|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Deficit – women’s language is *inherently* weaker than men’s language | Dominance – women dominated by men in conversation, just as they are in society as a whole | Difference – women and men use language differently | Other – other factors (such as power) than gender determine variation |
| Women’s language is over-politeTag questions use by women (to show uncertainty) (Lakoff, 1975)Women use more hedges and fillers e.g. ‘you see’, ‘well’ (Lakoff, 1975)Empty adjectives e.g. ‘amazing’, ‘lovely’ (Lakoff, 1975)Intensifiers e.g. ‘so’, ‘really’ (Lakoff, 1975)Women are able to use precise colour terms e.g. ‘magenta’, ‘mauve’ (Lakoff, 1975)Women use standard grammar (Lakoff, 1975)More polite forms e.g. euphemisms such as ‘spend a penny’ (Lakoff, 1975)Avoidance of taboo lexis opting for weak expletives e.g. ‘Oh, sugar!’ (Lakoff, 1975)Rising intonation on declaratives e.g. ‘It’s really amazing!’ (Lakoff, 1975)Emphatic stress on specific words e.g. ‘That’s a GORGEOUS dress!’ (Lakoff, 1975) | language is *man-made*, and does not lend itself to describing female experience; aids women’s subjugation (Dale Spender)in 11 conversations between men and women, men used 46 interruptions, but women only two (Zimmerman and West 1975) Men’s speech styles are seen as the norm in society (Deborah Tannen, 1992)Women ask questions because of the power of these, not because of their personality weaknesses. (Fishman 1983)Whilst women try to stimulate speech and be supportive – using tag questions for example, men’s delayed minimal responses work in the opposite way.  (Fishman 1983)male experts talking the most and violating other people’s turns the most, whilst female non-experts spoke least and used the most minimal responses (Leet-Pellegrini, 1980)women do the most work in conversation, called ‘shitwork’, such starting new topics and asking questions (Fishman 1983)‘silence is the desired state for women’ (Spender, 1998)It’s a myth that women talk more than men (Spender, 98) | women use hypercorrect pronunciation, whereas men will use low prestige pronunciation to gain covert prestige (Trudgill 1974)women’s talk is distinct from men’s: *house talk* (domestic world), *scandal* (behaviour, morality, particularly of other women), *bitching* (expression of anger to other women about role), *chatting* (mutual self-disclosure) (Jennifer Coates, 1998)Tag-questions used to support others (‘that’s lovely, isn’t it?’) (Coates, 1998)Men talk to gain status, women to give support (Deborah Tannen, 1992)Men talk to keep independence, women to preserve intimacy (Deborah Tannen, 1992)Men see a complaint as a chance to find a solution, women to show sympathy (Deborah Tannen, 1992)Men converse to convey information (report talk), women to share feelings (rapport talk) (Deborah Tannen, 1992)Women overlap, men interrupt (Deborah Tannen, 1992)Women will make suggestions, men will tend to give orders (Deborah Tannen, 1992)Women talk in private contexts, men in public contexts (Deborah Tannen, 1992)Men swear to form bonds – study of rugby clubs (Kuiper 1991) |  language differences are based on situation-specific authority or power and not gender – court room study (O’Barr and Atkins, 1980)Verbal hygiene – language is being manipulated for social reasons (e.g. politically correct language, like ‘chair’ instead of ‘chairman’). The actual manipulation is gender neutral (Cameron 1995) |

Coates says of tag questions, in *Language and gender: a reader* (1998, Blackwells)

Professor Trudgill's *Social Differentiation in Norwich* (1974, Cambridge University Press)

Professor Tannen has summarized her book *You Just Don't Understand* (1992)

 Don Zimmerman and Candace West at the Santa Barbara campus of the University of California in 1975

Robin Lakoff, in 1975, published an influential account of women's language. This was the book *Language and Woman's Place*.

Pamela Fishman, Interaction: the Work Women Do (1983)

Man Made Language Paperback – 9 Jul 1998 [Dale Spender](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Dale-Spender/e/B001HPJDKA/ref%3Ddp_byline_cont_book_1)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Deficit – women’s language is *inherently* weaker than men’s language** | **Dominance – women are dominated by men in conversation, just as they are in society as a whole** | **Difference – women and men use language differently** | **Other – other factors (such as power) than gender determine variation** |
| Women’s language is over-polite (Lakoff, 1975)Tag questions use by women (to show uncertainty) (Lakoff, 1975)Women use more hedges and fillers e.g. ‘you see’, ‘well’ (Lakoff, 1975)Empty adjectives e.g. ‘amazing’, ‘lovely’ (Lakoff, 1975)Intensifiers e.g. ‘so’, ‘really’ (Lakoff, 1975)Women are able to use precise colour terms e.g. ‘magenta’, ‘mauve’ (Lakoff, 1975)Women use standard grammar (Lakoff, 1975)More polite forms e.g. euphemisms such as ‘spend a penny’ (Lakoff, 1975)Avoidance of taboo lexis opting for weak expletives e.g. ‘Oh, sugar!’ (Lakoff, 1975)Rising intonation on declaratives e.g. ‘It’s really amazing!’ (Lakoff, 1975)Emphatic stress on specific words e.g. ‘That’s a GORGEOUS dress!’ (Lakoff, 1975) | language is *man-made*, and does not lend itself to describing female experience; aids women’s subjugation (Dale Spender)in 11 conversations between men and women, men used 46 interruptions, but women only two (Zimmerman and West 1975) Men’s speech styles are seen as the norm in society (Deborah Tannen, 1992)Women ask questions because of the power of these, not because of their personality weaknesses. (Fishman 1983)Whilst women try to stimulate speech and be supportive – using tag questions for example, men’s delayed minimal responses work in the opposite way.  (Fishman 1983)male experts talking the most and violating other people’s turns the most, whilst female non-experts spoke least and used the most minimal responses (Leet-Pellegrini, 1980)women do the most work in conversation, called ‘shitwork’, such starting new topics and asking questions (Fishman 1983)‘silence is the desired state for women’ (Spender, 1998)It’s a myth that women talk more than men (Spender, 98) | women use hypercorrect pronunciation, whereas men will use low prestige pronunciation to gain covert prestige (Trudgill 1974)women’s talk is distinct from men’s: *house talk* (domestic world), *scandal* (behaviour, morality, particularly of other women), *bitching* (expression of anger to other women about role), *chatting* (mutual self-disclosure) (Jennifer Coates, 1998)Tag-questions used to support others (‘that’s lovely, isn’t it?’) (Coates, 1998)Men talk to gain status, women to give support (Deborah Tannen, 1992)Men talk to keep independence, women to preserve intimacy (Deborah Tannen, 1992)Men see a complaint as a chance to find a solution, women to show sympathy (Deborah Tannen, 1992)Men converse to convey information (report talk), women to share feelings (rapport talk) (Deborah Tannen, 1992)Women overlap, men interrupt (Deborah Tannen, 1992)Women will make suggestions, men will tend to give orders (Deborah Tannen, 1992)Women talk in private contexts, men in public contexts (Deborah Tannen, 1992) |  language differences are based on situation-specific authority or power and not gender – court room study (O’Barr and Atkins, 1980)Verbal hygiene – language is being manipulated for social reasons (e.g. politically correct language, like ‘chair’ instead of ‘chairman’). The actual manipulation is gender neutral (Cameron 1995) |