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## Gender-Based Linguistic Patterns in Quora Apps: A Comparative Study

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### Abstract

There is a wide variety of interrelated social media platforms. Gender orientation can affect preferences for language use in particular social media, especially Quora, which is famous as a medium for collecting questions and answers on specific topics. Breaking new ground, this study uniquely juxtaposes gender orientation with linguistic preferences on Quora, an unexplored research area. This content analysis design employed textual data posted by Quora users in the "Skilled English Writing" forum during January-March 2023. Following Lakoff's gendered language theory, women frequently employ hedges to indicate uncertainty, whereas men use boosters to express confidence. The language of women was characterized by greater formality and formal grammar, whereas men favored informal abbreviations. In addition, women utilized emoticons for emphasis more frequently than males. These linguistic differences result from complex social, cultural, biological, and psychological effects, underscoring the importance of gender and social factors in language formation.

**Keywords:** Gender-Based Linguistic Pattern, Quora Apps

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## 1. Introduction

Several researchers regard anxiety as an inhibiting factor in the learning and mastery of foreign languages. Psychologists started to notice that people display anxiety in a variety of situations, such as driving, testing, and stage performances (Rowland & van Lankveld, 2019). Anxiety is defined as "an emotion based on a threat assessment that requires other symbolic, anticipatory and uncertain factors." and it is also seen as an "uncomfortable tension." Anxiety emerges when people are unsure of an upcoming event, aware that their performance will be evaluated, worried about the consequences of the event, and / or feeling uncomfortable or threatened. On the other side, anxiety can pose some benefits for it fosters ones' personality, increases creativity and raises the awareness of the possibility of life. Whereas, abnormal anxiety is not regarded a good thing. In language learning, speaking is the most anxiety-provoking skill (Bashori et al., 2020). Speaking Anxiety has been assumed to negatively affect the overall language performance. Although language learning anxiety is common in language teaching, learning and research, the need to contextualize this phenomenon is invaluable to academic practitioners (eg, educators and administrators) as it allows them to design proper interventions and lesson plans. Macayan et al (2018) found two aspects that trigger anxiety. First, social comparison anxiety that affects speaking performance. Second, class anxiety that facilitates constant correction, which helps students carry out reading assignments.

The investigation of gender differences in language usage, specifically between males and females, has been an intriguing research subject within sociolinguistics. Understanding how individuals of distinct genders utilize various languages provides invaluable insights into the complex interplay between language and society. Scholars have recently directed their attention towards this phenomenon, as evidenced by the investigations by researchers who explore the intricate nuances of language usage in males and females.(Anggraini et al., 2022; Hakami, 2022; Kurniawati, 2021)

Language, an essential discourse instrument, is intricately entwined with gender. It functions as a differentiating element in the linguistic expressions of individuals, resulting in the classification of language into terms associated with males and females (Wardhaugh & Fuller, 2021). This classification suggests that there are discernible linguistic inclinations between men and women, contributing to the diverse sociolinguistic variation. An intriguing facet of this linguistic investigation pertains to the scrutiny of written language, which exposes notable discrepancies in linguistic proficiency between males and females. Written language study has gained popularity due to its unique insight into how people of different genders express their thoughts and ideas.

The ramifications of employing gendered language transcend conventional modes of communication and permeate the digital domain. Researchers have investigated the unique

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approaches males and females employ when crafting captions on social media platforms, thereby encapsulating this notion (Gultom et al., 2020; Sari et al., 2020). As an ever-changing environment for individuals to express themselves, social media provides scholars with a modern perspective from which to analyze the progress of gendered language usage.

