

Ch 8 case studies

- **“Women talk more than men”**

Background preparation:

- *Kaplan (2016), Ch 8, “Women talk more than men”*

1. Myths and research questions

- Ch 8 “myth”: ‘Women talk more than men’
- Case-study section themes:
 - 8.3 ‘Do women talk more than men?’
 - 8.4 ‘Do women use more tag questions than men?’
- How do these case-study themes relate to...
 - The “myth”
 - Topics presented in the rest of the chapter (discussed last time)?

1. Myths and research questions

Discussion: Sec 8.3, “Do women talk more...?”

- What are some of the ways in which “talking more” is quantified in these case studies?
- Did any of these show gender effects? If so, did they support the claim that women talk “more”?
- What were some other gender-related differences found in the results of these studies?
 - Did the two genders show the same pattern of types of conversational turns?
 - Did gender interact with power in these studies?

1. Myths and research questions

Discussion: Sec 8.3, “Do women talk more...?”

- What are some of the ways in which “talking more” is quantified in these case studies?
 - Number of words
 - Number of conversational turns
 - Duration of speech
- Did any of these show gender effects? If so, did they support the claim that women talk “more”?
 - Who typically took more turns?
 - Who typically talked for a longer duration?

1. Myths and research questions

Discussion: Sec 8.3, “Do women talk more...?”

- Did the two genders show the same pattern of types of conversational turns?
- Did gender interact with power in these studies?

2. Aries (1982)

- College students; reach consensus in small groups

Table 8.1 *Proportions of total verbal acts initiated by act type, gender, and group type. Reproduced with permission of authors and publisher from: Aries, E. J. Verbal and nonverbal behavior in single-sex and mixed-sex groups: Are traditional sex roles changing? Psychological Reports, 1982, 51, 127–134. © Psychological Reports 1982.*

Category		Single-sex Groups		Mixed-sex Groups	
		Male <i>n</i> = 7	Female <i>n</i> = 6	Male <i>n</i> = 8	Female <i>n</i> = 8
Verbal Acts Initiated	<i>M</i>	1.0	1.0	.45	.55
	<i>SD</i>	0.0	0.0	.07	.07
Attempts Answers	<i>M</i>	.47	.46	.55	.45
	<i>SD</i>	.08	.05	.05	.06
Reactions	<i>M</i>	.19	.25	.22	.30
	<i>SD</i>	.06	.07	.06	.02

2. Aries (1982)

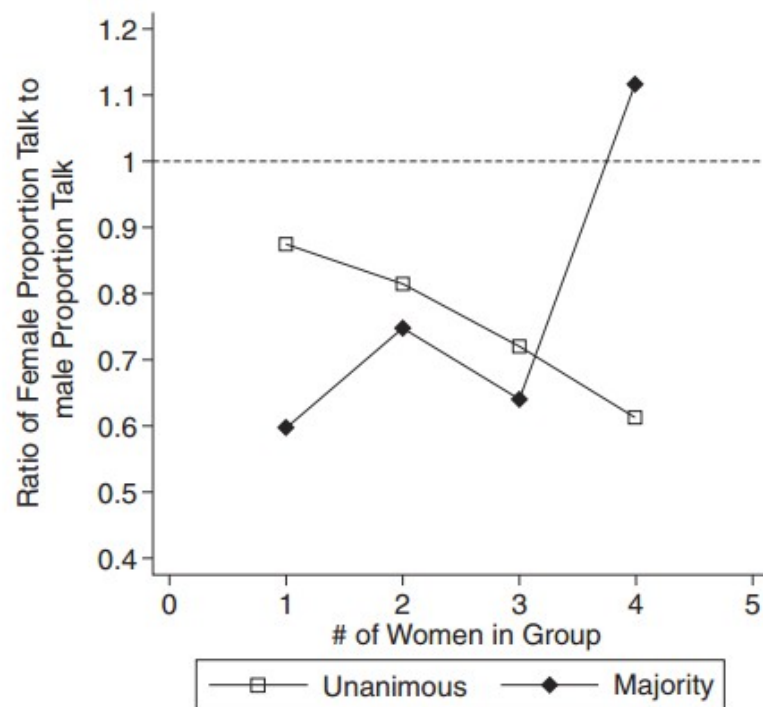
- College students; reach consensus in small groups
 - **Total “verbal acts”**: women > men

In “mixed-sex” groups ...

- “Attempts answers”: men > women
- “Reactions”: women > men

3. Karpowitz et al. (2012)

- College students and community adults; reach consensus in small groups



Note: A ratio of 1 means equality of speech participation.

Figure 8.1 Ratio of female to male speech participation by experimental condition. Christopher F. Karpowitz, Tali Mendelberg, and Lee Shaker, Gender inequality in deliberative participation, *American Political Science Review* 106(3):533–547, 2012, Figure 1.

