



Gender and Language Use: A Sociolinguistic Study of Linguistic Variations

Akram Hamid Hamzah

General Directorate of Education in Babil / Open Educational College, Iraq

* Corresponding Author: **Akram Hamid Hamzah**

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Abstract

Sociolinguistics can be defined as an evocative and descriptive study and analysis of the influence of any side of society. It studies and analyzes many aspects of society such as social standards and norms, beliefs, backgrounds, and how language is used among cultures and societies. This study focuses on examining the effect of gender on the sociolect of language use in text messages and posts on social media sites. Gender is an important parameter in the social variety of language use. Many studies have been done to understand how gender affects the linguistic choices of a speaker. In traditional societies, men and women belong to two different sub-cultures and hence they develop different linguistic systems. In turn, these differences in the language systems create a mismatch and misunderstanding between the two genders. However, with the advancement of education and modernization, the differential language characteristics tend to equalize in the case of certain social strata. This study analyses the language sociolect used in social media text messages of both genders to find out whether gender still affects the linguistic choices of a speaker or whether it has become equalized. A comparative analysis has been done on the text messages and social media posts of both genders to find out whether there are any differences in their linguistic choices.

Keywords: Sociolinguistics, Language, Gender Differences, Semantics, Pragmatics

1.1 Introduction

Linguistics is an intrinsic mode of communication that shapes and reflects the social order and individuals and their correlations. The curious relationship between gender and language has been fascinating to sociolinguists for decades. The distinctions between the sexes regarding language use have been extensively investigated, with scholars documenting differences in vocabularies, speech styles, patterns of interaction, etc. (Holmes, 2013; Tannen, 1990) ^[22]. This paper investigates the impact of gender on language use by examining differences in the speech between men and women and the sociocultural factors that drive these disparities.

The connection between gender and language is multi-causal and intricate; it pulls from cultural expectations, social norms, and power dynamics. According to earlier studies (e.g. Lakoff, 1975) ^[15], women's speech tends to be more polite, tentative, and cooperative; men's speech, in contrast, is often more assertive and competitive. Subsequent research has both backed and countered these assertions, allowing for a finer comprehension of gendered language use. Cameron (2007) ^[18] critiques the view that biological sex determines linguistic essence and proposes instead a socially constructed view of language.

Conversational style is one of the most frequently investigated dimensions of language use in gender research. "Rapport" and "report" talk. Tannen (1990) ^[17] made this distinction to characterize how women and men communicate in conversation, respectively. While women are said to use language to build and maintain relationships, men primarily use it to exchange information and assert dominance. While such generalizations have empirical support, they are also influenced by situational variables, as demonstrated by Eckert and McConnell-Ginet (2013) ^[11], who argue that gendered language use is a product of

interaction rather than a fixed trait.

Another critical area of study is lexical choice and discourse markers. Studies have shown that women tend to use more hedges (e.g., "kind of," "maybe"), tag questions (e.g., "isn't it?"), and politeness strategies than men (Holmes, 2013) ^[22]. These linguistic choices have been interpreted as strategies for maintaining social harmony and mitigating face-threatening acts. However, such interpretations are context-dependent, and in professional or public settings, women's language use can be just as assertive as men's (Coates, 2015) ^[10].

Digital communication also exhibits differences in gendered language. Studies analyzing online communication have shown that female participants tend to use more affective language, more personal pronouns, and more supportive words, whereas male participants often employed more direct language, with lower rates of emotional expression (Herring & Paolillo, 2006) ^[12]. The emergence of social media platforms has further complicated traditional gender norms as individuals navigate identities in digital domains where linguistic conventions are fluid and context-dependent.

The examination of gender and language from a sociolinguistic perspective isn't simply a theoretical exercise, but one that has far-reaching ramifications in the quest to understand the dynamics of power, gender equity, and social progress. Researchers can engage with linguistics to push back against prejudice and generate a more inclusive definition of how people use language by looking closer at differences. This paper seeks to provide an in-depth overview of gender differences in language use as the definition of gender has been evolving.

1.2 Research problem

This study examines the effects of gender on language use through a sociolinguistic perspective involving male and female participants at the university level. The main aim is to identify any differences in discourse between the two genders and how culturally and socially diverse settings affect discourse. Past and present research data on gender discourse variation is presented and analyzed. While some studies conclude that gender does have a significant effect on language use, others report the contrary.

