GENDER REPRESENTATION IN PAKISTANI TALK SHOWS AND PODCASTS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BASED ON DOMINANCE THEORY

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Abstract
This research explores gender dynamics in mixed-gender conversations, focusing on interruptions, turn-taking, and topic control within the Pakistani media. Using the dominance theory of gender, it examines interactions in talk shows and podcasts across political and entertainment genres. The research analyses speech patterns, interruption frequency, and discussion control by employing qualitative and quantitative methods. Findings reveal that men dominate political discussions on traditional TV shows, while women assert influence through hedges and tag questions in entertainment-based podcasts. TV shows reinforce male dominance, whereas podcasts offer a more balanced conversational space. The study highlights how media formats shape gendered communication styles, with formal settings favouring male control and informal discussions allowing more equal participation. It recommends implementing guidelines for hosts and guests to encourage balanced discussion. It suggests communication workshops to foster active listening, social interaction, and fair turn-taking, promoting gender-inclusive conversations in media.
Key Words: Dominance theory, Gender Dominance, Pakistani Talk Shows, Podcast, Conversation Analysis

Introduction

Since humans are social creatures, they need to communicate to maintain their relations and express their feelings. Communication is the exchange of information regarding wants, desires, and knowledge. Communication may be in linguistic or non-linguistic form (Isnaeni Wahab, 2021). In these interactions, one person acts as an informant or speaker, and the other acts as a listener. Conversation is considered a more effective way of communication as it conveys both verbal and non-verbal messages simultaneously. During the conversation, participants use turn-taking to regulate cooperation. Speakers speak by taking turns; the second person talks when the first has completed their turn (Shams, 2021). In Pakistan, talk shows and podcasts have emerged as essential platforms for public discourse. Pakistan's media landscape has changed significantly in the last decade. Until 2002, state media (PTV) was the audience's primary news and entertainment source. However, in 2002, the government decided to liberalize media by issuing licenses to private broadcasters (Cheema, 2018). This liberalization increased platforms like talk shows and podcasts.

In everyday conversation, the speaker and listener always alternate positions. One person speaks, and the other listens; this transition occurs naturally without gaps or overlapping. However, there may be interruptions in this flow. These interruptions are divided into two categories by Zimmerman and West: "interruption" and "overlap." Zimmerman and West observed that in mixed-gender conversations, women experience interruptions more frequently than men. Their research suggests that while men interrupt with ease, women seldom do so, reinforcing existing power imbalances in communication. However, interruptions can be beneficial if they cooperate and engage with the ongoing speaker (Maghfiro, 2020).

The study by Ghilza in 2018 on Conversational Interruptions: Analysing Language, Gender, and Divergence in Male-Female Communication took three radio shows and three TV shows with both male and female participants and a female participant to find out which of both genders was more dominant in conversation. The conclusion supported the dominance theory by showing that males interrupt more than females in mixed-gender conversations to declare power. It also reveals that interruptions are often viewed negatively, making interrupters look less courteous. Moreover, interruptions make someone look more influential by allowing them to voice their opinions more openly (Ghilzai, 2018).

Likewise, Shams et al. (2021) considered two live TV shows for their study: "On the Front," with episodes with Kamran Khan and mixed-gender participants. The purpose of the study was to see which gender is more interrupted. The research showed that males and females interrupt and overlap each other's conversations in Pakistani political talk, but females do it more. Unexpectedly, these interruptions need to improve the conversation. Instead, they increase conflicts. This contradicts the findings of researchers like Rosenblum (1986) and Ferguson (1997), who suggested that conversation might add to the debate. Studies also showed that females interrupt to show dominance, which is opposite to previous research, indicating that men usually interrupt. The female participants also took advantage of cultural norms. One female participant used language hinting that men in Pakistani society are highly polite. This put pressure on the male participant to stay quiet. This use of cultural expectations added a unique dynamic to the conversation (Shams, 2021).

Janet Holmes, in her book titled "An Introduction to Sociolinguistics," described that Candace West and Don Zimmerman, in their research, found significant differences in how men and women participate in conversation. Women interrupt men less frequently than men interrupt women, with Men initiating 96% of the interruptions in natural settings. This trend shows that males unknowingly use interruptions more than females to show dominance (Malik et al., 2024). Women try to resume their point after interruption, but these efforts are unsuccessful. Studies also showed that women socialize early to accept interruptions even without showing resistance. These behaviours reflect an underlying cultural system, reinforcing male dominance, as observed in workplaces, doctor-patient interactions, and even family members' conversations (Holmes, 2013).

Ronald Wardhaugh's research indicates that in conversations between men and women, women are often interrupted yet rarely object to it. They tend to ask more questions, facilitate discussions, and provide verbal affirmations like "mhmm" to encourage speakers. In contrast, men are more assertive, frequently interrupting and steering the conversation to establish dominance. Despite the notion that women are more cooperative and men are more competitive, the research showed that the context of conversation decides the communication style rather than gender (Malik et al., 2024). These differences can usually be explained by socialization instead of biological predispositions, implying that gender-specific communication behaviours are learned, not innate

(Wardhaugh, 2015). These studies show precise results that people talk based on gender, showing collaboration and interruptions in a conversation.

Research Questions

1. Which gender makes more interruptions and takes up more space within the mixed-sex conversation used in Pakistani talk shows and podcasts?
2. Do males adopt an instrumental communication style during these conversations to portray dominance?

Statement of the Problem

Concerns about gender dynamics in Pakistani political talk shows and podcasts on mainstream media are becoming increasingly significant as these platforms shape public discourse. While progress toward gender equality in media systems has been made, communication patterns in mixed-gender discussions still reflect the old societal norms and power structures that oppressed women and their voices. A key issue is the dominance often exhibited by men in conversations towards women, where they frequently interrupt the conversations and demand more attention. Such patterns influence the visibility and impact of different genders in political discussions, ultimately leading to males' superiority over females. This trend may mirror broader patriarchal influences embedded within Pakistani society. Understanding these dynamics is essential for identifying how societal norms continue to shape gender interactions in public discourse, especially when something is becoming a common practice and harming gender equality rights.

Literature Review

Sociolinguists have long been worried about conversational dominance, especially in mixed-gender interactions (Zimmerman, 1975; Fishman, 1980). According to research, men dominate talks, interrupt women more often, and use overlapping speech to maintain control s & Clark, 1993). People participate in a discussion by taking turns. Speakers in practically every culture take turns while speaking. However, gendered power disparities still exist despite these cultural distinctions. Cultural attitudes vary regarding floor holding or yielding it to the next speaker, whereas overlapping and interruptions also vary. Research has indicated that different cultures have different ways of taking turns, with Pakistani speakers employing shorter pauses and Japanese speakers permitting longer ones (Cutting, 2002)

Griffiths (2006) states, "pragmatics is about the relationship of our semantic knowledge with our knowledge of the world, considering contexts of use". Pragmatics refers to the use of language in the context of conversation. Cutting (2002) braced his ideas to build a bridge between how interruptions are taken in context and conversation, which unduly comprehends counter-interruptions (Malik et al., 2024). Brown and Levinson proffered four theories on politeness. These show how politeness steers cross-cultural conversations following verbal and non-verbal communication interruptions.