Within the dynamic realm of social media, Quora has strategically established itself as a formidable forum for exchanging information and intellectual dialogue. Quora is distinguished from many other social media platforms by its emphasis on excellent question-and-answer (Q&A) material. Quora is distinguished by its collaborative environment, where users actively post and revise answers, influencing the platform's content and establishing a cohesive community of involved users. Differentiating from conventional information-sharing platforms, Quora's content production is characterized by its collaborative and interactive attributes. Users engage in both the consumption and active contribution to the development and improvement of knowledge. The dynamic nature of this interaction sets Quora users apart. It enhances the platform's standing as a repository for varied and meticulously curated content. Quora, which attracts a monthly user base of 300 million people (Prater, 2019), has emerged as a prominent online platform for individuals searching for information, guidance, and perspectives. The platform is a central location where users can strategize, examine, evaluate, and acquire guidance. Users utilize Quora to acquire knowledge on diverse subjects, encompassing their immediate environment and products and services that pique their interest.

With the platform's ongoing development, Quora will likely continue to play a substantial role in influencing online discourse and promoting the exchange of knowledge through collaboration. The distinctive structure of this platform, in which users actively participate in content development and improvement, highlights the interactive and dynamic character of contemporary information consumption on social media. Quora exemplifies the notion that the generation of knowledge is a collaborative effort. In the continuously evolving digital environment, such platforms significantly influence how individuals obtain and interact with information. This unique arena brings together diverse individuals from all walks of life, allowing them to voice their perspectives and queries on various topics (Patil & Lee, 2016). With this global exchange of information, one cannot help but notice specific trends and patterns that surface in these discussions, particularly those associated with gender.

Gender differences research has been an extensive and diverse undertaking, encompassing numerous academic fields such as psychology, sociolinguistics, and women's studies. Academics have extensively examined the disparities between genders using a variety of methodologies to comprehend the subtleties of gender dynamics in various contexts (Ding & Li, 2023; Jafarova, 2021; Zhang & Sun, 2022). An essential subject of investigation pertains to the influence of gender on the utilization of language, an idea that transcends disciplinary boundaries. Sociolinguistic scholars have extensively examined the linguistic differences

between men and women, acknowledging that linguistic patterns are frequently influenced by societal expectations and norms about gender roles (Holmes, 2013). This investigation transcends the scope of linguistic analysis and encompasses more extensive inquiries regarding cultural influences and social structure. Furthermore, language is a reflective surface, allowing individuals and communities to manifest their gender identity.

Prominent scholars such as Deborah Tannen and Robin Lakoff have contributed substantially to the body of knowledge regarding this subject. There are discernible variations in conversational patterns between men and women. She introduced the notion of "genderlects" and underscored the significance of comprehending conversational styles within gendered frameworks (Tannen, 1996). Conversely, Lakoff made a seminal contribution with her hypothesis, "Women's language," which suggests that the way language is employed differs between men and women. Since 1975, Lakoff's research has been at the forefront of the investigation into the relationship between language and gender through the identification and analysis of linguistic characteristics linked to masculinity and femininity. The 'Women's language' hypothesis encourages academics to examine language from a gendered perspective, taking into account the social ramifications of these linguistic decisions and how it is expressed (Lakoff, 1975).

Research has continually demonstrated unique linguistic tendencies based on gender in various contexts and platforms. Male speakers at the Women's March in Washington, DC tended to demonstrate their authority by issuing commands, while female speakers tended to promote closeness by asking for assistance. Such differences have also been observed in public speeches; for example, it was discovered that male presenters at TED presentations favored linguistic, cognitive, and social domains more than their female counterparts did in the same talks.(Hossain & Samin, 2022; Rismayanti, 2020). Studies on the 'Gender and Power' paradigm in Computer-Mediated Communication (CMC) furthered this understanding. In their investigation of Twitter content across the United States, researchers discovered linguistic variances based on the gender of the mayors of various municipalities, with legislative representation having varied outcomes (Stone & Can, 2021). Further, the analysis of Pakistani blogs showcased female bloggers' inclination towards first-person pronouns and hedging, contrasting with male bloggers' propensity to use supplements (Yousaf & Khan, 2018).

When these patterns are analyzed using global lenses, it becomes clear that language differences based on gender are present in various cultures. In the Indonesian film "*Imperfect: Karier, Cinta & Timbangan*," gender stereotypes were evident, as the female lead displayed distinctive language features, in contrast to her male counterpart, who drew from a variety of socio-cultural influences (Kurniawati, 2021). Similarly, a study conducted on students at SMAN 9 Musi Rawas shed light on gendered language use, highlighting the significance of language to society in terms of its function in the formation of gender roles and the upkeep

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of hierarchies (Anggraini et al., 2022). An age-based linguistic divergence was notably detected in the Jizani dialect, highlighting a more prominent gap between younger females and older generations compared to their male counterparts. It was due to the fact that older generations spoke Jizani when they were younger (Hakami, 2022). These studies affirm the profound impact of societal norms and structures on shaping gendered language behaviors across various settings and cultures.

This analysis examines grammar, vocabulary, and discourse strategy differences between male and female Quora users. This investigation has been made possible through an extensive dataset encompassing linguistic variations according to Lakoff's theory about female and male language characteristics, particularly for pupils in the Quora application, especially in the forum 'Skilled English Writing.' In the 1970s, Robin Lakoff performed pioneering work in sociolinguistics. She was an early proponent of a paradigm for studying how gender affects language use. Her findings are often encapsulated in what she called "Women's Language" characteristics. According to Lakoff, women's language tends to exhibit the following characteristics. (1) Hedges: Phrases like "sort of," "kind of," and "it seems like," which weaken or soften the force of statements. (2) Polite forms: Women are more likely to use polite forms "Would you mind...?" "Could you...?" etc., (3) Tag questions: These are questions added onto the end of statements, such as "It's a nice day, isn't it?" (4) Writing in italics: Intensive use of adjectives or words for emphasis such as "so," "very," and "quite." (5) Empty adjectives: Usage of adjectives that are non-substantive, like "divine," "adorable," etc., (6) Hypercorrect grammar and pronunciation: Women are often more meticulous in their use of language structures and pronunciation, and (7) Lack of humor: Women do not often tell jokes, and when they do, the humor is often self-deprecating. Men's speech, on the other hand, is typically more forceful, forthright, and self-assured. They are more prone to cut you off, state their thoughts as fact, and employ slang and profanity (Lakoff, 1975).

The novelty of the present research lies in its application of Lakoff's theory to a modern online platform - the Quora application. Specifically, it examines the forum titled "Skilled English Writing." In doing so, the research intends to discover the gendered linguistic discrepancies on Quora and comprehend the variables that contribute to these differences. Using Lakoff's paradigm, this study critically analyses emerging language practices in online environments, focusing on how traditional gendered linguistic traits manifest in current digital conversation. The study topics focus on finding these language distinctions on Quora and understanding the factors contributing to them, bridging the gap between traditional sociolinguistic theory and contemporary digital interactions. Focusing on Quora through

Lakoff's theory, this approach represents a fresh perspective in the discourse on gender and language in online spaces. It tends to answer the following research questions

1. What are the language differences between females and males in a Quora Application?
2. What factors influence language differences between females and males in a Quora Application?

## **2. Literature Review**

The relationship between gender and language has been a focal point of sociolinguistic research for many decades. While much of the early research focused on spoken language, the digital age has provided new platforms, such as Quora, to study gendered language patterns. This literature review aims to provide an overview of the existing body of work on gender-based linguistic patterns, focus on online platforms, and contextualize Quora's study within this broader context.

### ***2.1. Historical Overview of Gender and Language Research***

Historically, sociolinguistic studies on gender differences in language use often centered on spoken communication in face-to-face settings. Seminal works by scholars like Robin Lakoff and Deborah Tannen highlighted distinctive linguistic patterns associated with gender. Lakoff (1975) introduced the "Women's Language" hypothesis, which posited that women utilize specific linguistic forms that reflect their subordinate societal status. On the other hand, Tannen (1996) emphasized the difference in conversational styles, where men often speak in a "report" style, prioritizing information and status, while women often use a "rapport" style, prioritizing relationships and connections (Fiaveh & Mensah, 2023).

