CONSTRUCTING POWER AND POLITENESS: A GENDER-BASED SFL ANALYSIS OF MOOD CHOICES IN PAKISTANI URDU CONVERSATIONAL PODCASTS

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Abstract
The study explored gender-based construction of power and politeness through the use of Mood choices by male and female speakers across four gendered-pairs of Pakistani Urdu conversational podcasts. These podcasts of gendered-pairs include Male Host – Male Guest, Male Host – Female Guest, Female Host – Female Guest, and Female Host – Male Guest have been selected based on the non-probability purposive sampling technique. *The theoretical framework of Interpersonal Meaning, particularly Mood system by Matthiessen and Teruya (2023) has been used. A total of 2,217 clauses from four podcasts have been analyzed to identify Mood choices including Declaratives, Interrogatives, Imperatives and Exclamatives by male and female speakers. Findings revealed that the declarative Mood type has been used as the most dominant Mood type, specifically by guest speakers, across all four conversational podcasts. Guest speakers have used dominant declarative to establish epistemic authority. Female guest speakers have used more declaratives than the male guest speakers. Interrogative Mood type has been frequently used by host speakers to control and direct the flow of the conversation. Less direct and softened interrogatives have been used with opposite gendered-pairs to adjust with cultural norms of respect and politeness. Imperative and Exclamative Mood types have been less frequently used. The reason behind the use of fewer imperatives was to make the conversation more softened and respectful. The limited use of exclamatives reflects the formal and serious nature of conversation. The findings of the study implied that the linguistics choices can be powerful resources for constructing power, authority, respect and politeness. Declarative Mood type gives the speaker informational authority whereas Interrogative Mood type gives the speaker control over the conversation. Assertive and epistemic usage of declaratives by female guests challenges the stereotype of female's language being more tentative. Male and female speakers are more conscious and less assertive in opposite gendered-pairs. It shows their conscious usage of language according to the context of Pakistani conversational norms at professional places.*

*Keywords***:** Systemic Functional Linguistics, mood, power, politeness, podcasts

Introduction
Language is a configured and structured system of words and sounds by means of which human beings share ideas, information, feelings, emotions, and expressions. It uses a system of speech sounds making words and words into meaningful sentences which work as a vehicle for communication. However, language is not only limited to communicating and exchanging ideas and information, but also a powerful tool to construct social roles, relationships and ideologies. It is actively involved in constructing social realities. It functions as an important semiotic resource through which speakers construct and develop complex social roles and identities. We use language as a lifelong project which constructs who we are, to whom we meet and talk. Thus, it navigates our social situations. These social situations may include authority, influence or control, respect and politeness an individual navigates through his/her language.

Spoken discourse plays a crucial role as a dynamic site for the expression of interpersonal meaning in different influential communicative settings. One of these communicative settings is podcasts. Podcast refers to a digital audio or video program consisting of a series of episodes on a specific theme or idea. Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) can be used to analyze multiple linguistic aspects of spoken discourse within any communicative setting. NELTA (2018) claims that the Systemic Functional Linguistics can study and analyze functions of language human beings achieve through it in a specific situation and context. It can include the interpersonal meaning of a spoken discourse, and its sub-component Mood. Luthfiyati et al. (2024) argued that SFL can be used to analyze different linguistics elements of discourse including speech, mode, mood and tenor used in the interaction between students and teachers in conveying interpersonal meaning. Ali (2019) stated that SFL offers Interpersonal metafunction as a tool to analyze how linguistic choices made by participants in a conversation reveals their roles. According to Matthiessen and Teruya (2023) Interpersonal Metafunction is a core component responsible for constructing roles and social relationships. Clause in the interpersonal metafunction works as a move in dialogic interaction. It establishes roles and relationships between speakers and listeners and decides the tenor of the relationship. The linguistic element such as Mood is the important component of interpersonal metafunction and work as a vehicle to convey interpersonal meanings between speaker and listener. Ali (2019) further argued that Mood as the most important component of interpersonal metafunction can reveal the interpersonal meanings and enables speakers or writers to convince or persuade listeners or readers.

Many studies have been conducted and analyzed spoken and written discourses using Systemic Functional Linguistic theory introduced by M.A.K Halliday (1985-1994) and reintroduced by M.A.K Halliday and Matthiessen (2004-2014). Gendered discourse has remained a significant topic of discussion in discourse studies. A lot of discourse studies have been conducted to explore the differences between men and women uses of language. However, despite many gendered discourse studies, there is still a notable gap to explore how male and female speakers use Mood differently in the context of Pakistani Urdu conversational podcasts. Not a single study has been conducted to explore the different uses of Mood by men and women and how it constructs interpersonal dynamics such as power, authority, influence, control, politeness and gentility. The present study aims to analyze the use of Mood by male and female speakers in different gendered-pairs including male host– male guest, male host–female guest, female host– female guest, and female host–male guest combinations. This study allows us to understand if and how different linguistic choices of mood can be changed depending on the gender combination of the speaker and listener.

1.1. Statement of the Problem

Mood as a core component of the interpersonal metafunction in systemic functional linguistics plays an important role to establish interpersonal meanings, roles and relations between the speaker and listener in a communication. The research problem of the present study is to explore the choices of Mood types by male and female speakers across different gendered pairs including male–male, male–female, female–male, and female–female combinations in the context of Pakistani Urdu conversational podcasts. Moreover, it aims to explore how gender specific Mood choices construct power, control, authority, respect, honor, politeness, and gentility. Many studies have been conducted on Mood choices and its manifestations, but there is still a gap to explore different usage of Mood choices by male and female speakers across different gendered-pairs in the context of Pakistani Urdu conversational podcasts.

1.2. Research Objectives

The present study has the following research objectives;

i. To identify and analyze choices of Mood types employed by male and female speakers in different gendered-pairs.
ii. To compare and contrast between the choices of Mood types used by male and female speakers in different gendered-pairs.
iii. To explore specific Mood choices made by male and female speakers contribute to the construction of power and politeness in different gendered-pairs.

1.3. Research Questions

The present study seeks to explore the following research questions;

i. What are the choices of Mood types used by male and female speakers in different gendered-pairs?
ii. What are the differences and similarities between choices of Mood types used by male and female speakers in different gendered-pairs?
iii. How specific Mood choices made by male and female speakers contribute to the construction of power and politeness in different gendered-pairs?

1.4. Significance of the Research

The present study is significant because it explores gender specific choices of Mood types by male and female speakers across different gendered pairs including male–male, male–female, female–male, and female–female combinations in the context of Pakistani Urdu conversational podcasts. This study is significant in terms of exploring if and how male or female speakers can change their linguistic patterns with male or female listeners. It explores how specific linguistic choices of Mood can construct and establish interpersonal meanings such as power, control, influence, respect, and politeness in Urdu language. Further, it helps to raise awareness about how gender and linguistic choices can influence control and politeness in Urdu conversation.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Theoretical Framework

The present study has used the theoretical framework of Interpersonal Meaning, particularly Mood system by Matthiessen and Teruya (2023). It has been used to explore Mood choices by male and female speakers across four gendered-pairs including Male Host – Male Guest, Male Host – Female Guest, Female Host – Female Guest, and Female Host – Female Guest.

2.1.1. Mood System

In Systemic Functional Linguistics, Mood is the key lexicogrammatical system within the interpersonal metafunction. It focuses on how language constructs social roles and relationships of the speakers. Matthiessen and Teruya (2023) state that the system of Interpersonal Metafunction enables speakers to establish and portray their social roles and relations as meaning and helps to express their judgments and attitudes. In the context of Systemic Functional Linguistics, interpersonal meaning enables the researcher to identify and analyze the underlying structure of a clause and understand the meaning that is needed for interaction between the speaker and listener (Halliday, 2014). It is useful to investigate the system of mood because it answers to the question of how language is structured to serve communication (Dajem, 2020).

Mood, as a primary lexicogrammatical system of interpersonal metafunction, realizes interpersonal meanings in the clause. These interpersonal meanings include the semantic system of speech functions such as establishing roles in conversations, stance, sentiments, and giving or receiving information or goods and services (Matthiessen and Teruya, 2023).

