



RESEARCH PAPER

Gendered Expectations and Linguistic Deviations: A Comparative Analysis of Male and Female Hosts in Pakistani Talk Shows

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze whether Pakistani male and female talk show hosts deviate or align with the prescribed norms associated with their genders. In Pakistani talk shows, male and female hosts drive distinct gender expectations that influence their linguistic choices and interactional styles. Based on a qualitative method, the study employs a dataset of four Pakistani talk shows—two anchored by male hosts and two by female hosts. The hosts' speech and interactional turns are examined using Conversational Analysis, with Butler's performativity theory guiding the assessment of conversational dominance. The researcher compares both male hosts and female hosts, and finds that female hosts interrupt more than male hosts and female hosts overlap more than males for taking the turn. It highlights that male and female hosts challenge their gender stereotypes because the gender performance is different from their normative genders. The study highlights the need for comparative studies in other South Asian countries to analyze the impact of societal norms on gendered performances in TV talk shows.

KEYWORDS Conversational Analysis, Talk Shows, Interruption, Turn-Taking, Overlapping, Pauses, Intonations

Introduction

Language has an important role in shaping societal norms, especially in the context where gender expectations are deeply rooted (Yasmin et al. 2019). Within Pakistani society, gender roles significantly impact daily interactions and professional communications, including media engagements. The media platform itself, in addition to the language, significantly contributes to the construction of gender (Akram & Yasmin, 2023; Akram & Yasmin, 2025). It is not only a platform for political debates and commentary, rather it also has a great influence in reflecting the norms and public discourse.

Particularly talking about Pakistani Media, it plays a great role in gender and identity construction (Akram & Yasmin, 2024; Yasmin & Sidra, 2024). Not just the platform hosts also break or align with the stereotypical norms through their interactional styles, e.g., their tone, speaking time, and type of questions decide whether they are assertive or subordinate. This paper significantly focuses on how gender shapes the discourse, and how males and females align or challenge the stereotypes about their genders. Applying performance theory as its theoretical framework, this study examines how masculinity and femininity change the communicative attitudes of hosts.

Gendered expectation in language is a phenomenon that explains how individuals of different genders should behave and speak. Gendered expectations refer to the process of how one should express oneself. Expectations are associated with gender (Safdar & Yasmin, 2021). For instance, men use dominant language to show

authority and assertiveness. Men's language is considered powerful. On the other hand, women should use polite language (Saleem et al. 2021). Normative ideas about gender shape the understandings and ideologies. There are fixed, idealized gender roles that are socially constructed and attached to a specific gender. "In response to an interview question, Hannah Arendt said, it just doesn't look good when a woman gives orders. She should try not to get into such a situation if she wants to remain feminine" (Gardiner, 2015). "Gender roles affect beliefs about women's ability to conduct male-connoted tasks, and outcomes that possess a gender-specific connotation." (d'Acunto, Malmendier, & Weber, 2020). Linguistic deviation is a mixed and complicated phenomenon. It refers to the process of deviating from the fixed language norms. There are different levels of linguistic deviation. There can be deviations at the level of syntax, semantics, phonology, and discourse (D.Sh, 2023). Men and Women both have different styles of conducting conversations. Deborah Tannen (1990), in her work *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation*, explained how linguistic deviations of men and women are often misinterpreted and their deviation is misunderstood several times, which reinforces the societal gender norms. She further explained their different conversational styles, like assertiveness, turn-taking, and interruptions. These conversational styles show the power dynamics in society, and it is the deviation from the neutral style of talking. Over the last few decades, the emergence of gender-neutral terms has been very common. People are promoting neutral terms to increase gender inclusivity. This shift has raised questions whether male and female hosts challenge or reinforce gendered expectations through deviation in language use. So, to achieve these, the following questions are formulated: 1) Do male or female hosts deviate or align with the prescribed norms associated with their genders? 2) How do male and female hosts challenge or reinforce gendered expectations through deviation in language use?