Early studies, like Lakoff's (1975) groundbreaking work, highlighted "women's language" features that underscored societal perceptions of femininity. She presented a set of linguistic features she associated with "women's language." These features, including hedges like "sort of," empty adjectives such as "adorable," super-polite forms, tag questions, speaking with emphasized words (akin to italics), hypercorrect grammar, a lack of solid assertions, "wh" imperatives, direct quotations, and question intonation (known as "up talk"), were seen as making women's speech appear less assertive. Lakoff argued that these linguistic patterns were a part of women's socialization, reinforcing their subordinate societal status (Svendsen, 2019). Since the study's publication, various scholars have examined the features of Lakoff's "women's language" empirically. While all the studies find that women employ more tentative features than men, they also observe that tentative language serves facilitative functions in interaction. Thus, tentative language cannot be understood exclusively as a deficient contrast to assertive language.

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## ***2.2. Transition to Digital Age: New Platforms, New Challenges***

With the emergence of the digital age, written communication on online platforms has become an indispensable and ubiquitous component of everyday existence. The proliferation of various digital spaces, such as forums, blogs, social media platforms, and knowledge-sharing sites like Quora, has resulted in an extensive and varied collection of data well-suited for linguistic analysis.

The rapid adoption of digital communication platforms incited scholars to examine the manifestations of traditional gendered linguistic patterns in these virtual settings. It has come to light that digital environments frequently mirror traditional gender structures, exhibiting discernible linguistic patterns. Research has shown that men tend to exhibit more assertive and dominant linguistic behaviors in online interactions, whereas women often opt for more polite and collaborative styles (Ang, 2017; Fatimah et al., 2019). The continued existence of conventional gendered linguistic patterns in the digital domain highlights the enduring nature of established gender norms. The communication styles exhibited by men, marked by assertiveness and dominance, mirror societal norms consistent with conventional masculine attributes.

On the other hand, the inclination of women towards courteous and cooperative language is consistent with societal anticipations linked to conventional feminine modes of communication. Nevertheless, despite replicating conventional patterns, scholars have discovered subtleties in digital communication that allow for the emergence of novel forms of gendered language usage. The distinctive attributes of digital platforms, including the prevalence of visual elements, anonymity, and brevity, contribute in novel ways to the evolution of gendered language.

## ***2.3. Quora Apps***

Quora can develop into one of the most sizable knowledge communities in the world (Analytic, 2019). By its distinctive architecture, which centres on a "question and answers" mechanism, the platform enables users to pose inquiries and provide responses to an extensive array of subjects. Quora is a precious resource for researchers interested in exploring gender-related language differences due to its notable focus on disseminating factual knowledge and practical information.

The design of the platform promotes a constructive interchange of thoughts and knowledge. A diverse range of individuals can participate in discourse, contributing valuable insights and perspectives on various topics. The environment fostered by the diversity of voices and perspectives within the Quora community is ideal for examining how language is employed concerning gender across various topics and discussions. Quora's content is characterized by its reliance on information and practical understanding, which enhances its credibility compared to alternative social media platforms that may prioritize subjective

viewpoints and opinionated material. This emphasis on objective data facilitates a solid basis for analysis and interpretation for researchers investigating gender-related variations in language usage. Due to its substantial user base, Quora's potential as a resource for gender-related language research is further enhanced. The platform garners users with a wide range of expertise, creating a setting where users can access a substantial amount of knowledge across multiple disciplines. The platform's diversity renders Quora an exceptional medium for scholars to investigate not only the linguistic intricacies associated with gender but also how these intricacies manifest themselves in various fields of knowledge.

### **3. Method**

Content analysis, a technique for systematically interpreting and quantifying textual data (Creswell, 2023), is well-suited to studying gender-based linguistic patterns in Quora apps. The primary data source in this research is the posts in January 2023 on the Quora application, especially in the "Skilled English Writing" forum. The researchers adopted a comparative historical analysis approach to conduct this analysis, drawing inspiration from Max Weber's ideal type analysis (Cohen et al., 2003). By adopting this methodological approach, a comprehensive analysis of the evolutionary trajectory of linguistic patterns can be conducted, providing insights into possible changes or enduring tendencies in language usage.

