Chapter 4

Syntactic Variation
The present chapter proposes to analyse the syntactic variations seen in the language of women. As we know syntax deals with combination of words into sentences. It indicates something about relations among the participants in those situations. For example the sentences given below

(a) ahmad ne zaid ko ma:ra:

(b) zaid ne ahmad ko ma:ra:

have the same words, but are syntactically different and therefore meanings of both the sentences are different. In sentence (a) Ahmad is the subject and in sentence (b) Zaid is the subject.

It suggests that syntax provides multiple ways to describe the same events and syntactic alternations describe the same situation or event from different perspectives or emphasis, so like other linguistic choices they can help identify message with colour ideology.

It is the discipline that examines the rules of a language that dictates how the various parts of sentences go together. It looks at how the smallest linguistic units (which are called morphemes) are formed into complete sentences.

It is not prescriptive, that is to say that it does not attempt to tell people what is the(objectively) correct way to form a sentence.
Rather, it is descriptive, because it looks at how language is actually used and tries to come up with the rules that successfully describe what various language communities consider to be grammatical and what are non-grammatical. Syntax thus deals with a number of things, all of which help to facilitate understanding language.

In view of the above it can be said that, syntax corresponds to the rules by which signs are combined to make statements. It thus incorporates the grammar of phrases, clauses and sentences. Producing and uttering sentences is an important part of how we make sense of our world. We articulate the meaning of our experience in words; in the process of articulation, we make (or discover) the meaning of the experience.

Syntactic and morphologic choices can therefore help speakers in variety of ways to manifest gender differences including the parameters of sentence types, sentence length, construction types, tag-question sentence length and completeness of sentence. There are many other subtle distinctions associated with syntactic variation at the gender level.

Section 1 deals with tag questions, modality/modulation and hedges.

Section 2 deals with sentence length, sentence incompleteness, differences among male and female
Section 3 assess adjective frequency and adjective types used by females.

In Section 4 word order and various forms of phrases are treated.

Section 1

1.1 Tag questions

Tag questions are midway between an outright statement and a yes-no question. They are less assertive than the former, but more confidential than later. A tag question, being intermediate between these is used when the speaker is stating a claim but shows a lack of full confidence in the truth of that claim, having the conversation like this,

(a) Rushda  

pətaː nəhīː kiyaː hogaː, sunaː he uski tābiyāt ṭhiːk nəhī rāhti

Seema  
hē, lekin dekne mē to sāhi lāg rāhi thi hēnāː:

šiːbaː

šiːba hāː lāgtaː to he

(b) Shehla  

āmmi jābbhi kāhī jaːti hē paːni zāruːr pitiː hē

Farheen  
hāː menē bhi ye dekhaː he, ke āmmi čālte vākt paːni zāruːr piti hē, hēnāː:

(c) Tabassum  

šəbaːnaː čāl amir niša čālegi hē

Shabanā  
ū------hū

(d) Farheem  

šəbaːnaː pəččiːs (25) tariːx ki šaːdi he, šaːdi
Generally females are said to use more modals and hedges than the males. Because of these stereotypes, hedges are found in the speech of people who have an inferior position in the society. But from the data, it evident that both males and females use hedges and modals with almost same intensity.

1.2. Modality/modulatin and hedges

Lakoff (1975) includes a category of lexical items that she labels as “hedges”. Hedges are defined as words that convey the sense that the speaker is uncertain about what he /she is saying or cannot vouch for the accuracy of the statement.

Generally females are supposed to use more “hedges” than males as a part of the stereotype of tentativeness associated with their speech. There are three different uses of hedges that are illustrated by Lakoff. First it may occur where the speaker is usually unsure of the facts. Secondly it is used for the sake of
politeness. Thirdly, it characterizes “women’s language” as the language of those who are “out of power” in the society. They have more super polite forms like multiple modality. Modals in Urdu are Ya:leben, ša:yd, mumkin he, ho sękta: he ča:hiye and examples of hedges are jese ke, mere xya:l se, ja:nte ho etc.

(a) kyō a:nṭi hāmne suna: he ke usne āpne miyaː: ko tāla:k de diya: he, hē kiya: esa: he.