Literature Review

The following section reviews the literature on the role of gender in Pakistani media, conversational analysis in media settings, the influence of the host's gender on the talk show, gender and communication, and gender performativity. The discussion begins on the role of gender in Pakistani media.

Role of Gender in Pakistani Media

The role of Gender in Media is Complex. Pakistan is a country that is rich in culture and diversity. The media plays a crucial role in shaping ideologies and constructing identities and genders. Pakistani media like newspapers, dramas, and talk shows are mirroring the genders, even though they are molding the gender as well. Many studies highlight the portrayal of gender in Pakistani Media. Traditional Patriarchal Structure is forced on media platforms. Women are portrayed as passive and dependent and belong to domestic places. On the other hand, men are portrayed as dominant and assertive and have control over all things. In April 1999, Nancy Signorielli and Aaron Bacue conducted a study *Recognition and Respect: A Content Analysis of Prime-Time Television Characters across Three Decades*. In this study researcher analysed 1367 characters from prime-time programming by doing a content analysis of these characters. Researchers found that males were represented as dominant and showed variation, but women are portrayed as their traditional roles. There were some slight variations, but the stereotypical representation remained with their characters. In Pakistan, there is a lot of work on gender portrayal in the Media as Ashraf, Momineen, and Atif (2024) did an analytical study to assess the gender role attitude among the people of Pakistan. They took Pakistani TV dramas as a sample and constructed a questionnaire by employing a

quantitative methodology of analysis. Researchers questioned 1200 married and unmarried people of the Pakistani society and found that there is a shift in the portrayal of gender norms, and this shift is influencing the attitudes of both genders towards equality.

Similarly, in the advertising industry, Pakistani advertisement reinforces gender stereotypes. Women are depicted as beauty-conscious and play roles related to beauty products and household products, but on the other side, men are depicted as powerful and assertive. Jameel (2018) argued that these differences may contribute to the fixed gender roles that dominate the traditional cultural and societal structures. Some patriarchal values are very prominent in terms of gender roles in Pakistan. These values may affect and influence the way to perceive gender performances. The researcher analyzed 100 advertisements from different famous Pakistani channels. The Discourse analysis approach was used to find the ideologies behind these advertisements. He analyzed how these visuals influence the audience's perception of genders. There are some societal expectations for gender performances. In terms of Pakistani Cultural Contexts, there may be expectations from female hosts that they may perform their roles in a way that shows care, softness, and emotion. This is the traditional femininity norm. The same goes with the male hosts who may be expected to show assertiveness and dominance. They may be expected to grab the ground and do more interruptions.

Conversational Analysis in Media Settings

Conversational Analysis is a theoretical framework and a research methodology which focuses on the analysis of talk-in-interactions. The foundation of this framework was laid in the work of Sacks, Schegloff and Jefferson (1974) and they define the Conversational Analysis (CA) as a fundamental feature of conversation, which shows how the conversation is organized in different sequences including turn taking, it shows how that participants take their turn to get involved in a conversation in a specific and systematic manner. Other researchers also defined Conversational Analysis as "Conversation Analysis is a method for studying the social organization of everyday talk, and the interactional order of social institutions" (Heritage, 1984, p. 245).

Conversational Analysis is used to identify the systematic organization of the talk and how the interaction is built between the speakers. Regarding the Media, Conversational Analysis as methodology identifies the gendered speech strategies like interruption, hedging and questioning. This methodology helps to identify how genders are rejecting or challenging the expected and fixed gender norms through the conversation and in talk shows, how male and female hosts control or grab the floor.

Conversational Analysis in the media field is widespread because it analyses the conversation to describe social relationships and power hierarchy. It is not only restricted to dramas but to political talk shows as it could be found in the study of Hutchby (2005) the researcher did a Conversational Analysis (CA) of the broadcasts (recordings of phone-ins, debates, interviews) by analyzing the turn-taking, interruptions, topic control and participants' roles. The researcher found that the media talks are asymmetrical, although these talks are structured, and the hosts of the show were trying to hold their ground, the guest speakers also used different strategies to resist the conversation. Meredith and Potter (2013) have argued that electronic discourse should be considered as electronic interaction and, as such, requires a method such as CA to understand it. The present study also incorporates Conversational Analysis as a methodology to find the participation of male and female hosts in a conversation.

