Gender Differences in the Use of Lexical Hedges in Selected TV Program in Arabic

Seham Abohelfaya

faculty of arts
alasmarya Islamic university

الفروق بين الجنسين في استخدام العبارات التحوطية المعجمية في برنامج تلفزيوني عربي

الملخص:

في العقود القليلة الماضية، كان هناك بحث مكثف حول الاختلافات بين استخدام النساء والرجال للغة في مجال اللغويات. تهدف الدراسة الحالية إلى التحقق مما إذا كانت هناك اختلافات في استخدام عبارات التحوط بين المشاركين الذكور والإناث. كما يهدف إلى فحص ما إذا كانت هذه الاختلافات تتأثر بجنس المستمع.

البيانات قد أخذت من برنامج تلفزيوني ليبي. تم اختيار حلقتين عشوائيا. كل حلقة تتكون من رجلين وامرأتين. بعد جمع البيانات وتحليلها، كشفت النتائج أن المشاركات الإناث تميل إلى استخدام عبارات التحوط أكثر من المشاركين الذكور وأن كلا الجنسين يستخدمان كلمات الحشو (ملأ الفراغ) والحال والأفعال المعجمية أكثر من العبارات التحوط المعجمية الأخرى. علاوة على ذلك، تظهر النتائج أن المشاركين من كلا الجنسين يستخدمون عبارات التحوط عندما يتحدثون إلى المشاركين الذكور أكثر من التحدث إلى المشاركين الإناث.

الكلمات المفتاحية: عبارات التحوط، عبارات التحوط، الفروق بين الجنسين، لغة المرأة

Abstract

In the last few decades, there has been extensive research on the differences between women's and men's use of language in the field of linguistics. The present quantitative study aims to investigate whether there are differences in hedging use between male and female participants. It also aims to examine whether these differences are affected by the gender of the addressee.

The data were taken from Libyan TV program. Two episodes were chosen randomly. Each episode consisted of two males and two females. Frequency counts were used to analyse the obtained data. After collecting and analysing the data, the findings reveal that female participants tend to use hedging more than the male participants and both genders use fillers, adverbs and lexical verbs more than the other lexical hedging. Moreover, the findings show that participants of both genders use hedging when they talk to male participants more than when they talk to female participants.

Keywords: hedges, hedging, gender differences, women`s language

Introduction

Women's and men's speech is different because of gender not of sex. These two terms are usually misunderstood by many people thinking these two terms have the same meaning. In fact, they are different. Sex is the biological differences between males and females, while gender is the cultural, social and psychological differences between men and women. Lloyd (2002) says gender is a matter of being men or women and describing a person by saying he is "masculine" or "feminine", this is not referring to biological differences between them but describing "culture variable characteristics". That is, if men and women are using different languages because of their biological structure, term sex is used, but if these differences are because of the society, in which they live, the term 'gender' is used.

One of the linguistic differences between men's and women's use of language is their use of hedging (hedges) which is considered as a characteristic of women's language. Hedging is a word or phrase used to convey vagueness, possibility, caution or politeness. Hedging is used in written and spoken language. It is used in writing as a device to allow the writers mentioning their views with less risk of opposition. It is also used to show if the writers are certain toward their statements. In conversation, hedging is used as a tool to facilitate turn-taking and convey politeness (Rosanti and Jaelani 2016). Not only that, but it is also used to convey vagueness purposely.

Namasaraev (1997:67) classifies hedging according to four strategies:

1- The first strategy is indetermination, which is used to add some vagueness or uncertainty to utterances. For example, modal auxiliary verbs expressing possibility, such as "may, might, can.", semi auxiliaries such as "to seem, to appear".

2- The second strategy is depersonalisation (using some impersonal pronouns such as we) which is used to protect themselves from direct reference.

3-The third strategy is subjectivisation phrases such as I mean, I suppose which are used to signal the subjectiveness of the speakers' statements and to tell the addressee what will be said is his/her absolute views not the complete truthfulness.

4- The final strategy is limitations as the speaker removes fuzziness-words by limiting category membership.

There are many types of hedging. They might be modal auxiliaries, lexical verbs, probability adjectives, nouns, adverbs, adverbs of frequency, if clauses, compound hedging or fillers. The table below shows the types of hedging (Wang and Tatiana: 2016).