Interpersonal function of the clause utilizes the Mood element which consists of the subject and the finite clause. Mood element (subject + finite clause) combines with Residue (predicator + complement + adjunct) to make a clause of proposition. Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) explains mood as a system of clause rather than a system of a verbal group. Berry (1975) defines mood as a choice between different roles a speaker selects for himself and the listener. According to Dajem (2020), the analysis of mood choices can also provide helpful insights about the relationship between power (control, authority) and affective emotional involvement (politeness, respect).
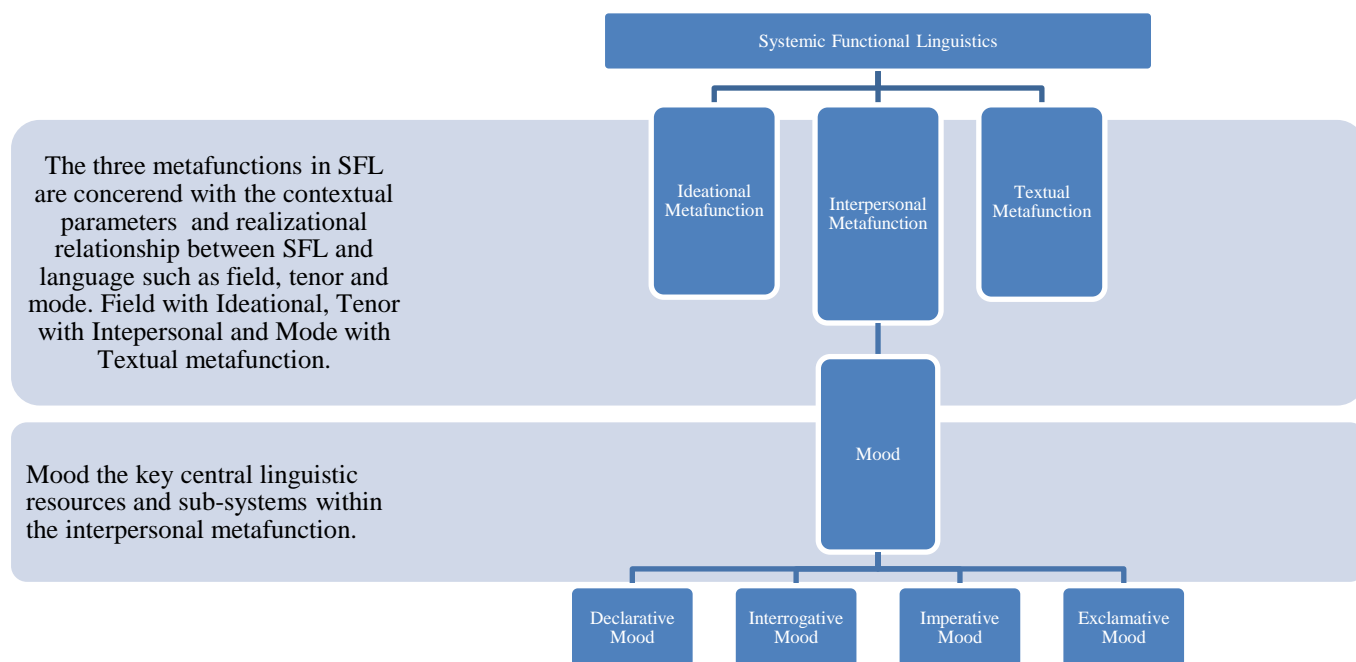
2.2. Past Studies

Many studies have been conducted to analyze different spoken and written discourses using Systemic Functional Linguistic analysis. Dajem (2020) conducted a qualitative study examining the interpersonal meaning of mood in the context of workplace discourse and the influence of power and communicative strategies. Data from a popular television series called Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares has been analyzed. The study has focused on to examine the Mood structures used by speakers, and to explore how the choice of Mood structure conveys interpersonal meanings of the speakers. Results of the study showed that the speakers with higher rank or power have used different type Mood choices than those with less rank or power.

A study conducted by Luthfiyati, et al. (2024) has examined the role of mood in the representation of interpersonal meaning in the discourse of classroom interaction using the framework of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). The findings of the study showed that mood has been dominantly used, which reflects the primary role of teacher in conveying information, establishing a direct learning environment, directing the lesson flow, and making sure that students are getting necessary guidelines for learning. Interrogative mood system was used to closely engage students, allow them to brainstorm and critical thinking. Imperative mood system was used for requests and commands for purpose of guiding student's behavior and learning tasks.

Syamsidar, et al. (2019) have conducted a study using the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL), particularly mood system by Halliday and Mathiessen (2004). The study dealt with the analysis of interpersonal meaning, specifically the choices of mood types, in the speech of Soekarno at the first 1955 Asian-African Conference. It was aimed to explore how mood choices reflect the themes of spirit of solidarity and brotherhood in the speech. Results of the study showed that the dominant usage of declarative clauses reflected the solidarity and brotherhood aspects of the Asian-African Conference. The frequent use of declarative clauses also suggested the speaker's confidence in speech while presenting factual information persuasively. Further, the use of declarative clauses also enables the speaker to closely engage with the audience.

Ngongo and Ngongo (2022) have conducted a study focusing on mood structures realizing interpersonal meaning in a text. The framework of Hallidayan Systemic Functional Grammar was used for the analysis. Data for the analysis was taken from 4 traditional proposal sessions, while proposing a girl, in the language of Waijewa society called *Kette Katonga Weri Kawendo* (KKWK). Results of the study showed that indicative (declarative and interrogative) and imperative mood systems were dominantly used in the text. Declaratives were further classified into exclamation and affirmative, in which affirmative type were used dominantly. It has accounted 83% of usage. On the other hand, exclamative was found least used type which has accounted 1.2% usage. The less use of exclamation showed that tenor was disallowed to provide open expressions relating to their social background.

NELTA (2018) has conducted a study focuses on the mood analysis of a 5 minute of conversation from the movie "Captain America: Civil War". It was examined that how language (mood choices) can help us to establish personal interests through language. Further, it was also investigated that how specific grammatical choices (Mood) of language made speakers predominant over the other.

Asnawi et al. (2023) has conducted a qualitative study focuses on the Moods in virtual communication. This study has analyzed how and why the moods and modalities were used in lectures for the virtual teaching. Recorded videos, observations, interviews and questionnaires were used for the data collection. Results showed that various kinds of moods were used in lectures, in which declarative mood was dominantly used.

Van Van (2024) has conducted a study examining transitivity and mood resources are realizing experiential and interpersonal meanings in a literary text. Data from the chapter 1 called "The Period" of the first book of the three-book novel called "A Tale of Two Cities" was analyzed. Results of the study show that lot transitivity and mood features were used in the text. Writer has constructed interpersonal meaning using 100% of declarative mood with the strong use of explicit and non-interactive Subjects. Subjects referring to first participant were also predominantly used.

Amalia et al. (2018) have conducted a study examining the interpersonal meaning in the speeches of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono using the Mood analysis of Systemic Functional Linguistics. Results of the study showed that two mood types namely indicative and imperative were dominantly found in the SBY's speeches. Declarative mood type was found of 97 clauses which made it to its 95% usage as a whole.

Malik et al. (2024) studied gender dynamics in Pakistani media conversations. The study aimed to explore the gendered aspects of turn-taking in Pakistani TV shows and podcasts. Interruption, turn-taking and the use language across various combinations of genres and formats were analyzed. Results of the study showed that males taking more time they speak and high level of interruptions made them as most dominant in the reporting of

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TV shows. Power relations were more equally shared in podcasts, but male guests still have subtle control over the discussion and able to provide detailed and comprehensive responses. The study also examined the issue of imbalance cultural aspects of conversation and the need of balancing the representation of different voices in communicative contexts.

TCHIBOZO-LAINE (2019) has conducted a qualitative and quantitative study based on the Halliday's (1985) Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory, to explore mood, modality and adjuncts as the linguistic resources used in the two extracts from Amma Darko's Faceless (2003). This analysis was aimed to investigate the interpersonal relationships among characters and to explore the limitations to feminist ideology of Amma Darko conveyed in Faceless (2003). Results of the study showed some relationships of both equal and unequal power between characters in both extracts, occasional interaction among all the characters, and high affective involvement between the characters in extract 1 while low affective involvement in extract 2. It was also found that female characters such as Maa Tsuru, Maami Broni, Kabria, and Blind-Beggar-Lady represented child prostitution, street life, dependency of women, beggary and so other issues. The analysis showed that women are responsible for their struggle and it was also highlighted for women to work collectively for the betterment of sisterhood female gender empowerment.

2.5.   Research Gap

Many studies have been conducted on the interpersonal meaning of mood choices and its manifestation in different spoken and written discourses using systemic functional linguistic analysis. Never any study has been conducted to study and explore the use of mood choices by male and female speakers in different gendered-pairs and how it constructs power, control, authority, respect, and politeness in Urdu conversational podcasts. Therefore, there lies a gap, which the present study aims to fill.

3.   Research Methodology

This section explains the research plan for the present study. It describes the overall approach, how the data (the podcasts) were chosen, and how they were analyzed.

3.1.   Research Design

This study has used a mixed method research design focusing on the in-depth explanation of social phenomena which can be established through the linguistic choices of Mood system. A specific corpus of podcasts conversation has been compiled to systematically analyze and focus on the functional interpretation of linguistic choices of Mood by male and female speakers. Statistical counts have been presented to identify different linguistic patterns by male and female speakers in different gendered-pairs. The qualitative nature has assisted the present study in terms of closely examining language in real-life context to explore how it works and establish power and politeness in different gendered-pairs. It has assisted the study to compare and contrast linguistic choices and patterns across different crucial gendered-pairs such as male- male, male- female, female-female, female- male.

3.2.   Data Collection

Data has been collected from the systematic selection and transcription of the relevant recorded Pakistani Urdu conversational podcasts.

3.2.1.   Sources of the Data

The primary source of data collection for the present study is the publically available recorded Pakistani Urdu conversational podcasts on YouTube. At first, four podcasts have been downloaded in audio format and then, transcribed into Urdu text format using online tool called Notta. The following criteria were followed for the selection of Pakistani Urdu conversation podcasts;

- **Number of Podcasts:** Only four Pakistani Urdu conversational podcasts has been selected for the present study.
- **Gendered-Pairs:** Podcasts has been selected based on the combination of specific gendered-pairs including Male Host – Male Guest, Male Host – Female Guest, Female Host – Female Guest, and Female Host – Male Guest.
- **Language:** Podcasts featuring conversation in Urdu language.
- **Format**: Each podcast has been featuring minimum two speakers with the specific gendered-pairs including male- male, male- female, female- female, female- male.
- **Content:** Podcasts have been selected based on the themes including current affairs, media, social and political issues.

3.2.2. *Sampling Techniques*

The non-probability purposive sampling technique has been used to choose specific type of gender-based Pakistani Urdu conversational podcasts.

3.2.3. *Sample*

Four Pakistani Urdu conversational podcasts have been selected as sample for the present study. Each one of four podcasts has been featuring one gendered-pair such as male host- male guest, male host- female guest, female host- female guest, and female host- male guest. 25-30 minutes of audio has been selected for transcription and analysis from each podcast.

3.3. Data Analysis Procedure

Data has been systematically analyzed in the following stages;

i. **Transcription:** Selected podcasts have been transcribed in Urdu using online tool called Notta. Significant pauses, emphatic stress and overlaps related to interpersonal meaning have also been noted.

ii. **UAM Corpus Tool:** The software of UAM corpus tool has been used for data tagging. All of the four datasets of podcasts has been uploaded to UAM corpus tool to tag the mood choices and its frequencies in the transcribed Urdu texts.

iii. **Mood Analysis:** Each clause has been manually tagged and analyzed based on the framework of Halliday & Matthiessen's (2014). Choices of Mood types such as interrogative, declarative, imperative and exclamative have been identified and tagged. Each type of Mood choice has been establishing a specific interpersonal meaning between speaker and listener.

iv. **Categorization:** Mood choices have been categorized and separated with specific male and female speakers within different gendered-pairs. Frequencies of different Mood types have been presented in tabular forms.

v. **Comparative Analysis:** Quantitative summaries of the data have been presented and analyzed to identify similarities and differences in the use of Mood choices between male and female speakers across different gendered-pairs.

vi. **Qualitative Interpretation:** The identified Mood choices have been analyzed and interpreted in terms of constructing power (control, assertion, dominance, authority) and politeness (respect, gentility, indirectness) in the conversation. It involved the interpretation of Mood choices in terms interpersonal meaning within the context of Pakistani Urdu Conversational Podcasts as well as the broader context of Pakistani Urdu conversations.

4. Data Analysis

Data has been collected from publicly available Pakistani Urdu conversational podcasts on YouTube. Podcasts has been downloaded and transcribed into Pakistani Urdu text to identify and analyze linguistic choices of Mood by male and female speakers within four gendered-

pairs including male host- male guest, male host- female guest, female host- female guest, and female host- male guest. The data of all four podcasts has been analyzed in three stages. At first, choices of Mood types used by male and female speakers have been indentified and analyzed to answer the Research Question 1. At second, similarities and differences between of Mood choices by male and female speakers have been identified and analyzed to answer the Research Question 2. At third, influence of Mood choices by male and female speakers to construct interpersonal meanings such as authority, control, politeness, and respect have been analyzed to answer the research question 3.

4.1. Mood Choices by Male and Female Speakers

4.1.1. *Male Host with Male Guest – First Podcast*

The first podcast Male Host with Male Guest is an Urdu conversational podcast between male gendered-pair speakers. After the data has been transcribed, a total of 739 Urdu clauses from the podcast have been identified to analyze the choices of Mood types by both male host and male guest.

4.1.1.1. Male Host – Mood Choices. The male host repeatedly has used both interrogative and declarative mood types to stable and balance the conversation with the guest. Interrogative mood types have been frequently used to evoke and extract information from the guest. Clauses such as *kaisay hei Sir?, kiya scene hei aaj kal?,* have been used to direct and push forward the conversation. Male host has used interrogatives and tag-questions to seek confirmation or clarification on any utterance such as *standup comedy he nahi hoyi?, Pakistan may aisay ho raha hie?, os mey risk b thorha km hota hei nha?, risk liya h?* Declarative mood types have also been repeatedly used by male host to set the overall scene and introduce the guest. Clauses such as *aaj hum nay socha,Tabish Hashmi bhai ko bhoolaya h, barhay arsay say hamaray view thorhay down thay, thorhay views kench letha h,* have been used to start the conversation and describe the characteristics of the guest. Further, the male host has used the declarative mood types to maintain the overall flow and consistency of the conversation. He adds information and explanations in response to the answers of the guest. Utterances such as *jo hamesha say pichlay 20 saal say main dek raha hon*, has admired the guest's achievements and a strong desire in response to what has been uttered by the guest. Imperative mood types have also been used by male host, but very rarely. Imperative with polite modality has been used to request for information or direct the guest. Utterances such as *thorha sa mujay batyiyega, daik lay kiya ho raha h iss time pay,* are imperative mood types used request information and give prescriptions. These imperatives mood types have been used with a very soft and polite tone to maintain respect for the guest. Exclamative mood types have also been very rarely used by male host. It has been used for greetings, to praise the answers of the guest, and emphasis on any point or idea. Utterances such as *kash Pakistan may be aisay cheez aajaye, acha!,* have been used to express his deep desire of something he wanted to be in Pakistan and feelings of surprise, respectively.

4.1.1.2. Male Guest – Mood Choices. The male guest has dominantly used declarative mood types to actively participate in the conversation and repeatedly answers the questions of the male host. It reflects his role as a primary narrator and informant of the podcast. Utterances such as *bilkul thek hay, yaar early life jo hay mai Karachi may paida hoowa,* are declarative mood types which shows his well being and personal history. Male guest has used declarative mood types to share information, opinions, concepts and ideas in response the questions asked by male host. Utterances such as *talent issi tarah banta h bhai, loag sirf taklif batatay rehtay hay, main political correctness say ik had thak agree karta hon,* show male guest's expression of beliefs, opinions and processes. Interrogative mood

types have been rarely used by male guest, but rhetorically. It has been used to confirm or emphasis on any ideas or point. Utterances including ***iss pay ab koun hansay ga?, main kar he kiya sakta hoon, yei kiya hay?, aaj kal aaye hooway kiya hay?,*** have been used by male guest to emphasis on the ideas and information he is talking about. Imperative and exclamative mood types have also been rarely used by male guest. They have been used to recount any idea or point, prescription, advice and the expression of deep feelings. Imperative mood types such as ***dheko, sirf apni apni jannat ki fikar karay, hamaray yahan standup comedy kar lo,*** and exclamative mood types such as ***Allah ka shukar, Alhamd o Lillah, zabardast,*** have also been rarely used in the whole conversation.

The following quantitative frequencies show the systematic distribution of all mood types used by male host and male guest in podcast 1.

Table 1

Mood Types used by Male Host and Male Guest in Podcast 1

Mood Type	Male Host		Male Guest		Total	Percentage
Declarative	146	19.75%	423	57.24%	569	76.99%
Interrogative	65	8.79%	35	4.73%	100	13.53%
Imperative	20	2.70%	15	2.00%	35	4.73%
Exclamative	15	2.02%	20	2.71%	35	4.73%
Total	**246**	**33.28%**	**493**	**66.71%**	**739**	**100%**

Table 1 shows that the declarative mood type has been dominantly used within the whole podcast featured by male host and male guest. It has got 76.99% usage across the whole podcast by both male speakers. It is clearly shown in the table 1 that male guest has used more declarative mood types than the male host with the individual percentages of 57.24 and 19.75, respectively. It is easy and clear to understand that male guest has used more declarative mood types because he is supposed to answer the male host's questions, give information, and explain ideas and concepts. 19.75% usage of declarative mood types by male host is less than the declaratives of male guest, but still is a bit unexpected number because he is supposed to ask questions. The reason for using more declarative mood types is to balance the conversation, add new information and explain the ideas presented by male guest. Another surprised statistic from the table 1 is the male host has used more declarative mood types than interrogative with the percentages of 19.75 and 8.79, respectively. This shows that the male host has preferred to collaboratively discuss, add, share and explain ideas, concepts and processes more than asking new questions and elicit information from the male guest. The 4.73% usage of interrogative mood type used by male guest are mostly rhetorical questions used for emphasis, confirmation, and to remind any idea. Imperative and Exclamative mood types have been used very less by both male host and male guest. They have been used for polite questioning, active responses, greetings, glorifying the responses, and so on.

4.1.2. *Male Host with Female Guest – Podcast 2*

The second podcast Male Host with Female Guest is a Pakistani Urdu conversational podcast between a gendered-pair of male host and a female guest. After the data has been transcribed, a total of 729 clauses have been identified and analyzed based on choices of Mood types by both speakers including male host and female guest.

4.1.2.1. Male Host – Mood Choices. Male Host has frequently used interrogative mood types in the form of Wh-interrogative and polar questions to evoke information, expand and guide the conversation and ask for details on different points or ideas. Utterances such as, ***tho kiya haal chaal hay?, par ye motapa tho nahi karta nha?, bilkul be nahi?, sleep hours***

aap ki kaisi chal rahi hay?, aur Sheher b shift ho rahay hay sath sath?, at the very start of the conversation shows to elicit information and push forward the conversation. Choices of Interrogative Mood types by male host show his role as an interviewer and main director the conversation. Declarative Mood types have also been used by male host to introduce the female guest, the topic, explain the context and situation, present his own understanding and response to the statements of the female guest. Utterances such as *hamay pata chal raha hay, barhi mazay ki kahani hay, abi abi utt kay aaya hon, hum nay ap kay liye coffee tyar ki hay, mai apnay usual supplements kha raha hoon, sleeping cycle be meri thorhi behtar ho gayi hay*, are declarative mood types direct and move forward the conversation. Imperative Mood types have been rarely used by male host. Those few imperative mood types were not direct imperatives and were mostly used in reported speech such as *Nathiya Gali chlay jau, Hunza chlay jau, coffee dein,* are polite, non-direct imperatives to suggest and explain better opportunities. Not a single Exclamative Mood type has been used in the whole conversation.

      4.1.1.2. Female Guest – Mood Choices. Female guest has dominantly used declarative Mood types in the gendered-pair of male host and female guest. Choices of Declarative Mood type are central to female guest's role as she is the main narrator of the information in the whole conversation. Declarative clauses such as *us duran mai cricket be khel rahi thi, mai apnay teammates ko sunnati thi, mera music sense zyada acha tha, ek thu wo recording itni buri thi,* all show female guest's personal history and professional experiences. Throughout the whole conversational podcast, female guest mostly has used declarative mood types to share personal experiences, discuss and explain different ideas and points. Interrogative Mood types have been less frequently used by female guest. Some interrogatives have been used by female guest as reciprocal social gestures followed by answer to the question of the male host, such as *mai thek, ap kaisay h?* Whereas, some interrogatives in the form of rhetorical questions such as *abi nahi thu kab karongi?, Karachi ko be koun apnata hay?, theek hai?* have been used to emphasize on any point or seek affirmation. Imperative mood types have not been used dominantly, but still more often to direct the conversation and establish a polite engagement with the male host. Imperative clauses such as *bhool he jau, sochien, samjien, meray yaqeen karo, koe mujay ghalat nha lein,* all show her polite directness in her instructive narratives. Exclamative mood types have also been used by female guest speaker, but less. Clauses such as *bahut bahut shukriya, Masha' Allah, bahut acha, uff,* all show her emotional reaction, admiration, surprise and any discomfort in the past. Exclamative Mood choices by female guest make her conversation more vivid and expressive.

      The following quantitative frequencies show the systematic distribution of all Mood types used by male host and female guest in podcast 2.

Table 2

Mood Types used by Male Host and Female Guest in Podcast 2

Mood Type	Male Host		Female Guest		Total	Percentage
Declarative	102	14.01%	559	76.78%	661	90.67%
Interrogative	19	2.61%	22	3.02%	41	5.62%
Imperative	7	0.96%	13	1.78%	20	2.74%
Exclamative	0	0.00%	7	0.96%	7	0.96%
Total	128	16.97%	601	83.02%	729	100%

      Table 2 shows that Declarative Mood types have been dominantly used by both speakers – male host and female guest. It has got 90.67% usage throughout the whole conversational podcast. Being a main narrator of the information, female guest has used it far

more than the male guest, with the percentages of 76.78% and 14.01%, respectively. The more usage of declarative mood types by both speakers also reflects the real nature of podcast where information are given and discussed. Usage of more interrogative Mood types by female guest and less by male host does not mean that the female guest has asked more questions, but instead, the interrogatives by female guest are the rhetorical questions used for affirmation or emphasis on any idea or point. Whereas, interrogatives by male host are questions asked from the female guest to elicit information and push forward the conversation. Table 2 also shows the very rare usage of Imperative and Exclamative Mood types by both speakers – male host and female guest.

4.1.3. Female Host with Female Guest – Podcast 3

The third podcast Female Host with Female Guest is a third Pakistani Urdu conversational podcast featuring a same gendered-pair of female host with a female guest. After the data of this podcast has been transcribed, a total of 261 clauses have been identified and analyzed based on different Mood types.

4.1.3.1. Female Host – Mood Choices. Female host has primarily used declarative mood types to set the context for the conversation and provide background information of the main theme to be discussed in the conversational podcast. Throughout the whole conversation, utterances such as *ye waqiyat koe aaj shoroo nahi hoyi, km say km hum is taraf aaye thu sai,* are declarative mood types used by female host. Interrogative Mood types have also been used by female host to direct the conversation and demand information from the female guest. Utterances such as *gherat ka kiya tasaur hay deen may?, kiya tawaqou ki ja sakti hay?, islam may aurat ka kiya tasaur hay?,* all show female host elicit information from the female guest being the expert with the knowledge to answer these answers. Few Imperative Mood types were used as polite imperatives to direct the female guest and demand information on any point. Exclamative Mood types have not been used by female host except of two.

4.1.3.2. Female Guest – Mood Choices. Female guest has predominantly used declarative mood types to share information, provide explanations, suggestions and opinions on any point or idea been discussed in the whole conversational podcast. Dominant usage of Declarative Mood types by female guest show her expert role assigned by host's questions. Clauses such as *hum ney ik mah may sirf 30 khawateen ki zamanat dee hay, mai thu khiraj e tehsin paish karoongi adalat ko, system nahi badla chehray badlay hay, betion ki tarbiat kay sath beton ki tarbiat be zarori hay,* all show female guest's stance to provide factual information, expert opinion, state problems and provide solution. Female guest also has used Interrogatives Mood types, not in the form of direct questions to demand information, but in the form of rhetorical and reported questions to engage female host and emphasis on any point. Instances such as *akhir nobat yahan thak q pohonchthi hay?, ab rahi baat ye kay deen e islam may aurat ka kiya tasawur hay?,* have been used to engage listeners and structure her own argument on any point. Two utterances of Imperative Mood such as *beton ki training karay, batayen k ye ghalat hay,* have also been used, not to direct or command the female guest, but to establish a polite engagement with the female host and give suggestions. Four Exclamative Mood type have been used responding to greetings such as *Walaikum Salam, shukria.*

The following quantitative frequencies show the systematic distribution of all Mood types used by female host and female guest in podcast 3.

Table 3

Mood Types used by Female Host and Female Guest in Podcast 3

Mood Type	Female Host		Female Guest		Total	Percentage
Declarative	39	14.94%	182	69.73%	221	84.67%
Interrogative	19	7.28%	7	2.68%	26	9.96%
Imperative	6	2.29%	2	0.76%	8	3.06%
Exclamative	2	0.76%	4	1.53%	6	2.29%
Total	**66**	**25.29%**	**195**	**74.71%**	**261**	**100%**

The table 3 shows that Declarative Mood type has been dominantly used by both speakers with the total percentage of 84.67. Being the core narrator of the information, female guest has used more declaratives than female host. Declaratives by female host has been primarily used to introduce the guest, the topic and situational background. 7.28% interrogatives are the general questions asked by female host to demand information, whereas 2.67% interrogatives used by female guest are not the true questions, but the rhetorical and reported questions to seek affirmation and attention from the listener.

4.1.4. *Female Host with Male Guest – Podcast 4*

The fourth podcast Male Host with Male Guest is a Pakistani Urdu conversational podcast between a gendered-pair of female host and a male guest. After the data has been transcribed, a total of 489 clauses have been identified and analyzed based on choices of Mood types by both speakers including female host and male guest.

4.1.4.1. Female Host – Mood Choices. Female guest has dominantly used Declarative Mood types to introduce the guest, the topic, setting the context, provide elaborations and perspectives on different information. Female guest has continuously used declaratives, more than interrogative mood type, to discuss and debate on different points presented by the male guest. Clauses such as *aaj meray sath moujood hay ik aisi personality, jin ko agar creativity ka power house kahon, thu ye bilkul ghlt nahi hoga, inhon ney podcast k culture ko redefine kiya, aaj mujay ye sharf hasil hoowa h, k mai ap say koe sawal kar sakoon, yaar videos ka kuc karna hay*, all show repeated used of declarative mood type by female guest to introduce the male guest and direct the conversation. Dominant usage of declarative mood type shows the female guest's efforts to guide the overall conversation and frame the male guest's contribution for more clearance and specification. Being the main guest of the podcast, female guest has also used Interrogative Mood type to ask and demand different sort of information from the male guest. Female guest mainly focused on Wh-interrogatives to get deeper into different ideas and points and control the direction of the conversation with the male guest. Clauses such as *kaisay hay aap?, matlab wo kaisay?, aap ko kiya lagta hay?, kiya videos banayi hay?, kis baray may banayi hay?, kaisay banyi hay?,* all reflect female host's role as main interviewer of the podcast to seek and elicit information from male guest. Female host also has used Imperative Mood type to direct the male guest politely while seeking information. Clauses such as *aap mujay bataye, apni journey bataye,* control the conversation and ask for information, but using the work *aap* to make the tone polite. Some minor clauses and a single Exclamative Mood type have also been identified. They have been used as greetings, affirmation, discourse markers, and response markers, such as *Assalam o Alaikum, ji bilkul, hmm, acha!*.

4.1.4.2. Male Guest – Mood Choices. Being the core narrator and informant throughout the whole podcast, male guest dominantly has used Declarative Mood type. It reflects the male guest's role as sharing his journey, experiences, suggestions, opinions on any point, and comprehensive and detailed explanations to the questions of female host.

Clauses such as *mai kahoonga, shorroo say he shouq tha mujay, ye nahi pta tha, mai nay awr jobs be ki, yar videos ka kuch karna hay, videos kay liye paisay chahiye, aap acha camera letay hay, mobile be letay hay*, all show male guest explaining his struggles and discoveries using declarative mood type. Interrogative Mood type has been used by male guest in the form of rhetorical questions, reciprocal politeness or embedded questions such as *kiya videos banani hay?, kaisay banani hay?, aap sunayen kaisay hay?*. Male guest did not use interrogative to demand any information from the female host. Imperative Mood types have also been used by male guest, but less frequently. Clauses such as *aap sunayen, tajraba kar k dekay, aap wo banaye*, are imperatives and show reciprocal turn-giving.

The following quantitative frequencies show the systematic distribution of all Mood types used by female host and male guest in podcast 4.

Table 4

Mood Types used by Female Host and Male Guest in Podcast 4

Mood Type	Female Host		Male Guest		Total	Percentage
Declarative	138	28.22%	205	41.92%	343	70.14%
Interrogative	20	4.09%	7	1.43%	27	5.52%
Imperative	7	1.43%	7	1.43%	14	2.86%
Exclamative	1	0.20%	0	0.00%	1	0.20%
Minor Clauses	56	11.45%	48	9.81%	104	21.27%
Total	222	45.39%	267	54.60%	489	100%

Table 4 shows that Declarative Mood type has been dominantly preferred throughout the whole conversational podcast. It has got a total of 70.14% usage reflecting the real nature of podcast where host and speaker discuss different topics, ideas and share information. Table 4 also shows the dominancy of minor clauses with the percentage of 21.27, second highest usage after declaratives. It shows active participation of both speakers – female host and male guest throughout the whole conversation. Interrogative Mood type has also been used, dominantly by female host, as expected. In contrast, 1.43% use of interrogatives by male guest are not true questions to demand information, but the rhetorical reciprocal questions.

4.2. Comparative Analysis – Similarities and Differences between Choices of Mood Types by Male and Female Speakers across all Gendered-Pairs

Different Mood types have been used by male and female speakers to demand and discuss information, ideas, concepts and processes. The frequencies of different Mood choices differ across four gendered-pairs. One thing that is similar to all is the dominant usage of Declarative Mood type across all podcasts. Other Mood types have been found very less with various frequencies across all podcasts.

The following quantitative frequencies show the systematic distribution of all Mood types within four podcasts of all gendered-pairs.

Table 5

Mood types used by all gendered-pairs within four podcasts of all gendered-pairs

Podcast – All Gendered Pairs		Declarative	Interrogative	Imperative	Exclamative	Minor Clauses	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage
P 1	Male Host	146	65	20	15	---	246	33.28%	739	33.33%
		19.75%	8.79%	2.70%	2.02%	---				
	Male Guest	423	35	15	20	---	493	66.71%		
		57.24%	4.73%	2.00%	2.71%	---				

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P2	Male Host	102	19	7	0	---	128	16.97%	729	32.88%
		14.01%	2.61%	0.96%	0.00%	---				
	Female Guest	559	22	13	7	---	601	83.02%		
		76.78%	3.02%	1.78%	0.96%	---				
P3	Female Host	39	19	6	2	---	66	25.29%	261	11.77%
		14.94%	7.28%	2.29%	0.76%	---				
	Female Guest	182	7	2	4	---	195	74.71%		
		69.73%	2.68%	0.76%	1.53%	---				
P4	Female Host	138	20	7	1	56	222	45.39%	489	22.06%
		28.22%	4.09%	1.43%	0.20%	11.45%				
	Male Guest	205	7	7	0	48	267	54.60%		
		41.92%	1.43%	1.43%	0.00%	9.81%				
Total		1794	194	77	49	104	2,217		100%	
Percentage		80.92%	8.75%	3.47%	2.21%	4.67%				

Table 5 shows the collective frequencies of all four podcasts. Declarative Mood type has got 80.92% usage across all gendered-pairs. The most dominant usage of Declarative Mood type clearly shows the true nature of podcast being discussion of ideas, concepts, and processes and sharing information. It is worth mentioning that being a guest speaker, female comparatively has used more Declarative Mood types than Male across all gendered pairs. On the hand, being host speakers in same gendered pairs, both male and female speakers have used more declarative Mood types, than being host in opposite gendered pairs.

Interrogative Mood has got unexpected percentage of 8.75. It has been used often by host speakers to control the direction of the conversation. It includes true questions from hosts to demand answers and rhetorical, reciprocal, reported or embedded questions by guest within the conversation. It is clear from the table 5 that both male and female hosts has used more interrogatives within same gendered-pairs, but have used less interrogatives in opposite gendered-pairs.

Imperatives have also been found, but very less. 3.47% usage of imperatives across all four podcasts shows its less frequent usage by male and female speakers. They have been often used to demand or request for information in a polite way. Similarly, exclamative has also not contributed more. It has got only 2.21% usage across four podcasts. Both Imperative and Exclamative Mood types have been used at similar level by both male and female speakers across all gendered-pairs. Minor Clauses have only been found frequent in Podcast 4. Both speakers in Podcast 4 have used Minor Clauses with almost similar frequency.

4.3. Construction of Power and Politeness – Mood Analysis

4.3.1. *Declarative Mood – Interpersonal Meaning of Power and Politeness*

4.3.1.1. Podcast 1 – Male Host with Male Guest. The Declarative Mood type has been dominantly used to share and explain information and processes throughout the whole Podcast 1. The frequent usage of Declarative Mood type by both speakers defines the true nature of podcast being central to the discussion and delivery of different ideas and information. It has been used to realize different aspects of power, control and authority by both speakers.

Male Guest has dominantly used Declarative Mood type being a primary source of his control and power while sharing information and experiences. It has been used to establish and hold informational power while narrating his life story, asserting opinions and observations, and establishing expertise and credibility. Being the core guest of the

conversational podcast, male guest has the authority to provide and share information the audience desires.

Male Host also has repeatedly used Declarative Mood type to frame the conversation, summarize and confirm understanding, and make observations to push forward the conversation. Using frequent usage of Declarative Mood type establishes the host's parallel control over the show, active listening, keeping narrative on the track, inviting response, and co-constructing the discourse of the conversation.

Both the speakers has been used some politeness markers to establish balanced and polite environment throughout the conversation. Male host skillfully balanced his authoritative control and established politeness and respect for male guest while using honorifics like *sir*, *bhai, aap,* in his declaratives. It has been used to maintain the social respect for his male guest. On the other hand, terms like *yaar, bhai,* by male guest also make the conversation more polite, friendly and natural.

4.3.1.2. Podcast 2 – Male Host with Female Guest. Declarative Mood has been used with more than two-third dominancy by both speakers throughout the whole podcast of Male Host with Female Guest.

Female Guest has used nearly three times more declaratives than male guest. It reflects her primary and frontline role of being core informant and narrator of the conversation. She is taking more turns to participate more, explain different things, processes and concepts. It establishes her dominant control over the conversation. Declarative Mood type allows her to assert facts and identity, express strong opinions and emotions, and take continuous control of narrative. Thus, she is not just answering the questions but also asserting her powerful herself. She has maintained her narrative power by using high volume of declarative mood types.

Declarative Mood by male host has also been used, although less frequent than the female guest. Declaratives used by Male host serves different functions such as setting the stage, introducing the topic, establishing a sense of equality and shared space. It has also been used for supportive feedback and encouraging female guest to continue. It establishes a sort of politeness and respect to build a balanced conversation full of solidarity and shared respect. Male host's validation and agreement with female guest reflected through declaratives develop a unique mutual politeness.

4.3.1.3. Podcast 3 – Female Host with Female Guest. With the continuous dominancy, Declarative Mood type in Podcast 3 also has been dominantly used by both speakers throughout the whole conversation. Being the frontline narrator and informant, female guest used three times more declaratives than female host. The dominant usage of declarative mood type by female guest gives her the assertive control over the conversation and presents her as a primary expert of the show. She uses declaratives to avail the authority of being confidently state facts and figures, explain religious, social and legal concepts, and express her personal strong opinions. Thus, she has an epistemic authority to control the information and concepts. With her strong assertions, she uses some phrases to soften the tone and balance the level of politeness in her declarative narration. Phrases such as *mera khyal hay, mujay lagta hay*, moderate the assertiveness and establish collaboration.

Female Host also has used Declarative Mood type, although less frequently. She has used declaratives to start the conversation, set the context, acknowledge, affirm and conclude guest's responses. She plays a sort of mediator role between guest and audience. Setting the context reflects her authoritative power of directing discourse, whereas the act of acknowledgment and affirmation such as *bilkul thek hay, aisa he hay*, reflects her polite act of controlling conversational flow.

4.3.1.4. Podcast 4 – Female Host with Male Guest. Declarative Mood type being the most dominant in Podcast 4, functions as the primary source of exchanging and presenting information. Male guest has dominantly used Declarative Mood type to establish his narrative authority in Podcast 4. He has used declaratives such as *shorroo say he mujay videos bananay ka shouq tha, ye ik dopamine hay, content banana mushkil kaam hay*, to present his journey, explain different concepts, and assert his views. He has delivered his informational power through the usage of frequent declaratives. Long, uninterrupted and strong assertions such as *agar mai wigs may ghoosta hon, mai sab say best wigs bana sakta hon,* are the declaratives that unconsciously establishes his strong identity as an confident expert.

Female Host also has used declaratives to introduce the topic, frame the interaction and conclude over the guest's responses. She has used declaratives to have hosting control on discourse. Clauses such as *aaj meray sath mojood hay, inhon ney podcast k culture ko refdefine kiya,* establish her authority being host and guide. Within these declaratives, female host has praised the male guest for his achievements such as *ik aisi personality, creativity ka powerhouse*. It reflects the politeness strategies used by female host to glorify the male guest.

4.3.2. Interrogative Mood – Interpersonal Meaning of Power and Politeness

4.3.2.1. Podcast 1 – Male Host with Male Guest. Interrogative mood type is a second frequent and dominant mood type used in Podcast 1 specifically by Male Host. It has been explicitly used by male host to demand responses and establish discursive authority. Wh-questions have been predominantly used to let the guest to elaborate on different ideas and information. Questions allowed the male host's ability to assert control, while the nature and type of question negotiated politeness. Questions such as *kaisay hay sir?, aap kis bases k upper aatay thay?*, blended host's power and respect for the male guest using terms like *sir, aap,* plural *hay* instead of *ho*, and plural *aatay thay* instead of *aata tha*. Thus, male host not just demand and extract information but also invite male guest's performance with a polite and respected manner.

4.3.2.2. Podcast 2 – Male Host with Female Guest. Male Host has used significant amount of interrogative mood type to play his role of being director of discourse, eliciting information and pushing forward the conversation. Male host has maintained his authoritative control through questions to manage the conversation and direct the topic. He has used open-ended questions such as *tho kiya haal chaal hay?, aap ki sleep hours kaisi chl rahi?*, provide a floor for female guest to elaborate. Interrogatives have been used control the direction of the topic flow. Tags within questions have been used for respect and politeness purposes. For instance, the tag *nha* within the question *par ye motapa thu nahi karta nha?,* soften the question and collaborative check for confirmation to establish the solidarity. Female guest has used rhetorical and reported questions to clarify information, emphasis on any point or idea, express surprises and reinforce her role as a respondent.

4.3.2.3. Podcast 3 – Female Host with Female Guest. The Interrogative Mood type allows the speaker to demand information by asking true questions and make assertions by asking rhetorical questions. In Podcast 3, Female Host has repeatedly used Interrogative Mood type to control the overall conversation and make an authoritative impact. She has asked genuine questions to demand information from Female Guest such as *ghairat ka kiya tasaur hay deen may?, kiya tawaqou ki ja sakti hay?*, demand explanation and opinion. Using Interrogative Mood type, the female host has the power to control discourse, directs the topic, and puts female guest in a role of respondent. The questions by female host are patterned politely and open-ended, so it maintains the limits of politeness and mutual respect for the female guest.

Female guest has not used true questions to seek information but rhetorical interrogatives to make her powerful assertions. Questions such as *es act kay manzori kay bawojood kiya pir aurat katal nahi hoyi?, aakhir nobat yahan thak q pohonhti hay?, lekin hum itna barha zarf kahan say layingay?.* Using rhetorical interrogatives, female guest has not only responded to the female host's questions, but also challenged the societal norms and established herself as an assertive persuader. Through rhetorical questions, she has an argumentative control and compelling listeners to view the issue from her perspectives. Rhetorical Interrogatives are the most powerful and highly respectful persuasive technique to skillfully present your opinion or argument in the context of Pakistani Urdu speech community. Rhetorical interrogatives maintain the boundaries of respect and politeness of being not using direct or target questions.

4.3.2.4. Podcast 4 – Female Host with Male Guest. In Podcast 4, interrogatives have been a primary source of demanding information and establishing power dynamics between Female Host and Male Guest. The Female Host has dominantly used Interrogative Mood type to control the flow of conversation on a desired direction. It reflects her dominant and authority-based role throughout the whole conversation. Using Interrogative Mood type such as *ghalti kahan pay aarahi hay?, is may is ki kiya stability hay?,* allow female host to have authoritative power to decide the topic, inquest the details, and challenge the statements of male guest speaker. Being authoritative host, she also uses politeness strategies in her interrogatives to maintain the elements of respect for the male guest. Interrogatives such as the word *aap* in the interrogative *aap ko kiya lagta hay?,* balances female host's authoritative control with respect for the male guest.

The male guest has used minimal Interrogative Mood type which very significant as his role. These minimal Interrogative Mood type also were not the direct questions to demand information, but the rhetorical or reported questions to make shared grounds before making any argument or point. Interrogatives such *kiya ap ko nahi pta k videos kaisay banana hay,* are the sort of interrogatives used by male guest. This does not challenge the host's control but a report-building utterance to understand and accept his role as an information giver, not to demand information. Thus, it also highlights his politeness strategy of being relevant to his specific role.

4.3.3. Imperative Mood – Interpersonal Meaning of Power and Politeness

4.3.3.1. Podcast 1 – Male Host with Male Guest. Imperative Mood type can be used to directly command an action. In Podcast 1, Imperative type has been used by male host; though less frequent, to assert his role, direct power and control of interactional flow. The direct imperatives used male host made his role as more authoritative to demand information from the male guest. Clauses such as *thorhi summary batayen, aagay jayen,* are the direct imperative reflecting his authoritative control to manage the time and pace of the conversation. It reflect his role as an authoritative speaker to interrupt a long narrative to manage the structure of program. Being host of the show, this directness is acceptable for him. Some of politeness markers also make male host's imperatives as more polite and respected. Within the clauses such as *thorha sa mujay batayiye ga*, words like *thorha sa*, and the polite future imperative *batayiye ga*, make the direct speech more soften and respectful.

4.3.3.2. Podcast 2 – Male Host with Female Guest. Imperative Mood type in Podcast 2 is almost absent. The absence of Imperative Mood type is highly significant as it avoids direct commands and makes the conversation more centered to mutual respect and equality. Some of Imperatives have been used by Male Host such as *thu ye be journey zara hamay batayiye,* are not authoritative, but to establish high level of politeness and respect. Words like *zara* and the plural *batayiye* turns the command into a very respectful and polite

request. Not a single Imperative Mood type by both speakers has been used to reflect authority or control over the conversation.

4.3.3.3. Podcast 3 – Female Host with Female Guest. The Imperative Mood type allows the speaker to command or request directly. In the context of Podcast 3, the near-absence of Imperative Mood type is highly significant. Only the female host has used two imperatives including *ye batayiye ga kay, Arooj Malik ko dejiye ijazat.* The female host has used two Imperatives to direct the speaker. The power has been greatly mitigated by using word like future polite *batayiye ga*, instead of *batau*. Other polite words such as *dejiye ijazat,* instead of *janay do*. These words *batayiye ga* and *dejiye ijazat* are far more respectful than the words *batau* and *janay do,* respectively. It shifts the tone of an imperative from a direct command to a polite and respectful request. It maintains the host speaker's power of directing the conversation with the deep level of politeness and respect for the guest speaker in the context of Pakistani Urdu conversation.

4.3.3.4. Podcast 4 – Female Host with Male Guest. Imperative Mood type has been used to direct, request or command someone to do something. Similar to the Interrogative, Imperative Mood type is also highly significant for power and politeness.