Anty pāta: nāːhi bhaiyaː, pāta: nāːhi, suna: to menē bhi kuḍh esa: hi he

(b) Arshi pāta: he uski šaːdi ho gai he

Rashid hē vākai mē, kisse

(c) Anjum hāllo sār, mē ānjum bol rāḥiḥū, māim aːj dipartment aːṅgi kiya:

Sir hā: keh to rāḥi thī, ābhi to āpne gār pār gai hui hē, Yaːlibān unhē pohauč jaːna: čaːhie, ābtāk .

(d) Waseem mere xāːyaːl se mujhe āb čēla: čaːhiye, běhaut raːt ho gai he

In the above examples the underlined portions represent the hedges. Usually, it is said that females use more tag questions because, they are not sure of what they are saying and they are seeking confirmation for that. This also signals security. But if we examine day to day conversation of both sexes, then we find that the occurrence of tag question in males’ and females’ speech is the
same. If females use tag question seven times, then males use tags questions six times in mixed sex group conversation.

Section 2

2.1. Sentence length

Males and females both use longer sentences in the group conversation but sometimes females leave sentences incomplete when they are interrupted by males.

For example

(a) Mammi əre aːjkal duːd bəhaut pətlaː aːrəhaː he, duːd waːle se kəhnaː zəraː:

Papa əlːiːk he khowaː kərwaː ke dekiːŋe pətəː čəl jaːegaː:

Mammi àttəːıs rupe kilo duːd detaː he, aur uspe bhi paːni, ek do din to əlːiːk ləyaː thəː, kəl kaː duːd bhi pətla thəː, aːj kaː bhi pətla he, bətəːo kiyaː pese nəhī dete hē, hē, itnaː mehgaː duːd detaː he aur uspe bhi paːni, kehnaː usse ke əgər....

Papa əre kehdūŋaː, keh to diyaː, kiyaː ise bhi bhəːgaː ke əchorogī .

(b) Sadia sun fərhiːn zəraː bəːt sun

Farheem hāː kiyaː he, teri bəkvaːs sunne ke liye mere paːs faːltuː kaː təːim nəhī hē

Sadia hāː mē faːltu ki bəkbaːs to kəɾ hi rəhi hū

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Farheen bākvas ko tu kāhin nāhī aur kučh kāhegi
Shehla hā: āb to bākvas hi lāgegi
Farheen āčcha: to yeh ka:m ki ba:t bhi kārti he, āhē
dię to bākvas hi Idgegi
Farheen āmmi kiya: dekhēngi, āhē, āmmi to dekh hi rāhi
 āmmi to dekh hi rāhi
 hē, vo to za:hir si ba:t he tujhe hi sāppot
kārēngi, a:khir tu la:ḍli beṭi: jo he unki.
Sadia dekhlie āmmi
Ammi hā: ye to he hi meri beṭi, tu to he hi nāhī meri
beṭi.
(c) Imran tābāssum morṭi:n lāga:de
Tabassum morṭi:n nāhī hē tum lekard-----
Imran kitni ba:r kāha: he ke do ča:r morṭi:n mā ga: ke
rākh liya: kāro, lekin nāhī āmmi vāhi ek morṭi:n
mā ga:ti: hē, sa:le āb kese soēnge ra:t me hē
Tabassum aisa: kār tu morṭi:n lea: aur--------
Imra:n mē to nāhī ja: rāha: mē ābhi a:ya: hū aur āb
morṭi:n lene ja:ū āb duka:n khul rāhi hogi: koi,
 āb kese soēnge ra:t bār, tābāssum la: ya:r
peśe le, āmmi se, mē a:ge se lekār a:ta: hū .

Conclusion
Both males and females use longer sentences in the same sex and the mixed sex conversation as they both are equally talkative but sometimes males utter longer sentences than females because they have more aggression.

2.2. Sentence incompleteness

Females leave sentences incomplete more than males. This is because females get interrupted by males. Following are the examples that mark the incompleteness of sentences as a result of interruption.

(a) Azra apa hâm to a:p ke ghar më thë:d kila:s ke bënkâr râh gae hë, ñb yë ka:m bhi hâm...

Uncle kesi: ba:t kârti ho hâto çâlo çâlo hâm kârte hë, a:p yâhâ: se hât ja:ë


Conclusion
Males interrupt females speech a number of times, as a result females sentences remain incomplete.