Table 1: Classification of Hedging

Classification	Words	Sample Sentences
Modal auxiliary verb	will, must, might, can, should, could, would, may	'Such a measure might be more sensitive to changes in health after specialist treatment.'
Lexical verb	appear, believe, assume, tend, suggest, estimate, think, argue, speculate, indicate, seem, propose,	'In spite of its limitations, the study appears to have a number of important strengths.'
Probability adjective	possible, likely, unlikely, clear, definite, certain, probable	'It is likely to result in failure.'
Noun	assumption, claim, probability possibility, estimate, suggestion,	'We estimate that one in five marriages end in divorce.'
Adverb	Practically, presumably, clearly, probably, conversely, possibly, perhaps, definitely, certainly, virtually apparently,	'There is, perhaps, a good reason why she chose to write in the first person.'
Adverb of frequency	often, occasionally, generally, usually, sometimes, normally, frequently, always,	'Sometimes it could produce a lot profit'
"If" clause	if true, if anything	'If true, our study contradicts the myth that men make better managers than women
Compound hedges	seems reasonable, looks probable, may be suggested	Such compound hedges can be double hedges (it may be suggested that; it seems likely that; it would indicate that; this probably indicates); treble hedges (it seems reasonable to assume that); quadruple hedges (it would seem somewhat unlikely that.
Fillers	you know, you see, by the way, sort of, well, hmm, uhm, uhh, uh..huh, all I know, I mean, yeah, like	You know, it can help them to fulfill the daily needs

Fraser (2010) says hedges might be arranged from single words to a speech act. For example:

a- Word: she was **basically** a doctor.

b- Phrase: they have **somewhat** high marks.

c- Proposition: **as far as I can see**, you do not need to come early.

d- Speech act: you **must** request that she gets up early.

In sociolinguistics, hedging is commonly linked with women and their speech as protective tools for speakers' and listeners' faces. According to Fraser (2010), Weinreich

(1966) is the first writer who talked about hedging in the field of linguistics. Hedging becomes more popular in sociolinguistics after Lakoff's work Language and woman's place in 1975. Lakoff says that hedging is used by women more than men, and it is a characteristic of women's language. She says women use hedging more than men because they live in male-dominated societies which make them less confident and uncertain during their participation in a talk.

However, many researchers criticise Lakoff's hypothesis about women use of hedging because of their lack of power. Holmes (1986) shows that women use hedging more than men because of their politeness and to facilitate the interaction with the addressee, while men use hedging to convey their uncertainty. Coates (1986, 2004) mentions women use hedging to avoid the possible sensitivity of topics. He adds (2004, 2011) hedging is used to show politeness as he says that hedges 'are used to reserve the speakers and addressee from any possible offensive. Emphasising Holmes view, Coates (2013) shows women use hedging more than men do because they tend to engage in more personal and sensitive topics. He also says hedging is used by men not women in their talk if their topics are about personal or sensitive topics.

Zimmerman and West (1975) cited in Rosanti and Jaelani (2016) women intend to use hedging when they participate in a conversation indicating an active hearship and showing their interest with what the speaker utters. Other writers such as Coates (1987), Herring et al (2011) and O`Barr and Atkins (2011), say women use hedging more than men to show their cooperation and solidarity. Izadi (2013) says hedging is used by women to limit the negative connotation of possible disagreement and to mitigate the offensive side of language.

Theoretical framework

Language is considered as a social sign. That is, what it is said is not only affected by etymological factors, but also by social factors such as age, gender, and social status. Nowadays, there is extensive research examining the differences between women's and men's speech regarding the use of hedging.

Akhamlia (2009) and Zaini et al (2012) conducted research to find out if there is a difference between men's and women's gender use of hedging. Their results show women use hedging more than men do. Their findings were in accordance with Lakoff's hypothesis as they find women in their study use hedging because they are uncertain and they want to make time for thinking and to show their concern about life. Al-bagam (2017) also has a research on the gender differences in using hedging and to look of these differences are affected by the topic of the talk. He finds that women use hedging to express their insecurity and their lack of power in conversation, whereas men use them to enhance their position to control the debates.