1. Bald on record: It includes an imperative way (i.e., giving warnings, giving instructions, giving advice, giving orders) of conveying your message (in this case, interruptions) so that you notice changing expressions on the listener's face. Such cases involve the use of intonation and politeness from the listener to taper the effect of the interruption.
2. Positive Politeness: Positive Politeness is like building a bridge of understanding and emotions between the narrator and the addressee, which is why it is more prevalent in friend circles and adjoining peers. Using positive politeness, we learnt that showing keen interest and sympathy, avoiding disaccord, and presenting commendations to the speaker maintain a "positive face."

3. Negative Politeness: Contrary to positive politeness, negative politeness is held in colleague circles and among strangers. Using the technique of negative politeness, we see how a listener feels reluctant to connect with the speaker, which often results in a social break. The listener's dubious behaviour makes a "negative face" for the speaker.

4. Off Record: Using this strategy, the speaker makes the conversational environment suspicious so that the listener can identify the literal meanings he wants to convey. It includes tautology, reiteration, signals, pointers, and intimations. It is similar to providing a scope of margin to the listener, so he or she may miss the expected reaction.

According to Zimmerman and West (1975), men interrupt women more frequently than women interrupt men, which indicates more significant power dynamics in society. According to Fishman (1980), males mimic their social control by interrupting women to demonstrate their power in conversations. This dynamic is particularly noticeable in public settings, like political forums, where visibility and authority are at stake (Ahmad, 2024). Competitive interruptions, which are intended to mute or overwhelm others, were distinguished from cooperative interruptions by Ames and Clark (1993). Cooperative interruptions are considered to be good and helpful, but instead, they're awful, forceful, or hostile to some extent.

Djalilova (2022) stated that the characteristics of male and female oral and written statements, as well as the structure of the text, point to the existence of gender variations in speech behaviour, which calls for a more detailed analysis. Although cultural differences exist due to power imbalances in different societies, males interrupt females in a more significant proportion due to dominant behaviour, as shown in the studies of Zimmerman and West (1975). This research reinforces power relations that favour male voices over female ones. Specifically, "a power dynamic deeply embedded in societal structures is reflected in the pattern of interruptions" (Don Zimmerman, 1975). This result is further supported by Rehman (2017), who examined the dynamics of political talk programs in Pakistan. By pointing out that "male participants often dominate the discourse, overshadowing female voices", he highlighted how gender dynamics manifest in public situations where visibility and authority are at risk.

Digital media frequently depict cultural patterns and customs for entertainment, knowledge, and information. Several television programs and podcasts have helped us investigate the dominance theory or conversational dominance. In this era of technology, we are aware of the intricate interaction between modern, innovative, and old or classic ways of communication. The firm conclusion and methodology helped us dive deep into the concepts of dominance theory and how technology and other factors have changed communication styles worldwide. In short, digital media is now the source of different cultures and customs displayed around the globe. The evolution of technology has helped us a lot in learning about cultural diversity, trends, and various communication styles. The worlds of journalism, art, and the use of digital media have profoundly impacted many fields, including academia, publishing, business, and politics (Alzubi, 2023).

Ahmed Alzubi's study highlights the evolution of media consumption, consumer behaviour, and cultural trends in this technology and digital media era. Using a quantitative approach, he analysed 500 respondents. He provided a comprehensive analysis of the elements influencing the use of digital media and communication styles, content preferences, and availability, which greatly appeal to and attract the young generation. (Alzubi, 2023) The findings underscore the preference for digital media, streaming services, and online information resources. Due to its easy access, availability at any time, and vast information, many individuals favour digital media. On the other hand, many individuals were also devoted to traditional journalism and in-depth analysis. Most

youngsters liked digital media platforms, while the older generation showed devotion to conventional forms of communication and journalism.

In another study, the researchers used a quantitative approach to investigate the sociolinguistic features. They retrieved 40 talk shows from YouTube from the same region to ensure a balanced comparison. They mainly selected political or social conversations that frequently reflect communication styles and language patterns. They utilised AntConc, a corpus analysis software, to examine the linguistic features and speech patterns. The software helped us to analyse every language pattern and trend that might have been missed in the manual analysis. Deborah Tannen's Genderlect Theory (1990) also helped us and served as a theoretical framework for this research (Ahmad, 2024).

According to Spender (1980) this, the phenomenon is a "language trap" when people have limitations of previous categories. Many feminist critics insist that the patriarchal monopoly on naming the perpetuates involve the systematic differences. For example, the scientific research on gender interpretations of how language carries cultural biases and norms is explained by Archer (1978). All these scientific research and observations reveal the reality and maintain the societal biases and cultural norms, particularly in patriarchal countries. This research concludes by highlighting that males dominate in fields like business and politics, and gender dominance still exists in conversations. Although both sexes contribute to discussions in this era, women are still under-represented in most essential fields where they can contribute a good part. This under-representation results in limiting the number of opinions in crucial discussions. Moreover, it is necessary to accept factors like cast, creed, colour, gender, and cultural background when analysing gender dynamics in communication (Sagheer & Zubair, 2020). This study promotes the importance of a more equitable and diverse public sphere inclusive of all genders.

Research Methodology

This research is based on qualitative-descriptive analysis to explore gender representation in Pakistani television shows and podcasts, with particular emphasis on the influence of gender on conversational dominance. The objective is to investigate which gender tends to make more interruptions and dominate conversations, using dominance theory by Zimmerman and West (1975) as the theoretical framework, which says that men tend to dominate conversations in mixed-gender interactions by interrupting more frequently (Don Zimmerman, 1975).

Rather than focusing purely on calculable data, the researchers intend to analyse the content by unbiased observation and interpretation within a cultural context. The qualitative-descriptive method further enables a comparison of how different formats offer different spaces for how both genders interact.

Sampling

A purposive sampling approach has been employed to ensure the episode selection aligns with the research objectives' relevance. The podcast samples have been sourced from various YouTube channels, while the TV shows have been chosen from different Pakistani television networks. The following is a list of selected samples for this research.

