



RESEARCH PAPER

Resisting Power in Discourse and Discourse in Power: Role of Discourse in Social and Gender Discrimination

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PAPER INFO	ABSTRACT
<p>Received: January 16, 2020</p> <p>Accepted: March 24, 2020</p> <p>Online: March 31, 2020</p> <p>Keywords: Discourse, Dominance, Gender Discrimination, Inequality, Patriarchal, Power, Social Construction, Social Discrimination</p> <p>*Corresponding Author: mamonakhan1234@gmail.com</p>	<p>Power is implicit in discourse and used to maintain role relationships in society. The present study investigates how power is being dominated by the use of language. On the other hand, it would also analyze gender discrimination through discourse. The present research follows pragmatic paradigm using mixed method approach within the framework of Fair Clough (1989) and Van Dijk (1993). The data has been collected through social context and studying searching cultures of different countries. Analysis of the present research highlights the scenario of resisting power in discourse and discourse in power. The study is concluded with the result that use of discourse has a main role in social and gender discrimination. It also suggests that gender biased free and neutral language should be promoted to minimize these issues.</p>

Introduction

This study Language plays a major role in structuring the discourse of men and women. This discourse proves very helpful to interpret the language according to the social context. According to Keating (2011), discourse is the only thing due to which human culture is possible and have distinct characteristics. Moreover, social identities, learning and communication patterns are better understood according to culture and discourse. These identities and social relationships are significant as these things help a lot to find the difference in the communication patterns of men and women in a society. Power relations as discussed by Fairclough, (2015) are the most fundamental process in which different social groups having different interests communicate with each other hence called the relations of struggle. Class struggle is imperative and is the characteristic feature of a social system in which the power of one class depends on the maximization of its use for the

dominance of the other class. Discourse is one of the popular terms among the theorists and linguists now-a-days. It is well-known belief among the people that every person is discoursing every time and things must be discoursed. It is basically an umbrella term with various connotations according to the view of different linguists and theorists. Different researches define discourse as language in action or as an identity kit. Moreover, it is also the social marker of identity and means of communication and education in every field of life. Besides, it is the means of persuading, dominating, understanding and creating words and use of language in social context. Nunan (1993), defines discourse in a more explicit way as a significant meaningful unit that conveys a complete thought and message through words. Discourse talks about the relation of reality and language that how it shapes, creates and reflects reality. Discourse analysis is being used for the number of approaches for the analysis of vocal, written and sign language. The aim of the discourse analysis is to reveal the socio and psychological characteristics of person rather than only dependent on the text. This type of analysis is being used in different fields like education, psychology, anthropology, sociology, linguistics and mainly in social work. Discourse analysis is the exploration of the use of language. It also includes the investigation of both the form and function of language. Analysis of discourse is important because language is the strongest weapon and it has the ability to control, threaten and hurt someone. Moreover, language gives happiness and peace to others while communicating. It changes the people's mentality that nothing can do in this world except persuading language. Therefore, politicians use language to dominate their power. Fairclough and Wodak (1997) gave the principles of Critical Discourse Analysis. These principles are as follows:

Social and Political Issues are Constructed and Reflected in Discourse

The linguists Fairclough and Wodak (2005) argued that "Loss of language is the loss of identity". The above-mentioned citation with Pakistani context as well because it is mostly observed that most of young generation of Pakistan is incline towards learning English Language. The reason of inclination towards the language of English is becoming the reason of endangerment of our national and local language.

Power relations are negotiated and performed through discourse:

The findings revealed the power of language and how conversation is controlled during interaction. It also revealed who will speak, when will speak and the way one should speak. For example, a teacher when enters in the class, first of all, he/she lays down the course of lecture. The teacher instructs the students that first he/she will deliver his/her lecture and then students would be allowed to class to ask their questions. Moreover, the students are directed to write down their question in a well -mannered way to same time and avoid confusion and finally students are bound to do this. This is how the power relations are negotiated and performed through discourse.