In addition, Dousti and Rasekh (2016) conduct a study to find if there are linguistic differences between men and women in their interpersonal interactions. Their study reveals that women use hedging more than men do. Their results reveal women's use of hedging is to show their interest to welcome other's opinion and to be friendly. However, the female

participants in their study firmly refused the claim that their use of hedging is because of their lower social status.

Coates (2011) mentions women's use of hedging depends on the topic of the talk, as women's topics are different of men's topics. Trihartanti and Fadilah (2020) have a study on 24 female and 24 male students studying in English department to examine whether there is a gender difference in using hedging and it also aimed to look whether this difference is affected by the type of topics. Their results agree with Coates's words. Their results show that both men and women use hedging, but their use depends on the topic as men use hedging in topics which require avoiding face-threating acts and with short conversation whereas women use them to conduct long and indirect conversation.

However, there are some studies refuse the claims that women use hedging more than men. Dubar's study (2012) and Hassani's and Farahani's study (2014) find that there is a significant difference between men and women in using hedging as men use it more than women. Moreover, Mohajer and Jan (2015) conduct a study to find if there is a gender difference in using hedging. Their results surprisingly reveal that men use hedging more than women and men use them to protect their faces during their communication. On the other hand, there are some studies such as Percht's study (2008) revealing that there is no difference between men's and women's use of hedging. Hassani's and Farahani's study (2014) shows that model verbs and adjectives are the most used hedges by men contrasting women who use lexical verbs, adjectives and model verbs more than the other lexical hedges.

Moreover, Namaziandost and Shaliee (2018) conduct a study to investigate the lexical hedges used by men and women and whether there are differences between the types of hedges used by both genders. Their study consists of 20 female and 20 male students. Their findings find out female students use lexical hedges more than male students. It also finds that female participants frequently use hedges uhh, I think, hmm, you know and yeah. On the other hand, the male participants frequently use I think, uuh and yeah.

Nevertheless, there is a somewhat little research on the influence of the addressee's gender on women's use of hedging. McMillan et al's study (1977) finds that women use more hedging when they talk to men. They use them to express their uncertainty when they talk to them. On the other hand, Brown (1980) reveals that females use hedging when talk to men more than when they talk to women. However, Mostofee and Pour (2016) conduct a study to find if the hedging use is affected by the addressee's gender. Their results find that women use hedging when they discuss topics with women more than when they talk to men.

The significance of the present study.

Hedging in speech has a crucial role in social interactions. As mentioned above, there are debates about who use hedging more men or women and whether this use is affected by the gender of the addressee or not. This research is conducted to find if there are differences in the frequency of hedging used by men and women. It also aims to investigate if gender use of hedging is affected by the addressee's gender.

Methodology

The participants:

The data for this study are taken from a Libyan recorded talk program, Sahrya (سهرية) broadcasting on 218 channel in 2019. The two chosen episodes consisted of four presenters each, two men and two women in each episode. They are Libyans in their thirties. However, the researcher does not know their background variables such as their social class and their education, which may affect the interpretation of the findings.

Data collection and data analysis

The data for this study are taken from episodes 2 and 9, which are chosen randomly. Each episode consists of four presenters, two men and two women. Each episode lasts about an hour and fifteen minutes. The talk programmes tend to be appropriate for the aims of the research because their data are authentic and they provide a wide range of socially and culturally prevalence topics. The chosen episodes contain topics such as preferred meals during Ramadan, TV programmes, how to be healthy and traditional games. Specifically, talk programmes are type of programmes showing features of informality, even if there is some planning and preparing about each topic (Chai, 2021).

According to Coates (2013), gender use of hedging might be affected by the topic of the conversation. To tackle with the previously mentioned problem, the data were taken from this program as it talks about different topics in each episode. The topics involved in the target episodes are traditional food, games and medical concerns. To answer the questions of the present study, the data from the chosen episodes are analysed quantitatively. After collecting the needed data, the author classifies them to examine the frequency of hedging used by men and women.

Frequency counts were used to analyse the obtained data. The researcher counts the total number of hedges uttered by each presenter during each episode and classifies them according to Wang and Tatiana's (2016) classification; modal auxiliaries, lexical verbs, probability adjectives, nouns, adverbs, adverbs of frequency, if clauses, compound hedging or fillers.

