Gender-Related Differences in Language Use: The Case of the TV Series "How I Met Your Mother", "The Big Bang Theory" and "New Girl"

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Diplomski rad

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Zadar, 2023.

Izjava o akademskoj čestitosti

Ja, **Anela Došen,** ovime izjavljujem da je moj **diplomski** rad pod naslovom **Gender-Related Differences in Language Use: The Case of the TV Series "How I Met Your Mother", "The Big Bang Theory" and "New Girl"** rezultat mojega vlastitog rada, da se temelji na mojim istraživanjima te da se oslanja na izvore i radove navedene u bilješkama i popisu literature. Ni jedan dio mojega rada nije napisan na nedopušten način, odnosno nije prepisan iz necitiranih radova i ne krši bilo čija autorska prava.

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Zadar, 27. rujna 2023.

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1.Introduction

Linguistic gender differences have so far been researched from different perspectives, while sociolinguistics and feminist theories paid most attention to them. Generally speaking, there are many stereotypes and claims present in our society regarding language use differences between genders: it is widely believed that women talk more than men, that women are less direct, that women use more formal and polite expressions, that women reinforce their own subordinate position through the excessive use of tag questions and effort in leaving a good impression through their verbal skills (Thorne, Henley, 1975).

All of the above stereotypes are deeply rooted in social and cultural heritage and backgrounds and, despite the significant changes in social and professional positions of women in the major part of societies in the last decades, they are still present. On the other hand, stereotypes related to male speech often emphasize the use of more assertive sentences, use of slang or deviations from standard language, frequent interruptions as a way of manifesting their social position, primarily their power and traditionally dominant position in many aspects of life (Thorne, Henley, 1975).

Different studies (Wright, 2002, Dong, 2014, Thomas, 2006) have proven those stereotypes wrong, at least partially. The use of language cannot be reduced solely to gender and the traditionally rooted position of both men and women in societies, especially in recent decades where the traditional position of women has rapidly changed. Other factors that influence an individual's speech are also to be taken into consideration: context, social status, family background, educational status, age, subcultures, mood, interest in a subject and so on.

In this research, the "The Big Bang Theory", "How I Met Your Mother" and "New Girl", will be analyzed. Qualitative and quantitative analysis will provide results regarding the differences in the amount of speech between characters of both genders, differences in the use of tag questions, in the use of gossiping and in the amount of interruptions made during conversations. The results will enable us to confirm or dispute whether those widely accepted stereotypes apply to conversations in the analyzed TV shows.

2. Theoretical Framework

This chapter is divided into three parts: the established theories of previous authors regarding the differences in speech between genders, the reflection on the importance of gender in linguistics and the more detailed language analysis of gender. The purpose of this chapter is to create a firm base for the primary research of this paper.

2.1. Established Theories on Gender Differences In Previous Research

Many conclusions about language use are connected to the rise of feminism which created the need to make difference between sex and gender. Sex is clearly described from a biological point of view, while gender is a cultural and social construct.

Zimmerman and West (1991) proposed the theory that gender is a product of social doings and it is not defined by biological aspects. This involves a set of desirable traits, environment variables and gender roles. Gender roles involves: repetition (re-enactment and re-experience simultaneously) and public nature of the act in progress. Even though there are many different approaches to constructing a gender, there is not one actual definition of gender.

Gender differences can also be found in religion as well as in everyday lives and conversations. The explained differences can also be used in comparing everyday conversations. According to Francis and Penny (2013), men are more socialized in terms of accomplishments and aggressiveness, and females are more specialized in resolving conflicts, being submissive, being more gentle and nurturing towards the male gender. Francis and Penny (2013) also suggest that these structural theories can be claimed only in traditional living environments.

Male and female genders have been in conflict over many different topics such as spending, emotions, labor, divisions of responsibilities, to only name a few. These aspects can be the result of language differences between the genders. According to Bell, McCarthy, McNamara (2006), there are two approaches to these differences: a biological and a sociological.

According to the biological approach, differences in language use can be defined by the characteristics of a gender. Those gender polarities can be felt and seen in everyday language use (Bell, McCarthy, McNamara, 2006).

The sociological approach states that gender differences can be seen depending on the ongoing conversation in a set environment. These circumstances are defined by the social context of a conversation. Coates and Johnson (2001), as cited in Bell, McCarthy, and

McNamara (2006), argue that even though biological theory is important, language with proper communication is connected to the context of speech.

But even though Coates and Johnson (2001), as cited in Bell, McCarthy, and McNamara (2006), explained and researched gender differences, they consider these presented differences to be preferential rather than normatives of everyday conversations. There are two main differences in language use between the male and female genders. Male speech is usually characterized as competitive: they use language to set the dominant position, to attract and maintain listeners or only to assert themselves if people leave a conversation. Female speech is characterized more as collaborative and affiliative.

Their use of language is more cooperative than the male genders', they create a language that can form and maintain their relationships of bond and equal positions, they criticize others in a more adequate way and they can properly interpret a female's speech (Coates, Johnson, 2001).

From the biological theory's point of view, men use language in order to command a level of respect during a conversation, while they distance themselves from others at the same time. The male gender values logic and rationality more than the opposite gender. The female gender attempts to resolve conflicts through the use of rules or reasons. Coates and Johnson (2001), as cited in Bell, McCarthy and McNamara (2006), argue that the female's conflict is grounded on collaborative speaking as they pay attention to other speakers as well as framing resolutions in all parts of conversation (Bell, McCarthy, McNamara, 2006).

