Chapter - 6

Variation at Discourse and communicative strategy Level
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The term discourse refers to the study of structure and meaning that goes beyond the level of the sentence. It involves looking at both language form and language function and includes the study of both spoken interaction and written texts. It identifies linguistic features that characterize different genres as well as social and cultural factors that aid in our interpretation and understanding different texts and types of talk. It can cover the use of language in the building of a relationship over a lifetime. It emphasizes the different aspects of language use. It views language as social interaction. It focuses the people’s exposure to different types of discourse. It’s process allows the distribution, types of questions people use and their effect on their responses. The discourse context, therefore expands indefinitely in time and social space.

Some linguist define a discourse just as sequence of sentences, which might or might not be produced by different speakers. Discourse analysis narrowly conceived adds to sentence level analysis such matters as the basic propositional meaning that is carried by the arrangement of sentences (e.g. their order, which can convey which event happened first) and by expressions like ‘but’ and ‘so’ that indicate connections among the propositions expressed by the individual sentences.
Some speakers may engage in overlap, while speaking to someone else while taking turn-at talk between friends conversation. For some linguistic groups, this discourse behavior can be interpreted as a signal of engagement and involvement; however other speakers may view it as an interruption and imposition on their speaking rights.

By exploring natural language use in authentic environments, learners gain a greater appreciation and understanding of the discourse patterns associated with a given genre or speech event as well as the sociolinguistic factors that contribute to linguistic variation across settings and contexts.

One discourse feature that is easy to study is listener's response behavior, also known as backchannels. Backchannels are the brief verbal responses that a listener uses while another individual is talking, such as mm-kmm, ok, yeah, and oh wow. Listeners response can also be non verbal head- nods. Variation has been found not only in the frequency of backchannels, but also in the type of backchannels, their placement in the ongoing talk and their interpretation by the participants.

In this chapter an attempt is made to take at length some important features of discourse which are mentioned in our data. At times the discourse features are strikingly different in male and female conversations in varying situations. We present the analysis
of discourse features in seven sections below. In section 1 we take 
up overlaps as a feature of discourse. In the section 2 we deal with 
the belittlement and topic control, in section 3 condescension is 
taken up. Section 4 deals with topic choice, section 5 deals with 
back channel noises, in section 6, minimal response is discussed 
and section 7 contains interruptions.

**Section 1**

**Overlaps**

Overlaps are the instances of slight over anticipation by the 
next speaker. Instead of beginning to speak immediately following 
current speaker’s turn, next speaker beings to speak and the very 
end of current speaker’s turn, overlapping the last word or phrase 
does not break the symmetry of conversation, particularly where 
there is a factual description of an event for example:

**1.1 Cooperative sentence building**

(a) Zeba Michael jackson ke upár šo kārne ka: bāhaut 
preššēr thā: 
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{isi vājāh se usko ziya:da: pain killār diye ja: rāhe the} \\
\text{hā: isi vājāh se usko ziya:da: pain killār diye} \\
\text{ja: rāhe the aur kiya: ......}
\end{align*}
\]
Amir

aur kiya:, voh āpne a:pse tāng a:ɡeːyaː thāː
done

(b) Waseem Jəb use čhōrnaː hi thāː to itnāː səːb kuchos kəɾne kī

kiyaː jərurət thīː

Sheeba hāː kiyaː jərurət thīː itnāː səːb kuchos kəɾne kīː Jəb
čhōrnaː hi thāː thō

1.2 Requesting and giving verification

(a) Asif tumhē larkāː kesaː lāːgaː:

Shabana hāː tʰiːk he

Asif kyōː təbəssum ke hisaːb se larkāː tʰiːk nəːhīː hē

Shabana nəːhīː larkāː tʰiːk he, aur kiyaː cʰaːхиː, kiyaː
tumhē pəsənd nəːhīː:

Asif nəːhīː mē puːcʰ rəhāː hū bās aur kuchos nəːhī.

1.3 Choral repetition

(a) Shabana məmmi ɕunmun bəhaut pəɾeːsaːn kərti

he, is liye dəɾvəːzəː bənd kəɾdiːjīːye

məmmi

hāː ye tʰiːk he, dəɾvəːzəː bənd kəɾde,

nagina

hāː ye tʰiːk he, mənə dəɾvəːzəː bənd
Conclusion

The data, which is collected reveals that both males and females overlapped each other's speech but males overlapped the speech of the opposite sex as well as of the same sex, and females overlapped speech more of the same sex rather than the opposite sex.

Section 2

Belittlement and topic control

It is seen that often males belittle their mates by snubbing them when they are unable to prove their own point or cutting their conversation short. The sense of domination over females may be considered as the main reason for such behavior. For instance-

(a) mammi əre a:sif tere əpa:pa: keh rəhə hə ke ye
Asif kār legi pāraːi, yaːsiːn ćhor aːyaː kāregay: aur leːaːyaː kāregay:

Asif hāː paːpaː kiyaː he

Papa āre kitne māhine ki he aur iskiː pāraːi

Asif do tiːn māhine ki baːt he

mammi hā to yaːsiːn ćhor aːyaː kāregay: aur leːaːyaː kāregay:

Asif āre nāhīːː' māmmi, esaː nāhī he, ho jaːegaː sāb.

