LINGUISTIC VARIATION ACROSS PAKISTANI MALE AND FEMALE WRITERS OF SHORT STORIES IN ENGLISH: A MULTIDIMENSIONAL ANALYSIS

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Paper Information

Abstract

The current study inspects some distinguished discourse features in the corpus of short stories in English by Pakistani male and female writers. This study highlights both the functional use of language and linguistic variations in English short stories of Pakistani male and female writers. This study analyzes the linguistic features adopted by Pakistani male and female writers of short stories in English and inspects how far both genders are different from one another in the functional use of language. The quantitative research method was used in this research. These features are analyzed through a Multidimensional analysis tool. This tool contains elaborate linguistic features. The purposive corpus of 68 stories has been organized for this research to analyze and extract specific linguistic features. A multidimensional tool (MAT v 1.3.2) is used to analyze and tag the data on Bibber's (1988) five functional dimensions. These dimensions indicate the density of information, narrative characteristics, the explicitness of text, degree of persuasion, and abstract information. Moreover, the comparison indicates that male discourse is highly dense with information as compared to female discourse. While, on the other hand, female texts indicate more non-abstract information as compared to male texts. Therefore, it can be concluded that linguistic variation exists between Pakistani male and female writers of short stories in English. Other short stories may be examined in future research. This might help obtain more precise findings. The future researcher would gather data from various sources that achieve more precise results.
Key Words: Dimensions**,** Gender**,** Linguistic variation, multidimensional analysis, Pakistani writer, short stories.

Introduction

It is a social phenomenon in that both males and females chose different linguistic structures to convey their message or to express their thoughts. It inspires researchers to study these linguistic variations. The past research signified gender-related specific linguistic features. However, currently, there are fewer studies examining the functional variation based on sets of linguistic features. Adverbs are used by females in short stories more commonly than by males. Additionally, females tended to use softer, more sentimental adverbs like fatherly and tenderly, whereas males tended to use stronger, more utilitarian adverbs like successfully but also horribly (Al-Khalaf, 2019). Gender difference has entered into different studies as a linguistic variable. In sociolinguistics, gender and language have become major concerns since the early 1970s. In general, gender differences are found in every language (Fatima et al., 2016). Previous research verified that women use more adjectives, interrogative sentences, and standard forms of language. These various uses of different discourse styles inspire researchers to dig up these linguistic features. The linguistic co-occurrence patterns relating to gender studies are not highly researched areas. Therefore, there is a need to investigate this particular way.

It is observed that both males and females have different language strategies which contain systematic variation in linguistic features. The present study aims to investigate the language difference between Pakistani male and female writers in English. These linguistic variations are analyzed through a Multidimensional analysis tool on five dimensions (Bibber, 1988). Bibbers these five textual dimensions are discussed below

Dimension 1: Involved vs. Informational discourse

This dimension involved the text that is presented on the positive side. The negative numbers on the graph indicate the density of information in the text. The density of information is marked through nouns, attribute adjectives, and prepositional phrases. Here, in this dimension, linguistic features like private verbs, modals of possibility, emphatics, hedges, and first-person pronouns are indices for the involved text.

Dimension 2: Opposition between Narrative and Non-Narrative Concerns

In dimension 2, the narration is indicated through the positive side of the graph. Linguistic features i.e., past tense verbs, third person pronouns, and perfect aspect verbs indicate narration in discourse. Non-narrative language, on the negative pool, is marked by attributive nominal and immediate time.

Dimension 3: Explicit vs. Situation-Dependent Discourse

The situation independent reference is marked on positive loading. This explicit quality of the text is checked through Who-relative clauses, phrasal coordination, subject and object position, and nominalization. The situation-dependent text or Negative loading is specified through place and time adverbials and other adverbs.

Dimension 4: Overt Expression of Argumentation

In D4, the overt expression of argumentation in discourse is represented only on the positive loading. Infinitives, persuasive verbs, modals of prediction, modals of possibility, and spilled auxiliaries are the key features to mark persuasion in text.