Influence of Host's Gender on Talk Show Dynamics

The gender of the host plays a significant role in the dynamics of the talk shows. It influences the power dynamics in talk shows, and it is the host's gender that structures the conversational patterns and interactional dynamics. It is assumed that male hosts employ a more dominant role in conversations by interrupting the conversation and by doing more turn taking. It is perceived that they have more solid topics of discussions. On the other hand, female hosts play more facilitative role in a conversation by doing only back channeling. They use more hedges for being soft and polite. Both male and female have different interview styles as male asks more conflicting question which challenges the guests but female hosts do the opposite of this which shifts the attitude of the guest speaker. Ilie C, (2001) conducted a study titled as Semi-Institutional Discourse: The Case of the Talk Shows. In this study researcher did a qualitative analysis of the verbal interactions of talk shows. It was a transcript-based analysis of the dialogue collected from the various episodes of the different talk shows from different countries. The study found that women use more inclusive strategies that influence the control strategies of the conversation. This study highlights that gender has a great impact on conduction of the talk shows. It was also assumed that the guests' participation also depends on the gender of the hosts. Female hosts are more likely to give the chances to the guests to participate in the conversation but male hosts are more likely to grab the ground by doing the turn-taking.

In recent times, there has been a shift towards their assumed gender roles in talk shows. Nowadays researches show the redefinition of their prescribed gender norms as female hosts are portraying more authoritative and adopting the qualities of leadership and they are also rejecting the stereotypes of being soft and polite in a conversation. Female hosts overthrow the idea of being soft in a conversation as in "Questions, Control and the Organization of Talk in Calls to a Radio Phone-in", Thornborrow, J. (2001) did a conversational and discourse analysis of different radio talk shows. He made a transcript of the phone-in shows of the British radio that includes the female hosts as well. The researcher found that female hosts destabilized the idea of being polite by asserting a dominant role in a conversation which rejects the stereotypical gender norms. A similar study was conducted by Emma Louise Dixon in 2023 including a sample of famous British talk shows and programs like BBC. It was the qualitative discourse analysis of the women presenters' media talks and broadcasts focused on the engagement of female presenters with certain topics like gender, feminism etc. The study found that female presenters have started adopting roles that are different from the traditionally expected gender norms.

Gender and Communication

Gender and Language are deeply connected because this relationship refers to how the gender identity of an individual influences their speaking and interaction style. The language use (polite, hedging, turn-taking), socialization (girls are encouraged to be soft and nurturing, boys to be assertive), Identity construction (i.e, performance theory), Power and dominance (gender refers to the power dynamics), and media representation (media discourse reflects gender norms) highlight the in-depth relationship between gender and communication. This relationship was first determined by Robin Lakoff in 1975 with the publication of her book *Language and Women's Place*, which was first published as an essay in 1973. This theory is called a deficit theory, which argues that women's language is deficient compared to men's language. Women's language has certain features (tag questions, hedges, empty adjectives, etc.) which are not present in

men's language, and these features make their language less assertive. Deborah Cameron, in the theory of feminism and Linguistics (1992), critiqued the Deficit theory and stated, "Labelling women's language as deficient is not descriptive but evaluative – it judges women by male linguistic standards" (Cameron, 1992, p. 17)

Later on, the focus was shifted to the comparison between males' and females' language, and as a result, the theory was known as the dominance theory, which argues that male and female language reflects the patriarchal power structure of the society. This theory sees women as an oppressed group and interprets linguistic differences in women's and men's speech in terms of men's dominance and women's subordination (Cameron D. and Coats J., 2014). This theory focuses on the assumption that language is gendered because of male dominance in society. Zimmerman and West (1975), Dale Spender (1980), and Pamela Fishman (1983) highlight this inequality and power structure.

