



A Gender Based Analysis of Communication Styles in Ariana Grande's Podcast Interview

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Abstract. This study examines the gender-based communication differences in the podcast interview titled "Ariana Grande New Album 'Eternal Sunshine,' Wicked, Glinda Part 1." The research aims to identify the contrasting linguistic features used by male and female speakers, drawing from Lakoff's theory for women's speech and Coates' framework for male communication. The data were collected by transcribing the podcast and analyzing relevant utterances using a qualitative descriptive method. The findings reveal that male speakers frequently use commands, direct questions, and minimal responses, whereas female speakers tend to employ intensifiers, hedges, and emphatic stress. These results reinforce the idea that gender significantly influences conversational style. However, overlapping language features were also found, indicating that context and conversational dynamics contribute to linguistic choices. The study highlights the importance of podcasts as platforms for spontaneous, unscripted dialogue, making them ideal for linguistic analysis

Keywords: Gendered Speech, Communication Styles, Podcast Analysis, Lakoff, Coates

INTRODUCTION

Language serves as a primary tool for human interaction, allowing people to share ideas, emotions, and intentions across social contexts. It is shaped by various internal and external factors, including cultural norms, individual identity, and societal expectations. One prominent factor influencing language use is gender. Research has shown that men and women tend to communicate differently, both in terms of linguistic choices and speaking style. These differences have been observed in various cultures, especially in those with distinct gender norms, where politeness and emotional expression are often gender based.

Gender not only affects the content of communication but also the manner in which it is delivered. For instance, women are often socialized to use more expressive, polite, and cooperative language, while men are encouraged to adopt direct, assertive, and competitive speech patterns. These patterns reflect broader societal roles and expectations and have become a central topic in sociolinguistics.

In recent years, digital platforms such as podcasts have emerged as rich sources of spontaneous and authentic spoken interaction. Unlike scripted television shows or films, podcasts often feature natural, unscripted dialogues that reveal genuine communication

styles. This makes them ideal for analyzing real life linguistic phenomena, including the influence of gender on language.

While numerous studies have explored gendered communication, many have focused on written or scripted media, leaving a gap in research on spontaneous digital formats like podcasts. Furthermore, most existing studies have analyzed male and female speech separately, with limited attention to their interaction in unscripted settings. This study seeks to fill that gap by analyzing the podcast interview titled "Ariana Grande New Album 'Eternal Sunshine,' Wicked, Glinda Part 1," focusing on how male and female communication styles differ within the same dialogue.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A Considerable body of research has investigated how gender influences language use. Previous studies highlight how men and women differ in speech due to both cultural and psychological factors. For instance, Tandio (2023) analyzed the language used by male and female English talk show hosts and found significant differences in their use of lexical features and politeness strategies. The study employed Lakoff's theory for analyzing female speech and Coates' theory for male patterns, concluding that women were more likely to use hedges, intensifiers, and tag questions, while men used more direct language forms.

Similarly, Rahma et al. (2024) examined gendered speech in Indonesian YouTube podcasts, revealing that male hosts tended to use assertive language and darker visual aesthetics, whereas female hosts employed more empathetic and cooperative tones. The study highlighted the broader sociocultural frameworks that influence how gender is performed through language.

Another study by Rask (2014) focused on gender differences in political interview and demonstrated that women tended to use more hedging expressions and minimal responses, while men were more prone to using direct resistance strategies and critical statements. These differences are often attributed to broader gendered expectations in public discourse and media representation.

In terms theory, sociolinguistics offers a comprehensive framework for examining how language functions in social contexts. Trudgill (1983) emphasized that language reflects societal structures, including gender roles, ethnicity, and social class. Lakoff (2004) identified ten features associated with women's language, including hedges, intensifiers, tag questions, and super polite forms. She argued that these features arise from women's subordinate position in society, which encourages indirectness and politeness as communication strategies.

On the other hand, Coates (2016) identified characteristics of male speech such as minimal responses, direct commands, and frequent use of taboo language. She introduced the Androcentric Rule, which considers male speech as the societal standard, often leading to female speech being seen as deficient.