Female Host has used highly polite Imperative Mood types. She has used commands as softened requests to seek information from the male guest. Imperative by female guest such as *aap mujay batayiye,* is more a polite request than a direct command. Being a host, it establishes her authoritative control to extract information, but also a highly polite way to ask for the information. Words such as *aap* and *batayiye* make the tone of the utterance more polite and softened.

Guest also has used Imperative Mood type for specific purposes. He repeatedly used words of Imperative Mood type such as *dekhiyen*, *samjen*, to grab the full attention of the host before starting any new point. It reflects male guest's power of engaging the host throughout the whole conversation. On the other hand, the plural forms such as *dekhiyen*, *samjen*, instead *dekho*, *samjo*, shifts a command into a respectful imperative. Another imperative by male guest such as *google pay ja kay search kar lejiye ga,* also functions more as a polite request than a command due the use of words *kar lejiye ga* instead of *kar lo*. These words balances the authority with gentility and politeness.

4.3.4. *Exclamative Mood Type – Interpersonal Meaning of Power and Politeness*

Exclamative Mood type across four Pakistani Urdu conversational podcasts has been less frequently used as compare to other Mood types including Declarative, Interrogative and Imperative. The less frequent use of Exclamative Mood type is highly significant and its role to construct power and politeness depends on the context and situation in which it has been used.

4.3.4.1. Podcast 1 – Male Host with Male Guest. Exclamative Mood type in Podcast 1 has been used by both speakers including male host and male guest, but less frequent and not dominant like other Mood types.

Male host has used Exclamative Mood type for greetings, praising the answers of the guest, and emphasis on any point or idea. Utterances such as *kash Pakistan may be aisay cheez aajaye, acha!,* have been used to express his deep desire of something he wanted to be in Pakistan and feelings of surprise, respectively. The surprising or emotional expressions in response to the statements of male guest reflect the establishment of the authority to pass judgments and powerful positive evaluation. Strong Exclamative Mood types allows host to establish warm and respectful atmosphere as well as to uphold the role of being official evaluator of the conversation.

Male guest also has rarely used Exclamative Mood type in responses of greetings and so to maintain the level of mutual politeness and respect. No power or authority level purposes have been reflected from the exclamative mood choices of male guest.

4.3.4.2. Podcast 2 – Male Host with Female Guest. The conversation in Podcast 2 is deeply personal and emotional in which female guest is dominant, expressing her long journey full of emotions and struggles. Pure grammatically exclamatives have been used less frequent, although normal utterances have been used expressing strong emotional effect. Female guest often has used Exclamatory Interrogative such as *tum us waqt kahan thay jab mera abbu zinda tha?*, to express the hypocrisy of her relatives and deep hurt broken emotions. It allows her to establish emotional assertion and express powerful exclamation of anger, pain, and frustration. It reflects her authority of being able to challenge the moral status of the critic. She also has used Idiomatic Exclamatives such as *kiya baat hay*, to express her emotions of surprise and admiration. The phrase *kiya baat hay*, literally mean *what is the matter?*, but functionally in the context of Pakistani discourse, it means *amazing, great*. It reflects female guest's way of solidarity and politeness to strengthen interpersonal connection of respect the male guest.

Male host has not used exclamative mood choice. The absence of exclamative for male host is significant as it reflects his strong and authoritative role.

4.3.4.3. Podcast 3 – Female Host with Female Guest. Podcast 3 is a sort of serious and formal discussion on issues like honor killings and rights of women. Exclamative Mood choices in Podcast 3 by both speakers have been found very limited. Only 2 by female host and 4 exclamatives by female guest have been used. The limited and only few instances of exclamative mood choices reflect the high seriousness of the context and genre of the conversation.

4.3.4.4. Podcast 4 – Female Host with Male Guest. In Podcast 4, not a single instance of Exclamative Mood type by both speakers has been found. The complete absence of Exclamative Mood type reflects the type of podcast and register being more formal with controlled personas of both speakers.

5. Findings and Discussion

Findings and Discussion section presents Systemic Functional Linguistic Analysis of Mood types across four gendered-pairs of Pakistani Urdu conversational podcasts.

5.1. Findings

2,217 clauses across four Pakistani Urdu conversational podcasts have been identified and analyzed. Different Mood choices including Declarative, Interrogative, Imperative, and Exclamative Mood types have been found. All these mood choices reflect distinctive functional roles of male and female speakers across four gendered-pairs.

5.1.1. *Choices of Mood Types by Male and Female Speakers across Four Gendered-Pairs – Comparative Findings*

The following table 5 shows a consolidated quantitative distribution of all mood choices by male and female speakers across four podcast.

Table 6

Consolidated Quantitative Distribution of all Mood Choices by male and female speakers across Four Gendered-Pairs Pakistani Urdu Conversational Podcasts

Speaker	Declarative		Interrogative		Imperative		Exclamative		Total	Percentage
Male Host (P1, P2)	248	11.73%	84	3.97%	27	1.28%	15	0.71%	374	17.69
Female	177	8.37%	39	1.84%	13	0.61%	3	0.14%	232	10.97%

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Host (P3, P4)										
Male Guest (P1, P4)	628	29.70%	42	1.98%	22	1.04%	20	0.94%	712	33.68%
Female Guest (P2, P3)	741	35.05%	29	1.37%	15	0.70%	11	0.52%	796	37.65%
Total	1794	84.86%	194	9.17%	77	3.64%	49	2.31%	2114	100%

Table 6 exhibits the following significant findings;

i. The Declarative Mood type has been used the most frequent and predominant mood choice by all speakers across all four podcasts. It has got the most dominant frequency of 84.86% of all clauses. It reflects the primary function of Declarative Mood type being the primary source of exchanging information and discussion.

ii. Regardless of gender, guest speakers across all gendered-pairs have used significantly higher percentage of Declarative Mood type than host speakers. Male guests in P1 and P4 have used 29.70% whereas female guests in P2 and P3 have used 35.05% declaratives out of the total 2114 clauses. On the other hand, male and female host speakers across all gendered-pairs have used lower declaratives with the frequencies of 11.73% and 8.37% respectively.

iii. Based on gender, female guest speakers in P2 and P3 have used higher percentage of declaratives than the male guest speaker with the percentages of 35.05% and 29.70% out of total 2114 clauses, respectively.

iv. Male hosts in P1 and P2 has used more Interrogative Mood type than the female hosts in P3 and P4 with the percentages of 3.97% and 1.84% out of total 2114 clauses, respectively.

v. Male guest and male host has used more imperatives than the female guest and female host. This clearly shows the context of conversational discourse being in a male dominant society.

vi. Another surprising finding is that male hosts and male guests have used more exclamatives than the female hosts and female guests.

Minor clauses have been found reflecting the active participation of the speakers in the overall conversation. Words and phrases like *ji bilkul, yes, bilkul, hmm, acha, okay, thek hay*, are the important interpersonal resource and have been used to actively listen to the speakers and encourage them for continue speaking.

The gendered-pair of female host and male guest speaker have used more minor clauses than the other gendered-pairs.

5.1.2. Role of Mood Types – Constructing of Power and Politeness

5.1.2.1. Declarative Mood. Declarative Mood type across four podcasts has been dominantly used as a primary resource of giving information and managing the conversation.

Being the primary informants and frontline narrators, both male and female guest speakers within all four podcasts have used Declarative Mood type to establish informational power, and narrative authority. Male guest in P3 also has used declaratives to show his expertise and assert his epistemic authority.

Host speakers have used Declarative Mood type to frame the conversational discourse and narrative direction. It has been used to introduce the guest, set the context, and conclude points and responses from the guest speakers.

5.1.2.2. Interrogative Mood. The Interrogative Mood type has been dominantly used by host speakers to demand and extract information from the guest speakers.

Guest speakers have used Interrogatives only in the form of rhetorical, imbedded or reported questions to get engage the listener or audience and assert his/her points. They also use interrogative in the form of rhetorical questions to make powerful assertive points.

Interrogative Mood type has been a most exact way of establishing control over the conversation for host speakers. They have been using Wh-questions and polar interrogatives to direct the conversation on their desired direction. Host speakers have used interrogatives to manage turn-takings by guest speakers and place them in the role of respondents.

Host speakers have been using politeness markers to mitigate authoritative effect and balance the element of respect with domination or power. Using words like *sir*, plural verb form like *hai*, and plural subjects like *aap* for guest softening the tone of direct interrogative such as *sir aap ko kiya lagta hay?*.

It is also shown in the table 5 that male host with male guest has used more interrogatives than the male host with female guest. Similarly, female host with female guest has used more interrogatives than the female host with male guest. This finding shows that the male and female hosts have more authoritative roles within the same gendered-pairs and less authoritative roles in the opposite gendered-pairs.