Table 01

Genre	Host Gender		Samples	Uploaded on
Politics	Male Host	TV Show	Election 2024 | Niklo Pakistan Ki Khatir | Special Transmission	Feb 07, 2024

		Podcast	EXCLUSIVE Interview: Maryam Nawaz Sharif | Mansoor Ali Khan	Mar 17, 2023
	Female Host	**TV Show**	Election 2024 | Niklo Pakistan Ki Khatir | Special Transmission | Part 2	Feb 07, 2024
		Podcast	LIMITATION	-
Entertainment	**Male Host**	**TV Show**	To Be Honest | Mathira | Tabish Hashmi | Nashpati Prime	Mar 17, 2021
		Podcast	The other side of story with Maira Khan | Adnan Faisal Podcast	Oct 25, 2024
	Female Host	**TV Show**	Good Morning Pakistan | ARY Digital	Sep 27, 2024
		Podcast	Rabia, Anmol Baloch and Ali Raza	Nov 07, 2024

Data Analysis (Genre-Based)
1. **Politics**
A. **Male Host**
Podcast # 1: Mansoor and Maryam
TV Show # 1: Niklo Pakistan Ki Khatir
1. Speaking time
The podcast interview features Host Mansoor Ali Khan (Male) and Guest Maryam Nawaz Sharif (Female). They debated various political topics, as Mansoor posed some direct and challenging inquiries while Maryam responded assertively regarding her position as Chief Organizer of PML-N.
Pie-Chart 1
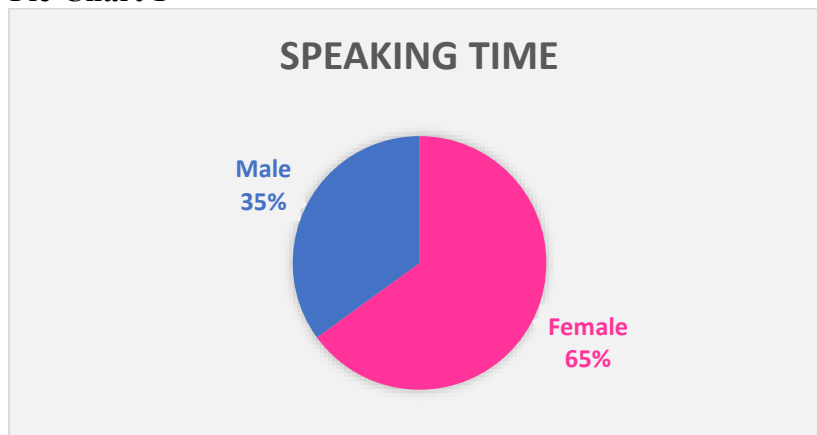
Similarly, in the TV show, there is a panel of 8 members, which includes Kashif Abbasi (host) as well as other members including Mehar Bukhari, Maria Memon, Hasaan Ayub, Chaudhry Ghulam Hussain, Waseem Badami, Khawar Ghumman, Aniqa Mehmood, and two Male guests. The panel members expressed their point of view and predicted the future of politics.
Pie-Chart 2

SPEAKING TIME

Female 28%

Male 72%
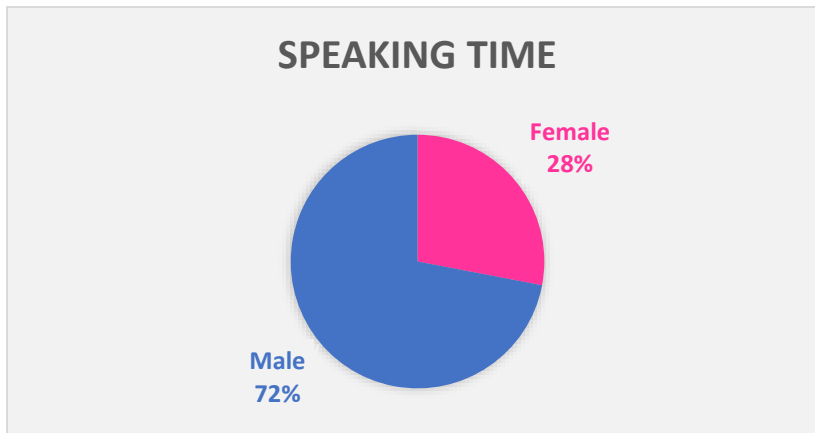
2. Turn-Taking

Table 2 reveals that 153 times Maryam takes turns speaking. On the other hand, Mansoor takes 129 turns, significantly impacting the podcast's speaking time.

TABLE 2	Male (Mansoor Ali Khan)	Female (Maryam Nawaz)
No. of Turns	129	153

In contrast to podcast, there are 3 females and 7 males in the TV show. That is why, the speaking time and no. of turns taken by men are significantly greater than women in Tv show.

TABLE 3	Male (07)	Female (03)
No. of Turns	172	54

3. Interruptions

Table 4 shows the no. of interruptions, overlapping, and use of linguistic features by the Male host and Female guest in the Podcast. Maryam has interrupted 14 times, whereas Mansoor interrupts 11 times.

TABLE 4	Mansoor (Host)	Maryam (Guest)
No. of Interruptions	11	14
No. of Overlapping	03	05
Total	14	19

Whereas Table 5 presents the number of interruptions and overlaps in the **TV show.** In this table, the number of interruptions made by the female is 9, while that of the male is 3. Similarly, the number of overlaps by females is more significant (seven) than by males (4).

TABLE 5	Men (07)	Women (03)
No. of Interruptions	03	09
No. of Overlapping	04	07
Total	07	16

4. Topic Control

Analysis reveals that Mansoor attempts to control the conversation using direct language and tag questions, while Maryam steers discussions away from sensitive topics, focusing instead on criticizing Imran Khan. She avoids strong statements on policy matters, particularly court-martialling. Topic influence significantly impacts dominance in podcasts. Tensions rise when Mansoor questions Maryam about the Sharif family's legal cases. She dismisses them as politically motivated but resists a similar claim about Imran Khan, leading to interruptions and heated exchanges. Familiarity with the topic empowers guests, reducing the host's control and shifting dominance. Female participants use linguistic strategies, interruptions, and overlaps to assert influence throughout the discussion.