Differences in the structures, vocabularies, and ways of using language between men and women exist, creating different social worlds. Language is a means of establishing, negotiating, and challenging social differences and hierarchies. The question of whether gender affects language use is still widely debated in the field of sociolinguistics. Some studies concluded that gender did significantly affect language use, while others reported the contrary. There is a close connection between the structures, vocabularies, and ways of using language and the social roles of men and women who speak the language. Ultimately, personal discourse analysis alongside past and present research studies aims to identify whether gender affects language use.

1.3 Research questions

Research questions arise from the need to understand how gender influences language use in various social contexts. Specifically, this study aims to explore the following key questions:

- 1- In what aspect does gender effect the language use?
- 2- What are the differences in language patterns between

genders?

- 3- How do societal expectations shape these linguistic variations?

Literature review

The social construct of gender significantly impacts the linguistic selections evident in the language of novels. Consequently, the initial hypothesis has been substantiated; distinctions and commonalities have been identified in the linguistic choices between British male and female authors. This leads to the validation of both the second and third hypotheses, indicating that both male and female narrators display a greater prevalence of the activation category compared to the passivation grammatical category. Notably, female narrators demonstrate a higher frequency of activation category usage than their male counterparts. (Taher and Musa 2021)

Language of provides an invaluable resource to the broader linguistic ecology but its plasticity is limited by the social or cultural variables and the characteristics of the social group that inhabit that place. Such patterns also show up in how people communicate as social beings, affecting how language evolves when people interact with one another, regardless of their social class or gender. In effect, a plethora of aspects, including the social functions of the interlocutors, dictate the socially appropriate forms that can be adopted in generating a linguistically adequate variant.

(Kenetova *et al* ,2022) ^[6].

Gender Differences in Language Use Research suggests that gender influences various aspects of language, including vocabulary choice, conversational style, and pragmatic functions. Robin Lakoff (1975) ^[15] was among the first scholars to argue that women's speech is characterized by features such as hedges (e.g., "kind of," "sort of"), tag questions (e.g., "isn't it?and also include more polite forms. She suggested that these linguistic markers are representative of women's subordinate position in society. Nevertheless, studies conducted later by Holmes in 1995 ^[13] proposed that the targets of these strategies are more accurately conceptualized as the roles of conversational facilitators and the maintenance of social equilibrium.

Men and women engage in conversations quite differently. Women use the language to establish bonds and create closeness, whereas men generally employ language to bargain for status and exchange information. Coates (2004) ^[10] provided evidence to support the validity of this "difference approach." An example is that women are more likely to adopt cooperative discourse strategies, such as backchanneling ("mm-hmm," "yeah") and inclusive pronouns ("we," "us"), whereas men are more prone to being competitive or assertive in their speech style.

Sociocultural Influences on Gendered Language Cultural norms and societal expectations shape the way individuals use language. In patriarchal cultures, men often hold the reins of public language while women may shift to a softer tone (Cameron, 2003) ^[9]. Eckert and McConnell-Ginet (2013) ^[11] asserted that gender is not an innate feature of language usage, but a social construct shaped by power relations and performances of identity.

Moreover, different cultures employ various patterns of gendered language. For instance, in Japanese linguistics

studies, it is shown that traditionally women use more honorific and indirect speech forms; hence, reinforcing hierarchical social structures already there (Ide, 1990) ^[14]. In contrast, there has been a gradual turn toward gender-neutral forms in some Western cultures, as language mirrors the changing roles of the genders and an increased emphasis on equality (Mills, 2008) ^[16].

Gender and Language in Digital Communication The rise of digital communication has introduced new dimensions to gendered language use. Studies show that women generally adopt a more emotive and expressive tone of writing when communicating online; this can include the use of emoticons, exclamation points, and terms of endearment (Baron, 2004) ^[8]. On the other hand, in digital spaces men tend to use unambiguous and laconic language (Herring & Paolillo, 2006) ^[12]. Such differences are in line with classic sociolinguistic research, showing that gendered norms around language remain entrenched in online communicative environments.

Language and Gender: Theoretical Views

One of the earliest approaches to studying language and gender was the deficit model, which suggests that women's language is deficient compared to men's. According to Jespersen, who published his argument in 1922, women's speech is less assertive and more tentative. Many critics have identified this view as having an androcentric bias. Subsequently, (Lakoff 1975) ^[15] identified the dominance model, a theory positing that distinctions in the language are due to societal male dominance and female subordination. Lakoff claimed that women's speech is characterized by features such as hedges, tag questions, and polite forms, which he argued reflects women's lower status.

