

WOMEN'S ARGUMENT ACROSS SOCIAL STATUS IN TWITTER

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Abstract

Theoretically women have the tendency to avoid the arguments in face to face communication. While, Twitter mode allows the users of twitter do not need to be ashamed and reluctant in expressing their argument with 140 characters. The objectives of the research were to identify the types of arguments used by female across social status and to find out the factor underlying these types occurred in that way. To achieve the objectives, this research was conducted by applying descriptive qualitative design. The subject of this research was the three different social status females. The pair interaction was appeared to conduct this research, namely; female to female interaction across social status. The data was collected from the tweets with three different topics (death penalty, law and education) which posted on twitter by all the subjects. The data was analyzed by applying Mile's and Huberman's model. The finding showed that female to female interaction argued by all types of arguments; negation, disjunction, conjunction, conditional and biconditional, women were significantly less aware with their status in establishing and maintaining the interaction. In short, those were less considerate with their interlocutors.

key words: Arguments, women, social status, twitter

1. Introduction

1.1 Background of Research

For the sake of communication, twitter is a new phenomena in online communication context. Twitter is a great changing of online communication while the users can share, express and post the information up to 140 characters, and share publicly. According to Boyd et. All (2010) Twitter is a microblogging service that was founded in early 2006 to enable people to share short textual messages which is called as "tweets"—with others in the system. Because the system was originally designed for tweets to be shared via SMS, the maximum length of a tweet is 140 characters. Twitter can be the media of communication which encourages the users of twitter to argue

directly. Sometimes, the users of twitter do not have any consideration to argue.

This situation makes people argue as easy as they want. The users of twitter in which men and women have the same opportunity to involve in arguing. It is quite different with face to face communication, particularly women which has many consideration to talk or argue just because feel afraid of being mistake and conflict with others. Women always try to avoid conflict because they are not strong enough to argue logically.

Modern information and communications technologies such as the Internet arguably have the potential to offer greater benefits to women than men (Carter & Grieco, 2000 in Bidgoli, 2004). Language and gender has been an

interesting topic in linguistics. There are some studies point out the differences language and gender in language use. Tannen's view in Goddard (2000 : 101) there are two fundamental forces at work in social interaction, power and solidarity. She stated that men and women are trained to pay more attention to one or other of these dimension, men monitoring their interaction for aspect power, and women monitoring theirs for signals of solidarity and intimacy.

This view means that male and female use the same language but they interact to one or other differently. It is just because male and female have the different purpose in communication. Male tends to show their status and power, while female just want to seek the close relationship to another. Besides, Men's goals in using language tend to be about getting things done, whereas women's tend to be about making connections to other people. Men talk more about things and facts, whereas womens' talk more about people, relationships and feelings. That's why, the way of man in using language is competitive, reflecting their general interest in acquiring and maintaining status; women's use of language is cooperative, reflecting their preference for equality and harmony in interaction and communication..

In addition, According to Barwis (in Boole, 1999), there are five types of arguments namely; negation, conjunction, disjunction, conditional and biconditional. All of these theories lead to difference between male and female in arguing. It shows how male responds female's argument, male respond male's argument and how female respond male's argument, female responds male's argument.

Theoretically, males and females are different in speech activity. Eckert (2003 :98) states that the set of speech activity are: gossiping, quarelling and arguing. The writer will focus on one of them, that is arguing. Based on the phenomenon of the language use in twitter, it is belived that men and women are different in expressing their arguments in twitter. The writer will see and analyze "*The Realization of Gender Arguments in Twitter*". That is the writer's reason to choose gender differences in twitter. Relating to this fact, the researcher focuses on two points; 1. The gender arguments are used by male and female in expressing their idea in twitter, 3. The reason of male and female choose use arguments in expressing their ideas in twitter.

1.2 The Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the research, the problem of the research are formulated as the following:

1. How do women argue in Twitter?
2. Why do they argue the way they do?

1.3 The Objective of Research

In carrying out the research, it is necessary to state clearly the objectives of study in the relation of the problem posed. The objectives are :

1. To find out what types of argument occur in Twitter
2. To describe the reasons of women arguing in Twitter

2. Method

This study will be conducted by using qualitative research. The subject of the research was three females who have different social status namely, (4) female with higher status, (5) female with lower status, and (6) female with equal status. Three different topics will also be taken as the data for this study. The three topics are: (1) Law (2) Politics and (3) Education, in which these topics were hot issue at that time.

Then, in analyzing the data of the research, the researcher used Mile and Huberman's technique. Mile and Huberman's (1984) stated that the data concerned appear in words rather than numbers. There are three steps of analyzing data namely; data reduction,

data display and conclusion drawing/verification.

3. FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

- Ways of Arguments Among Women

Based on data analysis of types of arguments in Twitter, the interaction among women is shown in matrix 4.1

Matrix 4.1: Males and Females

Interaction in Twitter

Subjects		Female		
		H	L	E (H/L)
Researcher				
Researcher (Female)	L	A		
	H		B	
	H/L			C

Note: there is an interactions,

namely;

- (1) Between female and female which contains three different modes of social status, they are; cell A, cell B and cell C.

In cell A, the participants of the interaction in twitter are the researcher as female and the female as interlocutor who has higher social status than female or researcher. In cell B, the participants of the twitter interaction are the researcher as female and the female as interlocutor who has lower social status than female or researcher. In cell C, the participants of the twitter interaction are the researcher as female and the female as interlocutor who has equal social status than female or researcher.

Moreover, it is found that female across social status used 5 types of arguments from three different topics in Twitter as it is visually shown in Matrix 4.2,

Matirx 4.2: The Result of Data Analysis to The Three Different Pairs of Interaction

		Female		
		Subject	Subject	Subjects
		H	L	E
Female (Researcher)	L	Biconditional Negation Disjunction		
	H		Conjunction Conditional	
	E			Negation Conditional

The matrix above showed that three pairs of female interaction in expressing the argument namely: (a) negation used by female with higher and equal status (b) conjunction used female with lower status (c) disjunction used by female with higher status (d) disjunction used by female with higher status (e) conditional used by female with lower and equal status (e) biconditional used by female with higher status.

- Factor Underlying Arguments Made by Participants

The analysis on the relationship among types of arguments used in twitter interaction by females with three pairs of different social status as shwon in matrix 4.1 and 4.2 is determined by social status, namely; level and occupational position.

The interaction of female and female with different social status is affected by their level and occupational position.

This is indicated by the fact found in cell A in matrix which the participant has higher level and occupational position than her interlocutor. In cell A, the participant produced the different types of argument for each different topics. The participants used biconditional, negation and disjunction which indicates her social status is not only wise but also a bit competitive. Since the use of them have their own purposes. She was trying to open any possibility to argue with the alternative arguments from her interlocutor. While, she also was arguing by giving the optional arguments to be accepted by her interlocutor. In contrast, the use of negation will not open any possibilty and provide any options, since it give the dissagrement.

Another fact is found in cell B in matrix 4.1 and matrix 4.2 in which participant has lower position and education than her interlocutor. In cell B the participant used conditinal and conjunction to argue. She seems to be a bit competitive in expressing her argument even she has lower social status than her interlocutor. She has tendency to compete by showing her ego in her argument. Since she did not only give the

logical facts by producing the conjunction, but also open the possibility by producing the conditional in her arguments.

The last fact is found in cell C in matrix 4.4 which participant has equal status with his interlocutor. In cell C, the participant used conditional and negation which indicate her social status is not only wise but also competitive. Being competitive can be seen through the conditional argument which she produced. She has tendency to compete by showing her ego in her argument.

Hence, it is obviously seen that females with different social status have the strength in expressing the arguments. It is indicated by the various of types arguments they used. They have tendency to establish and maintain the interaction as well as male do.

- **Dicussion**

The research findings showed that there seems to be a close relationship between finding based on types of arguments and those based on factors underlying of making the arguments. The analysis of the types of arguments showed that five types of arguments occurred in female's arguments which accrosses status and sex in their interaction with female in twitter. As a matter of fact, females have tendency to argue with female as well as males do.

This means that females consider the same sex rather than social status they have. In addition, While, female who has lower status do more argument than male lower status, female to female interaction significantly more establish and maintain the interaction than male to female. The findings of the research are supported by George (1996) male and female whose high-rank status will establish and maintain the interaction, while those whose low-ranks tend to maintain the interaction. It is also supported by the research of Pines, Gat and Tal (2002) they examined style of arguments between couples during divorce mediation. As a result, they found that female argue as well as male do. Furthermore, Jeong (2003) who examined male and female's interaction in online debate, he also found that female more engage arguments with other females than males, and male were showing a tendency to engage the arguments with other males than females. Female to female interaction seems to be a bit competitive due to the same sex they have.

4. Conclusion

Based on the analysis, the conclusions were stated as the following:

1. Based on the data analysis, it was found that female argued by using five types of arguments, namely;

negation, disjunction, conjunction, conditional and biconditional.

2. The different social status is the factor underlying women make arguments; a) Female who has higher status argued by negation, disjunction and biconditional to female with lower status, then b) female who has lower status argued by conjunction and conditional to female with higher status, last c) female with equal status argued by negation and conditional. It indicates that women are less aware with social status and they are likely more considerate with their interlocutor in expressing the argument in Twitter.

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