TABLE 06

Mansoor's Questions	Maryam's Answers	Time Stamp
Ye chief orgnaizer ka lafz istimaal hova. You think you deserve to be the chief orgnaizer?	I think Mansoor Jo Kal prime minister Shahbaz Sharif ny Hamid Mir Shahib k Sath Jo interview Kiya us mein Jo unhon ny Baat ki mery mutaliq, mery ly wo Boht bara medal hy, acknowledgment hy, Meri Jo party k ly ma NY din Raat aik Kiya, pechly 5, 6 saal mein, bari passionately ma NY kaam Kiya aur sab sy bar k I think ye us cheez ki acknowledgment hy.	1:11
Jab aap ki hukamat ai sary har ghy?	Ni…Meri us mein sirf aur sirf campaign ki zamadari thi.us mein issues thy, jab aap ye kahty Hain ki gilgit aur AJK, wo TU hum results dekh k ghy thy campaign mein. humy pta tha,humy bataya giya tha k Ider apko 2 seats milen gi,Ider apko teen seats milen gi. Phr bi wahn ja k party ko mobilize krna,party Jo encourage krna. Wo Meri zamadari thi,ma NY Kiya. Party ki strength showoff krna,ap AJK ki taareekh utha k dekh Len ,khbi itni bari awaami taaeed ,kesi election campaign mein kesi aur ki ni mili jitni PML-N ko mili esi tra. Mujy BAAT krny den,ap NY aik extensive sawal pocha hy eska jawab bi lamba hy. Aur esi tra AJK, gilgit mein itni bari public support,aur ap ye dekhaein dhandli TU honi thi Kun k election ka result pechy sy manage ho rha tha , election ka result mujy campaign py jany sy pehly mujy AJK ka bi aur GB ka bi wo mujy pta Chl giya tha. Lkin mene wahan jaaa k party ko masha Allah galvanize kiya show of strength ki ousi sae logon ko pta chala yahan pae dhandli hui ha.	06:57
Mai siyasi jamaton ki bat kr raha hon	Ma purely siyasi jamaton ki baat kr ryi hun. Ma un jamato ki baat nai kr ryi Jinko siyasi jamatto ka samna agdahaa banana ka liya create kiya gya. Meri baat sunain. Maa un jamato ki baat nai kr ryi jinko siyasi jamatto ko kamzoor krna ka liya launch kia gya siasyat ma.	24:29
Let's commit agr ham govt ma aya tu ham general bajwa or general	Mansoor bat ya hai k jis waqat mushkil waqat ho us waqat Naam Lena boht jurat ka kam hai buhadri hai. Aap ko yad ho ga Nawaz sharif shb ne jo prime time tha aik page ka	29:50

| faiz ka court Marshal kr ka dikhayain ga. | jab peak tha taqat ka power ka r victimization ka r PMLN nishana thi. Nawaz sharif shb khud nishana thy mai Nishana thi us waqat Nawaz sharif shb be boht jurat r himat se PDM K phly jalsy mai Gujarawala mai dono ka nam Lia tha. Dono us waqat offices mai thy dono us waqat sitting thy apny apny ohdon pyy. Unhon ne ya ni Kia k jis waqat koi taqat mai tha us ka naam na lety r jab wo office se Chala jata retire ho jata us waqat us k oper tanqeed q k us waqat, q k tab ki tanqeed koi maini ni Rakhti r mai I think Pakistan ki 76 years ki history mai I maybe the only one jis ne sitting DG ISI k khilaf General Faiz Hamid k khilaf aik application di court mai | |
| General faiz ka court Marshal hona chahiya? | Maine aap se phly bi ya clear kr dia hai Mansoor k jis jis us mai aap r log bi hain jo abhi samny ni hain jis jis apny constitutional domain se bhir nikl kr koi act kia hai, jis jis ne political engineering ki hai, jis jis ne apny half ki khilaf warzi ki hai. Constitution ko un logon ka khud ahtesab krna chahiye | 34:30 |

In the discussion, she criticized Imran Khan but didn't directly say anything against the establishment. Instead, she keeps changing the topic to direct questions, showing that she has topic control over the whole podcast.

In the TV Show, Kashif Abbasi, the host, maintains topic control by asking open-ended questions about the current election scenario, encouraging each panel member to share their thoughts.

5. Question Types

This study examines how host Mansoor Ali Khan's direct and open-ended questions unintentionally contribute to female dominance in his debate with Maryam Nawaz. Despite his attempts to steer the conversation, Maryam deflects with evasive responses, shifting the discussion in her favour. Her self-justifying stance leads to frequent interruptions and overlaps, creating an imbalance in speaking time. The research explores how question types interact with evasive tactics, shaping power dynamics in podcasts. Similarly, in Kashif Abbasi's TV show with a mixed-gender panel, open-ended questions allow each participant to share opinions. However, female members use direct language, interruptions, and overlaps more frequently, attempting to control the conversation. This highlights the challenges of managing power struggles in mixed-gender media discussions.

6. Linguistic Features

In the Podcast, Mansoor started directly by questioning her about whether she was eligible for the post of Chief Organiser, highlighting her lack of electoral experience and the PML-N's defeats in the Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu Kashmir elections during her leadership. He also questions her about the criticisms regarding the distribution of all the essential political positions within the Sharif family. Table 7 represents that the use of linguistic strategies by the male is 3 as compared to the female which is 01.

Table 7

Linguistic Strategies used in Podcast						
No.	Utterance Dialogues	Assertive Sentences	Direct Language	Hedging	Tag Questions	Time Stamp
By Male:						
01	Ye chief orgnaizer ka lafz istimaal hova. You think you deserve to be the chief orgnaizer?		I			1:01
02	Aik party k Ander... ap NY AJ tk Zindagi mein khbi election ni Lara na qomi assembly ka na provincial assembly ka,ma apka track record dekh rha tha, gilgit mein aap ny election campaign lead ki Muslim League noon har gai, Kashmir mein campaign lead ki Muslim League noon har gai. Zimni intikhaab mein ap NY lead kiye		I			6:49
03	Still jeety naa?				I	8:22
04	(Vote of No confidence) Sahi hova hai?				I	9:58
05	(Vote of No confidence) enhen deals pr hona chahiye tha?				I	10:04
06	ouska aik dusra jo face ha wo yeh ha k ap log jail ni jana chahtay thay ap log jinke against cases laray thay		I			11:29
07	Is not it Surprising?				I	12:22
08	Wo sab Thek hain? Wo 84 Cases Thek hain?				I	14:40
09	Is this fair? Is this fair to democracy?				I	15:11
10	Pakistan Tahreek e Insaf aik Kaladm Jamaat hai?				I	22:29
11	General Bajwa r General Faizzz?				I	26:59
By Female:						

| 01 | I think Mansoor Jo Kal prime minister Shahbaz Sharif ny Hamid Mir Shahib k Sath Jo interview Kiya us mein Jo unhon NY Baat ki mery mutaliq, mery ly wo Boht bara medal hy, acknowledgment hy, Meri Jo party k ly ma NY din Raat aik Kiya, pechly 5, 6 saal mein, bari passionately ma NY kaam Kiya aur sab sy bar k I think ye us cheez ki acknowledgment hy. | | | I | | 1.03 |

In the same way, the researchers have included direct language, time stamps, and hedging for TV shows. Maria Memon uses direct language toward Waseem Badami. Mehr Bukhari also uses direct language towards Hassan Ayub. They discuss the 2023 elections, which were held on February 8. Kashif Abbasi asked different questions from the members of the panel. He also asked some questions of the guest, i.e., Jamshaid Dasti.