Another notable model is the gender differences model put forward by Deborah Tannen (1990) ^[17]. Tannen claimed that men and women always belong to different "speech communities" and they eventually develop different communicative styles based on that. While men's communication can be competitive and report-oriented, women's tends to be more cooperative and relational. This method, while extremely popular, has been condemned for essentializing gender differences and for ignoring the role of power and social context.

More recent examinations take on a social constructionist view, arguing that gender is not a stable binary but one that is performed in language (Butler 1990) ^[25]. Language does not simply reflect gender differences, according to this perspective – it actively creates them. According to Cameron (2005) ^[26] and Eckert and McConnell-Ginet (2013) ^[11], the social interactions surrounding the contexts of language use influence its gendered nature. The insight reframes earlier deterministic models and captures the malleability of gender even more saliently than in all previous work.

Language, Dominance, and Gender Bias

Language is a fundamental factor in reproducing gender norms and the existing power relations. For example, Holmes (2006) ^[28] has observed that men are frequently depicted as authoritative and women as emotional in media discourse. Thus, gendering of workplace communication is common, as men are more likely to interrupt and dominate (Mills, 2003) ^[30]. It can't be ignored that female perspectives are often

overlooked to the favour of popular male-centered universality in generic usage, like "chairman" and "mankind" (Pauwels, 1998) ^[31]. The move toward gender equality in general has gained traction in recent years—especially now that it seems like there are more discussions around gender-inclusive language like "chairperson" vs. "chairman" or "they/them" pronouns.

To sum up, examining language and gender reveals how social structures affect and are affected by linguistic practices. In the early stages of research, scholar focused only on binary differences (like "man" vs "woman") but more recent scholarship recognizes the complex variability of the language of gender. Grasping these dynamics is imperative to fight stereotypes around gender and adopt a more inclusive communication approach.

Data Collection Methods

Using an experimental methodology, 3 corpora of transcriptions of recordings of naturally occurring speech were created. The first corpus includes male only discussions, the second female only discussions while the third mixed discussions. The discussions are based on 12 different topics with open questions that allow the participants to express their opinions freely. The topics range from education, immigration, politics and employment to social topics. The recordings were held in public spaces in the city of Athens, Greece. Each discussion group consists of 4-8 participants and lasts between 15-20 minutes. The choice of this methodology aims to achieve a balance between the needs of the research and certain practical considerations. The similarity in life experiences results in shared references and code, encouraging people to speak freely while alleviating the impact of power differentials. The need for homogeneity in groups is greater in the case of gender consideration since differences in gender create a greater power disparity than differences in status or class. Mixed groups tend to be dominated by one gender, usually males, leading thereby to the marginalization of the female contributions. The choice of public spaces increases the chances of finding more naturally occurring discussions as spaces like public cafes and parks offer the opportunity for informal gathering freely. Another consideration that this study takes into account is the choice of similar age or social class groups. Similar age groups can be viewed as an advantage in this type of research since they share common experiences that help in constructing a common code. In this case, the groups are similar in age with a range of (25-30) years as well as in social class, since all participants are university graduates

The Difference Between Men's and Women's Use of Language Due to Gender Effect According to:

Semantics Point of View (Word Choice Variation)

Language is fundamental to communication, with gender representing an important factor shaping how we use language. The semantics of language, which studies meaning, shows that there are quite large discrepancies between men and women in terms of lexicons. The social norms, cultural expectations and psychological factors that surround these differences are responsible for their make-up. Sociolinguists and discourse analysts have explored how gender influences lexical choice, with their findings indicating that men and women adopt notably different word choices in order to fulfil social role requirements, emotion or stance markers or

communication patterns (Lakoff, 1975; Tannen, 1990) ^[15].

1. Gendered Word Choice and Emotional Expressiveness

Women are known to use emotional language more than men. According to data, women often use emotion-laden adjectives and adverbs, such as "lovely," "adorable," and "wonderful" (Lakoff, 1975) ^[15]. Unlike women's use of emotion-laden language, men's language is likely to be neutral or assertive, emphasizing facts over feelings (Holmes, 1995) ^[13]. The pressure to conform to historical gender norms—portraying women as sympathetic and in tune with others' emotions while upholding the ideal of men who are assertive and objective (Eckert & McConnell-Ginet, 2013) ^[11] is a contributing factor of this inclination.