Discourse both reflects and represents social relations

Social relations are both established and maintained through the use of discourse. In this regard, it is observed that different opinions exist in society about working ladies. For instance, some of the people are of the opinion that working ladies are capable of managing their work places and their homes. They can take care of their families and professions both but some of the people opine quite differentially. In this regard, Page's (2003) study reveals that working women are more capable. He gives an example of Cherie

Blair who was the wife of British Prime minister Tomy Blair. Page in his research showed that how this lady tackle both domestic and professional duties skillfully and keep balance between both the responsibilities.

Ideologies produce and reflectsby use of the discourse

Another key principle of CDA is that *“ideologies are produced and reflected in the use of discourse. This includes ways of representing and constructing society such as relations of power and relations based on gender, class and ethnicity.”* For example, *“Man is wolf and Woman is a block of ice”*. In the above-mentioned example, gender stereotypes have been mentioned. It is mostly assumed that most of the animalistic possessed by male whereas, most often, female gender is considered as emotionless. Another example is that *“They cannot represent themselves. They must be represented”*. Here, in the above-mentioned example, the concept of *“representer”* (west) and *“represented”* (orient) has been highlighted. To conclude, CDA explores that relationship between use of language with social and political context in which it occurs.

Discourse and Society

The factors that affect our use of language are *“the social class we are member or the social class of the people we are communicating with. With these social groups and social network there are various ways we explain our social identity through discourse. Our social identity through discourse. One of the identities we express is our gendered identity.”*

Discourse and Gender

People perform particular identities through use of language and other ways of expressing themselves in their interaction with each other. Mostly, this is done unconsciously as we repeat acts, such as gestures movement and ways of using language that signify or index a particular identity. These acts are not however natural nor are they part of the essential attributes of a person. They are part of what people acquire in their interactions with each other. Lakoff, (2004) in her book, *“Language and Women’s place”* and she talked about *“Women’s language”* and she talked about differences of men’s language with women’s language. She argued that *“characteristics of women’s language are that they use question tags, overly polite forms, a greater use of diminutives, rising intonation, euphemisms, in declaratives, use of more hedges and mitigating devices , more indirectness and the use of particular vocabulary like ‘adorable’, ‘charming’ and ‘sweet’ etc. She concluded that these are results of men’s dominance over women.”*

There is an example of language study of Hall (1982) by telephone sex workers in the US provide a further example: *“how speakers create gendered identities through their use of language. She found many of the workers used language similar to the Lakoff’s women’s language as they talk to their clients on the phone. Not all of the sex workers in Hall’s study were heterosexual, although they were projecting, nor were they a female”*. The women thus used *‘gendered styles’* to construct sexual meaning. *“Gender than is not something a person has but something that a person does. Gender is not a result of who people are but a result of among other things, the way they talk and the way they do. People further do perform gender different in different contexts.”* A person may have a number of identities, each of which is more important at different points in time. They may have an identity as a woman and she

decides when, where and how to speak. For example, our way of talking with our children would be different from our way of talking in offices.