Male and female hosts have been using more direct questions within the same gendered-pairs, whereas less direct questions within opposite gendered-pairs. The higher frequency of direct interrogatives by male and female hosts within the same gendered-pairs reflects the higher interpersonal solidarity and open and friendly discussion. On other hand, lower frequency of direct interrogatives by male and female hosts within opposite gendered-pairs suggests a more cautious approach to avoid any potential harsh or targeting interrogative. Male and female hosts relied more on declaratives instead of direct interrogatives to maintain the element of respect and flow of conversation. Using direct and harsh interrogatives with the guest speaker of opposite gender might be annoying or intrusive in the context overall Pakistani Urdu conversational discourse.

5.1.2.3. Imperative Mood. Across all four podcasts, 3.64% Imperative Mood type has been used. Although, this amount of frequency is very low, but it has been used in a very polite and respectful way.

The less usage of Imperative Mood type across all four podcasts is also significance as it shows to avoid direct commands and continue the flow of conversation through declaratives and polite interrogatives.

Linguistic resources have been used to make the direct imperatives more softened and respectful. Words like plural polite imperatives such as *thorha sa, batayiye ga*, soften the overall discourse in the clause like *thorha sa mujay ye batayiye ga*. The choices of plural forms like *batayiye ga*, *dekhiyen*, *samjen*, instead of *batau*, *dekho*, *samjo*, allows the host speaker to make his direct imperatives as more polite and respectful commands.
Imperatives by male and female speakers within opposite gendered-pairs have been more polite and less direct. It reflects the conscious and unconscious effort of male and female speakers to maintain more formal and professional register. Male and female speakers have been avoiding such linguistic choices that establish feelings of direct imposition.

5.1.2.4. Exclamative Mood. Exclamative being the least frequent mood type with the percentage of 2.31 across all four conversational podcasts has been used as a primary source of expressing emotional reactions, admirations and frustrations.

The least usage of Exclamative Mood type is also significant as it shows nature of all podcasts being more serious and formal.

Male and female speakers across all four podcasts have been using exclamatives to provide positive feedback and express strong emotions and feelings. It reflected the evaluative power of male and female listeners to evaluate the statements of the male and female speakers across all gendered-pairs.

Minor clauses (mostly in the form exclamatives) also have been used to encourage the speaker and show validation of the guest's points. This shows a sort of mutual respect and politeness of being continuously listening and bearing the speaker's long narratives.

5.2. Discussion

The present study has been conducted to explore the construction of power and politeness through the choices of Mood types by male and female speakers across four gender-based Pakistani Urdu conversational podcasts with the gendered-pairs of Male Host – Male Guest, Male Host – Female Guest, Female Host – Female Guest, and Female Host – Male Guest. This analysis has been conducted using the theoretical framework of Systemic Functional Linguistic Mood system of Matthiessen and Teruya (2023). A total of 2,217 clauses have been analyzed to identify and explore dynamic and complex interplay between the roles, genders and mood choices of host and guest speakers.

5.2.1. The Dominancy of Declarative Mood Choices

The most important and significant findings of the present study is the dominancy of Declarative Mood choices by male and female speakers with 80.92% usage across podcasts of all gendered-pairs. It has been found that declaratives has been used to present different ideas, statements and propositions. This aligns with the studies on informational discourse, political speeches and discourse of classroom lectures by Syamsidar et al. (2019), Amalia et al. (2018), and Luthfiyathi et al. (2024), respectively. These studies also found declaratives being the primary and dominant sources of exchanging information. However, the present study found the functional aspects declaratives as establishing power and authoritative roles of speakers more than the just exchanging information.

Another important point about of Declarative Mood type is that regardless of gender, the guest speakers have been using more declaratives than the host speakers. This reflects the nature of conversational podcasts where guest speakers position him or herself as a primary source of information. It automatically establishes the expert narrative authority of guest speaker.

Female guests have used higher rate of declaratives (35.05%) than the male guests (29.70%). This shows a significant dynamic change of language usage with gender. This point challenges the view of Robin Lakoff (1975) early works in which language of female speakers have been considered more tentative. But in the context of digital platform like podcasts, female speakers used declaratives to assert their expertise, establish their narrative territory, and powerful identity. It also suggests that being as a guest speaker and expert, can change the traditional and conservative patterns of communications for female speakers. This also challenges the study conducted by Malik et al. (2024), which found male guest as more dominant, have control over the discussion, and is able to produce detailed responses using declaratives.

5.2.2. Interrogative Mood Choices – Tool of Control and Respect

Because of the discursive nature of podcasts, Interrogative Mood type has been less frequently used. It has got the overall 8.75% usage across all four Pakistani Urdu conversational podcasts. The present study found Interrogative Mood as the primary source of establishing discursive control. Male and female hosts have used more interrogatives than the male and female guests to manage the topic and direct the flow of discourse. This aligns with the findings of study conducted by Dajem (2020) exploring power dynamics in the

contexts of workplaces and a study in the context of classroom discourse by Luthfiyathi et al. (2024).

Male and female hosts have used more interrogatives when interacting with the same gender guest, but have used fewer interrogatives when interacting with opposite gender guest. It reflects the overall Pakistani Cultural context, in which a high frequency of direct questions with opposite gender in professional settings could be considered as more intrusive. Using fewer direct interrogatives, hosts with opposite gender guests try to reduce Face Threatening Act (FTA), and establish a collaborative and respectful environment for the conversation. This finding challenges the work by Malik et al. (2024), which has found control of male in podcasts, but here we found both male and female hosts changes their strategies based on the gender of their interlocutor.

5.2.3. Imperative Mood

Imperative Mood type has been found less frequent. It has got only 3.47% across all conversational podcasts. The less frequent usage of imperatives reflects the collaborative and polite nature of podcasts. The harsh effects of imperatives have been reduced with the usage politeness markers embedded in Urdu grammar. For instance, words like *batayiye ga* (you will please tell me), instead of *batau* (tell me), *thorha sa* (a little bit), and a honorific pronoun like *app* (plural You). These sort of politeness markers shifts the tone of an imperative from a command to a more polite and respectful request. It aligns with the Brown and Levinson (1987) politeness strategies of minimizing imposition in speech. Imperatives have been consciously or unconsciously more polite and less direct in opposite gendered-pairs to maintain formal and respectful register when interacting with opposite gender.

5.2.4. Exclamative Mood

Exclamative Mood type has been found with the least usage of 2.21%. Being the highly formal and serious nature of podcasts, exclamative's least usage is more significant. The present study found imperatives being used for two purposes. First, it has been used by hosts to provide a positive evaluative feedback such as *zabardast* (amazing), *bahut acha* (great). It establishes the male or female host's power of assessment on guest speaker's contributions. Second, it has been used by guests to make strong and emotional assertions.

Another important point is that the present study male speakers have used slightly more exclamatives than the female speakers. This challenges the stereotype of female's language being more emotional.

6. Conclusion

The present study aimed to explore Mood choices by male and female speakers in four gendered-pairs podcasts using the theoretical framework of Interpersonal Meaning, particularly Mood system by Matthiessen and Teruya (2023). It has been aimed to explore construction of power and politeness using Mood types including Declaratives, Interrogatives, Imperatives and Exclamatives by male and female speakers across different gendered-pairs. It has been found that how speakers use these Mood types to establish social roles, control, authority and maintain respect and politeness in conversation.

Key findings of the study revealed that the Declarative Mood type has been the most dominant type used by all male and female speakers across four gendered-pair podcast. The dominant use of Declarative Mood type suggests the nature of podcasts being discursive. It also reflects the authoritative and expert roles of both male and female guest speakers. It also found female speakers being more confident and authoritative in the contexts of digital discourses like podcasts.

Interrogative Mood type played crucial roles, although used less frequent, but served as a tool for managing and maintaining the flow of conversation and asserting conversational control.

Male and female hosts have used less direct interrogative when interacting with the guests of opposite genders. It reflects the cultural aspects Pakistani conversational discourse being more respectful and cautious with opposite genders. On the other hand, interrogatives by guest speakers have not been used as genuine questions to demand information, but as rhetorical or embedded reported questions to assert points, emphasis on arguments, and engage the listener.

Imperative Mood type has also been used less frequent, but has significantly directed and maintained the flow of conversation with highly polite and less direct sort of imperatives, particularly in opposite gendered-pairs. Words like *thorha sa* (little bit), *bata dejiye* (you will have please tell me) instead of *batau* (tell me), *dekhen* instead of *dekko*, *batayiye ga* instead of *batau*, have softened the overall tone of the direct imperatives and maintained the respectful and collaborative tenor of conversational discourse.

Exclamative Mood type has been the least frequent mood choice across all gendered-pairs. Male speakers have used more exclamatives than the female speakers. It reflects a contrasting point to a stereotype about female language being more emotional.

6.1.   Limitations and Recommendations for the Future Studies

The present study is limited only to the analysis of transcribed data of four podcasts and a specific digital genre – podcast. Larger datasets of more podcasts, with other linguistic verities of Urdu language, could have produced more generalized and reliable results. Future research could expend datasets of more conversational podcasts covering more regional verities of Urdu language. Further, more digital genres like interviews, talk shows, comedy shows, etc., can be considered to expand the in-depth analysis to more genres.

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