

Gender-salient family conflict talk.

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Abstract – In this paper the analysis of gender aspects of the family dialogue conflict talk within the framework of symmetric relations (husband – wife) is suggested.

Keywords –Conflict talk, symmetric relations, gender-salient argumentation, family discourse.

I. INTRODUCTION.

In recent years the topic of argument has become a significant concern for research on language and communication.

Conflict talk is a common practice among humans. We believe that if gender is embedded in society then it should be observable in talk.

Our attention is focused on argumentative skills of wife and husband in family dialogue. Gender-salient conversational arguing involves the processes by which disagreements arise are dealt with and resolved.

II. FEMININE AND MASCULINE MODELS OF FAMILY ARGUMENTATION

We have defined two models of family argumentation: feminine and masculine, namely:

feminine: claims → latent stage of disagreement → countering disagreement (verbal/non verbal) → resolving disagreement

(emotional argumentation)

masculine: claims → latent stage of disagreement → countering disagreement → resolving disagreement

(rational logical argumentation)

Husband and wife slightly differ in the scheme of argumentation development but differ considerably in the types of argumentation involved.

III. MALE, FEMALE STRATEGIES AND TACTICS IN CONFLICT TALK

Male and female strategies are identical – to convince him/her in the validity of his/her arguments and make the opponent accept the speaker's point of view.

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Male and female tactics of achieving it are different. Unlike husbands wives are more inclined to take weak conversational steps. For both sexes irony works as a disputatious move.

As far as the terminus of arguments is concerned it should be noted that both male (husband) and female (wife) end in standoffs which allow participants to “save face” and move on to other activities.

Very often silence is a meaningful argumentative move which marks “the exit” from dispute. Silence is gender neutral but its pragmatic functions are gender preferential. For males' silence is the reinforcement of their authority, while for females it is the non-verbal expression of disagreement and covert disapproval.

In a way of generalization we can affirm that the structure and the process of argumentation are rather gender preferential than gender exclusive.

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IV. CONCLUSION

In this paper the analysis of two models of family argumentation: feminine and masculine in family dialogue conflict talk within the framework of symmetric relations (husband – wife) is suggested.