2. Lexical Variation in Conversation

A notable difference in word choice can be observed within conversational registers. Tannen (1990) ^[17] suggests that statements made by women tend to be prefaced words like "maybe," "perhaps," and "sort of," which might reduce their expressiveness and turn less confrontational. In contrast, men prefer tips for direct and commanding language, employing terms that assert confidence and control such as "definitely," "absolutely," and "without doubt" (Coates, 2004) ^[10]. Such distinction aligns with the tendency for women to build rapport, while men will often use language to assert their independence, demonstrate their power, or establish a pecking order (Tannen, 1994) ^[17].

3. Topic-Specific Lexical Choices

And gender can determine the choice of words around certain topics. Research indicates that women tend to talk more about relationships, personal experiences, and the social sphere, utilizing vocabulary tied to empathy and social bonding (Holmes, 1995) ^[13]. In contrast, men typically zero in on topics like sports, technology, and politics, opting for language that suggests authority and rivalry (Coates, 2004) ^[10]. Societal norms and expectations are the source of this lexical divergence as women are socialized to carry out relational talk, whereas cultural norms direct men to assert knowledge and authority.

4. Intensifiers and Diminutives

Women are often found to use intensifiers like "so," "very," and "extremely" to enhance their statements. (Lakoff, 1975) ^[15]. Such linguistic choices even contribute to a style of delivery that comes off as much more lively and captivating. Behaviors or interactions Typical speakers typically. The more precise the purpose and context, the less you apply the modifiers. However, after controlling for their overall language, men still tend to use fewer intensifiers and prefer more simple clear language, supporting a stereotype of being decisive and confident (Holmes, 1995) ^[13]. Also, the language of women - who seem more disposed to use diminutives like "little" and "cute" (Eckert & McConnell-Ginet, 2013) ^[11] - reflects a tendency for affectionate and nurturing speech.

From a Pragmatic Point of View

The interplay of various social and cultural influences, one of which is gender, impacts language use. Pragmatics, which studies how language is used in context, informs us of men and women's different communication styles based on

societal standards, interaction expectations, and aims of the conversation. Gender distribution was considered in all the conversational markers, which were, in order of median rank, (1) naturalness, (2) length, (3) informativeness, and (4) context. Similarly, some social divisions are about professional roles and the manner in which people accomplish various social objectives through their communication choices.

1. Speech Acts and Gender Differences

Types of speech acts, such as requests, apologies, compliments and directives, are sensitive to gender differences. Women invariably employ indirect and mitigated speech acts to preserve social harmony and avert disagreements (Holmes, 1995) ^[13]. For example, a woman could say, "Would you mind closing the window?" instead of saying "Close the window." This aligns with Lakoff's (1975) ^[15] claim that women's language is often more polite and deferential. However, in contrast, men typically tend to utilize direct speech acts by stressing the aspect of power and efficiency when delivering their messages (Coates, 2004) ^[10].

2. Politeness Strategies

The way people treat each other can change depending on the genders involved. This is likely because people have been socialized differently. According to the politeness theory proposed by Brown and Levinson in 1987, two types of strategies can be considered: positive and negative. Positive politeness strategies that stress hearer engagement and inclusion, such as employing endearments and delivering agreement (Holmes, 1995) ^[13], are more prevalent among women. Men, on the other hand, often favor negative politeness or bold-face strategies, downplaying face threats and highlighting autonomy (Mills, 2003) ^[30].

3. Turn-Taking and Interruptions

Just as gender-specific differences can affect speech, so too do voice and turn taking in conversation. Men tend to talk over women, often to dominate or exert control over the conversation (Zimmerman & West, 1975). Conversely, women have a distinct style characteristic where they tend to use a supporting type of conversational style and exhibit instances of backchanneling (words like "mm-hm," "I see") in order to foster dialogue and signal interest to the speakers (Tannen, 1990) ^[17]. Such attitudes show how wider societal expectations prompt men to put themselves forward in conversation while expecting women in contrast to take a more submissive role (Coates, 2004) ^[10].