Dimension 5: Abstract vs. non-Abstract Information

Dimension 5 indicates the opposition between abstract and non-abstract information in the text. Linguistics features: conjuncts, by-passive, agentless passives,

predictable adjectives, and adverbial subordinators are the key characteristics of abstract information in this dimension.

Research objectives

This research aims:

1. To analyze the linguistic features adopted by Pakistani male and female writers of short stories in English.
2. To inspect how far both genders are different from one another in the functional use of language.

Significance of the study

This study will help people, male and female writers, and students to understand the functional use of language and linguistic variations in English short stories by Pakistani writers. It will help male and female writers to adopt specific structures to perform a particular function through discourse.

Research Questions

What linguistic variations exist in the English short stories of Pakistani male and female writers?

How far the functional use of language is different in the corpus of Pakistani male and female writers of English short stories?

Delimitations

This study is delimited to the 68 short stories in English by Pakistani male and female writers.

Literature review

The study of gender differences in using language from different aspects such as lexical forms, syntactic structure, international patterns, and discourse markers has been studied increasingly. The previous studies have contributed to characterizing the male-female language separately. In the past decades, the methodologies regarding language and gender have been limited to individual linguistic features. The Gender differences concerning the use of intensifiers, hedges, and tag questions in English and Persian natural-occurring discourse (Handelman & Pennebaker, 2008). There

were found, no significant differences between the groups of gender-bound linguistic differences. Johannes, (Holy & Sogaard, 2015) researched cross-lingual syntactic variation over age and gender using large-scale corpora. It was shown that several ages and gender with specific variations hold across languages, for example, women are more likely to use VP conjunctions. In 2014, Bamman, Eisenstein, and Schnoebelen reported that women tend to use prestige and standard forms. Bamman (2014) reported the analysis of naturally occurring discourse settings among gender variant speakers, using an established linguistic framework of discourse analysis and conservative analysis. Nemati & Bayer (2007) conducted a study on language variation studies, at first, gender was considered a sociolinguistic variable just like social class, age, ethnicity, and social status. Nemati & Bayer (2007) researched to find out gender differences in using language by observing written dialogue. When it comes to the linguistic study of gender differentiation, it was concluded that in the speech community, there exists a new linguistic form that is used by subgroups i.e., male and female. Furthermore, it was also concluded that this new form has to be adopted by other members of that community and accepted as a norm (Newman, 2008). There were 80 participants in the survey and they read a dialogue with implementing attributes. They were provided with a questionnaire. Overall, the research presented the difference as well as the similarities through facts and figures. According to the survey, females appeared to be more unanimous in their answers. Xia, X. (2013) conducted a study on gender differences in language use by empirically investigating 14,000 text samples. It was observed that women used psychological and social words frequently while men preferred

more to object properties and impersonal topics.

Johannsen et al., (2015) reported research based on the variation in language use across gender based on two main gender theories. A corpus of 54 texts based on marital conflicts, 27 by males and 27 by females was generated from counseling transcripts of the relationship. They recorded the percentages for self-references, social words, positive emotions, and negative emotions used within each text. The results indicated that the corpus analysis has provided empirical evidence for the biological theories, but did not support the social constructionist theories.

Johannsen & Hovy (2015) demonstrated debate in "Discourse and Society" upon gender discursive articulations. Johannsen & Hovy (2014) researched the relationship between gender and linguistic style and social networks, using a novel corpus of 14,000 Twitter users. The research was organized by clustering Twitter users by finding a natural decomposition of the data set in various styles and topical interests. It was noted that the clusters reflected the multifaceted nature of gender-language styles.

Therefore, there is a great need for observing gender language to the point of functional variation. The current study is helpful to analyze Pakistani male and female writers of short stories in English with comprehensive grammatical information by adopting MD analysis.

