

ABSTRACT

Women are claimed to be more cooperative than men in their conversations, while men are more competitive. Thus, they have different characteristic in the patterns of asking question, minimal response, topic-initiation, and interruption, especially in cross-sex conversations. The differences occur regardless of related status between man and woman. The different characteristics are due to different treatments of society for men and women; they are treated differently, even from early childhood, in term of power.

The research was done for previously unacquainted men and women from the big city of Surabaya. Male respondents of 25 were paired with females of 25 in context 1; females of 30 were paired with males of 25 in context 2; and females of 25 were paired with males of 30 in context 3. The objective was to find out their interactional pattern for the patterns mentioned above.

From the result it could be concluded that the first three patterns did not operate as linguists claimed. They were not based on gender and age, except for minimal response in context 3: male respondents of 30's responses were mostly discouraging, in the sense that they did not give support to their female partners' talk. Gender influenced the interruption pattern: the men interrupted the women, regardless of whether the women were younger, older, or of the same age.

KEY TO TRANSCRIPTION

.. noticeable pause or break in rhythm (less than 0.5 second)

... half second pause

an extra dot is added for each half second of pause

underline marks emphatic stress

? marks yes/no question rising intonation

- marks a glottal stop, or abrupt cutting of sound, as in "uh-oh"

: indicates lengthened vowel sound (extra colons indicate greater lengthening)

-> at left of line highlights point of analysis

-> at right of line indicates sentence continues without break in rhythm (look for next line)

/?/ indicates transcription impossible

/words/ within slashes indicate uncertain transcription

[brackets] are used for comments on quality of speech and context

[Brackets between lines indicate overlapping speech

[Two people talking at the same time

Brackets on two line

] indicate second utterance latched onto first, without perceptible pause

(cited from Tannen, 1984:xix)

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION