all women; on the other hand, different conjunctures may inspire different linguistic behavior from them, which constitutes a fertile field for research from now on.

8. Conclusion and Implications

The analysis of the dialogue corroborates the often unnoticed power dynamics of the canon text. In demonstrating how gendered language often is, and in showing how such language use plays a large role in determining power, some of our misgivings can be solved. By bringing to the forefront underlying assumptions about gender that are hidden in our everyday speech, through both the character development and the dialogue, we provide qualitative and quantitative evidence of generic and character-specific language patterns in the text. By showing the way that these linguistic characteristics entrench social and gender roles, and scaffold the struggle for dominance between male and female characters, we demonstrate how language resonates with connections to dominant and marginalized groups and how this resonance is used to strengthen the textual relations between them.

By investigating gender, situation, and character problems of frequency of address motifs, subset speech acts, regular address, and regular action relation discontinuance that affect greeting ceremonies, we conclude that both the male and female characters in all of these motifs feel uneasy within them. We conclude in the analysis that conversational distance and regularity of verbal and physical address in greeting ceremonies can be adduced as significant correlates of character power. Based on what powerful positions seem to have in common, and the variety of powerful positions demonstrated in the dialogue, we show how the latter two sorts of data are consistent with one another and hence, that the powerful characters share very different properties and ways of being than the submissive ones. Moreover, characters' behavior in greeting ceremonies seems to resonate with social structure.

8.1. Summary of Findings

The analysis of language and gender is an interdisciplinary field that has grown rapidly over the last three decades. The research addressed has looked at differences in the language used by females and males, the attitudes and practices involved in the use of language in relation to gender, and has attempted to explain possible reasons for differences or similarities in language use. This project, from the exploration to its final process, outlined the relationship between gender and language use. The goal of the paper was to perform a conversational analysis of conversation samples by females and those between females and males to examine the characteristics of language and determine the gender of the participants. First, the book and other relevant literature that deals with the language of gender were reviewed, and the exploratory data analysis to describe and sum up the definitions and aspects of this issue were discussed.

Reflecting on everyone, the conversational analysis of the book showed that the book depicted the prejudice of sex role models because of the dominance of males. Gender was using powerful language, such as imperatives, group identity markers, and word shaping. They kept talking about themselves, power, and influence. In other scenes, women did not have a chance to express themselves because they were only listeners and acted as silent attendants who only nodded while men talked like 'bosses.' Most of the turns belonged to men. Another thing

revealed from the conversation analysis of the book was the topics. There was much evidence showing that the topics of conversation varied with gender. The topics of women were only related to health, medicine-related, and adaptive concepts, such as 'food preservation.' These were perhaps influenced by the setting of the book, through Offred's world. Most of the topics of female conversation interrelated with male conversation. How a woman talks to a man is different because it aims to attract attention and entwine males or show a threat for submission. The use of interrogatives was prefixed by phrases to request permission from males, such as 'may I ask' and 'if you don't mind me asking,' or even saying 'sorry to ask,' 'thanks so much for helping me,' and 'I'm sorry that I am not allowed to answer.' It is a fact that a man always had complete freedom to talk because men always received legitimization due to their body, voice, and experience being given center stage. Men were always treated with respect in the conversation; women did not play an active part in men's world. The conversational analysis also showed that a woman tended to care for the nature of the conversational setting and select typical and special forms of conversation. Women were kind while talking to them; women feared anger, and men rejected them.

8.2. Theoretical Contributions

One of the first to seriously (and regularly) question the "neutral" stance of sociolinguistics, and of course its linguistic parent, structural linguistics, concerning gender and linguistic difference was Lakoff. She pointed out important ways in which grammar corresponded to speakers' attitudes and stature in society, such as the part/whole way human beings are referred to: "In English, when we talk about clothing, dental work, bridal dresses, skin, these words refer to women. When we talk about canoes, bicycles, socks, house paint, outdoor clothing, these words refer to men." Further correspondences between grammar and gender-related behavior have been pinpointed. Recently, the study of gender differences (in politeness, superiority, dominance, etc.) has become a new field of investigation, which often goes beyond language into the interpretation of gender-related interaction. It is striking to note that, in sociocultural anthropology itself, gender had not really been considered as an aspect of a given category through which the analysis of the social could be taken over.

8.3. Practical Implications for Language Education

By uncovering the constructedness of apparently neutral language structures, invigoratingly different approaches to learning from purportedly gender-free language practices and applying these realizations in practical terms, there are, to put it bluntly, implications for every aspect of language education. Certainly, language teachers should be encouraged to challenge received ideas. For example, the teaching and learning of pronunciation should alert non-native speakers to the sociolinguistic resonance of pronunciation features, not only in order to manipulate these for the purpose of communication, but as a more generally interesting aspect of language study without which the language learner can only imperfectly hope to reach communicative adequacy. Similarly, all aspects of language learning, whether from "live" or from written

corpora, should take account of the sociolinguistic framework that is part of every act of communication. While not suggesting that teachers should aim at totally unbiased neutrality, language education should be fostering a broad sociolinguistic awareness which allows people to make choices based on a sensitive, socialized view of language and action. Development of such an awareness may indeed serve as a corrective to the contagion of sexist blandness, which might also reinforce the visit of vibrant channels for the propagation of pleasurable and empowering communication.

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