Table 8

No.	Utterance Dialogues	Assertive Sentences	Direct Language	Hedging	Tag Questions	Time Stamp
Linguistic Strategies used in TV Show						
By Female						
01	MARIA MEMON: lekin Waseem, aap ghoor karein, aapke saath hi aisa kyun kiya gaya? (linguistic)		I			**1:00**
02	MEHAR BUKHARI: Masla ye nhi ky apki nazr sy bhi guzri hy or nhi guzri abhi tak , aesi abhi manzar e aam pr, masla ye hy waqt ka ziaa hua hy ,		I			**13:03**

7. Guest Composition

In podcasts, guest experience heavily influences dominance. Figures like Maryam Nawaz Sharif use their knowledge to steer discussions, often overshadowing the host. Strong personalities can shift power dynamics, making guest composition a key dominant factor. In contrast, TV shows favour male dominance due to panel composition. With more male participants, men take more speaking time and control turn-taking. While female guests frequently interrupt and overlap to assert influence, traditional TV formats largely maintain male dominance.

8. Talk Show Vs. Podcast

In the podcast, Mansoor challenges Maryam with questions on Imran Khan and her political credibility. Still, she defends herself unwaveringly, often using fallacies and redirecting responses to emphasize her party's success. This results in a female-dominated discussion. In the TV show, Kashif Abbasi controls the topic with open-ended election-related questions, allowing panel members to share their views. While women dominate in interruptions and linguistic strategies, men hold overall dominance due to their more significant numbers, speaking 70% of the time and taking more frequent turns, prompting female interruptions.

B. Female Host

Tv show # 2: Niklo Pakistan Ki Khatir

1. Speaking time

Pie-Chart
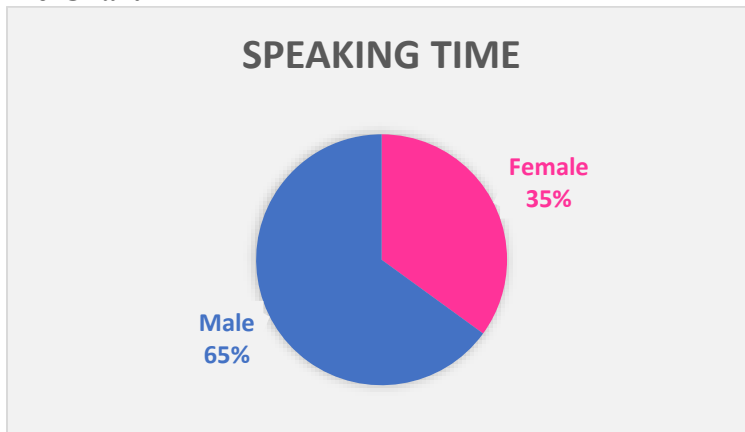
Similarly, in the TV show, there is a panel of 8 members, which includes Maria Memon(host) as well as other members, including Mehar Bukhari, Kashif Abbasi, Hasaan Ayub, Chaudhry Ghulam Hussain, Waseem Badami, Khawar Ghumman, and Aniqa Mehmood. The panel members expressed their points of view and predicted the future of politics.

2. Turn-Taking

During the conversation, there are three females and five males in the TV show. That is why the speaking time and no. of turns taken by men are significantly greater than women in TV shows.

TABLE 9	Male (5)	Female (03)
No. of Turns	188	82

3. Interruptions

Whereas Table presents the number of interruptions and overlaps in the **TV show.** In this table, the number of interruptions made by the female is 27, while that of the male is 18. Similarly, the number of overlaps by females is more significant 17 than by males 12.

TABLE 10	Men (05)	Women (03)
No. of Interruptions	18	27
No. of Overlapping	12	17
Total	30	44

4. Topic Control

Analysis shows that males and females tried to steer the conversation through direct language and tag questions throughout the TV show. Initially, Maria Memon introduced the topic and asked other panel members to speak about the election results. There is a significant impact of Topic Influence over dominance in TV shows. Throughout the show, female and male members change topics and use linguistics strategies, interruptions, and overlapping for topic influence.

5. Question Types

In the TV show, we also inquired about the questions the host (Maria Memon) asked from the panel of 8 members, including both male and female. There were mostly open-ended questions, and the members took turns sharing their opinions. However, the female members use direct language, interrupting and overlapping male members more frequently and trying to steer the conversation. These points give us information about the intersection of question types, power dynamics, and difficulty in managing a TV with many mixed members.

6. Linguistic Features

We have included direct language, time stamps, and hedging for a TV show.

Table 11

Linguistic Strategies						
No.	Utterance Dialogues	Assertive Sentences	Direct Language	Hedging	Tag Questions	Time Stamp
By Female						
01	**Maria Memon:** I think			I		5:44
02	**Mehar Bukhari**: Masla ye nhi ky apki nazr sy bhi guzri hy or nhi guzri abhi tak , aesi abhi manzar e aam pr, masla ye hy waqt ka ziaa hua hy ,		I			13:03
By Males						
01	**Kashif Abbasi:** I think, ,mera nhi kyal , pehly election mein teesray number pr thi			I		9:40
02	**Chaudhary Ghulam:** ay keri hawa ay?		I			17:36

03	**Waseem Badami:** you also agree k even in this time qaira sab is not in the race			I		29:47
04	**Khawar Ghumman:** chuhan sab ny ik taala lagya hy, apa sahiba ko 2 taaaly lagany chahiye		I			33:49
05	**Khawar Ghumman:** I know you are agree, baat to khtm krny do			I		40:32

7. Guest Composition

This TV show has a mixed composition of males and females (Five males and three females). This composition affects the overall dominance by gender. Because the number of male members is greater than that of females, the speaking time and number of male turns also increase. Guest composition also affects the topic control and influences the whole discussion in the TV show. It also increases the number of different ideas and perspectives.
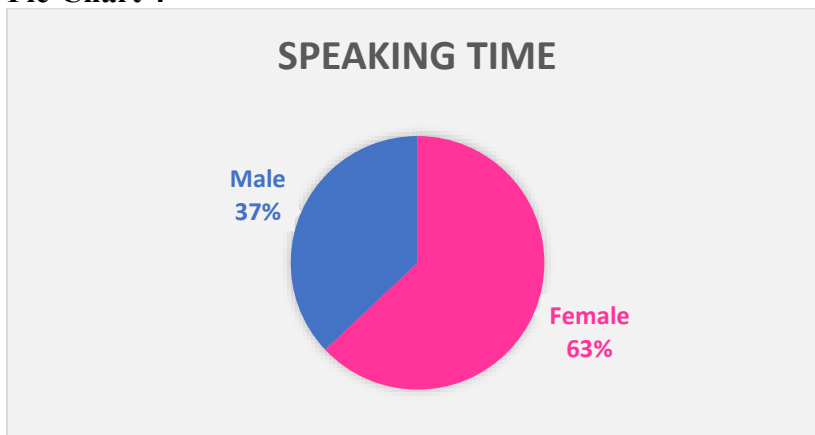
2. Entertainment

A. Male Host

Podcast # 1: The Other Side of the Story

TV Show # 1: To be Honest

1. Speaking Time

The podcast interview features Host Adnan Faisal (Male) and Guest Maira Khan (Female). They debated various social topics, and the host asked some direct and challenging questions regarding social issues, religion, and relationships.