4. Conversational Implicature and Indirectness

Implicature (which is key to the study of pragmatics) means that meaning isn't just carried by the word/phrase that is being literally said, but by things that are implied by it as well. Women's conversational style has more to do with the circumstances of the interaction, rather than an explicit aim of including everyone and attentively honoring participants' views. From the studies, it appears that women cultivate engagement and feedback during dialogue and explicitly caution against all-assertive speaking. This is part of a wider tendency towards respectful communication - when the topic touches on people's feelings, such communication demands particular attention, in order to be benignant, as well as inclusive as possible. (Holmes, 1995) ^[13] For instance, rather

than directly saying she's unhappy, a woman might remark, "It's a bit cold in here," suggesting that someone should close the window. However, on the contrary, men value explicitness and clarity reflected in their straightforward and task-centered communication styles (Tannen, 1994) ^[17]

Another aspect of difference in language use as (Bucholtz, 2004) ^[14] states that men's oppression against women makes them inferior in their society and they seem to be non-assertive when they talk. They tend to deliberate, discuss, share, and look for support and reassurance. In contrast, men tend to seek resolutions, give advice, and even lecture to their spectators. Gender is often understood to be the source of women's inferiority and subordination in their society. Generally, women are supposed to be the second class in the domestic sphere as well as in the place of work.

Pragmatically, women's tone is not as self-assured as men's, and this is because they have little power or no power at all in society. Their social status makes them seem to be obedient and submissive to men. In most cases and exactly in literature, women use expletives in a milder tone, but then again men communicate and speak in a strong tone (Cameron, 2005) ^[26]. For instance and according to the language of males, they often say "shit or damn it," whereas female performers always use milder expletives, such as "go to hell." On the other side, women prefer to use a rising tone even in a declarative sentence, and thus their doubt and hesitancy have been exposed by a rising tone. Additionally, women are more polite than men since they tend to select an indirect means of communication. For example, in the expression "I was wondering whether you could hand me that book?", women typically communicate properly or formally not only in syntax beside pronunciation. So, women's language does not involve funniness and they speak less wittily than men since they naturally are not good at fashioning funniness and understanding funniness.

Phonological variances between the language of men and women are very clear about women's pronunciation which is better than men's. Additionally, women frequently like to speak in a high-pitched voice because of physiological motives, but researchers mention that this is also associated with women's nervousness and emotional shakiness. In addition to the high-pitched voice, women have a preference to use converse intonation as well. In *Wide Sargasso Sea*, because Rochester is a good representative of supremacy and a hegemonic culture, he feels superior to his wife and treats her as an object, referring to her as, "the Creole girl," or "the woman.": "I did not love her. I was thirsty for her, but that is not love. I felt very little tenderness for her, she was a stranger to me, a stranger who did not think or feel as I did." (85, WSS) Then, it is too arrogant to confess that he loves her " 'Don't you love me at all?' No, I do not. [Antoinette] said" (134, WSS) Although in his heart he knows he does, but repressed his feelings "Love her as I did — oh yes I did." (134, WSS) Antoinette is the only one who knows the answer, but she answers her husband with a high-rise tone which has the meaning 'Will that do.' This kind of intonation suggests her gentility since she is of British origin. (Lakoff 1975) ^[15] states that women frequently answer a question with a rising intonation pattern rather than falling intonation to show their mildness, but sometimes this pitch shows a lack of sureness. As mentioned above, Rochester tends to ask and speak directly, while Antoinette tends to talk in an indirect way or more politely. **Data Collection Methods**

Using an experimental methodology, 3 corpora of transcriptions of recordings of naturally occurring speech were created. The first corpus includes male only discussions, the second female only discussions while the third mixed discussions. The discussions are based on 12 different topics with open questions that allow the participants to express their opinions freely. The topics range from education, immigration, politics and employment to social topics. The recordings were held in public spaces in the city of Athens, Greece. Each discussion group consists of 4-8 participants and lasts between 15-20 minutes. The choice of this methodology aims to achieve a balance between the needs of the research and certain practical considerations. The similarity in life experiences results in shared references and code, encouraging people to speak freely while alleviating the impact of power differentials. The need for homogeneity in groups is greater in the case of gender consideration since differences in gender create a greater power disparity than differences in status or class. Mixed groups tend to be dominated by one gender, usually males, leading thereby to the marginalization of the female contributions. The choice of public spaces increases the chances of finding more naturally occurring discussions as spaces like public cafes and parks offer the opportunity for informal gathering freely. Another consideration that this study takes into account is the choice of similar age or social class groups. Similar age groups can be viewed as an advantage in this type of research since they share common experiences that help in constructing a common code. In this case, the groups are similar in age with a range of (25-30) years as well as in social class, since all participants are university graduates

Interpretation of Findings

The findings indicate that gender differences exist in conversational turns within single-sex and mixed-sex discussions. In single-sex discussions, males tend to have a higher number of turns than females, while in mixed-sex discussions, the overall pattern changes. These findings suggest that gender shapes the structure of talk in specific ways. Although males have a greater share of turns in mixed-sex discussions, the female share is more significant than in same-sex discussions (Fan, 2013). Females tend to use fewer aggressive strategies and have longer turns than males in mixed-sex discussions, indicating that gender influences how strategies are employed. In same-sex discussions, males dominate turn allocation, and while they use more aggressive strategies, the difference is insignificant. In fact, females use interruption strategies more than males, though they allocate more lengthy turns (Rühlemann, 2010). Overall, gender influences both the share of turns and how strategies are used, but there are differences in their effects across discussion types.