Procedure

To answer the research questions, the researcher followed the following procedure. Two episodes from the Libyan program Sahrya from 218 channel website on YouTube were firstly downloaded. Secondly, the hedges which were applied by men and women in these two episodes were counted. Then, the data were classified based on the gender of the

speakers and the listeners. Finally, a quantitative analysis was conducted to determine the frequency of hedging used by men and women.

Results and discussion

The present study was conducted to reveal whether women's speech is more hedged than men speech. It also tried to examine if using hedging is affected by the addressee's gender.

To answer the first research question, the number of hedges uttered by male and females respondents was recorded. After getting the data from the participants, they were separated according to the gender of the speakers. The results reveal that the total number of female and male participants who use hedges was different. The total hedges used by female participants were 212 words (54%), while the hedges used by men were 182 words (46%).
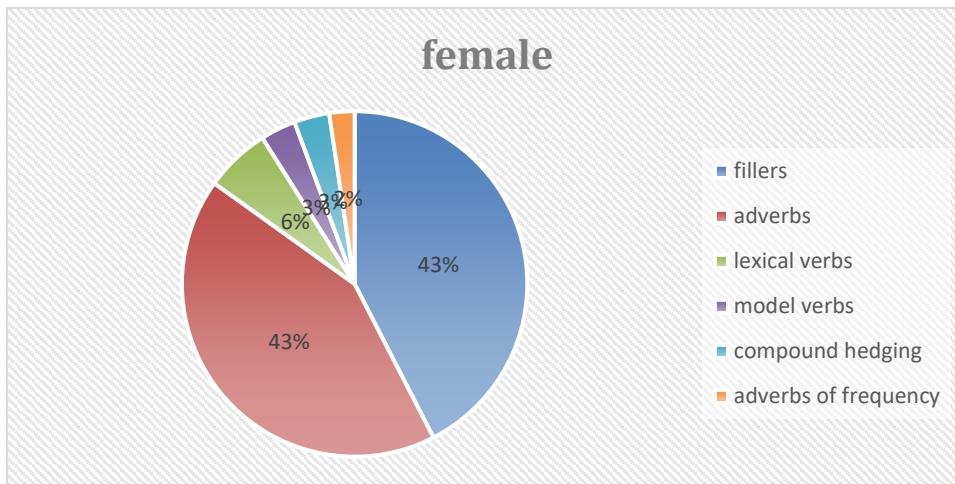

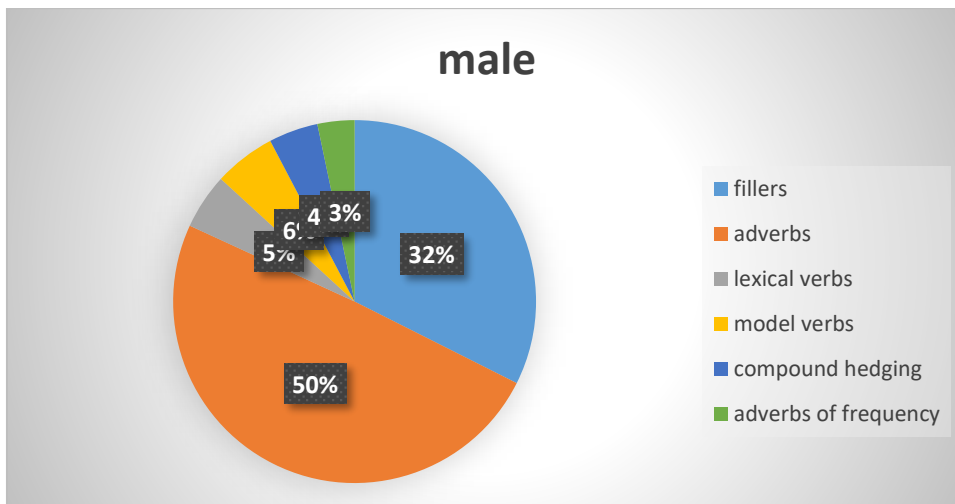Figure 1: hedges used by female participants

Figure 2: hedges used by male participants

After being analysed, the females' respondents show that hedges mostly used were fillers (42%), adverbs (42%), lexical verbs (6%), compound hedging (3%), model auxiliaries (3%), and adverbs of frequency (2%) as shown in Figure1. On the other hand, hedges which were used by male participants were adverbs (49%), fillers (16%), model verbs (5%), lexical verbs (5%), compound hedging (4%) and adverbs of frequency (3%) (Figure2). The findings of our study reveal that female and male participants use fillers, lexical verbs and adverbs more than the other lexical hedges. The present study agrees with the results of Rosanti and Jaelani (2016) who examine the types of lexical hedges used by male and female participants. Their study reveals that the words of lexical hedges used by male and female participants are different. They found that female and male participants use fillers and lexical verbs more than the other lexical hedges.

