

A Turn-Taking Perspective on the Gender Difference and Power Relations

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Abstract:

The difference of power relations caused by gender difference is a very common phenomenon in society, which has a profound impact on the way of communication between the two sexes in daily life and the harmony and unity of society. Since 1997, several Chinese academics have studied this subject in great detail; however, their study has not yet produced a cohesive theory explaining the particular gender concerns that arise in everyday conversations. Thus, this study gathers the entire corpus of three groups of research objects and examines their various power relations under particular gender issues using the conversational research analysis approach. Finally, it is found that the research subjects will develop variables during the study, that is, they are driven by interest and influenced by the demands that women want to express, which can analyze the differences in power relations, and then achieve the purpose of amicable communication between the sexes.

Keywords: Turn-taking; Gender difference; Power relations; Empirical study; Drama stylistics

1. Introduction

1.1 Review of Previous Studies

The relationship between the two has been presented in academic journals at home and abroad since 2000 [1]. However, the majority of this type of research was concentrated on a decade ago, and in order to give it fresh life, it must be integrated with other hypotheses. Turn-taking theory and other pertinent theories of turns are typically integrated with classroom instruction, simultaneous or simultaneous interpretation, and literary work analysis from the previous three years in China. Different from the previous analysis of the theory itself, but take the turns and

turn-taking as a means to combine with their own professional or research direction, and enrich the application of theory in reality.

Predecessors have made great breakthroughs in the research since 2001. The turns can be used as a tool to analyze power relations between people, because it is an important part of conversation analysis. Huadong Li and Dongming Yu's book looked at the relationship of power, character and plot development from the perspective of turn-taking, and analyzed the differences in the power relations in *Death of a Salesman* using turn-taking analysis frame of dramatic stylistic [2]. Jun Yu et al. also used this analytical framework to explain the relationship between gen-

der difference and power relations in *Gone with the Wind* [3]. To help readers better grasp *Gone with the Wind*, this study innovates by combining turn-taking, gender differences, and power relations. After 2017, Chinese academics largely integrated the relationship between power and turn-taking instead of combining the three.

2. Theoretical Framework

2.1 The Theory of Turn-taking

Sacks, an American scholar, put forward the theory of turn-taking in 1974. Turn-taking mentioned here refers to the communication between the speaker and the listener in which a paragraph is said continuously without interruption or without silence after the completion of the sentence. If the roles of two people are reversed or neither of them speaks, it means the end of the conversation. In normal communication, people's speech patterns should conform to the turn-taking principle of "a-b-a-b-a-b" [3]. Previous studies on this speech pattern focused less on daily life conversation. Discourse disparities between men and women were hardly compared. This study used a dramatic style turn-taking analysis framework (which includes the initiation and control of themes, turn-length, turn-type, interruption and monologue, and turn-control tactics) to examine everyday conversation in order to close the research gap.

3. Methodology

3.1 Participants

The study recruited three groups of college students with a 1:1 male to female ratio. All three groups came from ordinary university. They are both ordinary buddies and close pals. This would unavoidably result in a variable, which

would be the level of interest in the subject. They would be more engaged in conversations about subjects that interest them as a result of this impacting their need to express themselves. indicating that when the topic changes, the turn-taking's dominant strength will also change. Every group in this study was required to hold a discussion for ten minutes or so.

3.2 Interview Question

The question was do men empathize with the fear that women feel in their daily lives? Let them discuss separately, extending countless different sub-topics, so as to make the research question of this paper more clear.

3.3 Research Data Collection

For conversational analysis, research data or material is usually derived from naturally occurring audio transcripts. Consider Tencent's meeting transcription and recording features to increase the clarity of their interactions. Every data point is examined tabulatorily, and its accuracy is cross-checked by three individuals. To make the data more comprehensible and transparent, it is analyzed by percentage in the table.

3.4 A Method to Judge Turn-taking

Through the analysis of the recording materials, the author can observe whether a person speaks more or reacts more, and whether he or she will forcefully add his or her own views when reacting, without being interrupted by the other party or pointing out the loopholes in the other party's words in the reaction part. The point is to look at the number of interruptions, which will definitely reflect the level of power relations.

4. Results

The first group of subjects are close friends.