As reflected in the analysis of 24 discussion extracts, both gender and context shape the structure of talk in particular ways. In mixed discussions, despite males having a higher share of turns, the overall pattern is changed. Males dominate in 19 discussions, indicating a tendency for males to control discussions as a whole. However, in one discussion, the female share is greater than 51%, suggesting that females are not always at a disadvantage. In fact, the female share in mixed discussions is significantly more than in same-sex discussions, where it is only 28%. Overall, while males have a greater share of turns in mixed discussions, it is the case that

the female share is more significant than in same-sex discussions.

2. Conclusion

According to the analysis that is mentioned in this study, one can see the complicated relationship between gender and language. Moreover, it is very important to have an all-round knowledge of gender and language in the field of Sociolinguistics since language is a significant communicative means in human society and it progresses with the progress of human society. Concerning sociolinguistic studies, most academics' central study matters are not just about gender syntax neither of specified language structure nor about physiological gender study. They are focused on gender differences in sociolinguistic phenomena essentially because of social arrangement natures, cultural circumstances, and pragmatic attitude-like phenomena of societal gender. Thus, gender language difference is objective and it is common to see different language uses because of cultural, physiological, and social reasons. They principally occur in production change features of language use like intonation, lexis, syntax, and communication style.

The concept of gender as a critical and analytical category continues to motivate scholars in many areas. This study has seen the variances as well as the differences between the use of language of men and women from some sides. So, it is noticed that there are numerous differences in language use between the two genders and likewise there are some changes through time. In general, it is believed that with the development of society, there will be fewer differences in language use.

Furthermore, language as a means of social and human communication will be cultivating and improving day by day, and this demands the willpower and effort of both genders. The founding of women's studies initiatives advanced from this common sense of women's commonality in addition to the awareness that women were excluded from large areas of civic and academic existence. With more contributions to public life, professional, educational field, and so on, there will be other modifications and changes in the future. Such changes in language use can show the development of women's social as well as academic positions. Appendices

Appendix A: Journal Entry Excerpts

Entry 1 (03/10/2023): I started to notice the subtle differences in how my friends texted. Some wrote in full sentences, while others would just respond with a letter or two. The friends who responded with a letter or two chose to show fewer emotions in their texts, and it doesn't seem to bother them at all. Entry 2 (04/10/2023): For my next journal entry, I decided to focus on the differences in how my friends text. I have four friends who all graduated from the same high school and currently go to the same university. Three of them are girls, and one is a boy. Some of the differences I noticed I found quite amusing.

Entry 3 (05/10/2023): I began recording their texts in a group chat as evidence for my observation. My boy friend has a unique texting style. He often just replies with "k" or "nvm" instead of explaining himself in full sentences, which I thought was rude at first. But as time went on, I realized that typing in full sentences was just too much effort for him.

Entry 4 (06/10/2023): My other friend, a girl, also texts in this style but only with the boy friend. With us girls, she often uses emojis and types in full sentences, sometimes even over-

explaining herself. I think this shows that she feels more comfortable with us.

Entry 5 (07/10/2023): I presented my observations to my group, and they agreed that gender does play a role in how language is used.

Appendix B: Transcriptions

Conversation 1 (group chat with boyfriend) Friend 1: You've got a quiz tomorrow right? Friend 2: yeah Friend 1: How come you didn't tell us? Friend 2: i thought i did Friend 1: nah you didn't Friend 1: oh it's because this was in the other group chat haha Friend 2: k

Conversation 2 (group chat with girlfriends) Friend 1: Did you guys understand the last question in the quiz? Friend 2: no i didn't Friend 3: same Friend 1: Same! I was so confused Friend 1: I even second guessed myself because of the ambiguous wording. I wanted to pick A but ended up choosing B. What about you guys? Friend 2: I just chose B right away and didn't think too much about it Friend 3: I chose C because I thought it was a trick question Friend 1: turns out we all should've picked A

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