This relationship was further expanded in the work of Deborah Tannen's 'You Just Don't Understand' (1990) which was known as the Difference theory. His approach to this relationship is different from the last two theories. He argued that the difference in language is due to socialization, not because of power, and he explained the differences between male and female talk. In the 1990s, the relationship between gender and communication flourished when Judith Butler's theory emerged from his very famous work, *Gender Trouble* (1990). This idea is mentioned in the first chapter of this book. This theory provides a lens to understand the formation of gender and identity. Performativity theory is something else from the previous definitions of gender. The traditional view of gender is like something that it is a biologically determined and inborn facet of a person's identity. This theory is the complete framework which helps to understand the construction of gender and how these genders challenge the norms associated with their identities. According to Butler's Performativity Theory, "gender is not something one is, it is something one does, an act, or more precisely, a sequence of acts, a verb rather than a noun, a 'doing' rather than a 'being'" (Salih, 2006). Gender is constructed through repeated actions, behaviors and language.

Gender Performativity

Performance of the gender challenges the traditional ideas that gender is fixed. In actuality, Gender is fluid. In the context of talk shows, Male hosts' behaviour may not align with their gender norms, and the same is the case with female hosts. Talk show hosts may use a language that might challenge stereotypical gender roles. This theory also focuses on language performance. People not only use language for communication purposes it also plays a crucial role in gender and identity construction. When a person doesn't follow the traditional gender norms, it means that he/she is deviating from the norms. According to Butler's Performance Theory, the repetition of the action, behavior, and use of language constructs the gender and produces the identity. Males' and Females' repetitive behavior constructs their genders, which may align or may not align with the expected gender norms. There can be deviation in terms of the use of language, action, and behavior. When a person intentionally or unintentionally breaks the traditional norms, then it means that he or she raises the chances for a new gender expression.

When a person deviates from the traditional gender expectation norms by using a language that is socially accepted for a specific gender, this will be known as linguistic deviation. In terms of the sample of this study, female hosts may use assertive language, which is associated with masculinity, and the male host may use a soft tone while

speaking, which is not socially accepted. Some patriarchal values are very prominent in terms of gender roles in Pakistan. These values may affect and influence the way to perceive gender performances. There are some societal expectations for gender performances. In terms of Pakistani Cultural Contexts, there may be expectations from female hosts that they may perform their roles in a way that shows care, softness, and emotion. This is the traditional femininity norms. The same goes with the male hosts who may be expected to show assertiveness and dominance. They may be expected to grab the ground and do more interruptions. It means that Judith Butler's Performativity theory is applicable to identify either male and female hosts who challenge traditional gender norms or conform with traditional gender expectations through their actions and performances in the talk shows.

Material and Methods

The present study followed the qualitative approach. This research design is useful to achieve the research objectives of this study and to solve the research problem. This is a comparative study in which the transcription of male and female hosts are compared with each other. The researcher applied the Conversational Analysis method to analyze the selected data and through applying this technique the researcher can find how gender stereotypes are challenged or reinforced through the different linguistic choices. Special attention is drawn to pragmatic elements like turn-taking, assertiveness, types of questions, interruptions, politeness strategies etc. This method of analysis offers in-depth insight into the topic and offers to trace the shift in traditional gender norms because a one can assume that may be performance of the gender can't be examined through the quantitative analysis of the study.

Sample and Procedures

The sample for this study was taken from 4 very famous and leading Pakistani Political talk shows; "Gonjh" hosted by Sana Bucha, "Do Tok" by Kiran Naaz, Capital Talk by Hamid Mir, and "On the Front" with Kamran Shahid hosted. The latest episodes of all the shows were taken which are related to the trending issues in Pakistan.

