CHAPTER II
METHODOLOGY

The aim of the present investigation is to study the difference between male and female speech of Urdu speaking community in Aligarh in relation to certain socio-demographic variables.

2.1 Sample

A sample of 100 people were selected for the study. Among these 50 were males and 50 were females. The informants were drawn from Civil Lines and Upper Fort area. The age range of males and females were 20 to 40 years. Both the group of subjects were from upper class and middle class. The criteria for classifying upper class and middle class were their income, profession etc. The upper class subjects were represented by the people such as university teachers, engineers, doctors, businessmen etc. Their monthly income was from Rs. 4,000/- to Rs. 6000/- per month. The middle class subjects were the semi-professionals, school teachers, university clerks and their income was from Rs. 2000/- to 4000/-.

2.2 Procedure

The males and females speech was collected in 2 phases. In the first phase the investigator was subsequently introduced to the subjects (as most of them were not known
to the investigator) and explained the purpose of this investigation in order to ensure their participation in the discourse. After the initial contact, the investigator frequently met the subjects with a view to become more friendly with the participants. In the first round of friendly interaction, information pertaining to their name, education, occupation, income, language(s) known etc. were obtained on a biographical questionnaire (See Appendix I). In the second phase, the investigator approached those subjects who were identified as the representatives of upper class and middle class and frequency of interaction with them was further intensified. Through conversation and informal chat rapport was established with the subjects. Once the interaction has achieved the point of unreserved and uninhibited acceptance the subjects were asked very general questions in order to elicit their speech to test their knowledge of mother tongue and interference of other languages. A list of phonological variants comprising \( Z, S, q, X, Y \) was supplied in the form of text in order to see the difference between males and females perception in terms of speech. A comparison between the occurrence of the phonological variants in question in the text and in the normal speech helped achieving both the formal and informal styles of language use.
Topics related to social problems like Bombay's bomb blasts, antireservation, TADA and entertainment related to Hindi films and dramas were presented before subjects in small group situations. This was done to know the subjects awareness of the topic as well as to get acquainted with them. Although these topics were general in nature the specific topics were given to subjects depending upon their hobbies.

The information regarding the hobby was acquired from the questionnaire.

2.3 Tools for data collection

Data obtained on the basis of discussion were recorded through a tape-recorder. Initially the speech was recorded with the hidden tape recorder so that the subjects may not feel conscious. Later when the rapport was fully established there was no need to hide the tape recorder.

Since some of the subjects were engaged in the discussion on certain other topics, those discussions were also recorded. Besides, the taperecorder, the investigator had also made use of the field diary in which their variations in speech were carefully recorded.

The interaction recorded was both within sex and opposite sex. The opposite sex interaction mostly revolved
around the topics of general and wider interest like traumatic experiences of communal riots Bombay bomb blasts, TADA, etc.

2.4 Analysis

The analysis took place at different levels of language. These are:

2.4.1 Discourse Stratum

Under the discourse stratum the following sub-sections were considered important for looking into the differences between the speech. These are:

1) Turn taking rules in conversation

i) Turn constructional component

ii) Turn allocation component

iii) Cooperative sentence building

iv) Requesting & giving verification

v) Choral repetition.

2) Belittlement and topic control

3) Condescension

4) Topic choice

5) Back-channel noises

6) Minimal responses

7) Speech functions

8) Initiating conversation.
2.4.2 Lexico-grammatical stratum Grammar

2.4.2.1 Clause Rank
   i) Tag questions
   ii) Modality/Modulation and Hedges
   iii) Sentence length
   iv) Sentence Incompleteness
   v) Agency

2.4.2.2 Group Rank
   i) Adjective Frequency
   ii) Adjective type
       a) Descriptive adjectives
       b) Limiting adjectives
       c) Promotional adjectives
       d) Adjectives of endearment
       e) Adjectives of approximation
   iii) Intensifiers

2.4.2.3 Word Rank
   i) Reduplication
       a) Total Reduplication
       b) Partial Reduplication
       c) Echo Forms

2.4.3 Lexico-grammatical Stratum: Lexis
   i) Field range
ii) Slangs

iii) Euphemisms

iv) Politeness markers

2.4.4 Phonological Stratum

i) Phonological variants
   a) Switch in variables
   b) Breaking of Consonant clusters.