Filler	Females	Males
I mean	32	7
Uh	27	19
In fact	10	14
Just	10	17
Like	1	0
Well	2	0
You know	1	1
Probably	3	1
You see	1	0
By the way	1	0
Sort of	0	1
Yeah	2	0
Total	**90**	**59**

Table 2: fillers used by female and male participants

Examing the lexical hedging used by the male and female participants, fillers and adverbs are used by both genders more than the other lexical hedges. As table (2) reveals, female participants used 90 words of hedges as fillers (60%) whereas male participants used just 59 words of lexical hedges as fillers (40%). Moreover, the fillers ` I mean`, in fact`, just`, and uh` are dominate by both genders than the other fillers. However, the phrase I mean is used by female participants more than the male participants, 82% and 18% respectively. On the other hand, the fillers in fact and just are used by male participants more than the female participants.

Moreover, the fillers like, well, you see, by the way, and yeah are used by females participants, contrasting male participants who do not use them. The fillers like and well were used three times by female participants, while male participants did not use them. According to Azizah (2021), the hedges like and well are used as invitation to the adressee to agree with their speech and to avoid making a proposition clearer and more

compreensive. Our results tend to agree with Azizah's results, as the filler well was used once by each female participant to show that they are not in completee agree with what the male participants say. According to Coates (2013), the hedges like I think , you know, I am sure and I mean are used to convey uncertainty during speech. Examining the data, it is found that the female participants used the hedges I mean and I think more than the male participants. The female participants use the hedges I mean and I think in this study extinsively to help them leave space for expresion of opposing opinion and to show unassertiveness and uncertinity of the utterance they said. Moreover, the use of personal pronoun I with these two hedges seems to reflect subjectiveness and personal opinion.

Examing the data, the female participants use the fillers yeah and uh more than the male participants. Our results reveal that the female's use of the fillers yeah, and uh is to show that they listen to the speaker and to keep the talk going on. These results are in line with Zimmerman and West's (1975) findings that their participants use the filler yeah and uh to show their active hearship.

Lexical verbs	Females	Males
I think	10	5
It seems	1	1
Suggest	0	2
Suppose	1	0
Indicate	1	1
Total	**13**	**9**

Table (3): the lexical verbs used by female and male participants

Examing the lexical verbs used as hedges in the table 3, the data reveal that the female respondents used 13 words (59%) of hedges as lexical verbs whereas male respondents used 9 words (41%) of hedges as lexical verbs.

Model auxularies	Females	Male
Can	1	5
Should	3	2
May	3	1
Would not	0	2
Total	**7**	**10**

Table (4): model auxularies used by female and male participants

As showing in the table 4, the number of hedges used by female participants as model auxilaries is less than the ones used by male participants, 3% and 5% respectively. However, the male participants use the model can more than the female participants, 83% and 17% respectively. On the other hand, the model verb may is used by female

participants more than the male participants, 75% and 25% repectively. This may reveal that women use hedges to show their uncertainty which agrees with Lakoff's hypothesis.

Compound hedging	Females	Males
It may be impossible	1	0
It will probably	6	8
Total	**7**	**8**

Table (5): compound hedging used by female and male participants

According to the data in the table 5,the total number of words used as compound hedges is 15 words, 7 words uttered by females participants and 8 word by male participants. These numbers show that there is slight difference between men's and women's use of compound hedging.

Adverbs	Females	Males
Clearly	2	0
Definintly	81	90
Actually	4	0
Approximatly	3	0
Total	**90**	**90**

Table 6: adverbs used by female and male participants

Although the number of hedges used by men and women as adverbs is equal, 90 words each, as it can be seen from the table.6, there was difference in the types of the adverbs used by female and male participants. However, the adverb definitly, which reveals the speaker's certainty about what he says, is used by male participants more than female participants, 55% and 45% respectively. Moreover, the adverb approximately is used three times by female participants, contrasting male participants who do not use them. Moreover, the adverb actually is used four times by the female participants to adressee the male particpants to show that they agree with what the those male participants said, contrasting male participants who did not use them.