These framed differences also present the fact that females are a little less legalistic during their conflicts, more attentive to the needs of others who are included in a conversation and they can usually make exceptions to rules. The female gender mainly uses its nurturing side even during typical everyday conversations. They also use submission and will present a concern for others. Coates and Johnson (2001), as cited in Bell, McCarthy and McNamara (2006), argue that on the other hand, the male gender will use a linguistic style which reflects a concern for themselves, the rules of speech and dominance and competition in conversations.

To confirm their theoretical framework, Coates and Johnson (2001), as cited in Bell, McCarthy, McNamara (2006), conducted a research which indicates that there is no significant difference between genders regarding the use of emotions and the number of words indicating emotions. They also presented data which confirms that the context of a conversation will lead to creating differences in language use between genders. Their predictions are that there will be

a significant difference between genders and in use of self-references in conversations (Bell, McCarthy, McNamara, 2006).

Other results from mentioned research show that women are more talkative than men because they have a tendency to elaborate, ask questions and make supportive comments during their conversations. Both theories, the sociological and biological, are supported by the discovered results and the research (Bell, McCarthy, McNamara, 2006).

O'Barr, as cited in Reid, Keerie, Palomares (2003), carried out another research on why there are so many visible differences between male and female genders. He proposed that the language used by genders is also reflected by the speaker's socioeconomic status and, because of that, women use the tentative language type more. To support these theoretical findings, O'Barr, as cited in Reid, Keerie, Palomares (2003), did a research using witnesses in courtrooms. The research from the courtrooms suggested that people who used a more tentative language are seen as less attractive, credible and testimonies were less acceptable and less credible (Reid, Keerie, Palomares, 2003).

There are some other approaches that suggest that tentative language is used more often by women than men. The use of tentative language might not only be divided by gender because some studies have shown that this type of language is stereotyped as seen among minorities or the working class, which makes this type of language unattractive, low on credibility and a little less acceptable (Reid, Keerie, Palomares, 2003).

For example, people may perceive a woman who uses tentative language as less intelligent and less competent. Power-inequality also has an impact on differences in language use. Therefore, many feminists have adapted new vocabularies in order to create better opportunities which do not show differences.

Another approach to gender related differences in everyday conversation is the intercultural/sociodevelopmental approach, where the authors argue that these differences are what makes their dialogues flow. It is mainly because of the biological differences that men and women see the world differently. Even misunderstandings tend to occur due to their different ways of communicating.

Some findings show gender related differences where men and women are in fact divided and they occupy different positions (Coates and Johnson (2001), as cited in Bell, McCarthy, McNamara (2006)). On the other hand, men are socialized in a way which gives independence, separation and competition. Consequently, boys will use language that is more orientated towards tasks and control (Reid, Keerie, Palomares, 2003).

Women ask more questions than men in order to create a flow of conversation, whereas men use more interruptions to control the overall conversation. So when talking about tentative language, the female gender will use it more because they are more socialized to do so (Coates and Johnson (2001), as cited in Bell, McCarthy, McNamara (2006)).

As discussed before, why does the female gender sometimes adopt the normatives of the male gender? If men and women are put together in a situation where there is conflict, the female gender will not likely use tentative language, but will adapt the normative of the male gender and use a harsher tone of voice.

These findings are called prototypical for both male and female genders because there is no written rule or stable data which prove that only the female gender uses tentative language and that the male gender uses, for example, a harsher tone of voice while carrying on a dialogue (Coates and Johnson (2001), as cited in Bell, McCarthy, McNamara (2006)).

O'Barr, as cited in Reid, Keerie, Palomares (2003), stated in his findings that the female gender uses a more tentative language while talking to the male gender. The findings also describe that if the females use a more tentative language with males, they have a better flow of conversation. But if females use the tentative language too much, the male gender does not have this great flow of conversation with the female gender (Reid, Keerie, Palomaries 2003).

Gender and language research should consider other differences, such as ethnicity, age and some other social practices that create linguistic differences. While conducting a research on the differences between genders in everyday language, focus should be more on why there are similarities rather than differences in everyday language use.

Ethnographers of communication usually focus on the way a speaker creates a flow of communication. Through conversation, genders display their competence and cultural development. Through this, ethnographers consider a person's point of view, the specific use of language and how it is placed in speech situations (Bucholtz, 2003).

Basically, if a woman wishes to influence a man, she will use the tentative language more. Even though the female gender uses this type of language to impress the male gender, males who are attracted by this type of language will more likely consider the female gender less intelligent and competent (Butcholtz, 2003).

Differences in language use are based on the biological and sociological approaches. These differences can be explained also as a result of biological theories: the physical appearance of the female and male gender, which leads to more research regarding other differences in language use between male and female gender. Xia (2013) described and

explained the differences in their way of speaking, tone of voice, intonation and etcetera. The differences are also found in the pronunciation of words: phonological differences between the speech of male and female genders are found in a variety of spoken languages. The women's pronunciation was considered better than that of the men because of the way they pronounce -ing in their conversations. Studies conducted by Shuy (1969), as cited in Xia, X. (2013) led to the results that 62.2% of men incorrectly pronounced –ing, whereas 28.9% of women also pronounced it incorrectly (Shuy, 1969).