Table 1: Turn-taking of the first group

Subtopic	Topic1: Stay safe for women who live alone		Topic2: Domestic violence		Total	
	PA	PB	PA	PB	PA	PB
Participants						
The number of turns	4(67%)	4(57%)	2(33%)	3(43%)	6	7
the initiation and control of topics	Always in control	No control	Get out of control	Gradually control	Control shift to PB	

Turn-type	initiative turns	3(75%)	0	1(25%)	1(100%)	4	1
	responsive turns	1(100%)	4(67%)	0	2(33%)	1	6
	initiative turns after response	0	0	1	0	1	0
	monologue	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Interruption	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interruption and monologue		0	0	0	0	0	0
Turn-control strategies	pre-sequence	0	0	0	1(100%)	0	1
	space-making strategies	0	0	0	1(100%)	0	1
	paralinguistic features	1(100%)	0	0	1(100%)	1	1
Turn-length(word)		42.5	127	54	192.7	48.25	159.9

According to Table 1, the recording material appears in a total of 13 turns, PA accounts for 6 turns, the average turn-length is 48.25, and PB accounts for 7 turns, the average turn-length is 159.9. In the first subtopic, PA and PB accounts for 4 turns respectively. Despite the fact that the PB's average turn-length is longer than the PA's, the PA has traditionally controlled the turns since the woman typically speaks the first subtopic, to which the male answers. This also relates to the previously discussed variable problem: PA takes more turns on the first topic than the

second since she is more interested in it, and both topics are focused on the speaking portion.

In the second subtopic, PA has one less turn than PB and the average turn-length of 54 is much less than the 192.7 of PB. And PB is more interested in the second topic, in the second half of the strong output of his own views on marriage and happiness, the expression is very comprehensive. The control of the turns has gradually shifted from PA to PB.

The second group is the subjects are ordinary friends.

Table 2: Turn-taking of the second group

subtopic		topic1: freedom of dressing		topic2: walk alone at night		topic3: women who live alone		topic4: protective law		total	
Participants		PC	PD	PC	PD	PC	PD	PC	PD	PC	PD
The number of turns		8(33%)	8(32%)	5(21%)	6(24%)	7(29%)	9(36%)	4(17%)	5(20%)	24	25
the initiation and control of topics		Always in control	No control	Always in control	No control	Always in control	No control	Always in control	No control	The turns have been controlled by PC	
Turn-type	initiative turns	3(30%)	0	2(20%)	0	3(30%)	1(100%)	2(20%)	0	10	1
	responsive turns	3(60%)	8(33%)	5(21%)	1(20%)	7(29%)	1(20%)	4(17%)	5	24	
initiative turns after response	1(33%)	0	1(33%)	0	1(33%)	0	0	0	3	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	monologue	1(17%)	0	2(33%)	1(33%)	2(33%)	1(17%)	1(33%)	6	3	
Interruption		1(17%)	0	2(33%)	1(33%)	2(33%)	1(33%)	1(17%)	1(33%)	6	3

Turn-control strategies	pre-sequence	1(100%)	0	0	0	0	1(50%)	0	1(50%)	1	2
	space-making strategies	1(25%)	0	2(50%)	1(50%)	1(25%)	1(50%)	0	1	4	2
	paralinguistic features	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turn-length(word)		45.75	44.25	12.8	48.6	39.29	85.25	56.75	70	38.65	60.03

According to Table 2, The recording material has a total of 49 turns, the average turn-length of which is 38.65. PC and PD each require 24 and 25 turns, respectively, with an average turn-length of 60.03. While both PC and PD have eight turns in the initial subtopic, PC talks three times, interrupts once, and responds constantly. This behavior also reflects the previously described variable: the PC is very motivated to speak because she is engaged in the first issue. Furthermore, the fourth element of the last section also refers to the first section's content, suggesting that she has complete authority over the principle of freedom of dress. For the next three subjects, the same holds true. Six times out of ten, PCs interrupt, yet PD speakers an-

swer to a single speech 24 times.. As PD said, his interest in the four topics is the same, so there may be many times of insufficient discussion, PC continued to ask the reason before he expands, so the turns have been controlled by PC. For example, when five minutes and 26 seconds into the recording, PC asked: "Women generally do not dare to walk alone at night, you guys will feel the same?" PD said at five minutes and 36 seconds : "Yes, I think so, because some men are afraid to walk at night." Then interrupted by PC at five minutes and 40 seconds: "No, why not?". She just feels the man isn't discussing it enough. The third group is the subjects are ordinary friends.