The data was collected directly from YouTube because of its easy accessibility. The selection of the sample is based on its relevance to gender stereotypes. The researcher focused on those dialogues where the host shows assertiveness or subordination, and the focus was on those elements that make the communication weak or strong (interruption, turn-taking, overlapping, etc). The researcher downloaded the latest episodes of these shows and transcribed the selected dialogues. The data was analysed using conversational analysis. Sacks, Schegloff, and Gail Jefferson (1974) gave the foundation work of this method, and Heritage (1984) interpreted its application in Communication effectiveness. In communication, according to these researchers, some elements make the communication weaker or stronger, interactive or inappropriate, clear or ambiguous. These elements are interruption, turn-taking, adjacency pair, topic control, and Questioning (Direct/Indirect).

The Social Constructionist Paradigm worked as a foundation for this study. This paradigm suggests that gender is socially constructed, not biological or inherent; it depends on one's behaviour and social interactions. Gender construction is not a natural process it depends on human interaction, and it can be created or recreated through these interactions, which identifies that gender is not fixed and binary (Judith Lorber, 1991). It also highlights that Gender is not a trait; rather, it is the role that is played by humans. it

means that it is something that we do, not something that we have (West and Zimmerman, 1987). In this study, gender stereotypes are associated with females and males are not always right, e.g., Females are considered soft-spoken, prefer to do back-channelling, and have a rapport role, and males are considered assertive and do most of the interruptions and try to hold the floor. But in talk shows, women break these norms, which shows their constructive gender roles.

Theoretical Framework (Theory of Performance)

Judith Butler's theory of performance was used as a theoretical framework. Judith Butler (1990) argued that gender is not something that is fixed; it is socially constructed through a set of behaviours, it is what you perform, not what you have. According to Butler (1990), gender can be reshaped according to the context and discourse it is not static and fixed. He further added to the performativity theory that gender is expressed through behaviours and attitudes and depends on the social interactions (Bell & Vikki, 1999).

Butler's theory gives a valuable insight into the construction of gender through performance which also challenges the traditional notion that gender is binary. This theory provides a lens for this study to find how female and male hosts (male and female) challenge or reinforce gender stereotypes. This theory is aligned with this study and it is suitable for this study because through this lens, the researcher can examine in detail about the social constructions of gender in Pakistani Political Talk shows because the female or male host can challenge or reinforce the stereotypes through their performances in the talk shows.

Results and Discussion

Both male and female anchors used pragmatic features in their conversation during the media talk. The transcription of these conversations is made by following the Jefferson's method of transcription basically this is the system developed by the Gail Jefferson who was the sociologist. This system was developed to analyze the spoken discourse specially in the domain of the Conversation analysis (CA). The focus of this method is not only the what is being discussed the focus of this method is how it's being discussed. (Jefferson, 2004). A list of the transcription principles is mentioned in the appendix of this paper.

Female Hosts' Use of Interruptions and Overlapping for Dominance

In the political talk show Do Tok, hosted by Kiran Naz, the female host demonstrates assertiveness by interrupting the male guest at multiple points. According to the transcription, Kiran overlaps the speaker's turn, interrupts before the statements are completed, and uses rising intonation (↑) to express her disagreement. These interruptions are not simply responses, but rather purposeful efforts to dominate the discourse, thus violating the customary conventions of courtesy typically associated with women.

The video is titled as "PTI's big Surprise: Malik Ahmad Kha Bhachar's Exclusive Interview with Kiran Naz | Do tok | Samaa".

MAKB: We are constantly (0.2) being subjected to oppression, and you know that oppression with us includes (.)the *police, the so-called caretaker government, everyone is doing it together. Now, [there is also the question of forgiveness]

Kiran: -[Fair enough, sir.] ↑That means you won't apologize-

MAKB: [When you admit these things]

Kiran: (.)For release.

MAKB: The truth is that the cases will end here when those who held press conferences are freed and the rest have [to face persecution.]