Research Methodology
Data Collection

The quantitative method was used in this research. This study has compiled 68 short stories written in English by Pakistani writers. The collected data spans 64 years from 1950 to 2014. Such a large amount of Pakistani English short stories is not available in the form of online. For the completion of this project, the researcher collected data in hard form. The data was collected through purposive sampling. After selecting 68 stories of the top ten writes, the data was converted into computer-readable form through OCR. For the real presence of source data, it was checked manually.

Data Analysis

The current study has used a Multidimensional analysis tagger to closely inspect the linguistic patterns of Pakistani male and female Writers of short stories in English.36 female and 32 male writers were selected for the analysis of data. This difference in the number of stories is for the equal representation of linguistic features through an equal number of words. More precisely, the male text files contain 64918 words, and female text files or notepad files contain 65704 for the real representation of their population. The selected stories were tagged and analyzed through the MAT tag and analyze tool on Bibber's first five dimensions. The analysis was presented both in the form of graphs and an excel sheet. These five dimensions define different sets of linguistic features that perform some communicative function.

The five dimensions are:

1. Involved vs. Informational Production Dimension
2. Narrative vs. Non-narrative Concerns Dimension
3. Explicit vs. Situation Dependent Reference Dimension.
4. Overt Expression of Persuasion/Argumentation Dimension
5. Abstract vs. Non-abstract Style

Results

Multidimensional Analysis of Male and Female *Short Stories*

Table 5.1

Functional Characteristics of Male Writings on Five Dimensions of Bibber's Study (1988)

1. Dimensions of variation		1.1 Male Short Stories	
2.	D1	3.	-7.88
4.	D2	5.	4.18
6.	D3	7.	1.39
8.	D4	9.	-0.6
10.	D5	11.	0.39

On D1, the mean score of male short stories is -7.88. It means that the writers of English short stories tried to convey new information in their text. They have used more long words, adjectives, and nouns as compared to other features like Pronouns and verbs. This negative mean score indicates that these short stories are less interactive. Furthermore, this result indicates that the linguistic characteristics of male short stories lack more pronouns and verbs. Therefore, it can be said that male writers of this corpus focus on conveying more information in a very technical way.

The mean score on dimension 2 of the male corpus is 4.18. This mean score shows that the discourse of these writers contains more narration as compared to personal involvement in the text. This function of narration is indicated through the maximum use of past tenses and third-person pronouns. On the other hand, it also indicates that there is less use of present tenses. The high scores on this dimension relate this text to romance fiction, general fiction, and prepared speeches (Bibber, 1989).

The mean score of 1.39 on dimension 3 indicates that the text is independent of the context. The corpora of English short stories by Pakistani male writers indicate the independence of the text from the situation. While a high mean score like 5 or 6 shows high independence as compared to a lower mean score like this result. Bibber's high scores on this dimension show the features of academic prose and official documents.

On dimension 4, the mean score of male short stories in English is -0.6. This score shows that there is a lack of overt expression of persuasion in male short stories. It means there is a lack of modal verbs and a less personal point of view is conveyed in the text. According to Bibber, a low score on this dimension indicates that text or texts belong to text types that represent the event that is in progress.

The mean score of the corpus of male short stories on dimension 5 is 0.39. This indicates some tendency of abstractness in the text. This quality of abstractness is embedded in the text by using more passive clauses and adjuncts. According to Bibber, the low score on dimension 5 relates to face-to-face interaction, personal conversation, and spontaneous speeches.

