

Interrupting in Speech

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Abstract— The research will be focusing on Speech interrupting in men and women language. It shows how men/women interrupt each other. This research includes an analysis of particular data of a male and female conversation. It reveals how their interruption show their dominance/cooperation to each other.

1 INTRODUCTION

Both men and women are likely to interrupt and use dependent phrases when conversing with a woman than with a man. It has earlier been suggested that women often use hedges like “probably” or “kind of”, intensive adverbs like “very,” “extremely”, fillers like “uh,” “I mean” and tag questions like “isn't it” in their sentence construction. Men are more likely to interrupt more when speaking to a female, and use more dependent clauses than when speaking to a male (Allice Robb, 22). Women are always more elaborating in their speeches unlike men who are more concise. The other cause for the interruption in a conversation is the facet of communication accommodation where a speaker imitates the other speaker in order to aid the interaction or to feel close to the other speaker and that because “Interruption may have a co-operative conversational function” (Weatherall 68).

Most of the speech interruptions were initiated by the female, using tags and fillers. The woman interrupts to encourage the man to continue with his speech. This is a collaborative interruption because the man is not cut off his conversation before completion.

As men try to be concise and succinct as possible in their conversations, women will often use fillers and open ended sentences to evoke a reaction from their male audience. Speech interruption in the case above was used by the woman for confirmation purposes, rather than inducing a reaction.

2 Turn-Talking in Gender Speech

Turn-taking in male-female exchanges is highly prominent. Males methodically interrupt females and are likely to control conversations; in a dialogue, women are handled in the same way as kids in conversations. Turn-taking can vary in facets such as time, overlap, and discernment of silence in different cultures, but can have collective similarities as well. However, depending on the society, there is a difference in the time taken between turns.

Overlapping while Turn-Talking

Terminal overlaps occur when a speaker presumes that the other speaker has or is about to close their turn and starts to speak, creating an overlap.

Continuers are a way of the listener acknowledging or understanding what the speaker is saying (Weatherall 70).

Examples of the continuer's phrases include “mm” “Mhm” “uh huh” or “Uh”.

Conditional access to the turn means that the current speaker yields his or her turn or invites another speaker to butt on the conversation, usually as a joint effort.

The other occasion when a speaker invites another speaker to speak out of turn is when finding a word in a word search. In the event that the speaker forgets a name, the other speaker butts in to refresh the speaker's memory. The move is a collaborative form of turn-talking.

The chordal mode of turn-talking involves a non-special incidence of turns, implying that both speakers' turns occur at once, usually during occasions of laughter or when uttering a familiar phrase. The type of overlap is non-competitive in nature.

3 Dominance

The participants in a conversation use several and different strategies to achieve dominance over the other participant. The question whether gender or position and power is the inspiring force for conversational manners has been resolved to support status and power in the prose. It is evident that in most conversations, men tend to be more dominating than women are (Weatherall 64).

Interruptions are used as tools for portraying dominance in a conversation. “Interruptions have typically been understood as a conversational strategy that signals power” (Weatherall 65). The higher incidence of breaks is expressed in relatively high social and economic status of men; low social status is often exemplified by submissiveness and small vivacity in conversations. Most of the interruptions in a conversation reflect dominance, and might not necessarily reflect interest and involvement. It is complex to challenge the power structure, since the way people think of the world is part of, and supports the male power.

Women ask questions in conversations as an attribute of interaction; women show insecurity and tentativeness because of the influence of these, and not because of their personality disadvantage.

Robb, Alice. “Women Get Interrupted More—Even By Other

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