Kiran: [((But sir)) Rana Sahib is also making (this offer) for Khan Sahib]

In this segment, Kiran is addressing the guest speaker and asking him a straightforward question. The above transcription highlights that most of the pauses are made by the male speaker, and most of the interruptions are made by the host herself. She interrupted his every point, which went towards the overlapping. The interruption highlights that she shows assertiveness and tried to grab the ground. The high intonation (↑) reflects the intentional and emotional intensity of the host and also reflects the power dynamics by not letting the guest complete his point, and she is trying to force her point.

A similar strategy is observed in another female-hosted show, *Gonjh*, hosted by Sana Bucha, who exhibits comparable interactional dominance through overlapping and repeated high-pitched assertions. This extract is taken from another political talk show, which is known as “*Gonjh*” by Sana Bucha. This show was on-air on 24 News HD. The video available on YouTube is titled as “Heated Debate Between Sana Bucha & Rana Sanaullah Over PTI issue- Balochistan Attack”

RN: So we have to fix it every time it's our responsibility alone(.)

SB: -[You are government]

RS: [In 2013]

SB: ↑[You're Government, Sir]

RS: (trying to speak)

SB: -= [Sir, ((Bajwa Saib)) said Our women :: will seize Maryam Nawaz's throat.]

In the above transcription, there is only one pause, which was made by the guest speaker, and most of the overlapping is done by the female host, Sana Bucha. The 3 interruptions are made by Sana, and only 1 overlapping is done by the speaker. The female host used the high intonation to grab the ground, and she also emphasized the word government to point out the speaker for his party's actions.

4.2 Strategic Use of High Intonation to Seize Conversational Power

RS: If there was no shortage then you tell me (.) why there was a need to bring this project All this happened...(interrupted by host)

SB: -[Sir, you should not have supported this project.]

RS: [What happened at that time]

SB: =[You should have followed ((Maulana Sahib's advice.))]

SB: [System worked]

RN: No(Trying to speak)

SB: [The system ran for 3-4 years. It worked in whatever manner]

RS: [No](.) listen to me (requesting to let him complete his point)

The above transcription is also selected from the same segment. In the first sentence, the speaker didn't complete his point, and he was interrupted by the female host. A series of full stops after the word happened indicates that he was still speaking when he got interrupted. The male guest speaker paused twice, and the female host didn't pause anywhere even though she was continuously interrupting to share her idea and she made repetitions as well so her point could be clear and loud.

Male Hosts' Preference for Politeness and Backchanneling

The following transcription is a conversation between a very popular news anchor Kamran Shahid and Dr Musadiq Malik. This conversation is taken from his political show "On the Front with Kamran Shahid" In this segment, there was a panel comprised of 3 guest participants: Dr. Amjad Saqib, Irshad Bhatti and Dr Musadiq Malik. The video is available on YouTube and is titled "Will Imran Khan Also Receive the Nishan-e-Pakistan Presidential Award?"

KS: ↑Musadiq Sahib don't you think that you have an [illegal agreement with the IPP] you are giving so much money they are getting it from you forcefully (.) but the people don't have a stick in their hands (.) so you can exploit it however you want and your government

MM: I will answer you separately for two things First I want to inform you that when a solar customer (.) leaves the capacity payment increases if they do not draw electricity from the grid And as a result, the electricity price of poor people who cannot install solar energy increases Therefore a slight tariff adjustment has been made there Previously the solar panels that were being installed on rooftops would be returned within 12 to 14 months, no matter how much they invested The new trend now is that it will take about 3 to 4 years All the money that is invested in solar (.)will be recovered This is the only difference (.)

KS: OK

MM: The second thing is that you have made an IPPs agreement, the problem is (.) when you tell someone to set up a power plant with any private sector company (.) Let's say a factory costs \$100 million, a solar or wind plant costs \$100 million (.) of which \$20 million would belong to the investor But \$80 million belongs to the banks which is why we call them that we force the banks to take their money because the bank's interest rate is lower than the investor's interest rate If you withdraw from the bank, you get 8 percent interest If you take it from an investor you get 18 percent So when you go to the bank and tell the bank that I need a loan of 80 million dollars So the bank says who will buy this electricity from you? You say the government will buy it, but they say if the government doesn't buy it then what will happen to our loan? You say "Then we won't give it to you." The bank says "No I will give you a loan in this way if you make a pact with the government under which, if you don't buy electricity you have to pay back at

least the interest cost of the bank" So by combining the investor's money and the bank's money by combining these two –[(word)]

KM: -[Sir, these two points are yours] People won't understand because it is IPPs policy which has been made in the way that [is not people friendly]

MM: -[I try..]

