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Gender language difference

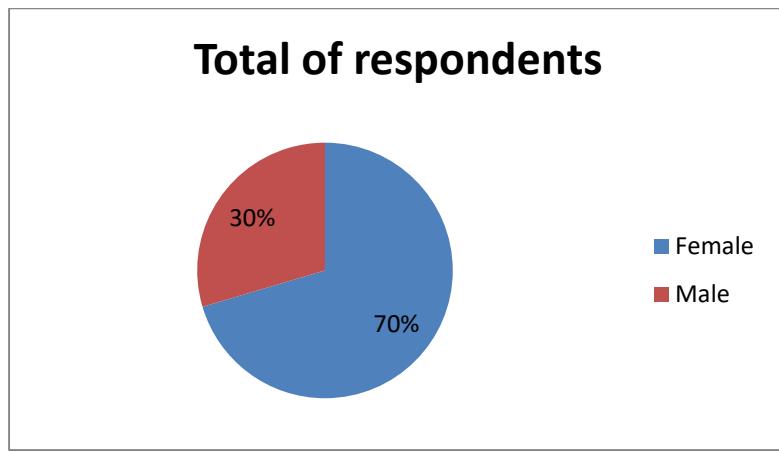
Abstract

This project includes an online survey about gender language difference in Kazakh language. Comparing the results of the survey with researches of foreign scholars and defining what words do females and males use describe their emotions. As well as aiming to show the differences of gender language this project aims to describe what kind of specific words do men and women use.

Introduction

Culture is a unique bridge that connects history, people, language, traditions and other important dimensions together. It plays the most important role in the development of our personal character. It has been said that culture is spread by the language we bear and they depend on each other. It is fact that to understand a new culture we have to learn its language first. We live in surroundings of a certain culture. Everything we do is a part of one culture, how we talk, sit, laugh, address someone, ask something, give and take something, boast, fool, even how we look at someone is a description of one culture.

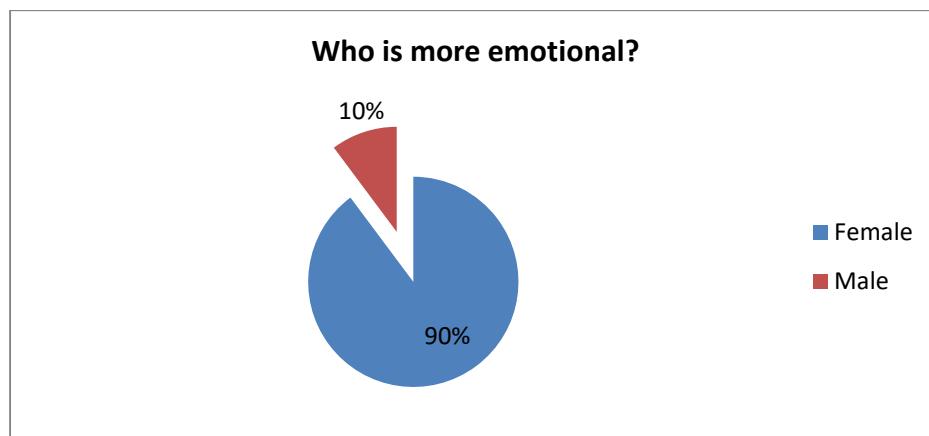
The language we bear is our given value. We might speak one same language the way we use is not the same. The culture in the languages of young and old, adult and teenager, male and female are different. For example, women tend to use language more relationally, or in the context of close relationships with others. Women also tend to have a wider-range of emotional vocabulary, using language more readily to describe their feelings and emotional states. Men, on the other hand, tend to use language more assertively and are more likely to suppress, or hold back, their emotions. As a result, men tend to not express their emotions through language. It is important to note that this is a generalization and is by no means applicable to all men and women worldwide. It's usually women who start the conflicts letting their emotions control them. To have more clear view about language difference between male and female I have done an online survey. The aim of the survey is to show how male and female say or react at different situations in Kazakh language. The survey contained 98 respondents including 69 female and 29 male.



We know that gender is always different no matter what we compare. For the first question "What kind of words do you use to express your feeling when you are happy?" answers were different as always. For example, females answered that they use words like «ура», «күшті», «керемет», «жарадым», «шүкір», «Аллаға шүкір», «тамаша» and other these kinds of soft adjectives. However males' answers were «базар жоқ», «тема», «дерзко», «красава», «керемет», «Субханаллан», «да ну». According to these answers we can see that males use more jargon words. They also express their