Table 4.2

Functional Characteristics of Female Writings on Five Dimensions of Bibber's Study (1988)

12. Dimensions		13. Female Short Stories	
14.	D1	15.	-1.45
16.	D2	17.	3.91
18.	D3	19.	0.1
20.	D4	21.	0.23
22.	D5	23.	-0.77

In dimension 1, the data of Pakistani female writers of English short stories contain a -1.45 mean score. This negative mean score indicates that the discourse of these short stories is more informative than the involved text. It means this corpus contains more prepositional phrases, adjectives, and nouns

which indicate the density of information in the text. A low score on this dimension indicates that these texts share their characteristics with academic prose, scientific exposition, and official documents (Bibber, 1989). On dimension 2, the mean score of 3.91 indicates that the text is in narrative form. This narration in the text is indicated through more use of third-person pronouns, past tense verbs, and perfect aspect verbs.

The mean score value at dimension 3 in female writings is 1. The positive score on this dimension points out text as explicit text. Mean score 1, here, indicates that to some degree text is independent of the situation. Nominalization, phrasal coordination, and relative clauses indicate the discourse as independent.

The mean score for D4 and D5 are 0.37 and -0.77, respectively. On dimension 4, positive loading means the text has more infinitives, persuasive verbs, modals of necessity, and models of persuasion, which indicate text as an overt expression of persuasion. A negative score (-0.77) on dimension 5, indicates that this corpus has less abstract and more no abstract information. It also indicates that this text has fewer conjuncts and passive clauses.

Comparison between Male and Female Writing

Table 4.3

Difference between Male and Female Writers of Short Stories in English

24. **Dimensions**	25. **Female corpora results**	26. **Male's corpora results**
27. D1	28. -1.45	29. -7.88
30. D2	31. 3.91	32. 4.18
33. D3	34. 0.1	35. 1.39
36. D4	37. 0.23	38. -0.6
39. D5	40. -0.77	41. 0.39

Table 4.3 indicates that both male and female Pakistani writers of short stories in English differ in the five dimensions of Bibber's study. A negative mean score on dimension 1 shows that both genders use informational dense discourse. While the male corpus is highly dense with information as compared to the female text. The female text also indicates the density of information but it is not highly dense with information like male discourse. In dimension 2, the results for both genders are almost the same. The male text indicates a little bit more narrative (4.18) than the female (3.91). The mean score 0.1 and 1.39 on dimension 3, shows the difference in the explicit nature of text for both females and males, respectively. Results show that male texts (1.39) are highly explicit as compared to female texts (0.1).

Dimensions 4 and 5 show opposite results for the male and female genders. In dimension 4, the female positive loading (0.23) indicates some degree of overt expression of persuasion. While, on the same dimension, the mean score (-0.6) for males lacks overt expression of persuasion. On Dimension 5, the mean score of male and female, corpus is o.39 and -0.77, respectively. The positive score on this dimension indicates that the text contains abstract information. While the negative score on this dimension indicates that the text contains no abstract information. It can be concluded that both genders differ from one another in functional variations and they choose different linguistic structures to perform different functions.

Conclusion

The multidimensional analysis tool is used to investigate the gender difference in English short stories of Pakistani male and female writers. The multidimensional analysis (MD) tool shows its functional variations by five textual dimensions. It can be concluded from this study that female and male writers not only differ in linguistic features, but they also

vary from one another in the functional use of language. This study investigated that males use more information and more narration in their text as compared to females. On the other hand, females use more overt expressions of persuasion and more non-narrative information in their discourse.

It is evident that both genders reveal functional differences from one another and select various linguistic structures to carry out various roles. Results show that male texts are highly explicit as compared to female texts. The results show that both genders use informational dense discourse. While the male corpus is highly dense with information as compared to the female text. The female text also indicates the density of information but it is not highly dense with information like male discourse. There is a lack of overt expression of persuasion in male short stories. It means that there is a lack of modal verbs and a less personal point of view is conveyed in the text.

Recommendations

Future investigations on certain themes, including drama, could be undertaken since this study centered on a single theme, "short story." Additionally, additional research might be done on narratives other than short stories, like novels. Other short stories may be examined in future research. This might help obtain more precise findings. The future researcher would gather data from various sources that achieve more precise results.

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