The preliminary phase of this research entails the arrangement of contributions made to the "Skilled English Writing" forum on Quora in January 2023. The posts are methodically classified by Lakoff's theory, a seminal framework in the study of gendered language. According to Lakoff's theory, language reflects and perpetuates societal norms and power structures, including gender. After the categorization procedure, the codes are allocated to the data contained within the posts by the researchers. More precisely, they discern linguistic characteristics that, following Lakoff's theory, are linked to discourse expressed by either women or men. The coding phase is paramount to extract significant insights and discernible patterns from the textual data. As delineated in Lakoff's theory, the concluding phase of the analysis entails integrating and correlating the acquired data within the broader framework of language disparities between males and females. To ascertain the similarities and differences in linguistic features utilized by individuals of different genders in Quora posts, comparative analysis techniques are implemented. By employing a comparative lens, the interpretation of the findings is enhanced, facilitating a more comprehensive comprehension of the way language is utilized in the "Skilled English Writing" forum.



## 4. Findings and Discussion

### 4.1. Gender-Based Linguistic Pattern in Quora Apps

Referring to the documentation of Quora Apps from January to March January 2023, mainly in the "Skilled English Writing" forum, it was found that five types of linguistic features, namely, Hedges, Boosters, Politeness Forms, Grammar Correctness, and Emphasis Stress. The researchers found that the language differences between men and women in the Quora application are in the quantity used and the types of words as presented below.

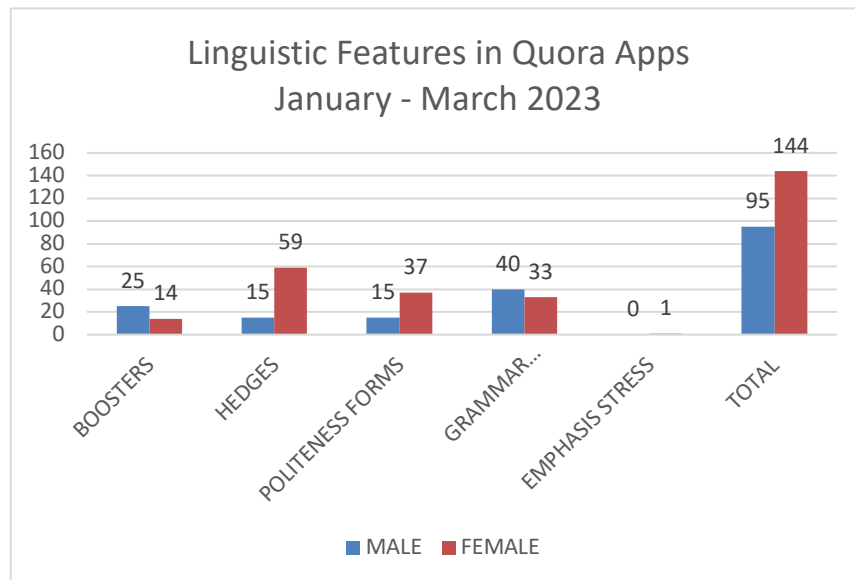


Figure 1. Linguistic Features in Quora Apps from January to March 2023

The research on linguistic usage in digital discourse uncovers a significant disparity in implementing hedges between male and female participants. A greater frequency of hedges, which are linguistic devices employed to convey uncertainty or caution, has been observed in the online contributions of female users as opposed to their male counterparts. The research identified 74 occurrences of hedges, of which female users employed a significant majority (59 instances). In contrast, male users utilized the remaining 15 instances. Furthermore, it was noted that every identified hedge belonged to the identical type. The increased prevalence of hedges in the discourse of female users indicates a proclivity for them to convey uncertainty, skepticism, or a meticulous evaluation of precision. This linguistic behavior is consistent with the more comprehensive sociolinguistic observation that women may be more likely to employ language that conveys a nuanced approach to communication in various contexts. The utilization of hedges may be motivated by a need to prevent the formulation of assertions that lack absolute verification, thereby demonstrating a linguistic inclination toward prudence and accuracy. Additionally, females utilize a wider variety of hedges than males, who tend to stick to the same types of hedges. Using the Hedges function