These theoretical frameworks provide the foundation for this study, which seeks to analyze male and female language features within an authentic, unscripted podcast dialogue. The research bridges a gap by applying sociolinguistics theory to naturalistic data from contemporary media.

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative descriptive approach grounded in sociolinguistics, specifically focusing on language and gender. The objective is to examine how male and female speakers differ in their communication styles within a podcast setting.

The primary data source is a YouTube podcast titled “Ariana Grande New Album ‘Eternal Sunshine,’ Wicked, Glinda Part 1,” which was downloaded and transcribed for analysis. The podcast, which features a natural and unscripted conversation between a male host and Ariana Grande as a guest, provides rich linguistic data reflecting authentic spoken interaction.

Conversation Analysis (CA) was used as the primary method to examine how turn taking, speech patterns, and responses are structured during the dialogue. This method is suitable for identifying nuances in speech and capturing real time conversational dynamics.

The researcher served as the main instrument for data collection and interpretation. The podcast was replayed several times to ensure accurate transcription. Utterances were then classified into male and female categories based on the speakers. Each utterance was analyzed according to Lakoff’s (2004) and Coates’ (2016) frameworks for identifying gendered language features.

To analyze the data, the researcher followed these steps: (1) segregating utterances based on speaker gender; (2) categorizing linguistic features based on established theories; and (3) interpreting findings within the context of gender and sociolinguistic patterns. This approach ensures a detailed examination of how language features reflect gender identity and interpersonal dynamics in natural speech.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This section outlines the key findings of the study and offers an interpretation of how male and female speakers differ in their communication styles within the selected podcast.

A. Male Language Features

Table 1. Total Data of Male Language Features

No	Male Language Features	Frequency
1	Minimal Responses	3
2	Questions	4
3	Commands and Directives	5
4	Swearing and Taboo Language	3
5	Compliments	2
6	Theme	2
TOTAL DATA		19

The analysis identified a total of 19 instances of male linguistic features, categorized based on Coates’ framework. The most frequently observed feature was the use of commands and directives (5 instances), reflecting a tendency toward directness and

control in conversation. Other features included questions (4), minimal responses (3), and taboo language (3). Male speakers also used compliments and theme based focus (2 each).

1. Minimal Responses

"Yeah" (07:49)

At this moment in the podcast, Ariana is reflecting on how she is learning to accept and embrace all parts of herself, not just the polished, popstar version. It is a personal and introspective moment where she is opening up emotionally. "Yeah" is a simple word that does not disrupt the flow of Ariana's thoughts. Zach does not interrupt with his own opinion or change the topic; instead, he quietly shows that he is listening and understands what she is saying. His response shows that he is actively listening and offering emotional support in a subtle manner.

2. Questions

"What does it mean to elevate your art in this sense?" (19:47)

In the dialogue, the host asks what is meant by enhancing Ariana's artistry in terms of emotional depth and character development portrayed by Ariana in her movie titled *Wicked*. The sentence is considered a Questions in the context of male and female language features because it invites explanation and reflection. This type of open-ended question is often associated with female language features, which tend to prioritize connection, empathy, and deeper understanding in conversations.

3. Commands and Directives

"Explain the tender love and care that goes into just a single product." (25:14)

The dialogue above occurs during a discussion about Ariana's beauty brand. At this moment, Zach is inviting Ariana to describe the emotional and meticulous process involved in developing even one item from her brand. The dialogue is considered as a command directive because of its grammatical structure and communicative function. It uses the base form of the verb "*explain*", which is typical of imperative sentences.

4. Swearing and Taboo Language

"You are going to fucking be in Wicked." (30:54)

In the dialogue above, Ariana Grade recounts a pivotal moment when she received the news about being cast as Glinda in the film adaptation of *Wicked*. Ariana describes this moment as surreal, emphasizing how deeply meaningful the role of Glinda is to her. She has long considered *Wicked* a dream project, and being cast in such a significant role was both an emotional and transformative experience. The dialogue contains swearing and falls under the category of taboo language because it includes the word "fucking," which is considered a strong and offensive expletive in English

5. Compliments

"You're glowing dude" (01:12)

In this line of the dialogue, Zach compliments Ariana Grande. This remark highlights Ariana's radiant appearance, likely due to her recent experiences and the excitement surrounding her role in *Wicked*. The dialogue above is considered a compliment because it expresses admiration for someone's physical appearance, specifically highlighting their radiance or positive energy. Compliments are typically used to convey praise or appreciation, making the recipient feel good about themselves

6. Theme

"Why are you making music now?" (2:00)

In this dialogue above, Zach Sang asks Ariana Grande directly addresses Ariana's decision to release her seventh studio album, *Eternal Sunshine*, which was not initially

planned. The dialogue can be considered part of theme because it addresses a central aspect of the interview: Ariana Grande's decision to create and release new music at a specific point in her career. Themes in conversations and interviews often explore broader ideas or motivations that drive a person's actions.

B. Female Language Features

Table 4.2 Total Data of Female Language Features

No	Female Language Features	Frequency
1	Lexical Hedges or Fillers	9
2	Tag Questions	2
3	Rising Intonation on Declarative	1
4	Empty Adjectives	4
5	Precise Color Terms	1
6	Intensifiers	14
7	Hypercorrect Grammar	5
8	Super Polite Forms	2
9	Avoidance of Strong Swear Words	3
10	Emphatic Stress	6
TOTAL DATA		47

A total of 47 linguistic features were identified in Ariana Grande's speech, significantly higher than that of the male speakers. The most dominant feature was intensifiers (14 instances), such as "really," "so," and "absolutely," used to emphasize emotions or personal experiences. Others frequent features included lexical hedges or fillers (9), emphatic stress (6), and hypercorrect grammar (5).

1. Lexical Hedges or Fillers

"I thought maybe it should come out if it's coming out of me this way." (04:00)

In this dialogue above, Ariana Grande reflects on her creative process. This statement reveals her instinctive decision to release new music, emphasizing that the songs emerged naturally and authentically during a period of personal and professional transition. The dialogue above includes examples of lexical hedges or fillers because of the use of words like "I thought" and "maybe." Lexical hedges and fillers are phrases or words used to soften a statement, express uncertainty, or give the speaker time to think. In this case, Ariana Grande uses "maybe" to suggest that she is not stating an absolute fact but rather expressing a personal feeling or consideration.

2. Tag Questions

"It's crazy, right?" (0:48)

In this dialogue above, Ariana responds to Zach's enthusiastic welcome. This remark reflects her amazement and excitement about being back in the studio and reconnecting

with her fans after a significant hiatus. The dialogue is an example of a tag question because it combines a statement with a short question at the end to seek confirmation or agreement from the listener. In this case, "It's crazy" is the statement, and "right?" is the tag that invites Zach and others to agree with Ariana's feeling of amazement.

3. Rising Intonation on Declarative

"I think it's really interesting, don't you?" (1:32)

In this dialogue above, Ariana expresses her thoughts. This statement reflects her engagement in the conversation and her desire to connect with the audience by seeking their perspective. This dialogue is an example of rising intonation on a declarative because Ariana uses an upward tone at the end of her statement to turn it into a question. Normally, declarative sentences have a falling intonation, but when a speaker wants to seek agreement or invite a response, they often use rising intonation instead.

4. Empty Adjectives

"It's just so beautiful." (03:13)

In this dialogue above, Ariana expresses her admiration. This statement reflects her genuine appreciation and emotion to the subject being discussed. Ariana's use of this phrase underscores her deep affection and the significance she places on the topic, highlighting her expressive communication style that resonates with fans and listeners alike. The dialogue is an example of empty adjectives because it uses the word "beautiful" to express strong positive emotion without providing specific, detailed information about the subject. Empty adjectives, such as *beautiful*, *wonderful*, *lovely*, and *amazing*, are often used in casual speech to convey emotional reactions rather than concrete descriptions.

5. Precise Color Terms

"Because red just looks like the music to me." (27:36)

In this dialogue, Ariana discusses the visual theme of her album. This comment reflects her intention to align the album's aesthetic with its emotional tone. This is an example of using precise color terms because Ariana specifically mentions the color "red" to describe how she visually associates it with the sound and feeling of her album. Precise color terms refer to the exact naming of a color (like red, blue, green) rather than using vague or general descriptions.