Regarding the use of adverbs of frequency as hedges, male and female participants show slight difference in the frequency of using these adverbs as the table7 shows.

Adverbs	Females	Males
Always	4	5
Generally	1	0
Rarely	0	1
Total	**5**	**6**

Table (7): adverbs used by female and male participants

The present study is also conducted to examine if the use of hedging is affected by the gender of the addressee. To answer this research question, the hedges used by both genders were classifed according to the gender of the addressee. Because the data was elicited from TV programm, just 100 hedges out of 394 addressed to presenters. The other ones were said to the camera addressing the televiewers. As figure shows 3, 79 hedges were used by the presenters to address the male participants, whereas just 21 hedges were used to address the female participants.
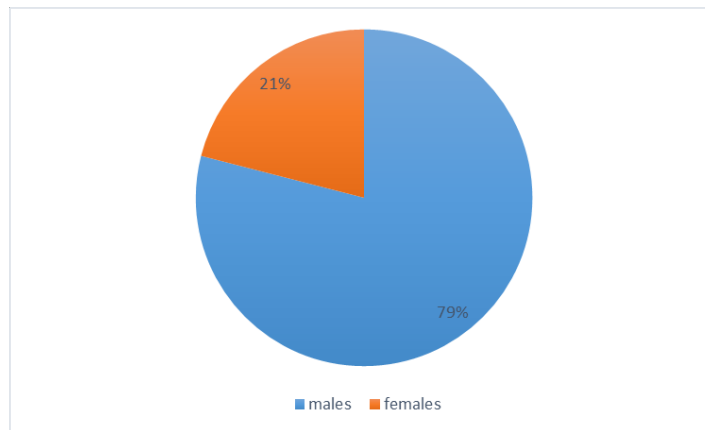

Figure 3: the percentage of hedges according to the gender of the addressee

Moreover, our data reveal that both genders use hedges when they talk to male participants more than when they talk to female participants, 90% and 60% respectively. Additionally, female's use of hedges when they talk to other female participants is less than male's use when they talk to female participants, 10% and 40% respectively.
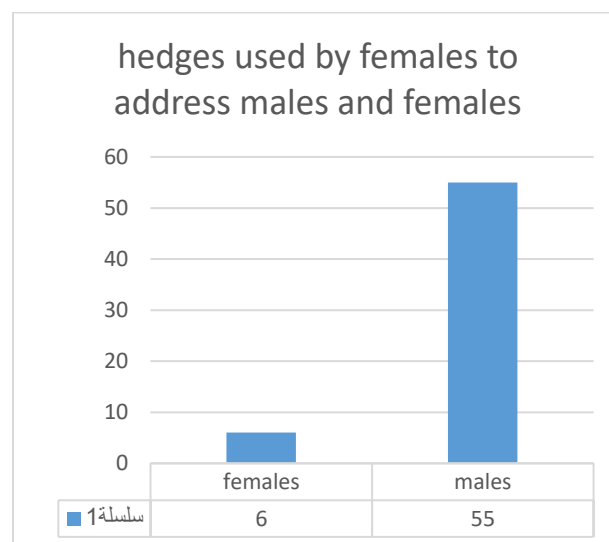

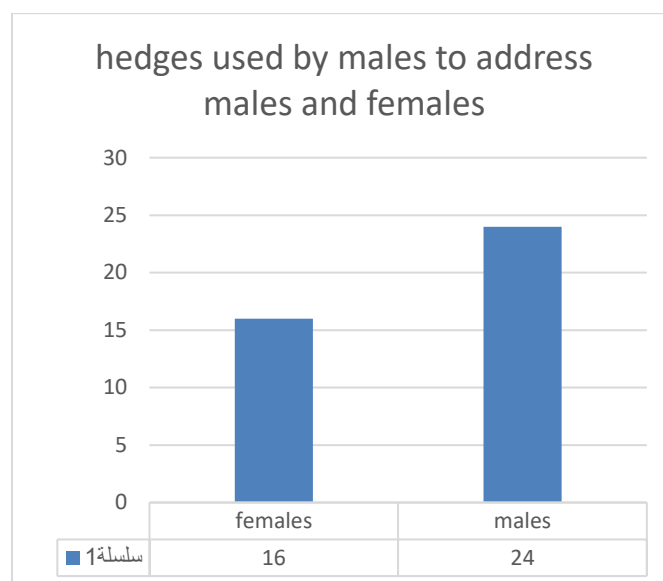Figure 4: hedges used by female participants to address male and female participants