weakens one's voice or completes an incomplete statement. There is little added value to the message by employing Hedges forms. However, these Hedges can potentially elicit empathetic readings from the general public. A writer's use of a hedge is often interpreted as a sign of carelessness. This function symbolizes Quora's members' reluctance to take responsibility for their words. Hedges found in female posts include the words "I think, probably, may, I suspect, I guess, as far as I know," while "may be and likely" are the hedges found in male posts. Lakoff's theory on gendered language patterns, especially her "hedges" concept, has intriguing parallels with these findings. In line with the findings showing females on Quora use more hedges in their postings, she suggested that women use hedges more frequently than men because they tend to mitigate their remarks (Sommerlund, 2017). The findings align with male-female language features that the opposite gender and females can use more frequently, considering the use of hedges and strategies in speech expressed by gender (Azizah, 2021; Li & Li, 2020).

The research results demonstrate noteworthy gender differences in the terminology utilized to refer to "Boosters" in digital correspondence. It is worth noting that male users are more inclined towards utilizing boosters than their female counterparts. The observed linguistic pattern implies that male users might have a greater propensity to convey assurance, self-assurance, or a wish to be regarded as authorities in online discussions. Male users' heightened utilization of boosters is perceived as a possible tactic to exert dominance or participate in competitive exchanges within their posts. This linguistic selection is consistent with societal norms that frequently equate confidence and assertiveness with superiority, expertise, or control. Within this framework, male users might utilize boosters during conversations to fulfill or surpass these expectations, fostering an atmosphere of power struggle or rivalry in digital exchanges. The research findings unveil a noteworthy differentiation between males and females in online communication regarding words falling under the booster category. Although male users employ boosters at a higher frequency, the researchers observed a notable distinction in how they are utilized. In particular, females demonstrate a more extensive vocabulary repertoire in the booster category. At the same time, males tend to employ the same word repeatedly. The prevalence of booster usage among males indicates a distinct linguistic pattern unique to this gender cohort. This behavior may suggest an inclination towards maintaining consistency or dependence on a specific vocabulary to communicate assurance, self-assurance, or expertise in their digital conversations.

Additionally, this reiteration could indicate a communication approach that prioritizes directness and clarity, consistently utilizing a specific collection of affirmations to strengthen essential arguments. The types of boosters were found in Quora, in female posts such as "definitely, very, certainly, so," while in male posts such as "really, very, too" (Mohamed Mokhtar et al., 2021). In addition, research has shown contradictory findings about gender

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differences in booster use. For instance, a study examining gender disparities in the use of discourse markers in Iranian academic research articles discovered that male authors tended to provide higher commitments to propositional information. (Yeganeh & Ghoreyshi, 2015)

The research reveals a significant disparity between males and females in online communication regarding the utilization of politeness forms falling under the category of politeness. To be more precise, in this linguistic aspect, females demonstrate a greater quantity of usage than males. This pattern is consistent with more comprehensive sociolinguistic observations that suggest women may be more likely to employ politeness strategies, as social and cultural norms frequently influence them. Women's greater prevalence of politeness can be ascribed to their inclination to preserve harmony in conversations and evade conflict. Scholars have observed that women may prioritize establishing a positive and amicable atmosphere in various communicative contexts; this may account for their increased use of politeness forms (Hobbs, 2003). Various linguistic devices comprise politeness forms, such as deferential language, courteous expressions, and strategies to prevent potentially face-threatening actions. Females exhibit a greater propensity for employing politeness forms, which indicates a communication style that prioritizes social harmony, cooperation, and preserving positive interactions. The study's findings on female politeness include "thank, hope, please, a respectful, I would advise/like to, warm regards." It is in line with another study's findings that women use more politeness forms than men due to their preference for maintaining harmony in discourse and avoiding confrontation (Koozad et al., 2019). The similarity of the outcomes indicates a consistent trend in which females utilize politeness forms at a greater frequency. The collective inclination of women to avoid confrontation and preserve harmony in discourse is the cause of this shared trend.