There are also noted differences regarding intonation. Due to some physiological reasons, the female gender tends to speak in a high-pitched voice, and it is pointed out that this can be connected to female's emotional instability. The choice of words used to express emotions are researched by many authors. Lakoff (1975) identifies differences in the following aspects:

a. The words that describe color: the author states that there are some words in the English vocabulary that men are too scared to use, such as lavender, mauve, magenta (adopted from French language). Men are afraid to use color as a word.

b. Adjectives: the female gender is known to use more adjectives in everyday language. The ability to express their emotions in a clearer and more sensitive way makes female's use of language more interesting for scientists than the language use of male gender.

   For example, the male gender is more likely to use the word *good* for something, whereas the female gender might use words such as *delightful* and *gorgeous.*

c. A surprising difference is seen with the use of adverbs. The female gender is more likely to use adverbs such as *pretty* and *quite,* while the male gender tends to use adverbs such as *very* or *really*.

d. Swear words are more likely to be used by the male gender than the female gender because these words are not very gentle or docile. The female gender does not use these words very often because they are considered as 'bad' and 'negative' words, which, as a result, makes the female look more uncivilized and unattractive to others, as well as make others feel uncomfortable around her.

e. The female gender is more polite and gentle in conversation. The female gender is able to express its emotions as same as the male gender, but without using swear words. Even in everyday conversations, females use more polite gestures.

f.   Diminutives are another difference between the male and female gender because the female gender tends to minimize things. For example, *book* is *bookie.* They also use words which describe love, such as *dear*, *sweetie*, *honey*, etc. The use of polite words such as *thank you*, *please* and *you're welcome* are also often used by the female gender.

g.   Pronouns are another category which creates a difference in speech between the two genders. When a suggestion is made, females use the first person plural even when they are talking to one person, while males use the first singular pronoun in conversations. For example, the female gender will say *we* in a sentence, while the male gender will say *you*.

Another relevant and important difference between the two genders is the difference in syntax. Not one reason exists to explain why there is such a big difference in grammar use, but detailed research by Lakoff (1975) has shown that grammar makes a big difference in language use between the genders.

a.   Modulation review show the female gender always takes everything into consideration when conversing with someone. Females also tend to leave options open, whereas males almost always give full and closed options in conversations.

b.   Interrogative sentences are used more by the female gender than the male gender in conversations. Interrogative sentences are used to continue a positive conversation. In this light, the female gender usually uses more tag questions and interrogation to explain its ideas, to make statements and to keep a conversation flowing.

c.   Imperative sentences are used more by the male gender and they are applied differently according to the gender using them.

Another difference is found in the approach to language. The female gender pays more attention to having correct syntax because while expressing her thoughts and emotions, the female forms her sentences better by correctly using grammar. The female gender pays more attention to using a standard language and this gender pays more attention to the rules of language. Females are the more attentive listeners during conversations, whereas males are more eager to be heard and as a result, they tend to achieve more things in everyday life (Xia, 2013).

There are also differences in choosing the topic of conversation. In a conversation between two men, they will likely choose topics such as politics, economy, stocks, sport and the current news (Xia, 2013).

Conversations between women are more focused on marriage, family, household duties and fashion. At a formal occasion, the female gender talks less than the male gender, but during an informal occasion, they talk more than the male gender (Xia, 2013).

To see exactly what the final differences between the male and female genders is, it was necessary to see why differences even occur in everyday language use. The first reason was found in their psychology. The female gender is more careful, sensitive and more considerate than the male gender. Before starting a conversation, the female usually thinks about the words she will use, whereas the male gender does not, and this difference tends to lead to misunderstandings. Males usually appear to be harsher and blunt. Another reason was found in the social status of the two genders, where one of the most critical levels is the level of education. In some studies, it was shown that there is a large difference in speech between the male and female gender if one of the two has higher education. The male and female genders are not only different by the type of language they use, but the way they use it and is often influenced by their social status. If their roles are distinct, there will be a greater difference (Xia, 2013).

2.2. Reflection on Gender in Linguistic Analysis: The Role Of The Gender

In sociolinguistic studies gender represents an important variable along with those of class affiliation, age and stylistic context. Even when we start learning a new language, one of the first lessons is the one on family relations, where we acquire new terms in gender related pairs (mom – dad, uncle – aunt, brother - sister). Gender differences are grammatically signaled in various ways from one language to another: through pronouns, articles and adjectives in most cases. The level of gender differences is what varies from one language to another, especially in the field of professions.

Some languages which usually possess different gender forms for male and female occupational positions still reflect the traditional professional position of women: there are no specific forms to note doctor, teacher, chairman, etc. given the fact that these positions have been reserved for men for a long period of time and it is still reflected in language.

Harris et al. (2017:107) state that "in cases where the gender is unknown or indeterminate, or in languages where the traditional norm is to use a male pronoun to refer to all genders, a neutral pronoun should be used instead". This prescriptive method is, as we know, not applicable to all languages. In many of them, such as French, there is no neutral gender. In addition, there are also differences in the use of pronouns among male and female speakers of

different languages. As Johannsen et al. (2015:3) found in their study, "when looking at the types of pronouns used by men and women, we see very similar distributions, but men tend to use impersonal pronouns (it, what) more than women do".

There is an example from the Croatian language. In the Croatian language this topic appeared relatively late and only in the last decade did formal documents contain the notice on gender neutral language specifying that used nouns and pronouns relate to both genders and are not discriminatory. This allows for place for new debates: why are male forms taken as generic forms or unmarked forms according to Roman Jakobson?