Figure 5: hedges used by male participants to address male and female participants

Looking at the lexical hedges to examine the gender of the addressee, the filler I think is used by female participants 14 times to address the male participants, whereas they use it just 3 times to address the male participants. This may reveal that the female participants are less certain and more cautios when they talk to male participants than when they talk to female participants. On the other hand, the male participants did not use the filler I mean to address the male participants.

These results are exactly in line with McMillan et al's study (1977) who say women use hedging when they speak to men more than when they speak to women. However, it is in contrast with the results of Brown's (1980) study and Mostafee's and Pour's study (2016) who say women use hedges when they talk to women more than when they talk to men.

Conclusion

This study is an attempet to reveal if there are gender differences in using hedges and to find if these differences are affected by the gender of the addressee. To carry out the study, data were gathered from male's and female's conversation chosen from Tv programm. Then, this data were studied and analyzed. The findings suggest that women use hedges more than men. The analysis also reveals that fillers, adverbs and lexical verbs are used by males and females more than the other hedges.

The female participants in this study have more tendancies to use the hedges I think and I mean more than male participants which may reveal the female participants are less certain and more cautious when they talk to others particulary men. Female's frequent use of the hedge uh may indicate their an active hearship.

Examing the effect of the gender of the addressee on the use of hedging, the findings reveal that the participants used hedges when they talk to male participants more than when they talk to female participants.

However, the present study focuses on the speech of just two males and two females. The small size of the sample may affect the reliability and validity of the results. More research is required with large size of the sample to get empirical generalization. Also, the data were eleicted from a TV programm which is, to some extent, a formal context of conversation and may not help to determine the role of the gender of the addressee. Moreover, more research is required to shed light on the effect of the topic and the gender of the addressee.

References

1- Akhmaliah. R. (2009). An analysis of language features in blogs of female undergraduates. Unpublished B.A. project paper. University Kebangsaan: Malaysia https://doi.org/10.1515/lpp-2013-0012.

2- Albaqami, S. E. S. (2017). How Grasping Gender-Related Aspects of Speech Is Increased by Multi-Modal Text Analysis—A Case Study. Asian Journal of Science and Technology. 8, 6611-6614. https://www.academia.edu/35382436/.

3- Azizah, D. (2021). Hedges Function in Masculine and Feminine Feature's Language: A Pragmatics Analysis. Journal of Pragmatics Research, 3(1), 59 – 69. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350560632.

4- Brown, P. (1980). How and why are women more polite: Some evidence from a Mayan community. In McConnell-Ginet, S. Borker, R & Furman, N (Eds.), Women and language in literature and society, 111-136. New York: Praeger.

5- Chai, Y. (2021). Gender and Hedging Behavior: An Analysis of Functions of Hedges Employed by Women in Chinese Conversations. Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research. 637, 32-38. https://dx.doi.org/10.2991/assehr.k.220131.006

6- Coates, J. (1986). Women, men and language. London: Longman Group.

7- Coates, J. (2013). 'So I Mean I Probably…': Hedges and Hedging in Women's Talk [2003]. In Coats, J. Women, Men and Everyday Talk, 31-49. Palgrave Macmillan: London. https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1057/9781137314949_3

8- Coates, J. (2004). Women, Men and Language. 3rd ed. London: Longman.

9- Coates, J. (2011). Gossip revisited: Language in all-female groups. In J. Coates & P. Pichler (Eds.), Language and gender: A reader. 2nd ed, 199-223. United Kingdom: Wiley Blackwell.

10- Dousti, M. & Rasekh, A. E. (2016). ELT students' gender differences in the use of hedges in interpersonal interactions: A mixed method approach applied. Journal of Applied Linguistics and Language Research. 3(1), 217–231. http://www.jallr.com.