Literature Review

Fairclough (1989) introduced Critical Discourse Analysis in which he discussed about the social function of language. He justified that a text is analyzed by analyzing text, processes and social conditions. He discussed about three things in his theory: description (formal structure of content/text) interpersonal (relationship of text with interaction) and explanation (relationship of text and interaction with social context). Moreover, he also believes that CDA works beyond the language of a given text. In applied linguistics, rules of language are applied to real life situation and this type of discourse analysis focused mainly on the linguistic form of the content/text. Whereas, in CDA, a researcher or linguist also deals with other factors that are related to the text such as metalinguistic features. During conversation, different types of discourse are used by keeping in mind the context, aim and relation. Society changes with time and same discourse also changes with every passing moment. Discourse is directly proportional to society hence bilingualism and multilingualism are the clear examples of dynamic discourse. Usage of language is not ideologically free, therefore, discourse is analyzed by interpreting the meaning of words used in the text and background knowledge also plays an important role in assigning meaning to a discourse. Wodak (1997) opines that use of language is concerned with gender discrimination in discourse as well either it is written or oral. Furthermore, he argues that this differentiation occurs not only in speech patterns, voice, choices of words and behavior but in nonverbal communication as well. Besides, in patriarchal society, where there is organized patterns and behavior designed by men, there are major social and political differences while interpreting the differences of communication among men and women. Social power among groups and institutions is the most defined concept of discourse. Gramsci (1971) opines that dominant groups exercised their power through laws, customs and habits termed as hegemony which represents control, racism and sexism in society. Hence, powerful groups containing persuasive discourse have the possibility to control the mindset and action of other people. Wartenberg (1990, p.27) gave the concept of power-to and power-over. Conversation depends on this game. Power-to has the power to control the conversation of power-over person. Every person speaks according to their power. Wartenberg (1990, p. 5) gave the distinction between power-to and power-over and said: "a theory of power has, as a first priority, the articulation of the meaning of the concept of power-over". Bachrach and Baratz, (1970, p. 7) argued that power is a type of energy because person has to devote his/her energy for maintaining or creating values and place in the society. All this happens almost with the use of language. Lukes (1974) gave the argument that power can be gained by preventing other from knowing their wishes, interests and rights. Alvesson, and Willmott, (2002) talked about the regulation of identity as a focus to gain organizational control over the employees. It also talked about the managerial influence exerted on the employees' identity and self-construction. Gramsci (1971) has an effective work in the critical discourse analysis. He argued that "*maintenance of power depends not only on coercive force but also on hegemony. It would explain how the structures and practices of ordinary life routinely normalize capitalist social relations.*"Cameron (2016) talked about gender and power's expressions that are context-specific and change according to the context. It focuses on who is speaker, what to speak and how people in specific social and cultural interaction do gender through their use of language. Giles (1994) gave Accommodation Theory in which he tried to know that "Do we

“speak differently to different people”. He gave the result our conversation changes according to our social and economic condition and our relation with the addressee. Wartenberg (1990, p.27) gave the concept of power-to and power-over. Conversation depends on this game. Power-to has the power to control the conversation of power-over person. Every person speaks according to their power. Wartenberg (1990, p. 5) gave the distinction between power-to and power-over and said: “a theory of power has, as a first priority, the articulation of the meaning of the concept of power-over”. Bachrach and Baratz, (1970, p. 7) argued that power is a type of energy because person has to devote his/her energy for maintaining or creating values and place in the society. All this happens almost with the use of language. Lukes (1974) gave the argument that power can be gained by preventing other from knowing their wishes, interests and rights. Gramsci (1971) has an effective work in the critical discourse analysis. He argued that “*maintenance of power depends not only on coercive force but also on hegemony. It would explain how the structures and practices of ordinary life routinely normalize capitalist social relations.*”

Schmied (2020) discussed that discourse is expanding from last some decades but is limited for effective interaction. The main target of research was that when the discourse is actually the real discourse and for this, he used examples of academic, political and human’s interaction. He argued that cohesion in discourse is responsible for maintaining coherence in society. Lamb (2013) gave the method for critical discourse analysis. He tried to analyze genres from discourse historical approach and social actors from social discourse analysis. Critical discourse analysis is an umbrella term and it has many branches. There are various types of critical discourse analysis. Lamb has showed that different types should be applied for different situation and in this way, he tried to show us the way of examining critical discourse analysis. Contri, Alves and Souza (2019) in his article “Discourse and Society: the language in a dialogical perspective” examined language for social purpose and used three models as theoretical framework i.e., Fairclough, Marx and Bakhtin. He argued that there is a need to understand the cultural and social context. He appreciated Bakhtin’s view that dialogical relationship helps in understanding the world and the moments of past, present are future are intermingled. Hazel and Kleyman (2020) in his article, “Gender and Sex Inequalities Implications and Resistance” discussed gender discrimination that are creating hindrances in the way of women inequality and also discussed solutions for getting rid of these problems. Lathom (2004) argued that gender discrimination is not a technical issue rather it is a power issue and there is a need to raise voice against economic, standard, power and gender discriminations. Pokharel (2008) argued that women either married or unmarried are aware of their rights and know that they are facing discrimination at societal, domestic, education, occupational and at heritage level. But they are silently facing these discriminations. He blames women themselves for this discrimination because they are aware of this discrimination but are silently facing this discrimination because it is thing that is accepted by society. Shaukat and Pell (2016) discussed Gender inequality at workplace in Pakistani Higher Education Institutions and collected data from ten private school of Lahore and ten government school by using random sampling and result showed that less than half people are enjoying gender equality. More than half people are facing gender discriminations. The major factor that was responsible for gender discrimination according to this research was the making of decision. Female accepts this discrimination and therefore are facing this continuously. If they step forward and speak for their equality, they can be able to change the decision.

