

LINGUISTIC REPRESENTATION: SPEAKER'S LEXICAL CHOICE TO OVERCOME INEQUALITY

Umaira Rauf

M.Phil. Scholar, Department of English, University of Okara

Email: umaira.rauf1@gmail.com

Muhammad Kamran Abbas Ismail

Lecturer, Department of English, University of Okara

Email: Kamran.ch@uo.edu.pk

Corresponding author

Ahtsham Ilahee

M.Phil. Scholar, Department of English, University of Okara

Email: ahtshamilahee143@gmail.com

Abstract

Linguistic representation is the representation of standard linguistic entities. Dominant linguistic representations are challenged by exposing power associations at play. Linguistic inequality is in relation with linguistic individuality and is customized by lexicon confirmed by others. Most of the linguistic inequality seems in written discourse. In written discourse, every single used word shows the language culture of that individual. Linguistic representation in autobiographical notes refers to the acknowledgement, narrative and deliberation of gender(s) in politics. This research explores representation of gender based language differences to overcome linguistic inequality. The research uses Linguistics Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC) 2022 to discover how the language in written discourse physiquies and redirects beliefs about gender and affects power dynamics in a society. The study aims at identifying how speaker's lexical choice influences on the language to neutralize the linguistic inequality in Pakistani context and to identify how gender and social positioning influence narrative voice in political and personal autobiographies. As this study applied LIWC and SPSS to code and categorize all of the original raw data from the autobiographies of female authors like Benazir Bhutto's *Daughter of the East* (1998) and *My Feudal Lord* (1991) by Tehmina Dolatana and of male authors as Imran Khan's *Pakistan: A Personal History* (2011) and *In The Line Of Fire: A Memoir* (2006) by Pervaiz Musharraf performed primary analysis on the subsequent measures. The sample books were provided with a particular context for the reliability of the linguistic style. So, the sample was aggregated as text file per author, per context. The aggregation process generates 2 text files with 112607 and 111088 words count by two male and same number of female authors that represent same traditional gender roles. Standard deviation (SD) and Cohen's d (effect size) are used to measure variation and the magnitude of differences respectively. The researcher sets certain categories such as personal pronouns (ppron), social words, affective processes, lexical diversity, gender reference, friend, family, and pronoun which were analyzed to capture how lexical choices reflect efforts to neutralize gender inequality. For the second objective about speaker's lexical choice, the researcher took dimensions of LIWC such as first person singular, first person plural, second person, analytic thinking, clout, authenticity and emotional tone to visualize graphical demonstrations of differences across variables. The statistical findings underscore the multidimensional nature of autobiographical writing across gender and context. The large effect sizes indicate meaningful differences in linguistic focus, tone, and structure. The results contribute to understanding how gender and social positioning influence narrative voice in political and personal autobiographies. The future research may also want to do psycholinguistic analysis of the autobiographical notes of male and female writers using

LIWC tool of analysis. This study has practical implications in various fields such as in journalism and editorial writing to overcome gender inequality and therefore may be able to lower linguistic prejudices in their materials.

Key words: *linguistic representation, lexical choices, gender inequality, LIWC*

1. Introduction

Language is a potent tool for gender equality in any society. Sociolinguistics has made an empirical innovation in the systematic research project due to its theorizing achievements (Hudson, 1996, p.2). Language is used in social interactions while speaker's lexical choice is based on the convenience of the concerned people. Language is also used to express cultural norms, beliefs and concepts of a concerned cultures. The concept of language and society is correlated. Language is "powerful cognitively and powerful socially" which means that how it strongly shakes the ways through which we perceive and act in a civilized world (Kramer, 2016 p.79). The basic concern of sociolinguistics is to deal how people interact with each other in everyday life. It is done through their conversational interactions, the socially assigned roles and even give-and-take policy of different social groups' discourse. It is believed that language and situations are absolutely inseparable.

Gender is not generalized to a set of behavioral differences. Butler (2002) labelled gender as performative which was not limited to gender identity by performing social role but emphasized on speech act theory (p.25). Coates (2015) pointed out that gender is socially and identity-based rather than an absolutely biological entity and the social conventions of a speaker determined his/her language use. He suggested that gendered-based language is not an absolute set of rules but an interactional, conciliation of social expectancy, individuality, and context. Gender across language is trendy now-a-days to describe gender-based language related issues with varying socio-cultural backgrounds. Gender across language is categorized as grammatical gender, referential gender, lexical gender and social gender (Bußmann and Hellinger, 2003, p.6). This is a fact universally acknowledged that gender and society shape each other through language.

McElhinny (2014) agreed that gender was "the cultural, social and psychological construct" which were referring to females and males (Kayaoglu, 2012 p.14). The concept of "gender" instead of "sex" used in this research. Role plays by gender based on expectations and norms of society whereas the term sex confides to "biological, psychological and anatomic classification that cannot change" (Kayaoglu, 2012 p.14). Gender basically used as term in linguistics and then in other social science areas (Kayaoglu, 2012). The term gender referred to Feminine and Masculine categories constructed in society.

Gendered based language differences have been studied from long ago. Speaker's and writer's lexical choice works on listeners' and reader's cognition and imitates gendered-based preconceived notions under gender neutral circumstances. This process is instinctive. Gender differences are an inseparable aspect of the universal code. Patriarchal and traditional practices are in disfavor of women and continue to nurture gender prejudices. Gender inequality is multidimensional and presents a challenge for policy makers and social scientist (Abdalgane, 2021).

Language inequality is in relation with linguistic individuality and is customized by lexicon confirmed by others. It means that the act of communication is done between the people who have a same level of conditions for language communication. Most of the linguistic inequality seems in written discourse. The written script channels individual's ability to write, brainstorm, make textual plans, develop coherence as well linguistic cohesion, the level of language learning which

demonstrate latencies, limited language skills and results in linguistic discrepancy (Hadson, 2002, p.246). In written discourse, every single used word shows the language culture of that individual. Linguistic inequality is actually the use of different linguistic features to convey exact meaning in different dimensions (Hadson, 2002, p.57). Linguistic inequality is measured by adopting certain indicators such as lexical, morphological, syntactic and stylistic aspects to process language code and educational language planning on one hand, and socio and psycholinguistic aspect to conform individuality and language on the other hand (Holmes, 2015, p.57). Linguistic inequality in written discourse is relative as the writer writes under certain conditions follows his own linguistic individuality to customized lexicon which are confirmed by others.

Linguistic inequalities are incorporated within massive social inequalities but the linguistics solutions do not entirely deal with the derivational cause of these inequalities (Garcia et al., 2017, p.551). At the same time, language plays the role of both imitating and dismantling social hierarchies. Language is taken up as a constituent of nationalist discourse performances in the fabrication of governmentality. Language based differences are produced through larger socio-political processes (Garcia et al., 2017, p.547). Linguistic representation is the representation of standard linguistic entities such as noun phrases, clauses etc. Dominant linguistic representations are challenged by exposing power associations at play.

In modern linguistics, an American linguist William Labov (2024) is considered the father of variationism sociolinguistics and social dialectology. His major contribution in this field is to study language in relation to gender and explore the basic differentiation in language use based on different factors such as sex and age across different social contexts. There was feminist linguistics before the emergence of modern linguistics whose major concern was social gender instead of biological sex. There were four main paradigms as the deficit, dominance, difference and social-constructionist approach (Jennifer, 2013, p.5). The first three paradigms are outdated but the social-constructionist approach is used for the pragmatic analysis of gender representation.

The most persuasive assistances to gender-based language was assumed by Robin Lakoff (1975), who preserved that characteristics of women's language vagueness, politeness, and sometimes lack of confidence. By her definition, women are supposed to use more oblique words, tag questions, intensifying intonation with declarative proclamations, definite color terms, and empty adjectives. Lakoff appealed that women's language favor use of exact grammar rules, make indirect requests and mild oaths wrapping out for strong ones. These linguistic characteristics mirrored women's lower social status and associated with their social roles and norms for which they became polite, and respectful. It is evident from her studies, that the speech of men is regarded as a benchmark in a society while the speech of women is accepted to be deficient.

This study is employed in a nascent fashion in gender research, which emphasizes on the purposes of speaker's lexical choice to influence language to over linguistic inequality. This study carries together sociolinguistic and linguistic inquiry. A basic theory of this approach to linguistics, which the researcher shares with Holmes (2000, p.141), is that social identity is constructed by semantic discrepancies categorized in gender's lexical choice such as the lexis and the syntax of a language. The researcher is unambiguously concerned in how genders' lexical choices are marked, taken and assembled by the mean language is recycled in a precise linguistic features. This study tries to bridge the gap between earlier studies of gender based language differences as a socially fabricated interaction.

Research questions

1. Whether speaker's lexical choice influences on the language to neutralize the gender inequality in Pakistani context?
2. How gender and social positioning influence narrative voice in political and personal autobiographies.

1.2 Research objectives

1. To explore how speaker's lexical choice influences on the language to neutralize the gender inequality in Pakistani context.
2. To identify how gender and social positioning influence narrative voice in political and personal autobiographies.

1.3 Significance of the problem statement

Pakistan offering a multilingual and diglossic context- where Urdu and English are interwoven with regional languages- further complicates the dynamics of politeness and face-work. This study is about how speaker's lexical choice influences on the language to neutralize the gender inequality in Pakistani context. By comparing the communication styles of male and female writers, the researcher highlights the ways in which cultural values shape everyday interaction. The study aims to unfold many layers of sociolinguistics and pragmatics by providing localized evidence from Pakistan- a context often overlooked in global studies of gender based language use. This study also investigates how gender and social positioning influence narrative voice in political and personal autobiographies to negotiate power, respect and represents a collective identity at national level.

1.4 Limitations of the study

The current study has some limitations as there is a limited timespan for the collection and cleaning of data although available online. It also considers gender-based language differences only in political context of Pakistan as previous LIWC based researches on gender differences language use was done on western corpora. This study does not involve LIWC dimensions such as positive and negative emotions. Lastly, autobiographical notes of present and past Pakistani political leaders are taken because they are truly representative of natural language usage at national and international level.

2 Literature review

Differences in the use of lexical choices by men and women have long been a matter of interest by most of the scholars in the field of discourse analysis. In spite of having a large amount of theory, there is still some need to cover a cohesive image of gender differences in language use. A substantial is the deficit of agreement over the prime choice of analyzing language. An empirical literature of about what has already been done on language use by gender differences is required (Mulac et al., 2001). It is observed that men and women have different semantic tasks to perform in their mind where they contrive sentences. Poole (1979) conducted a study on gendered based linguistic coding found that whenever there is a need felt to calculate the length of a sentence in gender differences language use, girls were considered to be as a wordier gender in both speaking and writing than boys.

Mulac et al., (1990) performed a study on the children taken from three different age groups i.e. 4th, 8th and 12th grades and concluded this research with the notion that boys offered more opinion in all three age groups than the girls. Some researchers covered significant differences. Mulac et

al., (2000) conducted a comparison between 36 females and 50 male managers and gave a professional criticism on their role play. It was observed that men are more in habit of using negation and asking questions and women are in directives in nature. Their study also confirmed the fact that men used overall more words while women used lengthy sentences. The reason for these contradictory reports are considered due to the differences in their cultural contexts which are responsible for their size and the direction of language use. The current studies have failed to get the similar results. A study on e-mail communication resulted that there is an equilibrium between men's and women's lexical choices of asking questions, apologizing, giving opinions and complimenting and even blasting upon their disrespect (Thomson, 2001). Mulac et al., (2001) found that women's language is marked up by the use of extensive questions in their dyadic communication whereas men's conversation is more directive in nature to urge every time his followers to perform certain actions.

Stating with Lakoff's (2004) works, this gender differences have also been studied at specific phrase level. She identified that women's language have two main characteristics found at phrase level: hedges and the other is the extensive use of tag questions. Newman et al., (2008) analyzes 14000 text samples to find out gender differences language use and explored that women are in habit of using social and psychological processes while men's interest is towards impersonal topics. They also highlighted the fact that these effects were reliable across different social and cultural context.

Dovidio and Gluszek (2012) conducted a study on gendered based verbal and non-verbal similarity in men and women's behaviors. They found that men are powerful at verbal and non-verbal in gendered-linked tasks than women. Brownlow et al., (2019) examined gender base linguistic behavior in impulsive interviews. They discovered that men use sentences embedded with articles, more use of passive s and third person, unemotional speech than women. The type of language used by women involve sensory processes, more use of self-referent pronouns and more expressive in nature. Manna et al., (2019) presented results obtained from gender detection by carrying an experiments on the corpus of dream tales. They also emphasized stylistic similarities and differences between male and females use of lexical choices.

Cameron (2023) pointed out in her analysis of verbal hygiene, that there was a pressure which exerted on female representative of the society to lookout both the differentiation of men's and their own language and regulate their deficient production of language. Wolfram (2023) used a proactive model to address linguistic inequalities in Higher Education. His study was able to develop awareness among Educators and policy makers about the inclusion of diversity initiatives to ensure that language remained a flouted dimension of inequality and the inter-disciplinary explanations must be incorporated programmatically in higher learning diversity programs of USA.

Fatima et al., (2025) conducted a study on gender representation in the constituents of ten developed and underdeveloped countries to analyze gendered-neutral terms. They reached on the conclusion that law in the developed countries lowered the social roles played by gender in legal matters and created an equilibrium for them as well. But in underdeveloped countries like Pakistan, special social roles are assigned to men and women. Wulandari et al., (2025) conducted a study on shifting behavior in communicative style to emphasize on the way of distinguishing symbols from their speaker in a romantic situation concluded that their passive behavior is shifted to assertive one.

From previous studies, it is evident that few studies scrutinize gender-based linguistic behavior in written and spoken discourse. However, little to no attention has been given to the analysis of linguistic representation to overcome inequality in Pakistani social and political context. Therefore, by filling the research gap, the ongoing research is aimed to explore how speaker's lexical choice influences on the language to neutralize the linguistic inequality in Pakistani context. By comparing the communication styles of men and women, the research highlights the ways in which cultural values shape everyday interaction. The study is aimed to unfold many layers of sociolinguistics and pragmatics by providing localized evidence from Pakistan- a context often overlooked in global studies of gender based language use. This study also investigates how gender and social positioning influence narrative voice in political and personal autobiographies to negotiate power, respect and represents a collective identity at national level. In this context, the researcher employs LIWC proposed by Pennebaker et al., (2001) which is a unique tool for the analysis of linguistic profiling of written discourse.

3. Methodology

The best way to inquire into gender based language difference is by means of computational linguistic tool Linguistics Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC) proposed by Pennebaker et al., (2001) to investigate speaker's lexical choices. LIWC is an analysis tool which is used to analyze each individual text based on a word-by-word count then associates every word to a lexicon of about 2000 words which are further classified into 70 linguistic dimensions. Some of the dimensions are purely defined on grammatical basis such as self-references which consists of personal pronoun; social words to make references; positive emotions as happy and negative emotions comprise afraid. LIWC generally identifies 80% of the word count in the text file, measures percentage of matching words up to 74 linguistic dimensions. As this study applied LIWC and SPSS to code and categorize all of the original raw data from the autobiographies of female authors like Benazir Bhutto's *Daughter of the East* (1998) and *My Feudal Lord* (1991) by Tehmina Dolatana and of male authors as Imran Khan's *Pakistan: A Personal History* (2011) and *In The Line Of Fire: A Memoir* (2006) by Pervaiz Musharraf performed primary analysis on the subsequent measures. The sample books were provided with a particular context for the reliability of the linguistic style. So, the sample was aggregated as 1 text file per author, per context. The aggregation process generated 2 text files with 112607 and 111088 words count by two male and same number of female authors. As the texts of these two books were subjected to LIWC analysis, and these linguistic statistics were further investigated for the main effects for gender's linguistic representation.

4. Analysis and Findings

The researcher presents the results of the quantitative linguistic analysis comparing the writing styles of selected female and male authors using LIWC-based linguistic variables. The analysis focuses on identifying statistical differences in linguistic dimensions such as analytic thinking, authenticity, tone, and grammatical features. Standard deviation (SD) and Cohen's *d* (effect size) were used to measure variation and the magnitude of differences respectively. The researcher set certain categories such as personal pronouns (ppron), social words, affective processes, lexical diversity, gender reference, friend, family, and pronoun were analyzed to capture how lexical choices reflect efforts to neutralize gender inequality. For the second objective about speaker's lexical choice, the researcher took dimensions of LIWC such as first person singular, first person

plural, second person, analytic thinking, clout, authenticity and emotional tone to visualize graphical demonstrations of differences across variables.

Statistical Analysis of Female Authors

The first comparison was conducted between “Daughter of the East” and “My Feudal Lord”, both written by female authors. The objectives were to examine how speaker’s lexical choice influences on the language to neutralize the linguistic inequality in Pakistani context and to identify how gender and social positioning influence speaker’s lexical choice in political and personal autobiographical works.

Table 1: Female Authors – Statistical Summary

Variable	Standard_Deviation	Effect_Size_Cohen_d
WC	3422.397	-2
Analytic	24.74167	2
Clout	9.984348	-2
Authentic	4.723473	-2
Tone	3.026417	2
WPS	4.299209	2
BigWords	5.536646	2
Dic	6.215469	-2
Linguistic	5.897271	-2
function	4.794184	-2
pronoun	7.08521	-2
ppron	7.092281	-2
i	3.486036	-2
we	0.254558	-2
you	0.537401	-2
shehe	2.687006	-2
they	0.120208	-2
ipron	0.007071	2
det	0.346482	2
article	2.18496	2
number	0.919239	2
prep	0.883883	2
auxverb	1.138442	-2
adverb	0.565685	-2
conj	0.438406	2
negate	0.325269	-2
verb	3.761808	-2
adj	1.32229	2
quantity	0.403051	2
Social	4.801255	-2
socbehav	0.72832	-2

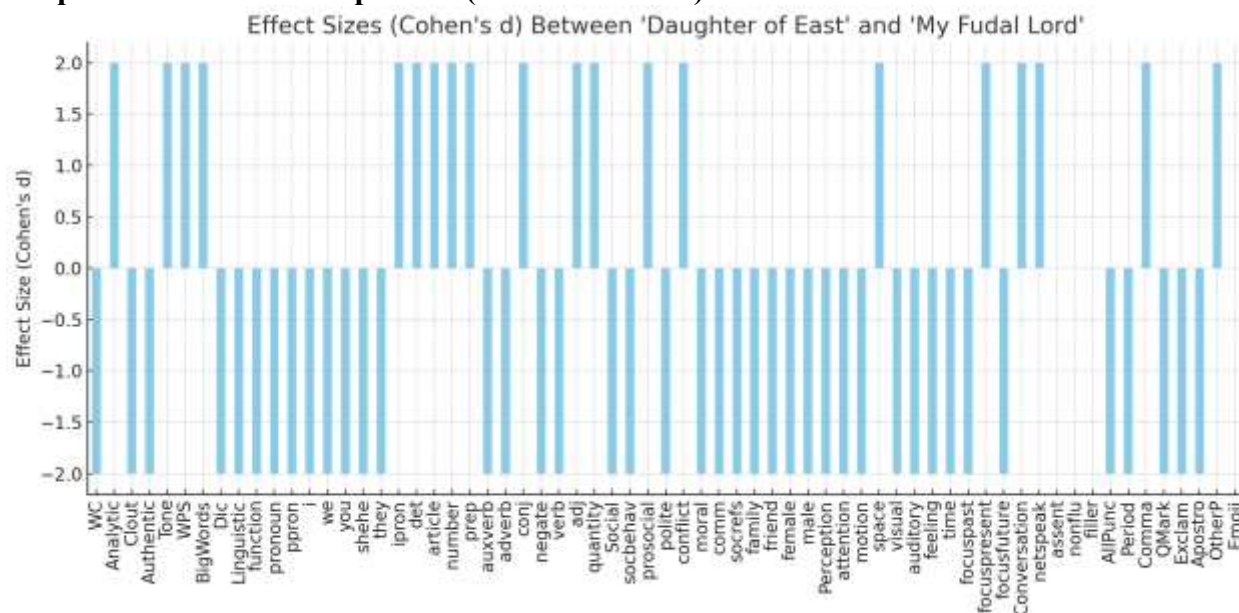
prosocial	0.035355	2
polite	0.077782	-2
conflict	0.275772	2
moral	0.021213	-2
comm	0.735391	-2
socref	4.313351	-2
family	0.982878	-2
friend	0.077782	-2
female	1.301076	-2
male	2.078894	-2
Perception	0.855599	-2
attention	0.148492	-2
motion	0.714178	-2
space	0.516188	2
visual	0.268701	-2
auditory	0.247487	-2
feeling	0.212132	-2
time	0.282843	-2
focuspast	3.535534	-2
focuspresent	0.671751	2
focusfuture	0.226274	-2
Conversation	0.014142	2
netspeak	0.014142	2
assent	0	
nonflu	0	
filler	0	
AllPunc	1.25865	-2
Period	1.152584	-2
Comma	0.26163	2
QMark	0.176777	-2
Exclam	0.049497	-2
Apostro	1.803122	-2
OtherP	1.65463	2
Emoji	0	

The researcher first examines speakers' lexical choices to neutralize gender inequality in Pakistani context and reveals a pronounced stylistic divergence between the two female authors, reflecting differing narrative purposes and emotional orientations. *ipron* ($d=+2$) is significantly higher in the Daughter of the East specifies a cognizant withdrawal from a traditionally dominant patriarchal linguistic norm in Pakistani narrative discourse. Meanwhile, Pronoun Usage ($d = -2$) is significantly higher in My Feudal Lord, with frequent use of "I" and "she/he," underscoring a more

introspective and relational focus. Lexical Diversity ($d = -2$) is also greater in My Feudal Lord, suggesting richer linguistic variety and nuanced expression. Furthermore, the emphasis on Social and Gender References ($d = -2$), particularly through frequent mentions of “female” and “male,” highlights its engagement with interpersonal and gendered dynamics. Family ($d = -2$) is also greater in My Feudal Lord, suggest a rational framing. Friend ($d = -2$) is also greater in My Feudal Lord, suggest social inclusivity. Overall, the linguistic profile of Daughter of the East conveys political awareness and rhetorical sophistication, while My Feudal Lord stands out for its emotional immediacy, personal intensity, and relational engagement.

The researcher then examines how gender and social positioning influence the speaker lexical choice in autobiographical work and reveals a pronounced stylistic divergence between the two female authors, reflecting differing narrative purposes and emotional orientations. My Feudal Lord has relatively high values ($d = -2$) for first person singular, first person plural and second person respectively I, we and you demonstrate individualistic vs collective linguistic framing. Verb, auxiliary verb and motion ($d = -2$) are higher in My Feudal Lord, suggesting stronger degree of speaker’s narration. Analytic Thinking ($d = +2$) is notably higher in Daughter of the East, indicating greater analytical complexity and a more structured, formal tone that aligns with its political and reflective character. In contrast, Clout and Authenticity ($d = -2$) are higher in My Feudal Lord, suggesting stronger rhetorical confidence and deeper self-disclosure—features that convey a personal and emotionally charged narrative voice. The emotional tone ($d = +2$) in Daughter of the East is more positive and balanced, signaling a reflective rather than accusatory approach to personal and political experiences.

Graph 1: Effect Size Comparison (Female Authors)



Statistical Analysis of Male Authors

The second comparison examines two autobiographical works by male authors — “A Personal History” and “In the Line of Fire.” The analysis identifies linguistic markers of rhetorical difference in leadership-oriented narratives.

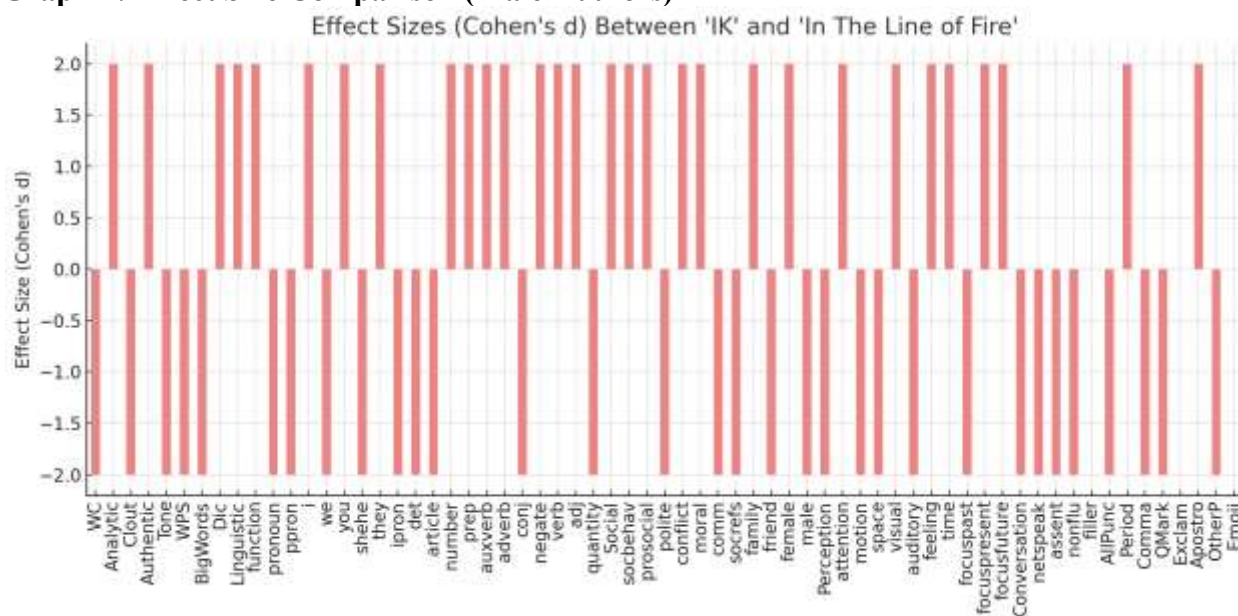
Table 2: Male Authors – Statistical Summary

Variable	Standard_Deviation	Effect_Size_Cohen_d
WC	9788.479	-2
Analytic	0.127279	2
Clout	8.01152	-2
Authentic	4.200214	2
Tone	1.385929	-2
WPS	2.743574	-2
BigWords	0.233345	-2
Dic	0.982878	2
Linguistic	0.509117	2
function	0.374767	2
pronoun	0.169706	-2
ppron	0.141421	-2
i	0.268701	2
we	0.480833	-2
you	0.042426	2
shehe	0.226274	-2
they	0.169706	2
ipron	0.035355	-2
det	0.183848	-2
article	0.028284	-2
number	0.091924	2
prep	0.487904	2
auxverb	0.26163	2
adverb	0.219203	2
conj	0.007071	-2
negate	0.091924	2
verb	0.275772	2
adj	0.39598	2
quantity	0.233345	-2
Social	0.212132	2
socbehav	0.403051	2
prosocial	0.120208	2
polite	0.007071	-2
conflict	0.13435	2
moral	0.233345	2
comm	0.162635	-2
socrefs	0.282843	-2
family	0.212132	2
friend	0.007071	-2

female	0.141421	2
male	0.353553	-2
Perception	0.39598	-2
attention	0.021213	2
motion	0.318198	-2
space	0.212132	-2
visual	0.070711	2
auditory	0.049497	-2
feeling	0.049497	2
time	0.311127	2
focuspast	0.148492	-2
focuspresent	0.162635	2
focusfuture	0.021213	2
Conversation	0.021213	-2
netspeak	0.007071	-2
assent	0.014142	-2
nonflu	0.007071	-2
filler	0	
AllPunc	1.569777	-2
Period	0.876812	2
Comma	2.877925	-2
QMark	0.007071	-2
Exclam	0	
Apostro	0.558614	2
OtherP	0.106066	-2
Emoji	0	

The comparison between the male authors reveals narrower linguistic differences than those observed in the female group; however, several noteworthy trends emerge. Analytic thinking ($d = +2$) is slightly higher in Imran Khan's lexical choices, suggesting a more structured and reflective narrative tone that aligns with moral introspection. In contrast, Clout ($d = -2$) is greater in *In the Line of Fire*, indicating stronger rhetorical confidence and authority, likely reflective of its political and leadership-oriented context. The variable of Authenticity ($d = +2$) shows that IK employs more self-revealing and personal language, reinforcing its contemplative and morally grounded discourse. Meanwhile, Tone ($d = -2$) demonstrates that *In the Line of Fire* adopts a more assertive and less emotionally moderated expression, consistent with its public and persuasive nature. Additionally, Moral and Social Language ($d = +2$) appears more prominently in *Pakistan: A Personal History*, revealing an emphasis on ethical reflection and humanistic concerns. Finally, the lexical and structural patterns, particularly differences in punctuation such as commas, apostrophes, and periods, suggest distinct narrative pacing—IK's *Pakistan: A Personal History* leans toward moral reflection and deliberation, whereas *In the Line of Fire* reflects journalistic precision and formal directness.