Pie-Chart 4

Similarly, in the tv show Tabish Hashmi (host) interviewed guest, Mathira. They talked on a lot of topics about Mathira like her birth place, favourite foods. They also discussed about some politics.
Pie-Chart 5
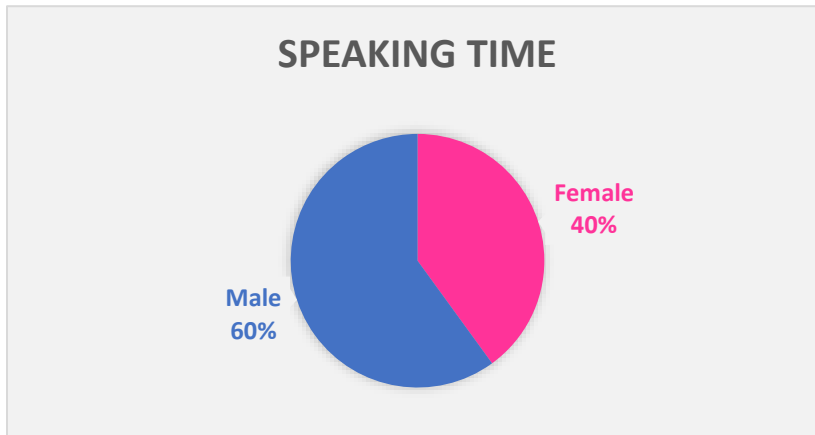
2. Turn-Taking
Table 12 reveals that 68 of the guests took turns speaking. On the other hand, Adnan takes 62 turns, significantly impacting the podcast's speaking time.

TABLE 12	Male (Adnan Faisal)	Female (Maira Khan)
No. of Turns	62	68

Similarly, the table for TV shows is given below:

TABLE 13	Male	Female
No. of Turns	63	41

3. Interruptions
Table 14 shows the no. of interruptions, overlapping, and use of linguistic features by the Male host and Female guest in the Podcast. Maira has interrupted 03 times, whereas Adnan has interrupted 06 times.

Table 14	Adnan (Host)	Maira (Guest)
No. of Interruptions	06	03
No. of Overlapping	01	01
Total	07	04

Whereas Table 15 presents the number of interruptions and overlaps in the TV show.

Table 15	Men (07)	Women (03)
No. of Interruptions	15	6
No. of Overlapping	7	5
Total	22	11

4. Topic Control

Adnan attempts to steer the discussion with sensitive and tag questions in the podcast, but Maira controls the narrative by redirecting topics through personal experiences and opinions. In the TV show, Tabish Hashmi maintains dominance by frequently introducing and shifting issues, reinforcing male control.

5. Question Types

The analysis reveals that direct and open-ended questions unintentionally contribute to female dominance in the podcast. Despite the host's attempts to steer the discussion, Maira confidently shapes the narrative, using personal experiences to influence the debate and dominate speaking time. In the TV show, most questions are open-ended, requiring detailed responses, though some closed-ended questions are also present.

6. Linguistic Features

Table 16 shows that the use of linguistic strategies by the male is three compared to the female, which is 0.

Table 16

Linguistic Strategies used in Podcast						
No.	Utterance Dialogues	Assertive Sentences	Direct Language	Hedging	Tag Questions	Time Stamp
By Male:						
01	Abhi tak yahi situation chl rahi hai. Wese equality chahiye aap logon ko, yahan a k larka text kry aap ko?		I			03:44
02	Aap ki blacklist to fir followers se zada ho gi		I			22:33
03	Hona Chahiye?				I	17:20

Linguistic Strategies used in TV Show						
No.	Utterance Dialogues	Assertive Sentences	Direct Language	Hedging	Tag Questions	Time Stamp
By Female:						
01	Muja ye lagtata ha			I		**21:21**
02	I believe live in the present			I		**21:44**
03	Har dafa khano pa a jata hain ,bhook lagi ha kia		I			**23:06**
04	Apna hathon sa majboor hoon		I			**23:47**
05	Agr phat jaya to silwa loo		I			**24:59**
06	Pehla to bara wada wada options ki list da raha tha. ab kuch ni	I				**23:17**
07	Chup kr banda da putr ban					**23:44**
08	Jitna dena tha da diya ab khatam?				I	**23:21**
By Male:						
01	Trp phata ge aj		I			**24:59**
02	Ap na acting to ni ki na zaida				I	**36:02**

7. Guest Composition

In the podcast, Maira Khan dominates by sharing personal experiences and using her in-depth knowledge to shape the narrative, overshadowing the host. Strong personalities and expertise allow guests to control discussions. In contrast, in the TV show, host Tabish holds dominance, using his greater experience and knowledge to steer the conversation.

8. Talk Show Vs. Podcast

The host challenges Maira with direct questions on sensitive topics, but her outspoken and confident responses, along with her in-depth knowledge of social issues, allow her to dominate the discussion. Her willingness to share personal experiences extends her speaking time. Though the host uses linguistic strategies to regain control, the podcast remains female-dominated.

B. Female Host

Podcast # 1: Rabia, Anmol Baloch and Ali Raza
TV Show # 1: Good Morning Pakistan

1. Speaking Time

The Podcast shows how host Rabia Mughni interviews the lead cast of the ongoing drama Iqtidaar. Ali Raza, aka Shahnawaz, and Anmol Baloch, aka Mehrunissa, answer questions about the background and plot of the drama, the drama's themes of power and love, and the challenges of their roles.

Pie-Chart 6

SPEAKING TIME

Male 50%
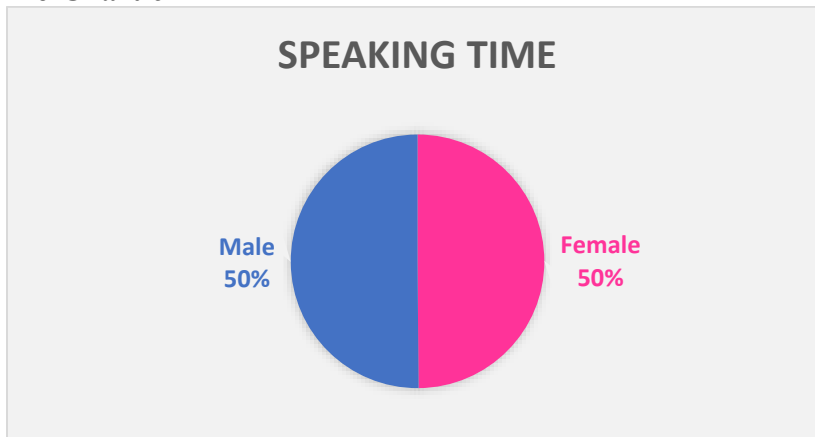
Female 50%

Similarly, in the **TV show**, there are 4 total members, which includes Nida Yasir (host) and 3 guests from the cast of a drama serial "Ghair" named Adeel Hussain, Usama Khan, and a female guest, Madiha Iftikhar. The panel members expressed their interesting points of view about the setup of the drama serial.