Holmes and Meyerhoff (2003) stated the following:

> This goes even further in the domain of scholarly research concerning dialectologists as they state on the assumption that men better preserved the 'real' and 'purest' forms of the regional dialects they were interested in collecting. Dialect geographers usually chose one older man as representative of a particular area, a man whose social characteristics have been summed up in the acronym NORM, i.e. non-mobile, older, rural, male (p. 99).

Movements on ethnographic differences in language use found their echo in the rest of the world and in some countries they led to significant changes in the position of women in society and at the labor market.

Language was one of the major concerns of those movements given the fact that some linguistic features directly define or degrade women (women firstly take their father's then husband's family name, distinction between Miss/Mrs) or the choice of terms of endearment to mark women (ibid). For representatives of the feminist movement, linguistic questions were not meaningless because the language we use might influence both our thought and behavior, according to the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis. The following changes occurred in English as a result of the tendencies to reduce sexist elements in language:

Alternative item	Intended to replace	Reason
Ms	*Miss/Mrs*	to achieve equivalence with *Mr* and to end the practice of women being 'defined' by their marital status
chairperson *spokesperson* *barperson*	*chairman* *spokesman* *barman* (especially as referents for women)	to put an end to the 'think male' phenomenon, and the 'rendering invisible' of women
s/he, 'singular *they*'	'generic *he*'	as above

Table 1. Linguistic Alternatives for the Establishment of Gender Equality in English (Sunderland, 2006, p. 12)

Numerous sociological and anthropological research showed that in many societies a stronger adherence to social norms is expected of women: question of alcohol abuse, number of sexual partners, dress code, general behavior, dedication to family and often submission to their male partners. Codeswitching differences between genders have also been a subject of research. Foster (1995) came to the conclusion that it „is a deliberate and systematic practice intended to express the speakers' identities and it is influenced by the social relationships between the participants and is not immediately established through gender" (p. 346).

2.3. Language Analysis Between Gender

Aside from the question on gender related differences in language use, there have been recorded cases of the so-called "gender exclusive languages".

Such examples were found in the Yana language in California containing different forms depending on who is speaking, the Dyirbal people of North Queensland, who have special gender-differentiated language where vocabulary differs depending on social situation, followed by Yanyuwa, another aboriginal language with gender-differentiated dialects where women speak one dialect among themselves and men another (Wardhaugh et. al. 2015; Besnier, 2007).

While describing or explaining differences in language use between genders, authors tend to use two groups, a base group and another one to use for comparison. Bruckmüller et.al. (2012) presented their conclusions regarding this type of research, as well as the positive and

negative sides. They also presented the consequences of conducting this type of research (comparing based group to other because there was no similar research).

The first result of this type of research is that people use atypical attributes while describing and explaining some differences within category of presented atypical attributes. For example, they use male and female professors for comparison, where interviewers see different attributes and explanations depending on the gender. Bruckmüller et.al. (2012) also present the case of male voters who will likely vote for a female even though there is no statistical majority in the 'voters' category. This all depends on the attributes presented by speech.

Another relevant factor is a person's social status, here the way they converse is likely to be the result of their everyday habits. Group status appears to have an influence on comparative framing of explained differences in everyday conversations. This also creates group status stereotypes. Bruckmüller et.al. (2012) state that one of the consequences is that lower-status groups differ from higher-status groups. People learn to associate this frame of comparison with the beliefs about their group status and how to use normatives of linguistics as a cue for describing group status and power. According to these findings, females are positioned in a way where using language can decrease a man's power (Bruckmüller et.al., 2012).

Extending this research, Bruckmüller et.al. (2012) also state that people can lack information about group status and create certain stereotypes, which can lead to misunderstandings in everyday conversations. In these situations, the framing of these differences can lead to feelings of power and stereotypic attributes. According to Bruckmüller et.al. (2012), in the role of their gender, men are thought of as a general default value.

During the 20th and 21st centuries, substantial research has been conducted on the topic of language and gender and the differences between the speech of men and women in a variety of languages, especially in English. When men and women communicate in different contexts, there can be many differences in the use of vocabulary, phonology or discourse. There are also many stereotypes when it comes to the differences in speech between men and women, particularly when questioning whether men or women talk more on a daily basis, how turn-taking is organized, who uses more standard forms in conversations or whose speech is more direct.

However, the main concern of this study will be the analysis of the amount of speech, the use of tag questions, the amount of interruptions and the use of gossiping. The differences between language and gender of speakers are more complex than we think, and this topic should

not be observed only from a linguistic perspective, but from a social perspective as well. According to Dong (2014), when we analyze social life and human differences, we need to take into consideration gender differences as well, because throughout history much research has shown that they are fundamental in research on language differences.

Still, in the 1980's Kramarae (1981) wrote that men actually control public (professional, media) language, while women control 'domestic language', insisting on the non-existence of categories of 'women's language' and 'men's language', but rather using categories of 'dominant language' reserved for male population and 'subordinate language' used by female speakers. Since women have been in a subordinate position for a long time concerning education and employment, Holmes and Meyerhoff (2003) believe that they may be using linguistic means as a way of improving their status. Concerning this matter, Lakoff (1975) saw the women's language as the 'language of powerlessness' and, according to her, this type of a language has also been used by men when they find themselves in a subordinate position. Even in professional context today, differences occur in discourse.

Since the 1970's, numerous research had been conducted in order to analyze differences in speech between men and women. That research treats subjects of grammar and lexis use, intonation, as well as discourse differences. Thomas (2006) published a study on a small sample of natural conversations which contradicts general beliefs that men and women speak differently. His study, as well as those he cites in his paper (61 out of 63 studies) showed that in fact men talk more than women, which is not in line with the general belief that women talk more.

Another common belief is that women tend to use more standard language forms than men, while men tend to use vernacular forms in general. This is probably the case in everyday speech and discourse, as it is still widely expected of women to act and speak in accordance to cultural and social expectations. In case study, we should keep in mind that comedy genre, especially in TV shows recorded in recent years might easily show something different.

Regarding the amount of speech used, Thomas (2006) found that this is more of an individual question (the familiarity with the topics of conversation, the direction of the conversation and its solidarity) than a biologically determined general rule. Therefore, we cannot state that women generally speak more, despite the common stereotypes. Regarding interruption and speech overlap, Thomas (2006) notes that "there seems to be no gender specific pattern here supporting a general tendency for women to interrupt less frequently than men, nor any indication that women are interrupted more often than men as a whole" (p. 15). Therefore,

his research did not confirm any of these generally understood claims, and there are many factors such as the situation and context, relations, mood, social status or educational background that contribute to this. The formality of a situation has to be taken into consideration when comparing linguistic differences between genders.

Dong (2014) dealt with language differences between genders from a sociolinguistic point of view, i.e., the study of language structure in social context. As gender difference is considered one of the major social differences among people in general, it is expected that those differences will be reflected in the field of linguistics. "Sociolinguistics has used a new perspective and analysis method for the language and its interdisciplinary study, and has greatly enriched the study of sociolinguistic, which helps us to understand the nature of language better, changes the pure symbolic study of the ivory tower to the language, expands the understanding of the sociolinguistic phenomenon, and help anatomy of the social problems, so it has important research significance" (Dong, 2014, p.92).

Present beliefs regarding linguistic differences between genders are grounded on traditional social factors where men are considered to have higher social and economic status and therefore a privileged position, which is reflected in speech. On the other hand, women traditionally played a different (subordinate) role in society for centuries, and they found its reflections in the way they express themselves.

According to Dong (2014, p.93), "gender differences are the fundamental facts of social life and human differences. It reflects that there is a long historical origin in language difference phenomenon. Men and women have different status and play different roles, thus they have different duties and different rights." As a reflection of social dominance, it is believed that men interrupt conversations more frequently and this has been seen as a manner of demonstration of their privileged position. On the other hand, due to their traditionally subordinate position, women, still nowadays, pay more attention to their speech because "even in contemporary society, more and more women cut a striking figure in economy, politics, and own the same occupation in many fields as the man." (Dong, 2014, p. 93). Although these culturally rooted practices are still considered to be valid in most cultures, Dong (2014, p. 96) considers that: "With the development of education levels and the increase of social communication activities, language differences based on gender will decrease and the language similarities between males and females will increase."

3. The Analysis of Language Use Between Genders in the TV series: "The Big Bang Theory", "How I Met Your Mother" and "New Girl"

This chapter is divided into two parts. In the first part, the aim of the research and methodology is described and in the second part, there is the analysis of language use between genders in the analyzed TV series.

3.1. Aim of the Research

Since the 1970s, many scholars have noticed the connection between language and gender and they have devoted their studies to determine whether there are any differences between the language used by men and women. From the sociolinguistic point of view, it is considered that speech has always been a reflection of cultural and historical facts in gender differences which find their reflection in language as a social phenomenon on its own.

The main research questions of this study are: 'What are the differences between men and women in the amount of speech?', 'Who uses tag questions more, men or women?', 'What are the differences in the use of interruptions?' and 'Who gossips more, men or women?'. The data consists of the language use of characters in the TV series "How I Met Your Mother", "The Big Bang Theory" and "New Girl". These TV series were chosen not only because they are very popular all over the world, but because they contain many daily conversations among men and women, which makes them suitable for the study of the differences in the relationship between language and gender. In terms of data collection, four episodes from each TV series were randomly chosen, which means that 12 episodes were analyzed in total.

3.2. Methodology of the Research

The TV series present groups of heterogeneous friends who are different in every aspect: job, lifestyle, income and habits. This research focuses only on dialogues between the male and female characters. The quantitative approach used in this research consists of the use of tables, figures and statistical charts which show the differences in the following areas: the amount of speech, the use of tag questions, the use of interruptions and the use of gossiping. A qualitative analysis in this study was made in order to see the gender differences in the identified comedy TV shows. In the following list, male and female main characters are introduced in this research.

1. The TV show "The Big Bang Theory" has seven main characters: four male (Sheldon, Leonard, Howard and Rajesh) and three female (Amy, Penny and Bernardette). The characters that share a love relationship are: Leonard – Penny,

Howard- Bernardette, Sheldon – Amy, but there is also a friendly relationship among all of them.

2. The TV show "How I Met Your Mother" has five main characters: three male (Marshall, Barney and Ted) and two female characters (Lilly and Robin). Their relationships are a combination of love and friendship and changes can be seen between seasons (except for Lily and Marshall who break up in one season).

3. The TV show "New Girl" has five main characters: two female (Cece and Jessica) and three male characters (Winston, Schmidt and Nick). The characters share a friendly relationship.

3.3. The Analysis of the Amount of Speech

For each analyzed episode, male and female utterances were sorted in order to count the number of words pronounced by a male / female character, and the percentages are represented in the charts. For the purpose of this part of the analysis, the words that were analyzed are from whole analyzed episodes. In episode S02e03[1], the female characters pronounced 805 words or only 27% of total speech; while male characters participated with 73% speech (2151 words).