Section 3

Condescension

Sometimes, males try to save their fellow/mate from making ridiculous and derisive comments on some other members of conversing group. For instances:-

(a) Anees meri bivi khaːnaː bāhaut ēččhaː bānaːtiː he

Asif khaːnaː to hāmaːri bivi bhi bāhaut ēččhaː bānaːti he

(b) Sumaiyya mujhe john ēbraːhām bāhaut pāsānd he, aur menē uski gārām māsaːlaː muviː tiːn ćaːr baːr dekhi he, mujhe uskiː ēktīng usmē
Conclusion

Males try to save their mate from the members of conversing group and from the members of family. Our data that is being analysed reveals that women are linguistically alienated.

Section 4

Topic choice

Generally the males and females raised those topics which they preferred but when they were confronted with certain situation then, they handled it with equal felicity. For example the issue of homosexuality which is equally supported by both sexes.

However following are the examples where males rejected the topics raised by female. And sometimes, it was seen that whatever the topic was, females came down to their favourite topics as watching movie, selection of the dress etc.

Rizwana
tum ne voh lēxs pārfākt bira:id dekha: he

Nabeel
hā: dekha: he, he kiya:, voh sāb kiya:
dikha:ēenge usmē hē ese koi ša:di:yā: hoti hē, hē kuch nāhī yeh sāb dhōng he, hā:
usmē lārkiyā: sābhi bāhaut ācēhi dikha:i hē
tānī mujhe to dohi lārkiyā: ziya:da: pāsānd hē, virinda: aur guṛpi:t
nāhī ya:r lārkiyā: sābhi kāma:l ki: hē, ek se ek dikha:i he, ek se ek.kiya: bha:i, hāṭa:o kiya: dekh rāhe ho,
bha:bi ke sa:mne māt dekha: kāro ye sāb,
āre ruk na: rukja: zāra:
film dekhne ċāloge, hē suno, kāl film dekhne ċālte hē
hē dekhēnge, kāl dekhēnge, moka: mila: to ċāleṅge, do din ke liye to mē a:ta: hā usmē gār waːlō ko bhi ṭaːim dena: hota: he, aur tumhē bhi,
tum hār baːr yehi kehkār nikāl jaːte ho,
kiya: kārogi film dekhkār, hē. āpne nāmaːz pāro, film dekhna: bāhaut gunaːh he sāmjhī:
āre bhaːi kāl kāb jaːoge mē esa: kārta:
हू, मे tumha:ra: moba:il ठी:क hone da:l
deta: हूः

Nabeel a:re rehne de मे kæra:lunga:

Yaseen a:re voh kæl tæk de dega: meri usse ba:t ho
gai: he.

Nabeel ठी:क he da:l de

hë

Nabeel dekh lo jo tumhë ठी:क lâge bæna: do

Rizwana phir bëhi bæta: diye, kuçh esa: bæna: dû jo
a:p a:sa:ni se leja: sâkë,

Nabeel më kuçh bëhi leke kha:luûnga:, lekin ðgâr tum
bæna: do to ठी:क he.

Rizwana: ðëčha: menë kâp:re pîres kâr diye hë aur
beg më bëhi râkh diye hë kuçh aur tonãhi
he, hâ: jâna:ma:z bëhi râkh di he

Nabeel ठी:क he ठी:क he, aur kuçh nãhî he hâ:
ðgâr kha:na: bæn gãya: ho to, kha:na:
lâga: do.

Rizwana: nãhî: ðëhi: roçi ba:ki hë

Nabeel ठी:क he, më næma:z pær a:û to kha:na:
Conclusion

Generally both have same topic of discourse but, males try to impose their own talk over females, this is because of the dominant nature of the male and women by nature are submissive. It is often observed that if males impose their own talk then women ultimately retreat to their own topics like cooking etc. and males continue to talk on various topics of their interest.

Section 5

Back channel Noises

Females generally use more back channel noises like hmm, mm yeah, oh than males in mixed sex conversation. Some of the instances of mixed sex conversation are as follows:

(a) Suhail  Angelo aːpaː aːp esaː kijːa aːp apni maim se puːchiːe

Anjum  h mm - ye ʈhiːk rəhegaː

(b) Asif  esaː he tum mujhe apni maim ke paːs le čəlnːaː mē baːt kəɾʊŋːaː

(c) Anjum  laib tumne bənd ki he pekəɾ

Pakar  hmm,- nəhi menə bənd nəhi ki he, mē
kyū band kārne lāgi

(d) Imran

yeah, kiya: ba:t he, hā: bolo bolo mē kār rāha: hū ba:t, bolo

Arshi
tum kisse ba:t kār rāhe ho

(f) Imran
āre kisise nāhī, tum bātao tum kiya: pu:č rāhī: thi:

Arshi
mmm__ kuch nāhī---

Imran
ūh

Conclusion:

It is observed from the data that females use more back channel noises rather than males. It is said this is because of the less talk of the women in mixed sex conversation. But on the opposite side, it shows cooperative nature of the women and gives support to fill the conversation. On the other side the word yeah that is used by males tells that such words are used by the males while talking to women, to show their impression of them.