Moreover, the divergent methodology noted among males, described as demonstrating courtesy "out of respect," highlights the intricate manner in which gender impacts linguistic conduct. Although both sexes can exhibit politeness, their underlying motivations and approaches may vary. Males may perceive politeness more overtly as an expression of reverence rather than a strategy to maintain amicability. The reference to Ngabalin's discourse, in his capacity as a male representative, is consistent with the conclusions drawn by (Ilham et al., 2022), which propose that Ngabalin's speech might be deemed impolite, thereby departing from the elements delineated in Lakoff's theory. According to Lakoff's theory of language and gender, women generally employ more subdued and courteous language. The divergent results observed in Ngabalin's discourse underscore the complexity of linguistic individuality and the diverse manners in which courtesy is expressed by speakers, including those of the same gender.

The usage of correct grammar by males and females in their contributions demonstrates disparities in how they compose words in their comments. The researchers noticed a

significant gender gap in the grammatical accuracy displayed by male and female respondents. In this form, female writers are more likely to utilize conventional forms and formal sentences that do not contain abbreviations. For instance, female users are more likely to write the complete phrase "I would, and I will be" rather than abbreviating it to "I'd, or I'll be." Men, on the other hand, are more likely to write in an informal style, abbreviating words and phrases such as "I'd," "don't," and "there're." Even though some men write in formal language, most men write in informal ways. It is in line with the interlanguage request strategy; grammatical accuracy and gender were significant predictors of the use of the request strategy (Sanjaya & Sitawati, 2017)

The last linguistic element the researchers discovered in the disparities between male and female writers of both English and other languages is the use of emphasis and stress. The researchers found emphasis stress in using emoticons at the end of the sentence in conversation. Where only one of those phrases appears across all females, even if it is only one example, this is plenty to demonstrate that females are more expressive than males, who tend to be more serious when writing. This research supported Hossain and Samin's (2022) findings that male speakers utilize categories of linguistic, psychological, cognitive, and social words with a significantly higher frequency than female speakers.

#### ***4.2. Factors Influencing Gender-Based Linguistic Patterns in Quora Apps***

The research findings shed light on various factors contributing to language differences between females and males. Drawing upon an analysis of data within the Skilled English Writing forum, the researcher discerns that these linguistic disparities are intricately tied to various elements, notably social status and gender dynamics. These disparities are also influenced by prevailing gender roles within society, cultural influences, biological factors, and psychological aspects, aligning with insights from (Holmes, 2013) theory.

First and foremost, social status and gender play pivotal roles in driving these linguistic distinctions. The language employed by females and males is intricately linked to their social standing and societal expectations (Hobbs, 2003; McCain, 2018). Females often gravitate towards a language characterized by politeness and gentleness, reflecting their role as nurturers who prioritize harmonious relationships. In stark contrast, males tend to wield language that exudes persuasion, assertiveness, and authority, aligning with societal notions of demonstrating competence. For instance, male is more likely to use the words "*I want*" or "*I will*" to express their decision and power in writing. In contrast, females typically use words like "*please*" and "*thank you*" as a kind of politeness in communication, as it revealed in the Quora users in "Skilled English Writing."

Moreover, the researcher highlights the influence of gender roles within society as a crucial factor. The traditional roles assigned to females as caregivers and males as leaders profoundly shape their language use. Females gravitate towards cooperative and relationship-

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centric language, mirroring their societal roles. In contrast, males are often expected to embody dominance and competitiveness, leading to more direct and assertive communication styles. However, it is worth noting that these roles are evolving in response to changing societal norms, with women increasingly taking on leadership roles and adopting more assertive language patterns. The differences in language use between men and women are also seen among the young people of Bangladesh, where there are differences in the case of language use between the two genders, and their way of expressing any feeling through a language is also dissimilar (Baquee, 2016). Females tend to gravitate towards cooperative and relationship-centric language, mirroring their societal roles as nurturers who prioritize harmonious relationships (Akhter, 2014)

Cultural influences are another prominent factor shaping language differences (Whorf, 2012). Cultural values and norms significantly impact vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and communication styles. Their cultural backgrounds profoundly influence how females and males express themselves linguistically (Tannen, 1996). For example, in the —Skilled English Writing‡ forum, professors express their opinions more and answer questions posed by members who want to learn about writing essays, articles, or anything else about writing. One of the examples from that forum is Robert Zenhausern, a professor from a university who can always answer questions about a good way to write papers. He flexibly explains what forum members ask and makes his answer sentences in detail and easy to understand because he has much knowledge about these matters and is experienced in explaining things to someone.