3. Karpowitz et al. (2012)

- College students and community adults; reach consensus in small groups
 - Talk duration: men $>$ women (or men=women)
 - Interaction: For 'unanimous' groups, *fewer* men \rightarrow *more talk* by men

4. Sternglanz and Lyberger-Ficek (1977)

- College students; classroom setting

Responding to instructor

- When male teacher initiates, men > women
- When female teacher initiates, men=women

Initiating an interaction (raising hand, asking qn)

- Men > women
- Effect stronger with male teacher

- Note: Only significance levels reported, not raw numbers

5. Frances (1979)

- College (grad?) students; conversations in pairs
 - **Number** of talk turns: Lower in M/M pairs than in F/F, F/M pairs
 - Who talks “more”?
 - Average **duration** of talk turns: men > women
 - Who talks “more”?

6. Kollock et al. (1985)

- Data from opposite-sex married or cohabiting couples; argue about who was right in 5 scenarios
 - Questionnaire determined who had “more power” in relationship

Table 8.3 Mean talking time in seconds by gender and couple type; Table 1 of Kollock et al. (1985).

	Males	Females	Group Mean
Balanced couples	292	286	289
Couples with male more powerful	385	330	358
Couples with female more powerful	465	373	419
Group Mean	381	330	

6. Kollock et al. (1985)

- Data from opposite-sex married or cohabiting couples; argue about who was right in 5 scenarios
 - Questionnaire determined who had “more power” in relationship

Results:

- Balanced power: balanced talk duration
- Man had power: men > women
- Woman had power: men >> women

- Implications here: Gender vs. power?

7. Mehl et al. (2007)

- Talk sampled by recorder throughout day; college students in US and Mexico
 - Number of words per sample counted
 - Data extrapolated to duration per 17-hour “day”

Results:

- Women = men overall
- Huge variation within each gender group
- How does this relate to the “zombie statistic”?

8. Cutler and Scott (1990)

- Listeners *estimated* proportion of talk by M, F in conversations by actors

Results as summarized by Kaplan:

- Each conversation was recorded by all combinations of F/M speakers
- In F/M conversations, listeners judged F as talking more

8. Cutler and Scott (1990)

- Did you have questions about how the data graphic relates to the interpretation of the results?

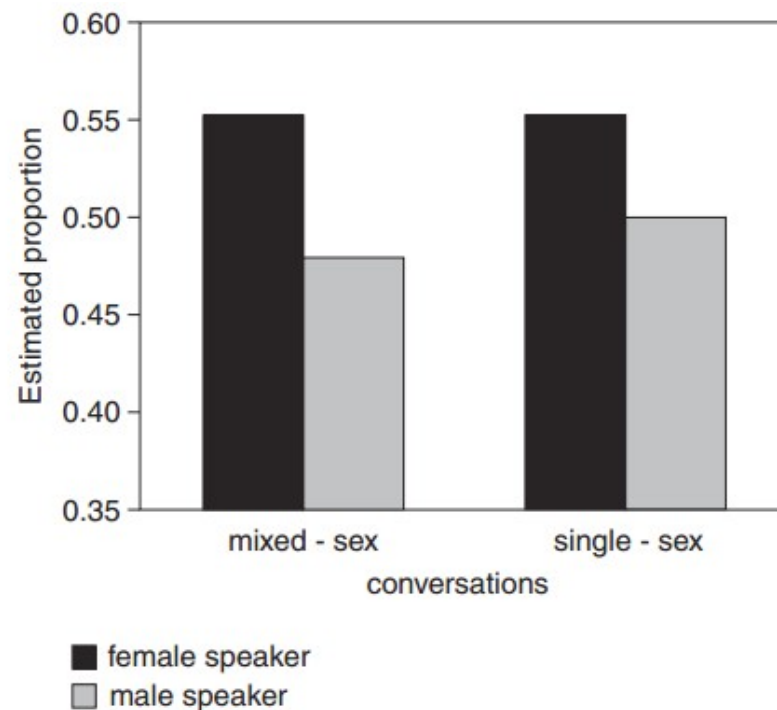


Figure 8.2 Average proportion of the conversation attributed to the first speaker, by gender of the first speaker and composition of the pair. Anne Cutler and Donia R. Scott, Speaker sex and perceived apportionment of talk, *Applied Psycholinguistics* 11(3):253–272, 1990, Figure 1.