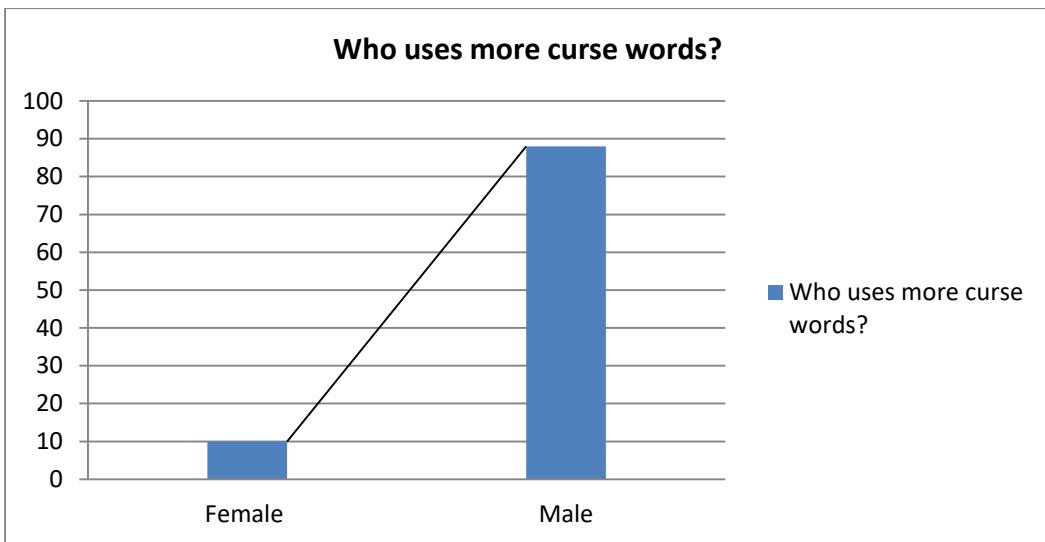
happiness with tougher words than females. Here we can also notice that women like to use many adjective, such as adorable, charming, lovely, fantastic, heavenly, but men seldom use them. When a woman leaves a restaurant, she will say “It’s a gorgeous meal”. If a man wants to express the same idea, he may only say, “It’s a good meal.” Using more adjectives to describe things and their feelings can show that women are more sensitive to the environment and more likely to express their emotions with words, which makes women’s language more interesting than men’s sometimes.

For the next question “Who is more emotional?” 88 respondents believe that women are emotional meanwhile 10 people think men are emotional.



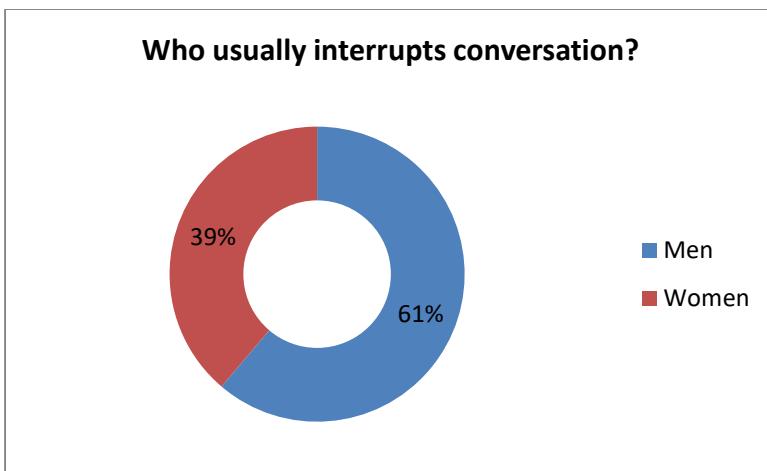
Women often like to speak in a high-pitch voice because of physiological reason, but scientists point out that this also associates with women’s “timidity” and “emotional instability”. Lakoff (1975) says that women usually answer a question with rising intonation pattern rather than falling intonation. In this way, they can show their gentleness, and sometimes this intonation shows a lack of confidence. As a contrary, men like to use falling intonation to show that they are quite sure of what they are saying. Falling intonation also shows men’s confidence and sometimes power.

For the question “Who uses more curse words?” respondents think that men often use curse words. 97% the answers are the proof for this. But only 3% think that women are the ones who use more curse words. We all face different situation on our lives and when get in troubles we start to use words without censorship.



These indicators might be a proof for the next question “What words do you use when you are angry?” where all male respondents answered that they use curse words. However women are softer in this situation. They use words like «сабыр», «акымақ», «оңбаган» and etc.

While we have conversation with people we usually see how people interrupt each other. For the next question “who usually interrupts the conversation?” 60 respondents think that men usually interrupt on the other hand 39 respondents think women do it.



Let's see what scholars have said about interruption and compare with answers. They found out that men frequently interrupt women more than the other way round. Interruptions are interpreted from different angles by different linguists. West and Zimmerman (1983) and Clark (1993) see them as means for dominating and controlling interaction, whereas, Tannen (1993) interprets it as a way of maintaining conversation

and supporting speakers. Research shows that women in conversation tend to be cooperative and try to maintain talk and build rapport whereas men tend to be competitive and try to dominate the talk and prove themselves as superior, (Holmes, 2001). In mixed-sex conversation, women are usually more interrupted by men, and men do not allow to be interrupted and often succeed either in usurping the conversation turn from women or in keeping their turns in case of being interrupted, (Romaine 2000 and Bonvillain 2008). Holmes (2001) and Bonvillain (2008) ascribe this difference to the woman's social status being subordinated to men from their early childhood socialization. According to all these researches and answers gained from respondents we can see that men tend to be dominant in conversation by interrupting.

Conclusion

Overall, this research has shown that we all speak one language but use it differently. Having our own unique way to produce a language is a huge benefit. In this survey we have learned how females and males use language in Kazakh culture. We have witnessed that answers in the survey match with foreign scholars' researches. It means no matter what language we speak we always react and speak the same in terms of gender language. According to survey in Kazakh culture of language male tend to have rude and dominant vocabulary and women tend to speak soft and emotional. Since we have strong rules for girls, female language is quite soft and balanced. I believe that language we produce comes our nature and culture. Our language has already been created and all we have to do is to spread it.

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