Pie-Chart 7

SPEAKING TIME

Male 45%
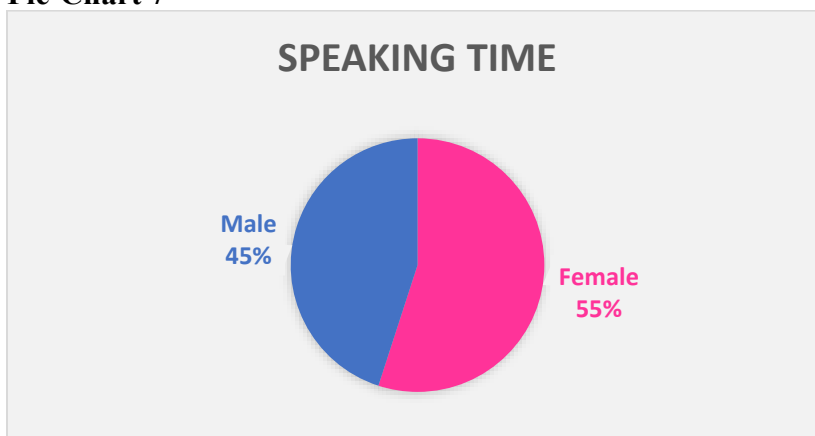
Female 55%

2. Turn-Taking

Table 18 reveals that 29 times Ali takes turns speaking. On the other hand, Rabia and Anmol takes 47 turns, which significantly impacts the speaking time of the podcast. Despite females being double the male takes 29 turns and both females take 47 turns.

TABLE 18	Male (Ali)	Female (Rabia and Anmol)
No. of Turns	29	47

In contrast to podcast, the tv show has 2 female and 2 males so there is not much difference in the turns taken by both genders, still males have taken turns a little bit more than females

TABLE 19	Male (02)	Female (02)
No. of Turns	260	243

3. Interruptions

Table 20 shows the no. of interruptions, overlapping, and use of linguistic features by the Female host and Male Female guest in the **Podcast**. Rabia and Anmol has interrupted 16 times, whereas Ali interrupts 7 times.

TABLE 20	Rabia (Host)	Ali (Guest)	Anmol (Guest)
No. of Interruptions	13	7	3
No. of Overlapping	05	4	2
Total	18	11	5

Whereas, Table 21 presents the number of interruptions, overlapping in the TV show.

Table 21	Men (02)	Women (02)
No. of Interruptions	83	61
No. of Overlapping	15	11
Total	98	72

4. Topic Control

Rabia as a host tries to take topic control and paves interview according to her post but Ali takes topic control at various points like Ali jumped to another project named Dunyapur and Rabia has to support him to keep the show in place. Several other times Ali tries to interrupt Anmol and takes the topic control steering attention toward him. Podcast shows male dominance.

Table 22

Rabia's Questions	Guests 's Answers	Time Stamp
What stops you from giving up when you see the circumstances? Don't you get tired, like, "Oh man!" And you know, when you talk to the youth these days, everybody wants to leave Pakistan, you know.	It's good if they want to leave Pakistan; they should go.	28:34
You worked on a drama with them, so you should have some tips." "Why don't you know this?	My character, you know, is so intense. It's like, there's no scene where I just listen. I keep talking and talking."	12:00
when we finished the last interview, Ali was finally in a good mood, right? Then it was over, and I was like, it's been over an	My question is, how do you know if there's going to be a wedding?	2:40

hour, what do I do now? You know, the last 20 minutes were just like that."		
You shot that scene with blood, sweat, and tears, didn't you?"	"Yes, blood and sweat were literally involved in that scene. But honestly duniya por involved blood only.	18:05

In the podcast, the host focused on *Iqtedar* drama, but guests frequently shifted the topic elsewhere. In the TV show, Nida Yasir maintained control by using open-ended and conversational questions, ensuring discussions stayed on track. Though male guests occasionally attempted to redirect the conversation, she consistently steered it back, keeping control throughout.

5. Question Types
In the light of the podcast, we see how Rabia (host) asks more close-ended questions, but Ali (male guest) makes it longer by sharing his personal experiences. On the other hand, in the open-ended questions asked by Rabia, Anmol (female guest) answers concisely, however, Ali prolongs answers, being more extroverted, which shows his dominance here.

Table 23

Question Types	Speaker
Open-Ended	
"What stops you from giving up when you see the circumstances?"	Rabia
"What inspired you to take on this challenging role?"	Rabia
"How do you think audiences are connecting with the drama?"	Rabia
"What are the most significant challenges in playing such an intense role?"	Rabia
Close-Ended	
"Do you think revenge is justifiable?"	Ali
"Was it difficult to perform the rain scene?"	Rabia
"Did you enjoy working with this cast?"	Rabia
"Do you believe the script aligns with your expectations?"	Rabia
"Did you improvise any part of the performance?"	Rabia

In the TV show hosted by Nida Yasir, the majority of questions were open-ended, encouraging detailed responses. The show, focused on the ARY Entertainment drama *Ghair*, featured guests

from the cast. Nida asked about their experiences on set and personal lives, which allowed male guests to take more speaking time than the female guest.

6. Linguistic Features

Numerous uses of tag questions as linguistic features depict the nature of the podcast, which is an interview. This podcast shadows many assertive, direct sentences as well. It basically involves the cast of Iqtedar drama and the guests were discussing the striking chemistry of Mehru and Shahnawaz. Ali's language tends to be direct and goal-oriented, while Anmol's hedging softens her responses, reflecting a more exploratory tone. Rabia balances assertiveness with inclusivity.