Graph 2: Effect Size Comparison (Male Authors)



5. Discussion

Across both gendered groups, distinct linguistic tendencies emerged that reflect the authors' expressive orientations and narrative purposes. Female authors displayed stronger linguistic contrasts, with multiple variables showing large effect sizes ($|d| = 2$), indicating a pronounced divergence in their stylistic approaches. These differences suggest a balance between emotional intensity and political articulation, as one text leans toward personal vulnerability and relational expression, while the other emphasizes structured, rhetorical clarity. In contrast, male authors exhibited moderate stylistic consistency, characterized by measured language use and a focus on rhetorical and moral precision. Their narratives show less variability, reflecting a controlled and introspective style aligned with leadership and ethical discourse. Furthermore, the patterns of pronoun usage and authenticity indices highlight that female narratives tend to be more relational and interpersonal, drawing readers into emotional and social engagement, whereas male narratives reveal a more self-reflective and ideological tone, centered on introspection, principles, and moral reasoning. The statistical findings underscore the multidimensional nature of autobiographical writing across gender and context. The large effect sizes indicate meaningful differences in linguistic focus, tone, and structure. The results contribute to understanding how gender and social positioning influence narrative voice in political and personal autobiographies.

5. Conclusions

The findings of this study demonstrates that language practice by different social groups are culturally and contextually reconciled. Holmes (1995), Coates (2004), and Tannen (1990) emphasized that there exist much differences in the use of personal pronoun, gender references, lexical diversity on other linguistic dimensions that redirects gender ideologies and social hierarchies by male and female. Rahman (2010) in Pakistani context, has detected that gendered-based linguistic representation in English written discourse is shaped by postcolonial distinctiveness and socio-cultural norms. The present study covers these standpoints by means of

LIWC-based psycholinguistic quantification to empirically capture these patterns in autobiographical writing.

The findings of this study are similar with Cameron (2005) in the use of inclusive pronouns and balanced emotional language in several texts supports. Cameron's (2005) argument that speaker's discursive choice composites a vivacious role in stimulating gender equality. Moreover, statistical confirmation of a more gender-neutral lexical outline—predominantly among current female writers—specifies a cognizant withdrawal from a traditionally dominant patriarchal linguistic norm in South Asian narrative discourse. This also line up with Mills and Mullany's (2011) findings, who competes that feminist linguistic rehearses pursue to “rein inscribe subjectivity by inclusive use of language”.

At the same time, Butler and Watt's (1990) theory of “gender performativity”, suggest certain differences across personal and political autobiographies that linguistic identity construction is contextually sanctioned rather than fixed naturally. Political autobiographies often demonstrates higher analytic and power related LIWC frequencies, imitating institutional power and social distance as well, whereas personal storylines express higher validity and emotional countenance, gesturing familiarity and passionate self-disclosure. Such dissimilarities are consistent with Pennebaker et al. (2015), who demonstrated that LIWC dimensions of “clout” and “authenticity”, indicate a stronger rhetorical confidence and authority, likely reflective of its political and leadership-oriented context efficiently differentiate public discourse to personal one.

Significantly, the current study enhances the prevailing researches on Pakistani English writing styles within the domain of global trends about gender language and discourse analysis. While LIWC-based previous studies of Newman et al., (2008), Tausczik and Pennebaker (2010) have principally studied the Western corpora, but the current research reveals how socio-cultural positioning of Pakistan—interceded by religion, race, politics, and class—continues to inspire linguistic based gender expression. The merging of narrative self-awareness and inclusive lexical rehearses altogether advocates that there is a global shift towards identity negotiation and discursive equality by language in Pakistan.

6. Future recommendations and implications

The future research may involve LIWC's dimension of positive and negative emotions to study gendered-linguistic pattern. The researchers may also want to do psycholinguistic analysis of the autobiographical notes of male and female writers using LIWC tool of analysis. The observed findings of speaker's lexical choices for linguistic representation in political autobiographies can find practical implications in various fields such as in journalism and editorial writing to overcome gender inequality and therefore may be able to lower linguistic prejudices in their materials.

References

- Abdalgane, Mohammed. (2021). Gendered Language: A Study of Sociolinguistic Theories and Approaches. 17. 204-215.
- Brownlow, S., Rosamond, J. A., & Parker, J. A. (2003). Gender-linked linguistic behavior in television interviews. *Sex Roles*, 49(3), 121-132.
- Bußmann, H., & Hellinger, M. (2003). Gender across languages. Hudson, R. A. (1996). *Sociolinguistics*. Cambridge university press.
- Butler, J. (2002). *Gender trouble*. routledge.
- Butler, T., & Watt, P. (2006). *Understanding social inequality*.