8. Cutler and Scott (1990)

- Here is the original (...oops)

Applied Psycholinguistics 11:3

Cutler & Scott: Speaker sex and perception of talk

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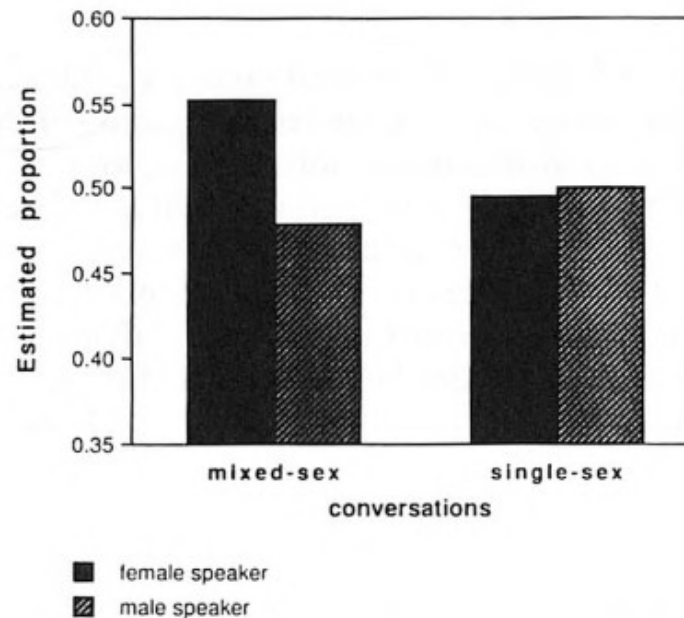


Figure 1. Mean percentage of conversation ascribed to the *first* speaker only, as a function of speaker sex and mixed- versus single-sex participation. In mixed-sex conversations, the female first speaker has a male conversational partner, and the male first speaker has a female conversational partner, while in single-sex conversations, the female first speaker has a female conversational partner, and the male first speaker has a male conversational partner.

9. On tag questions

Discussion: Sec 8.4, “Do women use more tag q...?”

- What are some issues in interpreting the use of tag questions?
 - Are we still looking at “who talks more” here?
 - What are the different types of tag questions? Do they all have the same relation to power?
 - What do tag-question studies show us about gender and language?

9. On tag questions

Discussion: Sec 8.4, “Do women use more tag q...?”

- What are the different types of tag questions? Do they all have the same relation to power?
 - Tag questions can be
 - tentative
 - or not!
 - Some discourse functions of tag questions
 - Modal — how certain is the speaker?
 - Affective — attitude toward addressee

10. Reid et al. (2003)

- Does use of tag questions change depending on speaker's solidarity toward addressee?
 - Controversial topics that were gender-neutral
 - Pairs of college students to argue
 - Some groups told that men/women differ
 - Others told that university/HS students differ

10. Reid et al. (2003)

- Is there a gender difference here?

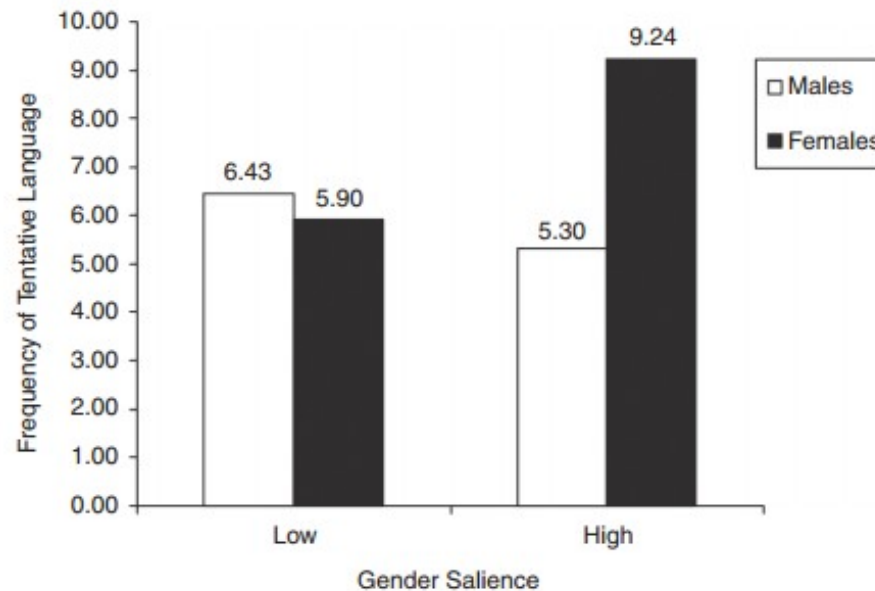


Figure 8.3 Frequency of 'tentative' language by gender and experimental condition. Scott A. Reid, Natasha Keerie, and Nicholas A. Palomares, Language, gender salience, and social influence, *Journal of Language and Social Psychology* 22(2), pp. 210–233, Figure 2, copyright 2003. Reprinted by permission of SAGE Publications.

11. Discussion points — Ch 8

- What, overall, can we conclude about language differences between men and women?
- Is the myth busted?
- What do we conclude about tag questions?