In the episode S04e09[2], female speech consisted of only a small part with 16% (501) of the words used, while male speech was predominant with 2586 words (84%). In the episode S05e16[3], the male amount of speech was again dominant with 65% of total speech (1981), while female speech represented 35% or 1062 words. In the episode S07e05[4], the predominance of male speech again was encountered with a percentage of 63% (1675 words), while female speech represented 37% (968 words).

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[1] The Big Bang Theory - s02e03 – Barbarian Sublimation
[2] The Big Bang Theory - s04e09 – The Boyfriend Complexity
[3] The Big Bang Theory - s05e16 – The Vacation Solution
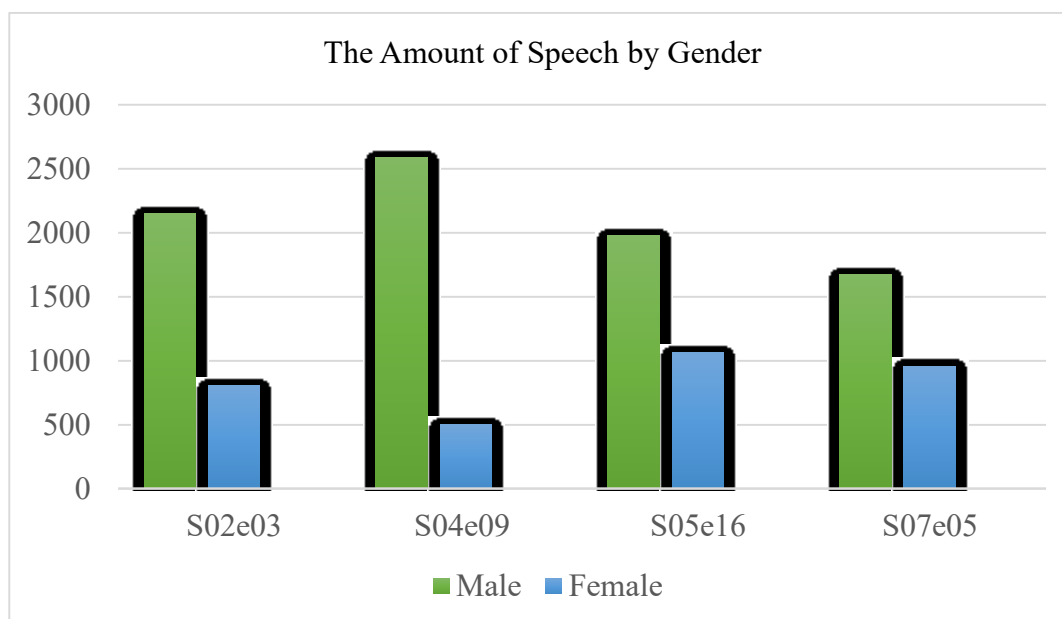[4] The Big Bang Theory - s07e05 – The Workplace Proximity

Chart 1. The Amount of Speech by Gender in the TV show "The Big Bang Theory"

Overall, the number of words spoken by the male gender is 8393 words, while the female gender spoke 3336 words.

After analyzing the overall amount of speech in the researched episodes, it is important to see the difference when it comes to male and female conversations: only with the opposite gender. In the following analyzed episode S02e03[5], the female characters pronounced 598 words in conversations with the male gender and male characters pronounced 756 words in dialogues with the opposite gender. In the conversations in episode S04e09[6], between opposite genders, women pronounced 538 words and men pronounced 450 words.

In the episode S05e16[7], the female gender pronounced 728 words and the male gender pronounced 659 words. In the episode S07e05[8], the female gender pronounced 482 words and the male gender pronounced 822 words. In the following chart, the difference between the amount of speech made by the two opposite genders is visible.

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[5] The Big Bang Theory - S02e03 – Barbarian Sublimation

[6] The Big Bang Theory - S04e09 – The Boyfriend Complexity
[7] The Big Bang Theory - S05e16 – The Vacation Solution
[8] The Big Bang Theory - S07e05 – The Workplace Proximity
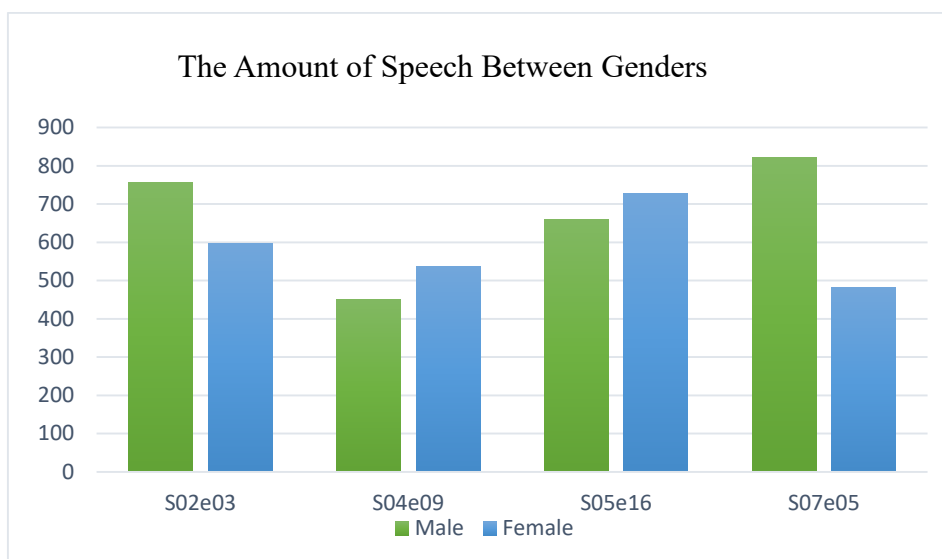
The Amount of Speech Between Genders

Chart 2. The Amount of Speech Between Genders in the TV show "The Big Bang Theory"

Overall, the male gender spoke 2.687 words in dialogues with the opposite gender, while the female gender spoke 2.346 words in dialogues with the opposite gender.