- Cameron, D. (2005). Language, gender, and sexuality: Current issues and new directions. *Applied linguistics*, 26(4), 482-502.
- Cameron, D. (2023). Verbal hygiene. In *The routledge Handbook of linguistic prescriptivism* (pp. 17-30). Routledge.
- Coates, J. (2015). *Women, men and language: A sociolinguistic account of gender differences in language*. Routledge.
- Dovidio, J. F., & Gluszek, A. (2012). Accents, nonverbal behavior, and intergroup bias. *The handbook of intergroup communication*, 87-99.
- Fatima, A., Arslan, M. F., & Latif, T. (2025). Gender Representation in Language of Constitutions: A Cross Cultural Corpus Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis. *Journal of Asian Development Studies*, 14(1), 1793-1813.
- García, O., Flores, N., & Spotti, M. (Eds.). (2017). *The Oxford handbook of language and society*. Oxford University Press.
- Holmes, J. (2015). *Hyrje në sociolinguistikë*. Botime Pegi, Tiranë.
- Hudson, A. (2002). Outline of a Theory of Diglossia. *International journal of the sociology of language*, 2002(157).
- Hudson, N. F. (2009). *Gender, human security and the United Nations: Security language as a political framework for women*. Routledge.
- JENNIFER, F. R. (2015). *Language, Migration and Social Inequalities: A Critical Sociolinguistic Perspective on Institutions and Work*.
- Kayaoğlu, M. N. (2012). The use of mother tongue in foreign language teaching from teachers' practice and perspective. *Pamukkale Üniversitesi Eğitim Fakültesi Dergisi*, 32(2), 25-35.
- Kramer, E. (2016). Feminist linguistics and linguistic feminisms. *Mapping feminist anthropology in the twenty-first century*, 65-83.
- Labov, W. (1990). The intersection of sex and social class in the course of linguistic change. *Language variation and change*, 2(2), 205-254.
- Lakoff, R. T. (2004). *Language and woman's place: Text and commentaries (Vol. 3)*. Oxford University Press, USA.
- Manna, R., Pascucci, A., & Monti, J. (2019, November). Gender Detection and Stylistic Differences and Similarities between Males and Females in a Dream Tales Blog. In *CLiC-it*.
- McElhinny, B. (2014). Theorizing gender in sociolinguistics and linguistic anthropology. *The handbook of language, gender, and sexuality*, 48-67.
- McMillan, J. R., Clifton, A. K., McGrath, D., & Gale, W. S. (1977). Women's language: Uncertainty or interpersonal sensitivity and emotionality?. *Sex roles*, 3(6), 545-559.
- Mills, S., & Mullany, L. (2011). *Language, gender and feminism: Theory, methodology and practice*. Routledge.
- Mulac, A., Bradac, J. J., & Gibbons, P. (2001). Empirical support for the gender-as-culture hypothesis: An intercultural analysis of male/female language differences. *Human Communication Research*, 27(1), 121-152.
- Mulac, A., Seibold, D. R., & Farris, J. L. (2000). Female and male managers' and professionals' criticism giving: Differences in language use and effects. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, 19(4), 389-415.
- Mulac, A., Studley, L. B., & Blau, S. (1990). The gender-linked language effect in primary and secondary students' impromptu essays. *Sex Roles*, 23(9), 439-470.

- Newman, M. L., Groom, C. J., Handelman, L. D., & Pennebaker, J. W. (2008). Gender differences in language use: An analysis of 14,000 text samples. *Discourse processes*, 45(3), 211-236.
- Pennebaker, J. W. (2010). Expressive writing in a clinical setting. *The Independent Practitioner*, 30, 23-25.
- Pennebaker, J. W., Boyd, R. L., Jordan, K., & Blackburn, K. (2015). The development and psychometric properties of LIWC2015.
- Pennebaker, J. W., Francis, M. E., & Booth, R. J. (2001). Linguistic inquiry and word count: LIWC 2001. Mahway: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 71(2001), 2001.
- Poole, M. E. (1979). Social class, sex and linguistic coding. *Language and Speech*, 22(1), 49-67.
- Rahman, T. (2010). A multilingual language-in-education policy for indigenous minorities in Bangladesh: Challenges and possibilities. *Current issues in language planning*, 11(4), 341-359.
- Shala, F. (2019). Language Inequality and the Use of Standard Language. *Prizren Social Science Journal*, 3(1), 1-5.
- Tannen, D. (1990). *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men. Conversation*. New York: Ballantine books.
- Thomson, R., Murachver, T., & Green, J. (2001). Where is the gender in gendered language?. *Psychological Science*, 12(2), 171-175.
- Wolfram, W. (2023). Addressing linguistic inequality in higher education: A proactive model. *Dædalus*, 152(3), 36-51.
- Wulandari, Happy & Pithaloka, Dyah & Pasya, Sherly. (2025). Gender-based Interpersonal Communication Behavior: When Women No Longer Muted. *LONTAR: Jurnal Ilmu Komunikasi*. 13. 473-480. 10.30656/lontar.v13.i1.10288.