Biological factors also deserve attention in this context. Differences in brain structure and hormone levels can influence language development and communication styles. In the Quora’s forum, the sentences used by males tend to be short and use many verbs. Adjectives rarely appear in their posts. The use of short sentence patterns and the rare appearance of adjectives is caused by the male, which tends to be rational and realistic (Indriasih et al., 2019), so that the words are not long-winded but short, concise, and straightforward.

Meanwhile, females in posts tend to express their intentions honestly through their language styles, while males tend not to do so. They convey their intentions frankly. Women do not use profanity, even if they are forced to use it only in certain situations and, of course, specially used. The selection of such a lexicon occurs because no females share power. They have little opportunity to optimize the female role in the public sector and reduce their domestic role. Even though female must also be allowed to play a role in various fields, such as the economic sector, and guaranteed their rights such as to organize, freedom of opinion, the right to vote, and other rights. Females are more likely than males to initiate inquiries and invite others to interact with each other. For example, females use —*you* and —*we* more and do not protest as much as males do. On the other hand, males frequently dispute and use generalizations.

Finally, the researcher underscores the role of psychological factors, including personality traits, emotional responses, and life events. These factors contribute to gender-specific language patterns. The interplay between introverted and extroverted personalities, comfort levels in social interactions, and individual life experiences all influence how language is employed by females and males.

In conclusion, the research findings comprehensively understand the intricate web of factors contributing to language differences between females and males. These disparities do not result from a single factor but emerge from a complex interplay of social, cultural, biological, and psychological influences. Recognizing these dynamics is essential for comprehending how language is shaped by gender and society.

#### **4. Conclusion**

In a study conducted from January to March 2023 on the "Skilled English Writing" topic on Quora Apps, gender-specific language variances were discovered across five categories: Hedges, Boosters, Politeness Forms, Grammar Correctness, and Emphasis Stress. Under Lakoff's theory of gendered language, women typically utilized hedges to indicate uncertainty or a need for precision. In contrast, men utilized boosters more frequently, indicating a desire to portray confidence. The prevalence of politeness in women's speech indicates their preference for harmonious communication. There were also differences in grammatical usage: women favored formal constructions, while males favored informal abbreviations. In addition, women appeared more expressive than men, using emoticons as emphasis more frequently. In addition, the findings provide a thorough grasp of the complex web of factors that contribute to language variations between girls and boys. These discrepancies result from a complex social, cultural, biological, and psychological interaction. Recognizing these relationships is crucial for understanding how gender and culture shape language.

It is imperative to recognize the constraints of this study, even though it substantially advances our comprehension of gender-related linguistic patterns on digital platforms. Due to the limited sample size for analysis, the research is centered on the "Skilled English Writing" subject on Quora. The focus on details in this forum gives rise to apprehensions regarding the applicability of the results, as the linguistic patterns identified there might not precisely mirror those of Quora users on various other platforms and forums. Given the variability of language usage among user communities and subjects, the study's concentration on a singular Quora topic may introduce some bias. Additionally, due to linguistic and cultural differences, the research's applicability is constrained by its singular emphasis on English, which makes it difficult to generalize the results to other languages. Potentially limiting the study's applicability beyond its selected topic, the gender distribution may not accurately represent Quora.

The findings can be integrated into language instruction, especially when English is taught as a second language. Understanding gender-based linguistic patterns can improve language comprehension and production, enhancing sociolinguistic competence. In addition, this research establishes a good framework for future research into gender-based linguistic trends on digital platforms.

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