
A critical review on women are warmer but no less assertive than men: Gender and language on Facebook

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Abstract: Gender disparities in language have a long history, spanning subjects such as gender studies, psychology, linguistics, communication, and computational linguistics. Gender differences have been a source of contention in the past, but a consensus has evolved that gender is still an important characteristic deserving of scientific inquiry. This critical review aimed to critique and analyze the study about gender and language on Facebook. Based on their research, they discovered that men and women use language differently with the greatest difference being in the degree of interpersonal friendliness. Self-identified females used language that was warmer, friendlier, and more focused on people, whereas self-identified males used vocabulary that was more socially detached, disagreeable, and focused on items. Women, contrary to popular belief, were slightly more forceful in their discourse than men. They discovered affiliative and assertive language through automated assessments rather than human judgments, which are more susceptible to rater bias. With this, the researchers somewhat open our minds to the idea that men and women do have their own content, conversational styles, and attitudes towards speaking with others.

Keywords: Facebook, Gender, Language, Politeness, Stereotypes

1. Critical review

Park et al. (2016) analyzed tens of thousands of Facebook consumers to establish men's and women's gender and language. They discovered significant gender differences in affiliative language use, as well as minor differences in assertive language. Self-identified females used language that was warmer, more empathic, courteous, and considerably more aggressive in particular interaction, although self-recognized men used linguistic that stayed colder, overtly hostile, generally impersonal.

Furthermore, according to the findings of their study, males and females take advantage of the different languages, in conjunction with the biggest gap standing in the extent of relational friendliness. Males utilized lexicon that was more social distant, contentious, and centered on items, whereas females used terminology that was warmth, gentler, and more focused on people. Women were slightly more powerful in their discourse than men, contrary to conventional opinion. Rather than evaluations, which are more prone to rater bias, they uncovered social bonding and authoritative language through digital evaluations.

The findings of the study lead me to believe that there are differences in speaking abilities between men and women. Males prefer to talk boldly, whilst women murmur; men talk over one another, whereas women deliberate behind each other's backs; men keep their emotions to themselves, whereas women reveal them to their friends; and so on.

Moreover, Park et al. (2016) concluded that men use much further terms (articles e.g., "a", "an", "the"), logical quantifier (e.g., "few" "many" "much"), and spatial words (e.g., "above", "over"), remained much further expected to curse, and remained much more expected to talk about income and work - connected topics after comparing the dialect of males and females across 14,000 tests of content on or after a wide range of sources in Facebook status and messages. Females were further expected to use personal pronouns, intensive adverbs (e.g., "very", "very", "so"), and sentiment terms, as well as to talk about their families and social lives. Hedging ("seems", "maybe", "kind of"), lengthier passages, intensive adverbs (e.g., "so", "really"), and reference materials to emotions (e.g., "excited", "happy", "hurt") were also men features, whereas women feature included derivatives to hedge ("seems", "maybe", "kind of"), relatively long sentences, intensive adverbs (e.g., "so", "really").

I can infer from the aforementioned remark that we cannot ensure that men and women are more on like that or use phrases like that since we cannot assume that the 14, 000 text samples are truly valid. Because we are all unique, I may state that men and women often use different phrases and phrasing depending on the situation. Based on my experiences, I employ and include hedging in my writing and speech, as well as judging adjectives, depending on the situation or location. Thus, I cannot guarantee that men and women genuinely behaved like way based on a small sample of text from Facebook statuses and conversations, but I do agree with the notion offered by them, but not completely because that would lead to hasty generalization.

However, based on the researchers' hypothesis, I recall Gray's statement in his book "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus," (1993) that communication between men and women can be termed cross-cultural communication. Men and women communicate in such disparate ways, he claims, that they appear to be from separate planets. But, based on his assumption, I may simply state that men and women converse in different ways and for different reasons.

Furthermore, I also remember situation given by Tannen (1990), which I think related to the researchers' argument:

Misinterpretation #1

He: I'm drained. I think of far too considerable job to do that I'm not sure how I'll get it all done!

She: I myself, either. There are obviously deficient hours in the day!

He: You're at it again! You're never satisfied with my efforts to this relationship!

In this dialogue, she makes an attempt to speak rather like "We're partners and share similar experiences." Her proposed "between the lines" point is: "I understand what you're going through; you're not alone." The "between the lines" meaning he perceives underlines battle for position: "What are you complaining about? You aren't any better than I am!" or "Your contributions to our marriage aren't any more significant than mine!"

Misinterpretation #2

She: I'm exhausted. I have so much work to do that I'm not sure how I'll get it all done!

He: If you're that exhausted, why don't you take a day off and rest?

She says, sarcastically: "Thank you very much!" You believe my effort to this family is so inconsequential that I cannot do anything, and none of you will recognize the change?

At this point, he is attempting to transmit somewhat like "Oh, you need advice and analysis? I'll focus on the details and facts and offer a solution." His proposed "between the lines" point is: "I will help you solve your problem because I think I know something that might help." The "between the lines" communication she perceives him stating: "I don't want to understand your feelings; I'm different from you and I know what you should do."

It just goes to great lengths to claim that the issues are the result of minor variances in how men and women deal with challenges in different situations. Complications (especially emotive concerns) are contracted by women by communicating about them, examining their ideas, and evaluating notes with others. For men, that prefer to contract through issues by concentrating on the statements and seeing for a rapid cure, this can be annoying. Men sometimes make the mistake of thinking that women are disrespectful for the guidance and explanations they offer, and they become irritated when women refuse to address their issues. Women may feel offended, dissatisfied, and discarded as a result of men's lack of empathy when they provide a solution rather than discussing an issue. As a result, it appears that men and women are from separate worlds. Men and women, after all, have different communication styles.

Additionally, Facebook has been a helpful platform one should practice for their word processing and development. On this platform whether on statuses, comments, and chats Facebook has become a source of information to students and somehow helps them lessen their mistakes in using the target language. Also, adapting to the new learning environment is great strategy in the language learning process. Dealing with the effects of Facebook as a communication tool used by the men and women on their language learning proficiency can be of their advantage in advancing themselves to be competent to the said target language (Genelza, 2022).

Generally, I believe that if the gender communication barriers can be broken, men and women may learn a great deal from one another. These impediments, according to Tannen (1990), go away with time, understanding, and effort. The evaluation of one's particular communication style necessitates a significant amount of time. As different speech styles are noticed, comprehension is required. When changes are made to improve male-female connection, effort is expended. And, returning to the researchers' point of view, I do not "completely" agree with them because we cannot readily assess or distinguish men's and women's linguistic communication just by analyzing and monitoring thousands of Facebook users' statuses and messages. However, it is somewhat truthful, but not entirely true, to conclude that females are friendlier but no to a lesser extent aggressive than males; therefore, it all depends on the situation and how they express themselves in various ways and for various reasons. The researchers do, however, open our minds to the possibility that men and women have different content, conversational styles, and attitudes when it comes to communicating with others. That is undeniably correct, and that is a truth that I am aware of.

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