11- Dubar, T. (2012). Gender Related Features in the Use of the Hedge 'You Know' A Case Study of Conversations on the Radio Station, London's Biggest Conversation 97.3 FM. University of Gothenburg, Department of Languages and Literatures, Spring, 2012. https://gupea.ub.gu.se/bitstream/.

12- Fraser, B. (2010). Pragmatic competence: The case of hedging. In G. Kaltenböck, W. Mihatsch and S. Schneider (Eds.), New approaches to hedging, 15–34. Bingley: Emerald.

13- Hassani, M. T., & Farahani, M. (2014). A Discourse Analysis of Gender Differences in the Use of Hedging Devices in Applied Linguistics Research Articles. English Creative Education Language Teaching. 1, 59-73. https://www.academia.edu/39815588.

14- Herring, S. D., Johnson, D. A., & DiBenedetto, T. (2011). Participation in electronic discourse in a "feminist" field. In J. Coates & P. Pichler (Eds.), Language and gender: A reader, 171-182. United Kingdom: Wiley Blackwell.

15- Holmes, J. (1986). Functions of You Know in Women's and Men's Speech. Language in Society. 15, 1-21. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0047404500011623.

16- Izadi, A. (2013). Disagreements in Iranian dissertation defenses. Lodz Papers in Pragmatics 9(2), 199-225. https://doi.org/10.1515/lpp-2013-0012

17- Lakoff, R. T. (1975). Language and woman's place. New York: Harper and Row

18- Lloyd, B. (2002). Sex and Gender. Cambridge: Polity Press.

19- McMillan, J. R., Clifton, A. K., McGrath, D., & Gale, W. S. (1977). Women's language: Uncertainty or interpersonal sensitivity and emotionality?. Sex roles, 3(6), 545-559.

20- Mohajer, L., & Jan, M. J. (2015). Preserving face and the use of hedges in masculine world of men. Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences, 208, 13–20. https://pdf.sciencedirectassets.com/277811.

21- Mostofee, S., & Pour, S. R. (2016). The Effect of Context on Iranian EFL Students' Amount of Speech Production of English Language and Their Ways of Using Hedging Devices. Advances in Language and Literary Studies. 7, 51-67. http://www.journals.aiac.org.au.

22- Namasaraev, V. (1997). Hedging in Russian academic writing in sociological texts. Moscow: Publishing Company.

23- Namaziandost, E., & Shafiee, S. (2018). Gender differences in the use of lexical hedges in academic spoken language among Iranian EFL learners: A comparative study. International Journal of Research in English Education. 3(4), 63 – 80. https://ijreeonline.com/article-1-130-en.html

24- O'Barr, W., & Atkins, B. K. (2011). 'Women's language' or 'powerless language'? In J. Coates & P. Pichler (Eds.), Language and gender: A reader. 2nd ed, 451-460. United Kingdom: Wiley Blackwell

25- Precht, K. (2008). Sex similarities and differences in stance in informal American conversation. Journal of Sociolinguistics. 12(1), 89-111. https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/

26- Rosanti, D. E., & Jaelani, A. (2016). The use of lexical hedges in spoken language by female and male students. E-Journal UIKA Bogor, 16(1), 29–39. https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf.

27- Trihartanti, R and Fadilah, M. (2020). Gender Differences in the Use of Hedging Devices in Students' Conversation. Jurnal Bahasa Inggris Terapan. 6(2). 103 – 119. https://jurnal.polban.ac.id/ojs-3.1.2/inggris/article/view/2303

28- Wang, S, P., & Tatiana, K. (2016). Corpus research on hedges in linguistics and EFL journal papers. International Journal of Education, 9(1), 44–49. https://ejournal.upi.edu/index.php/ije/article/view/3717/0

29- Weinreich, U. (1966). On the semantic structure of English. In Greenberg, J.H. (ed.). Universals of Language. 2nd ed. Cambridge/Mass: MIT Press, 142-217. https://archive.org/stream/

30- Zaini, A., Hazirah, A., Saadiyah, D., & Kemboja, I. (2012). Gender differences in the language use of Malaysian teen bloggers. GEMA Online™ Journal of Language Studies, 12(1), 105-124. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/

31- Zimmerman, D., & West, C. (1975). Sex roles, interruptions and silences in conversation. In Thorne, B. and Henley, N. (eds). Language and sex: Difference and dominance. Rowley: Newbury House.