Ahmad and Shah (2019) studied gender representation in Pakistani 5th grade English language textbooks. Findings showed that in textbooks, language is gender biased that has a main role in maintaining the mentality of society (either male or female) patriarchal. They also gave the solution of this problem that there is a need of increasing the publishing works of female authors and asked the teachers to highlight the discriminated language and try to remove this discrimination by washing the student's minds. Bari and Pal (2020) argued that position of women across the Country is not the same. It is changing according to status, religion, area and city. They also talked about the low health of women and blame and the lower status of women behind this problem. Women are economically, domestically and socially dependent on man. Hassan (2018) used the model of Fairclough and explored through the analysis of questionnaire that media is running through power relation and works unfair. The present study is about the discourse and its effect in our social life. For this, two side effects have been chosen to analyze. First is the effect of discourse on gender difference. It would analyze both the cases i.e. First, it would analyze difference of the use of discourse of both male and female also analyze the case in which expectations of the use of discourse for both male and female are different. Secondly, the element of power is being analyzed in discourse. It also analyzes how language is being used to dominate power and would also analyze how power status has an effect on the use of language. Therefore, the present study is hoped to be a new venture and contribute significantly in the existing body of knowledge by looking at the power of discourse from a different angle.

Theoretical Framework

Theoretical framework in any research provides path to the research. He/she is able to find dimension in which he/she has to work. It makes the research authentic by relating research with authorized person or talk and avoid researcher from useless or unauthentic work. In the present research, two theories have been used.

- A linguist Norman Fair Clough in 1989 gave the theory of Critical Discourse Analysis. According to this theory, social practice is being added in discourse and he was the one who introduced concepts of power, common sense, discourse, social practice and ideology and made a separate field of study called Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA).
- Another theory of Van Dijk (2004) is being used as a theoretical framework. In his theory, he discussed how inequality, power, abuse and dominance are being resisted, enacted and reproduced by different texts and conversation in the political and social contexts.

Materials and Methods

The present research is limited to the analysis of discourse on power and power on discourse in Pakistani's talk shows and Imran Khan and Nawaz Shareef's speech by keeping in mind the Fair Clough and Van Dijk's theory. The study is qualitative and data has been collected through speeches of Prime Minister's Dharna speech (2018) during election and Nawaz Shareef 's speech on 12 July, 1999. Moreover, Khalil-ul-Rehman and Marva's conversation has been collected through Pakistani talk show. Besides, Fahad Mustafa's conversation with audience in "Jeeto Pakistan has been taken.

Results and Discussion

Power relations are being negotiated through discourse. It has been by many scenarios.

Scenario 1: Abstract taken from Imran Khan's Dharna speech: *"inke pecha a raha he, inke pecha kon a raha ha, in ka ihtesab krney keliyee ik bra khofnak insan a raha hey"*

English Translation:

"He is coming for them, who is coming to them, a horrible person is coming for their accountability"

Imran Khan during dharna used these words to show his power by using language. He wanted show the people that he has a power to do anything. Here, he is showing his power through discourse.

Scenario 2: During the discussion of *"Mera jism Meri marzi"*, conversation between Khalil-ul-Rehman and Marva, Khalil-ul-Rehman shows hi power of education and male dominancy through various dialogues:

"Main ne bech ma bat niki. Ab ma bat karrahahun. Bech ma mat bole aga taka patachala teen parhalikha log bat karrahahai".

That's how, Khalilu-ul-Rehman dominating his education thourgh discourse.

Moreover,

"Bech ma mat bol. Tera jism ma hai kia. Who the hell are you? Apna jism ja ka dekh. Tera jism hai kia bibi. Ulo kipathi. Badtameezorat. America ma Tehreek karrahihai. Behiyaiki Tehreek karrahihai".

This is how, women are being treated and considered and behave in such ill-mannered way.