KS: -[No sir you tell me]

MM: -↑[(word) ((no)) ((listen))]

KS: [((yes))]

MM: -[Kamran sahib 1 second only]

KS: Sure

MM: Give me a 1 second although it's a boring point

KS: Sure Sir [I can get it]

In this transcription, it is very obvious that the male host didn't directly point out the speaker; rather, he asked an indirect question to the guest speaker to know his point of view. Kamran Shahid gave the speaker a chance to express his views to the audience once he completed his view, then the host interrupted him for turn-taking. The guest speaker also did interrupt and asked to complete his point and the turn taking is successful. In this transcription it is very obvious that the male host preferred to do back channeling instead of controlling the conversation.

Kamran Shahid and Hamid Mir exhibit less interruptive, more facilitative styles. Their use of indirect questions and non-intrusive turn-taking aligns more with the communicative norms traditionally associated with femininity. This inversion supports Butler's idea of performativity as "doing" rather than "being". The following mentioned transcription is taken from a Hamid Mir's political talk show "Capital Talk". This video is available on YouTube and is titled "Hamid Mir raised questions on Govt's behavior - who stole Maulana's seat? - Capital Talk-Geo News." In this very episode, Sahibzada Hamid Raza and Bilal Azhar Kiyani are the guest speakers. The chosen segment is between Hamid Mir and Bilal Azhar Kiyani.

HM: So Bilal Azhar Kiyani sahib will:: the issues of central and provincial operations come face to face in the Punjab capital?

BK: Uhh Mir Sahib I hope that's not the case Look the thing is (.) you've been surveying (.) these statements of CM KPK Ali Amin Gandapur for a year now Today it's cold tomorrow it's hot tomorrow it's cold today it's hot it goes on like this then we see that first there is a reconciliation statement then they sit in a meeting of SIFC and sit in a sober mood then tomorrow something else happens anyways ((from these talks)) There is no benefit there is only loss they are also suffering loss and you are not getting any benefit from our efforts of creating terror They are not delivering at a time when we need to show a united front the way I say in ((two))-three days There was a briefing on parliamentary security it was not appropriate for the rest of the PTI to be there this gentleman came to my mind I am happy with it I wish the rest of the PTIs too had

participated there and become a part of that exercise in the same way even today statements should be given ((many)) things must have happened there so I hope that see the way Azm e Istehkam (Ah) It is clearly described inside that *intelligence* based operations are necessary in the country to root out terrorism wherever and whenever it may be(.) here may be some province in this although nowadays you can see that the front line is full of terrorism There are provinces of Khyber Pakhtun Khwan and Balochistan but if there is a need for intelligence-based operations anywhere in the country then We should all say there that we will definitely discuss it states will also do coordination such statements will be better This happens ((instead of)) the kind of statement that he gave and he had given this statement earlier as well when the matter of Bazm-e-Istehkaam was discussed and at that time also it was said that no decision of any large scale kinetic operation was taken at that time let alone intelligence based operations It did happen but then there was a debate on it for two weeks only because of this statement of CM KP so today I can only make suggestions again that you are in a responsible position you are the CM of KP in whatever way you are but today In this war against terrorism do not make such cheap statements it does no harm It is of no use I hope that in the future they (.) will improve it themselves and will try to avoid these things

HM: Sir would you like to say something on it (referring Mr Hamid Raza)

In this transcription, Hamid Mir asked a question to his guest, Mr. Bilal Azhar Kiyani. The guest speaker used different discourse markers in his reply and gave three pauses and made repetitions of the word, which can give a chance to the host to interrupt, but the male host preferred not to interrupt him in between and let him complete his point. This highlights the less involvement of the host which make his subordinate. In the end, instead of giving his point of view on the speakers' debate, the host shifted the conversation to the other guest speaker and asked him to give his idea on the presented debate.