The following analyzed dialogues, in the TV show "How I Met Your Mother", are also divided by the amount of speech of male and female genders (separately). In the analyzed episode S01e03[9] of this TV show, female characters pronounced only 24% of total speech (839 words), while male characters pronounced 2600 words, i.e., 76% of total speech. In the S01e12[10] episode, the female characters pronounced 1146 words (32% out of the total amount) and the male characters 2425, i.e., 68% of total speech. In the S01e15[11] episode, the speech of female characters represents only 27% of the total speech (734 words), while the male characters pronounced 73% of total speech (1961 words). In episode S01e20[12] the major part of speech was once again pronounced by the male characters (1726 words, or 55%), while the female characters pronounced 45% of speech or 1285 words.

The following chart presents the collected data on these four randomly selected episodes of the TV show "How I Met Your Mother".

[9] How I Met Your Mother - s01e03 – Sweet Taste of Liberty
[10] How I Met Your Mother - s01e12 – The Wedding
[11] How I Met Your Mother - s01e15 - Game Night
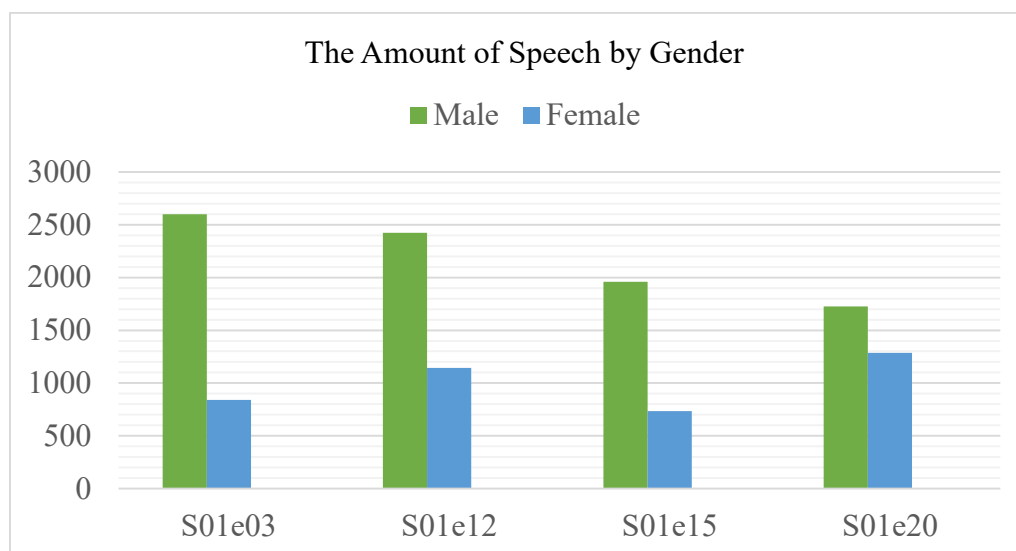[12] How I Met Your Mother - s01e20 – Best Prom Ever

Chart 3. The Amount of Speech by Gender in the TV show "How I Met Your Mother"

As it can be seen in the presented chart, the male gender once again has more speech in the analyzed episodes when compared to the female gender. Overall, the number of words spoken by the male gender is 8712 words, while the female gender spoke 4004 words. There are also more male characters in the TV show than female gender. After taking a close look at the four randomly chosen episodes of this TV show, it can be noted that the amount of male speech predominates to a large extent, and this is partially due to Sheldon's extensive monologues, but there are also other male characters in this TV show.

After analyzing the amount of speech of each gender, it is important to see the difference in the amount of speech between genders in these randomly selected episodes. In the analyzed episode S01e03[13] of this TV show, the female characters pronounced 251 words with the opposite gender, while the male characters pronounced 215 words with the opposite gender. In this episode the male gender was mostly paired with the same gender and vice versa. In episode S01e012[14] the female gender pronounced 521 words with the opposite gender, while the male gender pronounced 666 words.

In episode S01e15[15] the female gender pronounced 456 words when talking to the opposite gender, while the male gender pronounced 543 words. In episode S01e20[16] the female gender pronounced 916 words in conversation with the opposite gender, while the male gender pronounced 787 words. All of the data can be seen in the chart below.