Table 24

No.	Utterance Dialogues	Assertive Sentences	Direct Language	Hedging	Tag Questions	Time Stamp
Linguistic Strategies used in Podcast						
Female =Host, guest=(Anmol), Male=guest 2(Ali)						
1	**Host**: "The promo spilled the beans, didn't it?"				1	2:56
2	**Host:** "This drama is performing really well; it's one of the most viewed on its slot."	1				19:51
3	**Guest (Anmol):** My question is, how do you know if there's going to be a wedding?		I			2:56
4	**Host:** 'So your wife must have a lot to deal with, right?				1	4:06
5	**Host:** how you guyz feel working with new co actors so close? isn't it difficult?				1	14:42
6	**Host:** You shot that scene with blood, sweat, and tears, didn't you?"				I	18:05
7	**Guest (Ali):** "Revenge makes you blind; it's not something I believe in."	1				26:45
8	**Guest (Ali):"** Anmol worked so well in this project and I loved the shades of her."	1				20:19
9	**Host:** What stops you from giving up when you see the circumstances? Don't you get tired,				I	28:34
10	**Guest (Anmol):**"This project was unique, and I felt like it was meant for me	1				7:35
11	**Guest (Anmol):**"thank you for such praising you also worked well"			1		20:20
12	**Host:** You can tell it on screen, right?				I	15:40

No.	Utterance	Col3	Col4	Col5	Col6	Time
13	**Host:** How many takes did it take? Was there any interesting incident during the shoot?"	1				**15:52**
14	**Guests (Anmol):**"I think it depends on the situation, you know, not everyone reacts the same."			1		**26:45**
15	**Guests (Anmol):** why would a wife have a problem if I see something that's not clear or is dirty? I'll clean it myself, what's the big deal?	1				**4:50**

In next table, we have included direct language, time stamps, and hedging for the TV show.

Table 25

Linguistic Strategies used in TV Show					
No.	Utterance Dialogues	Tag Question	Direct Language	Hedging	Time Stamp
By Male:					
01	Adeel Hussain: I don't think kisi ghair k dhoky hurt krty hain , actually apno k hurt krty hain jis waja sy ghair hojaty Hain			I	23:36
02	Adeel Hussain: I think kabhi kabhi ap descion lete hain us sy ek sequence nikalta ha wo cheez bht fascinate krty hai mjhy			I	26:35
03	Adeel: I don't think my work demands so much of my emotional energy because I don't think I can sustain the stress of a bad marriage			I	58:12
By Female:					
01	Nida Yasir: bhaee, mjhy smjh mai nhi aya tumhara jwab.		I		27:24

02	Nida Yasir: bta du mai? Ijazat hai	I			30:32
03	Nida yasir: kabhi kisi ghair kanooni incindent ka ap shikar hwy?	I			35:12
04	Nida yasir: Adeel ki itni nazar hai?	I			46:03
05	Nida Yasir: bhaee koe am bat b krty hain ap?		I		44:57
06	Nida yasir: lughat sath ly kar bethain ap adeel k jawab smjhny k liye ku k aj na adhi vatien mere sir sy guzri hain		I		51:55

6. Guest Composition

Table 26

Guest	Speaking Time Contribution	Focus of Discussion
Ali (Male)	Highest	Sharing individual and professional experiences a lot of storytelling.
Anmol (Female)	Low	Straight forward answers mostly involving emotions, and vibrance.
Rabia (Host)	High	Guiding topics, maintaining conversational flow.

In the podcast, guests know more about the topic and provide detailed answers. Ali, being male, dominates the conversation, as Anmol lets him speak when he interrupts, though she adds emotional depth. Host Rabia maintains the flow by agreeing with both perspectives. In the TV show, Nida Yasir's position as the host significantly influences dominance. Despite equal gender representation, Nida dominates through direct language and confident control of the conversation. She guides the discussion and entertains viewers, with male guests respecting her authority and rarely interrupting. Nida's bold attitude and linguistic strategies, such as directly challenging Adeel's statements, reinforce her dominance.

8. Talk Show vs. Podcast
In contrast to the TV show, the podcast reflects male dominance, with Ali using interruptions and his expressive nature to take control. His extroverted personality, conversational dominance, and storytelling style shift the dynamics of the conversation. However, in the TV show, females dominate in interruptions and overlapping, using linguistic strategies more frequently than males. Overall, the TV show remains female-dominated in terms of conversational control.

Discussion (Genre-Based)
A. Politics

Podcast:
In the podcast with male host Mansoor Ali Khan and female guest Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Maryam dominated the conversation by taking more time and speaking turns, despite Mansoor's direct and challenging questions. Her ability to steer the debate, avoid sensitive topics, and use indirect responses highlighted her control over the conversation's direction.

TV Show:
In the TV show, men dominated 72% of the speaking time, while women used interruptions and overlaps to assert influence. Even in the female-hosted show by Maria Memon, male dominance remained, though women employed linguistic strategies to affect the debate. Overall, while women interrupted more, men maintained control, with topic direction shaped by gender composition.

Table 39

Politics			
Dominance	**Podcast**	**TV Show**	
	Male Host	**Male Host**	**Female Host**
Male		I	I
Female	I		

B. Entertainment

Podcast:
In the podcast, Maira Khan dominated by using her knowledge of current events to deviate from Adnan's direct questions, maintaining control over the topic and increasing her speaking time through open-ended questions, in another podcast with Rabia Mughni as the host, Ali, the male guest, dominated by frequently interrupting and controlling the discussion, even overshadowing Anmol, who remained quiet during interruptions. Despite equal gender representation, Ali managed to maintain equal dominance with the female participants. Overall, while the podcast had a female host and participants, the guests' knowledge and assertiveness influenced the dominance, making it a female-dominated space due to topic control and turn-taking.

TV Show:
In the TV show with Tabish Hashmi as the host, his humour and extroverted nature allowed him to dominate the conversation, often steering the topic and adding personal experiences, with guest Mathira unable to overtake him. In another show with Nida Yasir as the host, she dominated through frequent interruptions, especially when male guests Adeel and Usama interrupted Madiha Iftekhar. Despite the higher interruption rate from the males, Nida's control over the conversation and speaking time reinforced female dominance, primarily due to the host's gender.

Table 40

Entertainment				
Overall	**Podcast**		**TV Show**	
Dominance	**Male Host**	**Female Host**	**Male Host**	**Female Host**
Male			I	
Female	I	I		I

Table 42

Genre	TV Show	Podcast
Politics	Male	Female
Entertainment	-	Female

Conclusion

This research examines male and female dominance across different Pakistani genres, including politics, entertainment, and business, through TV shows and podcasts. The study reveals dominance patterns by analysing linguistic features such as interruptions, turn-taking, topic control, and guest composition. In political TV shows, males dominate regardless of the host's gender, while females hold more dominance in political podcasts due to their higher status. In entertainment podcasts, females dominate irrespective of the host's gender, while male dominance is seen in male-hosted entertainment TV shows and female dominance in female-hosted shows. The research concludes that male dominance prevails in TV shows while female dominance is more prominent in podcasts. The comparative analysis supports Zimmerman and West's dominance theory in TV shows but challenges it in podcasts.

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