Section 3

3.1. Adjective frequency

Some studies reveal that females are more prone to use adjective than males in both speech and writing sentences. The following are examples from the collected data and show the adjectives which used by the males and females.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjectives</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Males</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Umda:</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>moći</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>kyu:ți</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>sa:t</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>lomba:</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<td>ziya:da:</td>
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<td>eka:d</td>
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<td>čipku</td>
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<td>čhoći</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Čhutki</td>
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<tr>
<td>su:khi</td>
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<td>kačče</td>
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<td>gânde</td>
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<td>khâṭṭa:</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>pehle</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>du:sre</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<td>thârd</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>itna:</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>bâri-bâri</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>beintiha: æččhi</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>gorjiâs</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>ileven</td>
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<td>jitne</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>sa:ri</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>pu:ri</td>
<td>+</td>
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<td>pâtli</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<td>sa:t</td>
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<td>a:dhi</td>
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<td>jis</td>
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<td>bhâr</td>
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<td>pu:re</td>
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<tr>
<td>tisre</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Conclusion

It is said, that adjectives are more used by females than by males. It is verified by the data. The data for the present study suggest that majority of the adjectives are used by females, and a few of them by males. But there are certain adjectives which are common to both.

3.2. Adjective type

Males and females use different types of adjectives. For instance:

(a) Descriptive adjectives

Descriptive adjectives are those which describe shape size colour, taste etc. of the nouns that come after them for example.
Females
(1) Shamim  
\[
\text{ya:\,r unki bivi } b\text{haut xu:bsurat } h\text{e}
\]

(2) Farhat  
\[
p\text{ata: nahi ab kesa: ho gaya: hoga, pehle to}
\]
\[
\text{kitna: sma:\,t tha:}
\]

(3) Shamim  
\[
\text{SAbana: teri be\,ti } b\text{haut pya:ri he}
\]

(4) Sana  
\[
p\text{ata: he vo bulkul l\,af\,anga: l\,arka: he}
\]

Male
(1) Amir  
\[
xair no qa:\,ut l\,age dono } b\text{haut sma:\,t aind des\,ing}
\]
\[
h\,e
\]

(2) Waseem  
\[
\text{ya:\,r dekho ar\,shi tum wa:qai: me } niha:ya\,t \,hi
\]
\[
\text{bad\,ta\,mi:z ho gai ho}
\]

Descriptive adjectives are used by both males and females as is exemplified in the collected data.

(b) Adjectives of Endearments

They show affection towards someone. eg,

Sharmeen  
\[
\text{ya:\,r meri ek hi to n\,an\,and he } pya:ri:\, si:
\]

Sumana  
\[
tumha:ra: swet\,ar xu:bsurat l\,ag raha: he ka:h\,a:
\]
\[
\text{se liya:}
\]

Adjectives of endearment are exclusively used by females, like b\text{haut piya:ra:/piya:ri xu:bsurat, very sweet, very cute, gorgeous, delicious, stylish etc.}
Section 4

WORD ORDER

There are six theoretically possible basic word orders for the sentences. Subject verb object (SVO), subject object verb (SOV), verb, subject, object (VSO), verb, object, subject (VOS), object, subject, verb (OSV), and object verb subject (OVS). The overwhelming majority of the world's languages are either SVO or SOV, with a much smaller but still significant portion using VSO word order. The remaining three arrangements are exceptionally rare, with VOS being slightly more common than OVS and OSV being significantly more rare than the two preceding ones. It is not always easy to find basic word order and not all languages make use of the categories of subject and object.

Sometimes patterns are more complex. The mentioned functions of word order can be seen to affect the frequency of the various word order patterns.

Some languages do not have a fixed word order. In these languages there is often a significant amount of morphological marking to disambiguate the roles of the arguments; however, there are also languages in which word order is fixed even though the degree of marking would enable free word order.

In many languages, changes in word order occur due to topicalization or inquestions. However, most languages are generally assumed to have a basic word order, called the unmarked word order. Marked word orders can then be used to emphasize a sentence element, to indicate modality (such as interrogative modality) or for other purposes.

The order of constituents in a phrase can vary as much as the order of constituents in a clause. Normally, the noun phrase and the adpositional phrase are investigated, within the noun phrase, it is
investigated whether the following modifiers occur before or after the headnoun.

Within the adpositional clause, one investigates whether the languages makes use of prepositions, postpositions, or both (normally with different adpositions at the both sides). There are several common correlations between sentence-level word order and phrase-level constituent order. For example, sov languages generally put modifiers before heads and use postpositions. VSO languages tend to place modifiers after theirs heads, and use prepositions. For SVO languages, either order is common.