Scenario 3: Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Address to the Nation, July 12, 1999, During the Kargil Crisis, he uses such lines to highlight his power: *"Prime Minister Vajpayee phoned me, expressing his concern at these developments. I suggested a meeting between local commanders while pointing out that we should resolve this matter at a local level, as in the past so that there should be no escalation. He agreed with me and the next day the two local commanders met but, simultaneously, India turned its heavy guns on us, while the Indian air force began to pound the Mujahideen-held positions. This sudden escalation was unexpected."*This is how politician show their dominancy during speeches and manipulate the use of discourse in this way.

Scenario 4: Gender Stereotype has been seen by the conversation of Khalil-ul-Rehman during talk show, when he says: *"Mujha list down kar ka batain, wo konsa rights haijinki demands karrahihai jo hum nahi da raha"*.

Scenario 5: Imran Khan's speech during election 2018 in which he tries to show his power and ability by using lines has been analyzed to show how language is used for resisting power in discourse. Some of the lines of that speech are as follow: *"When I came into*

politics, I wanted Pakistan to become the kind of country that our leader Muhammad Ali Jinnah wanted. There was terrorism in this election. I want to especially praise the people of Baluchistan, the kind of difficulties that they had to face. The way they came out to vote, I want to thank all those people. I saw the scenes on TV, the way the elderly and disabled came out in the heat to vote, the way overseas Pakistanis came out to vote ... I want to praise them because they strengthened our democracy."

Scenario 6: In Pakistani show "Jeeto Pakistan", host of the show Fahad Mustafa's behavior and attitude is also an example of how power is being highlighted through discourse. During show, how he behaves audience and talks is an open example and highlighting himself a famous personality by the use of language as he says: "*Ao tumha bike ki sair karvau, aj tumhara khavab pora ho gea*"

Scenario 7: Michelle Obama's dialogues during her speech of 14th September 2012, "*When you've worked hard [...] and finally walked through that door way of opportunity, you don't slam it shut behind you. No, you reach back and you give other folks the same chances that helped you succeed*" highlighting that how she is dominating her husband's struggle by the use of language.

This is how language plays a significant role in maintaining power and how power is being highlighted by the use of language.

Conclusion

It is seen that roles are divided through language. Through language, gender identities are constructed. Social status of gender varies in conversational perspectives. It is something that is understood along with both code and context. It is dependent on the ideological variations of discourse. The present research has analyzed the ways that how gender discriminations, social differentiation, dominance; power exploitation of ego/self-respect can be done by the use of discourse. It would analyze the way in which injustice is done by the use of discourse by dominating power and status. It is also analyzed that this inequality and discrimination is based on social context, environment, culture and cognition and these all things vary from culture to culture. It also based on status and gender. To conclude, it can be said that power in discourse and discourse in power are related or dependent to each other. They both depend on social context and society. It is all society that maintains power status in the society and give them appreciation to use that authority. And it is also society who is able to exchange these roles and is able to balance the rules of use of discourse.

Another point that is analyzed in the present research is effect of gender differentiation in the use of language in which Dell Hymes model has been analyzed and highlight the factors that are creating this difference. The main point in this analysis was also the thought of society and conventions that has been made for both genders differentially. These conventions have been run since ancient time and have been incorporated in our minds of every generation and in our language also language has effect in maintaining the typical convention in the minds of people such as Gender Specific Language play an important role in this way e.g. Man is mortal. Here, "Human is mortal" should be used to balance the both genders. In Gender Specific Language, woman is being ignored.

Suggestions and Recommendations

The study suggests that the use of sexist and Gender Specific Language should be minimized. For example, instead of using “Man is mortal” “Human is mortal” should be used. Some rules about speech should taught to every citizen and they must follow those rules. In this way, social discrimination and difference can be minimized. There is a need to change the mentality of the people regarding male and female and there should be gender free language for both genders. For example: in our society, some words and ascents are being fixed for males and some words and ascents are being fixed for female and they are supposed to sue only those ascents. If they oppose their roles, they are being considered as liberal and coward. Emotions and soft ascents are being related with female and society does not allow her to show firm behavior and hard ascent. While, hard ascent and firm behavior is related with male and he is not allowed to behave oppose it. If he does it, he is considered as coward. So, there is a need to remove this thought and should treat both genders equally.

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