Table 3: Turn-taking of the third group

subtopic		topic1: assault		topic2: be tailed		total	
Participants		PE	PF	PE	PF	PE	PF
The number of turns		2(40%)	2(29%)	3(60%)	5(71%)	5	7
the initiation and control of topics		Always in control	No control	Get out of control	Gradually control	Control shift to PB	
Turn-type	initiative turns	1(100%)	0	0	2(100%)	1	2
	responsive turns	1(25%)	1(33%)	3(75%)	2(67%)	4	3
	initiative turns after response	0	1(50%)	0	1(50%)	0	2
	monologue	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Interruption	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interruption and monologue		0	0	0	0	0	0
Turn-control strategies	pre-sequence	1(100%)	1(50%)	0	1(50%)	1	2
	space-making strategies	0	0	0	0	0	0
	paralinguistic features	0	0	0	1(100%)	0	1
Turn-length(word)		136.5	141.5	68	123	102.25	132.25

According to Table 3, the recording file has a total of 12 turns, of which 5 are PE turns and the average turn-length is 102.25, while 7 are PF turns and the average turn-length is 132.25. In the first subtopic, although PE and PF both occupy two turns, the turns are always controlled by PE, because it is she who speaks. This echoes the variables mentioned earlier, with PE being more interested in the

first topic.

PE accounts for three turns in the second subtopic, while PF accounts for five. and by PF both instances. Reiterating the previously stated variables, PF is more drawn to the second topic, particularly the man who, following his misstep, spoke his ideas vehemently against gender norms. Six minutes and fifty-four seconds into the record-

ing, this point can be inferred. PE mentioned: "Walking alone at night, I am afraid of men who suddenly run out of ." PF asks in seven minutes and thirteen seconds, "Why wouldn't it be more appropriate to say the men ran out, the bad guys ran out?" He is maintaining the image of most men, which in turn serves the purpose of promoting good communication. So, in the second topic, the man becomes more powerful.

5. Discussion

First, a study compared the power relations between teachers and students in China and the United States from the perspective of turn-taking, using the turn-taking analysis framework of drama stylistics to compare the difference between the power relations between teachers and students in China and the United States [4]. The outcomes are similar even though the study's individuals are not the same. The quantity of turns, the average turn duration, and the person in charge of the talking rounds can all be used to determine the quality of the teaching outcomes. However, the study's goal is different, which makes a difference [5-6]. Through a discussion of gender issues, this study aims to compare the disparities in power relations between men and women in a particular situation. This difference shows that women desire to express themselves and the two sexes can form a good dialogue. The above research aims to analyze the level of teaching effect and the difference of teacher-student relationship through turn-taking.

Second, the first group is the one that performs best among the three groups studied in this research. As a result of the changing times, communication styles of both men and women with varying degrees of authority are impacted, leading to a progressive convergence in speech patterns [7]. The ladies in the first group speak a lot and use non-euphemistic language and voice tone, which is influenced by the idea of equality. She is curious to hear men's opinions because she is quite disturbed by Topic One. On the other hand, man is actively exporting his own opinions by employing euphemisms. He only says one thing, but in that moment, he is actively answering the woman's inquiries. His average turn-length is 159.9, far longer than a woman's 48.25, and his response times are six times faster. In other words, the emergence of this phenomenon is due to the change of individual psychological factors that make gender language gradually converge. Moreover, when the two sides disagree on the topic of "fear of marriage", the man first listens to the woman and then gives his own point of view rather than forcibly exporting his own point of view by interrupting.

Finally, this study has some limitations, such as insuffi-

cient data [8-9]. In order to ensure the reliability of the research data, future studies can adopt the method of incorporating more sufficient corpus.

6. Conclusion

By studying the differences in power relations between men and women when discussing specific gender issues, this paper draws the following three conclusions: 1) Through the case analysis, it is concluded that as long as one of the subjects is interested in the topic, there is a clear interest trend that drives them to gain control of turns. It is usually women who open the turns, and the turns are also dominated by women, indicating that women are eager to know how men will view the issues that have troubled them for a long time, they have the appeal to express, and they are fighting for their own right to speak. In the process, it is necessary to discover the difference in the power relations between men and women when discussing such daily gender issues. For example, in the second group, the female interrupts the male more often, indicating that the female has a higher power status than the male in this group, because she is competing for the right to speak and the male is only answering her questions. But in the first and third groups, men gain the dominant authority over turns, and in the later stage, men also compete for turns and express their own opinions; all of this serves to further the goal of encouraging effective communication; 2) This technique, which applies the analytical framework of theatrical stylistic to real-world dialogue, improves the previous study on the examination of gender differences and power relations in everyday life, and makes the discussion more visible by tabulating it. This research approach fills in the void left by the predecessors' everyday conversations; 3) This grafting can also be used to analyze the dilemmas faced by more professions in daily life, such as the doctor-patient relationship, teacher-student relationship, and the tertiary industry service industry. This paper aims to use this grafting to let men understand the plight of women, so as to promote equal communication between the two sides in the future.

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