6. Intensifiers

"I actually was really opposed to coming out with music." (03:27)

In this segment of the interview, Ariana shares that during the filming of *Wicked*, she became so fully absorbed in portraying Glinda that releasing her own music didn't feel appropriate. Ariana Grande's dialogue is considered an example of using intensifiers because it includes words that make the meaning stronger or more forceful. For instance, when she says, "*I actually was really opposed to coming out with music*," the words "*actually*" and "*really*" are used to emphasize how strongly she felt about not releasing music at the time.

7. Hypercorrect Grammar

"I do not think that is entirely accurate." (05:12)

In this line of dialogue, Ariana responds to a statement made by Zach. This comment reflects her intent to clarify or correct a point made during their discussion. The dialogue is an example of hypercorrect grammar because Ariana uses very formal and complete grammatical structures in her speech. Instead of using the more casual

contraction “don’t”, which is common in everyday conversation, she says “do not”, which sounds more formal and precise.

8. Super Polite Forms

“Can we start with a round of applause for Zach?” (01:28)

The sentence is an example of a super polite form because Ariana is making a suggestion in a kind and respectful way. Instead of saying “Let’s clap for Zach” or giving a direct command, she uses a question form “can we?” which sounds softer and more inclusive. By turning her suggestion into a question, she gives others the chance to agree and makes it feel like a shared moment, not something she is forcing.

9. Avoidance of Strong Swear Words

“Oh my gosh you are spilling the tea, Zach” (07:24)

The sentence is an example of avoidance of strong swear words because Ariana uses a mild expression instead of a stronger or more offensive phrase like “oh my god” or a swear word. People often say “oh my gosh” when they want to show surprise or excitement, but in a way that is polite and safe for all audiences. This kind of language helps keep the tone light and respectful, especially in public settings like interviews or podcasts.

10. Emphatic Stress

“I am the most nervous person on the earth.” (19:25)

The sentence “I am the most nervous person on the earth” includes emphatic stress because it is used to strongly express Ariana's deep feeling of nervousness. Emphatic stress happens when someone puts extra focus on certain words to show strong emotion or importance. In this sentence, Ariana uses the phrase “the most nervous” to clearly show that her nervousness is not just normal, but extremely intense.

11. Comparative Insights

The contrast between male and female speech in the podcast highlights gendered tendencies in spoken communication. Male speech was characterized by authority, brevity, and assertiveness, while female speech emphasized elaboration, emotional expression, and engagement. These findings echo previous studies and reinforce the notion that gender roles influence linguistic behavior, especially in media settings.

However, the study also revealed overlaps in speech behavior. Both speakers occasionally used features typically associated with the opposite gender. For example, the male host displayed emotional support through backchannels and empathetic phrasing, while Ariana occasionally used direct statements or took control of the dialogue. These hybrid features reflect the dynamic and evolving nature of gender expression in communication.

CONCLUSION

This study explored the linguistic differences between male and female communication styles in a podcast episode titled “Ariana Grande New Album ‘Eternal Sunshine,’ Wicked, Glinda Part 1.” Drawing from the theories of Lakoff and Coates, the findings demonstrate that gender plays a significant role in shaping the way people communicate in spontaneous spoken contexts.

Male speakers tended to use more direct and assertive language features, such as commands, minimal responses, and strong expressions. These patterns indicate a preference for brevity, control, and a more dominant interactional style. Conversely,

female speakers demonstrated a higher frequency of emotional expressiveness and politeness markers, such as intensifiers, lexical hedges, hypercorrect grammar, and emphatic stress. This reflects a cooperative and relational approach to communication. The analysis also revealed that gendered speech is not rigidly divided. Both male and female speakers occasionally used features commonly suggests that language is flexible and often adapted based on context, intention, and interpersonal dynamics rather than solely on gender identity. Future research can expand upon this study by incorporating a larger dataset or comparing different podcasts formats. Additionally, exploring language use across non binary or gender fluid speakers would offer valuable insights into the evolving nature of gendered communication in digital media.

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