Section 6

Minimal responses

Males and females, both used minimal responses. It is verified by the data. Given below is illustrative of the points:

Amir
esa: he mu:d vu:d kuch nāhī hota:
čālna: he to bēs čālna: he
Arshi Ùhū
Amir āre tumhē to buxa:r ho rāha: he
Farheen hā: āb xiya:l a:ya: he
Amir hā:
Farheen thi:k he thi:k, koi ba:t nāhī
Amir to, aur, kiya: kāhū
Tabassum a:mir ya:r cālega:, ćelār ke yāhā: ja:na: he
Amir Ù--- kiya:
Tabassum ćelār ke yāhā: cālega:
Amir hā: - dekhūnga:
Farheen ma:mu: suno, sun rāhē hē
Ma:mu: hā: sun rāha: hū, kēl ba:t kārēnge kēl muhje ni:nd a:ra:hi he-

Conclusion:-
Both use minimal responses but female use it to show their interest and cooperation and male use it to show their lack of interest.

Section 7

Interruptions

Interruption means violation of turn taking rules of conversation and it’s occurs when the next speaker begins to talk.
while the current speaker is still speaking. It breaks the symmetry of the conversation and prevents the speakers from finishing their turn at the same time gaining a turn for themselves. The intervention of the second person is at a point of current speaker’s turn which could not be defined (as the last word). It is possible when the discussion is going on a topic or topics, it usually breaks the symmetry of the conversation, therefore, the so called the last word of the current speakers may or may not give a chance for the next speakers to compliment or elaborate the conversation. It’s particular potential manifestation of power in conversational interaction.

**Male-female**

(a) Tariq  
Shā:mi:m  sāmārsevil wa:la: a:ya: tha:

Shamim  
nāhī vo nāhī a:ya:

Tariq  
to ūnki mē pa:ni he kiya: nāhī he

Shamim  
tōbāssum to māna: kār rāhi thi: ke

sāmārcevil nāhī  čāl rāha: he, pa:ni to nāhī thā:, āb pēta: nāhī, he ke nāhī he

Aamir  
āre ye log bhi bās esi hi hē.

Female male-
(a) Tabassum:

esa: he a:sif bha:i ise ba:hār ghumāne
ka: bāhaut Šauk he a:p ise ek ba:r
ghumā: la:iye.......)

Asif:
ye ro ja:egi, ba:hār ja:egi to.....

Tabassum:
nāhī roegi a:p ek ba:r le to ja:iye -

Farheen:
ya: a:p leja:na: hi nāhī ca:hte

Female-female

(a) Maim:
dre ānjum dekho hum tumha:ra: hi: ka:m
kār rāhe hē na:, tum hāmē ŭa:im do thōra:
sa:

Anjum:
maim mujhe bāhaut muśkil se ŭa:im mila:
he sāsu:ra:l se islie hām jēldi kār rāhē hē,
aur hāma:re upār bāččhi ki bhi zimmeda:ri
he

Maim:
hā: dekho ānjum voh to ŭhi:k he lekin hām
kār rāhe hē nā: bās hāmē ŭa:im do thōra:
sa:

Paker:
maim hām a:ja:ē
Maim  nāhī pekēr, a:j nāhī, kēl aːiːega: a:j hām
inka: kaːm dekh rāhe hē -
Paker  Ok, maim.
(b) Baby  suno, šāmim kēl tum vālimē mē kiya:
pāhān rāhi ho
Shamim  ābhi menē kuch disāid nāhī kiya: he
Tabassum  āre bhaːbhi pārsō uske yāhā: bhi to jaːna:
           he
Shamim  kāhāː,
Tabassum  šarīk ke yāhāː, uske bhaːi ki bhi to šaːdi
           he, vāhā: kiya: pehnogi,
Shamim  hāː mē voh to bhuːl hi gai, mere to zāhān
           se nikāl hi gāya: tha:
Baby  āre phir kāhāː, phir to tum sāri, lēhgaː,
vēhgaː, pehnogi, hām to bhaiyaː, siːdha:
           siːdhaː suːːt pehnēnge.

Conclusion

Females interrupted the speech of same sex as well as of the opposite sex but this is rare in comparison with male’s speech. Females seem to be cooperative in conversation and showed their active involvement in it.