Comparative Trends: Reversals of Normative Gendered Communication

Both male and female hosts play a significant role in conversation, but the purpose of this study is the comparison between both of them. The above debate is about the discourse element of their conversation, which is mentioned in the transcription of the conversation with the help of the different symbols. In the first three transcriptions, the researcher made a clear point that the conversation between a female host and a male guest has more interruptions as compared to the other two transcriptions between a male host and male guests. The differentiation between Interruption, overlapping, and turn-taking is very difficult because they are all interrelated, as Interruption can result in successful or unsuccessful turn-taking. In female-hosted shows, the interruption is successful and results in turn-taking that reveals women as assertive, having a robust conversation, and holding their ground more than men. It indicates that women do more turn-taking and overlap a lot. On the other hand, the male host didn't interrupt, and if somehow a host interrupted, his interruption was not successful. In the last two transcriptions, there are a lot of pauses made by the guests. Male hosts neglect that pauses as they could be the chance to take the turn. Their questioning style are different from one another, which sometimes leads to conflicts. The comparison between their conversation is mentioned in the table given below:

Table 1
Comparison between male and female conversation features

Features	Female Host	Male Host
Interruption	Female hosts interrupted more	The male host interrupted the speaker less than the female host
Overlapping	Due to more interruptions, there is more overlapping	Less interruption resulted in less overlapping
Pauses	The female host took the benefit of pauses made by speaker	The male host didn't take advantage of it
High Intonation	The female host used more high intonations	Male hosts made fewer intonations
Turn-taking	Successful interruption resulted in turn-taking	Less interruption resulted in less turn-taking
Questioning Style	The female host asked direct questions	Male hosts asked questions using modal verbs (Would you like) to follow the politeness strategies

This comparison between male and female hosts leads the researcher to the conclusion that neither male nor female host aligns with their gender stereotypes, but they challenge their normative genders. Their gender performance is opposite from their gender description. As the early language and gender theories indicates that female are subordinated in a conversation and males dominate the conversation (Cameron D. and Coats J., 1986), Women's language features make it less assertive (Lakoff, 1975), and females have only a supportive role in conversation as they prefer to do back channeling (Tannen, 1990) but as per the concern of the researcher's applied framework of performativity theory; gender is something that we perform so in political talk shows female hosts and male host challenge the early theoretical approaches and gender norms. Male hosts used more back channeling and supported the conversation, which made them less dominant in the conversation, but on the other side, female hosts used more dominant and confident language and looked more assertive and powerful on screen. It also indicates that the host's gender influences the interaction as in male-hosted shows, guest speakers get a great chance to explain their point with minimum interruption and overlapping but on the other side in female-hosted shows, guest speakers struggled to complete his sentence due to extensive amount of interruption and overlapping.

Conclusion

This study has investigated gender performance in Pakistani political talk shows, specifically focusing on the language features and styles used by the male and female hosts. The primary objective of this study was to examine how male and female hosts challenge or reinforce gender norms and to find the influence of hosts' gender in talk shows. The results interpreted that female hosts do not align with their expected gender norms, and they even deviate from their expected roles in media. The transcriptions were analyzed by the Conversational Analysis approach through the lens of the performativity theory of Judith Butler. Through this analysis, it was concluded that female hosts interrupted more, overlapped more, and had more successful turn-takings. Male hosts used polite forms than female hosts and asked indirect questions. The limitation of this study is the chance of biases of the researcher in interpretation and data selection. The data is not able to represent the whole society, and the focus is only on the host, not on the guest speakers, which can be one of the limitations. Future studies can be done on the other aspects of this study, including the non-verbal language cues, and future researchers can analyze the interaction between both guests and the host. The future researcher can further expand this study by increasing the sample size.

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