A Comparison Study of Males and Females Turn-taking Frequency in Turkish

Nader Assadi Aidinlou[1], Kamran Dolati[2]

[1]PhD in Applied Linguistics, Islamic Azad University, Ahar Branch
[2]M.A. Candidate in TEFL, Islamic Azad University, Ahar Branch

ABSTRACT

This study compares 2 genders in turn-taking to see in which gender turn taking is more than another, recorded conversation about *education quality in public and private school* among 5 male teachers in 15 minutes break is compared with those female's one about the same topic. Results show that females take turns more than males in conversation with their own gender.

KEYWORDS: conversation, Culture, speaker, Turn-taking, Turn.

INTRODUCTION

Any conversation implies that the interlocutors take turns regularly, Erving Goffman (1976:270-271) refers to a turn at talk as "an opportunity to hold the floor, not what is said while holding it." Though most researchers use the terms turn and floor interchangeably. According to Schmitt (2002) A turn is each occasion that a speaker speaks and a turn ends when another speaker takes a turn. Sacks et al.(1974) mentions that speaker take turns when they are chosen or nominated by the current speaker or if they choose themselves to take turns. In the conversation participants' roles changes many times from moment to moment, a listener becomes a speaker and vice versa. These roles can be study in different cultures and they vary from one culture to another one. Culture also defines the way of turn taking for example in the society in which politeness is very important such as Japan a listener would be considered rude if s/he take the turn while speaker hadn't finish the utterance completely or in other society such as France if a listener doesn't take turn as soon as possible, it means that he is not involved in the conversation therefore turn taking is culture dependant. In conversation analyze (1974, 1978) some researchers concluded 4 parts in turn taking components: sentential, clausal, phrasal and lexical units, they have called this category for turn taking components as transition relevance place or briefly TRP.

There are different ways to take the turn: back-channeling, overlapping, completion, body talk also silence for not taking the turn.

1- Back channeling: in this kind of turn taking, listener tries to use back channels such as yeah, ahan (in Turkish and Persian), hmm, etc. There are different vocalized back channels in different languages, so it is possible to say that back-channeling is universal but vocalizations used are different from one language to another.

2- Overlap: when two or more participants involving in the conversation try to get the opportunity for talk overlapping happens and in fact there is a kind of competition for starting or continuing the conversation.

3- Completion: when listener tries to complete the incomplete utterance of the speaker completion happens. Speaker's incomplete utterance can be because of for example lack of knowledge (almost in second or foreign language), hesitation, etc.

4- Body talk: body talk refers to gestures which contain linguistic meaning; listeners and speaker both use this king of turn taking. For example when speaker wants to give the turn to the listener s/he may point to him/her or show the gesture whit open hand which is considered more polite, For listener it happens in the cases such as nodding the head for verifying or agreement in order to give the speaker message such as continue, I know, that's right, etc.

Some patterns exist for turn-taking such as adjacency pairs for example:

A: good morning   B: good morning. Adjacency pairs can be described as automatic sequences consisting of a first part and a second part. The most widely used adjacency pairs indicate thanking-response, request acceptance, apology-minimization, and question-answer sequences. Besides, opening sequences and greetings typically contain adjacency pairs.

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*Corresponding Author: Nader Assadi Aidinlou, PhD in Applied Linguistics, Islamic Azad University, Ahar Branch,
E-mail: naderasadi@yahoo.com

This study only considers these frameworks for taking turns to see whether males or females take more turns while talking with their own gender kind.

Research question:
1- Do Turkish males take turns more than Turkish females in speaking Turkish with their own gender?
2- Do Turkish females take turns more than Turkish males in speaking Turkish with their own gender?

Research Hypothesis:
Turkish Females take turns more than Turkish males in speaking with their own gender.

Review of literature:
Turn-taking has been a recent focus in spoken dialogue, with research producing many different models and approaches.Some researchers tried to predict the turns such as: Raux and Eskenazi (2009) proposed a finite-state turn-taking model, which is used to predict end-of-turn and performed significantly better than a fixed threshold base line in reducing end pointing latency in a spoken dialogue system. Selfridge and Heeman (2010) took a different approach and presented a bidding model for turn-taking, in which dialogue participants compete for the turn based on the importance of what they will say next. Some researchers worked on the pattern of turn-taking for example patterns of turn-taking between Mothers in a majority of cultures (for exceptions see Schiefflin 1983; Lieven 1994) structure the interactions with their children by providing questions and answers. Mothers also motivate their infants to take an increasingly active part in the exchange by continually stimulating the child through questioning and by reinforcing the child's vocalizations (Bateson 1975; Bloom 1988).
This study is going to measure the frequencies of taking turn in 2 different genders to see in which one more turns happens.

METHODOLOGY

Aim of this comparison study is to see which gender uses more turn when discussing a matter for this reason we gather data by video recording the utterances in conversation *about education quality in private and public schools* among 5 female colleagues in one side and the same topic among 5 male colleagues in another side in 2 private high schools. Then these utterances are transcribed and analyzed to see in which gender frequency of taking turn is more.

Participants:
Five male and five female teachers are involved in this study, they ages from 25 to 45 and discussion happens in Turkish language which is mother tongue of all. Participants are different field teachers at high schools in Astara (in Rasht Province of Iran)

Data Collection:
For collecting the data which are utterances of participants during the discussion we recorded their talk by a hidden camera installed in teachers room in 20 minutes of their break time at school for leading the speakers to talk about intended topic for discussion researcher opened talk about education quality in private and public school and then draw himself back.
After ending the time we informed them about hidden camera in their room and the purpose of the study and asked them permission to use their video record for our analysis.

Data Analysis:
Participants' utterances were transcribed so that they can be analyzed by the researcher about how many turns different participants take during conversation. Though the participants were speaking Turkish a framework of back-channel (vocalization) has been gathered from their utterances and some of them had match in English so they are illustrated as follow.

Turkish back-channel	Hmm	Ahan	Haa	Albattah	Dozdi	yokh	Biy	Hada	Na	Way	ojordi
English back-channel	Mmm	Uhuh	yeah	sure	right	no	ooh				

1-Some vocalization in English and Turkish

These vocalizations has been used more frequent than other types of turn-taking rules such as completion or overlapping .

Interruptions were like English ones for example:

Speaker A: Private schools absorbed all good teachers and let the....(sentence incomplete)

Speaker B: Wait a minutes (interruption for A) it's...(incomplete)

Speaker C:(verifying B and taking turn)Yeah, not true. Still they are a lot of good teachers in public school.

In some cases interruption happened by 3 participants almost simultaneously however a participant who was older took the floor because of other's politeness to him, again this matter is culturally dependent and may differ from culture to culture.

RESULTS

As it is illustrated in table 2 both males and females had used vocalizations more than other types of turn-takings

	Back-channel	overlap	completion	total
Male	35	25	10	70
Female	50	45	8	103

2- Types and frequencies of turn-takings in different gender

Generally females had taken turns more than males when they were talking to their own kind of gender. Males had more tendencies to complete each other's utterances. Another interesting finding is that overlapping happens in females talk more than double in contrast to males.

CONCLUSION

Turkish language female's speaker in Astara takes turns more than Turkish males while speaking with their own gender kind. We may get interesting result that in Turkish language of Iran overlapping doesn't considered impolite because it happens a lot and participant consider overlapping as a kind of involvement and activeness in discussion.

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