Word order is very important but it is not complicated, and it can be a few basic rules or principles. Of course, there are exceptions to many rules, and writers and speakers sometimes use different or unusual word order for special effects. But if we concentrate on the exceptions, we may forget the main principles, and the question of word order may start to seem very complex. So here are just a few examples; you should realize that they exist, but not try to use them unless either they are essential in the context, or else you have fully mastered, normal word order patterns. (Don’t try to run before you can walk.) Some expressions and idioms are given below to show word order used by females for phrases, proverbs and figurative uses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bangless hand</th>
<th>To be comfortable</th>
<th>All of a sudden</th>
<th>To become stunned</th>
<th>A gourmet harms herself whereas a talkative harms others.</th>
<th>A girl is younger than her husband</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>sōṭaː se haːth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>ƣiɾi pəɾ kəɾ khaːnaː</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>bɛʈhe bɨʈʰaːe</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>sâːp sʊːŋ ɿaːnaː</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ɕɛtto bɨɡaː re ɿɛpnaː ɡʰer aʊɾ bɛtto</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bɨɡaː re duːsre kəː ɡʰəɾ</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ləɾkɪ aːi seːj pe ləɾkəː ɡəyaː</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>a:i bahu a:ya: ka:m gai bahu geya: ka:m</td>
<td>The expression of distress or discontent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>mo ku aur na: to ku thaur</td>
<td>lam indispenablob to you and you are same to me.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>epna: sa: mūh lena:</td>
<td>Humiliate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>hī:ng lage na: phitkari aur rāng bhi čokha: ho ja:e</td>
<td>Trying to get good results without efforts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>da:tō tele zēbā:n</td>
<td>Helpless, not able to say anything</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>ākel ki duśmen</td>
<td>Fool</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>so ba:t ki ek ba:t , andha: kiya: ča:he, do a:nkhē</td>
<td>A looser needs compensation for his loss.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>čha:ti per mu:nq delna:</td>
<td>To annoy someone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>dhu:dh ka: dhu:la: nehī:</td>
<td>Not very pious</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>kha:li čena: ba:je ghana:</td>
<td>To exaggerate something</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>jeb saīyā:ji hue kotwā:1 to dēr kaheka:</td>
<td>No need to get worried when you have power</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some conversational examples are given below:

(1) Male- Female

Male - are pehle paise do, ēbhi leker a:ūnga:.
Female- de rēhi hū, inhē to ha:thi billi ka: mu:t ča:hi:e

Description(To get something immediately)

(2) Female-Female

āsma: jaldi jaldi ka:m kero itne se bērten ēbhi tek nehī: dhule hē, ēger tum esi hi kemeru hoffi: to ēger gher landī ka:heko phirtt
Description (if you are hard worker then you are not wandering without any reason, Not being hardworker)

\textit{bas ba:tē kērva:lo ba:tō ki to dhēnī he.}

Description (Being talkative)

(3) Female-Female

Female - ëmmi ese hi ye mujh se keh rehe the ke tere 
nāhī: hō:ngē bācče vačče

Female- hā: bācče to qa:th mē hoker ho ja:te hē.

Description (It is not easy to give birth a child)

Usually females use more complex and compound sentences than males. They use more phrases and idioms in the conversation. But there are some phrases and idioms that are used by males e.g. ċōba:re ki ĭ:nt gajra:re, ċār gai, (a person who has no value to get higher prestige) gēnjē ko na:khun nēhī diye nēhī to khuja: khuja: ke mār ja:e,(A person who is not able to do some work if able then God knows what he will do.) mēri billi mujhe hi mia:ū( Something which is suggestive of proverbs etc. However, some phrases and idioms are common between males and females.

As is the saying that women are eternal mystery, and very much complicated like idioms and phrases that frequently employed by them that enliven one's style of writing and makes it more interesting and entertaining.

It will be helpful to all users of the language, to capture the "flavor" of the expressions and indicate the context in which they are usually found. Mastering idiomatic expressions and reproducing them correctly is one of the most difficult aspects of learning a language.

Trying to find idioms is often not easy. Many idioms have a label to indicate the situation in which they are generally used. The
labels will not only help people to use the idioms correctly but also prevent them from using them in an inappropriate context which can cause embarrassment.

Generally female trivial talk is longer insipid and less colorful while that of males is more concise, more jovial and more alluring.