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[13] How I Met Your Mother - s01e3 – Sweet Taste of Liberty
[14] How I Met Your Mother - s01e12 – The Wedding
[15] How I Met Your Mother - s01e15 - Game Night
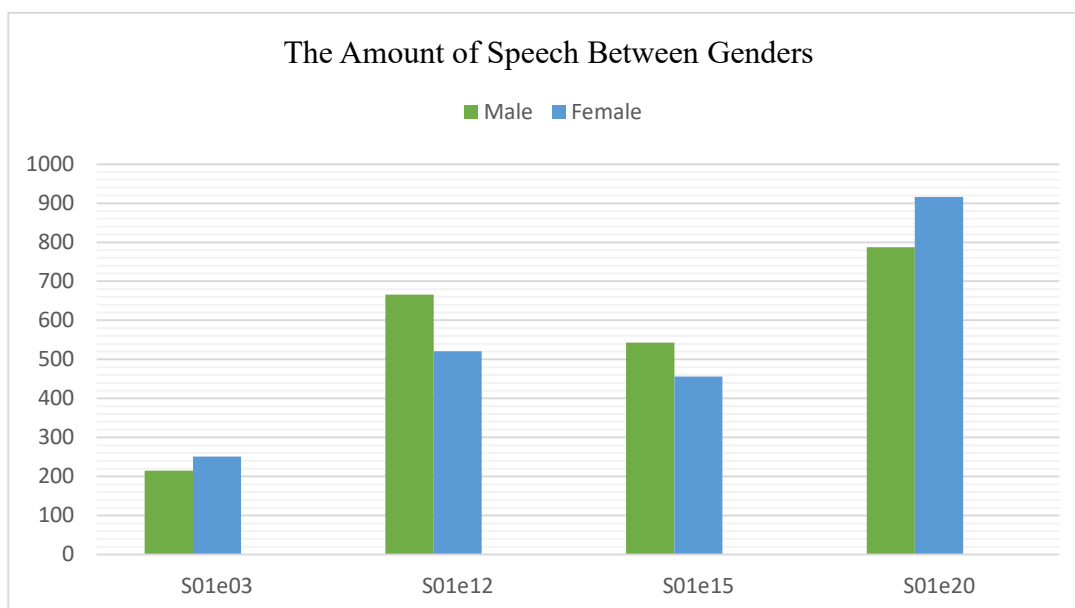[16] How I Met Your Mother - s01e20 – Best Prom Ever

Chart 4. The Amount of Speech Between Genders in the TV show "How I Met Your Mother"

Overall, the male gender spoke 2211 words in dialogue with the opposite gender, while the female gender spoke 2144 words in dialogue with the opposite gender. After making an analysis of these two TV shows, it is now necessary to provide an analysis of the last TV show in this research: "New Girl". In this part, the number of words pronounced by each gender will be provided. In episode S01e01[17] female speech represented a smaller share with 38% (1567 words) and male 62% with 2519 words. In episode S01e02[18]a similar situation occurred with 37% (1657 words) of the female and 63% (2865 words) of the male share in total speech was presented. In the next episode, S01e03[19], the share is basically equivalent to those in the previous episodes: 38% (1316 words) of female speech and 62% (2106 words) of male speech. And in the last episode, S01e16[20], the quantity of female speech is slightly smaller in comparison to the previous ones: 30% (1410 words), while male speech represents a share of 3177 words (70% of speech). The data collected from these episodes can be seen in the following chart.

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[17] New Girl - s01e01 – The Pilot
[18] New Girl - s01e02 - Kryptonite
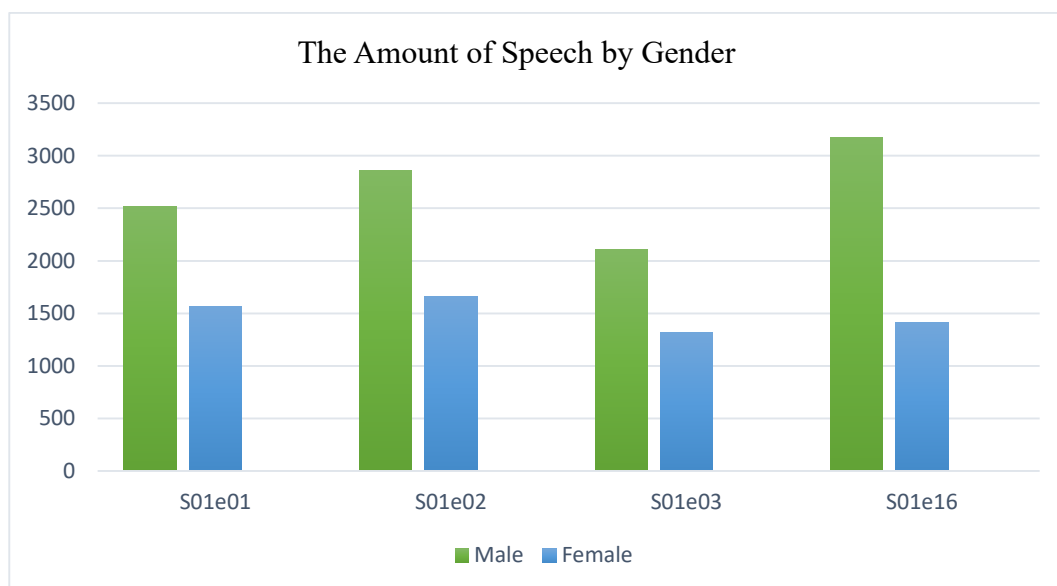[19] New Girl - s01e03 - Wedding
[20] New Girl - s01e16 - Control

Chart 5. The Amount of Speech by Gender in the TV show "New Girl"

Overall, the number of words spoken by the male gender is 10667, while the female gender spoke 5950 words. In this TV show, a smaller predominance of male speech in comparison to the two previously analyzed shows was noticed. The share of female speech in "New Girl" was represented with 40% and that of male speech with 60%.

For the following part of this paper, the differences in dialogues with the opposite gender will be analyzed. In episode S01e01[21] women pronounced 826 words, whereas men pronounced 911 words with the opposite gender in this episode. In episode S01e02[22] the male gender pronounced 1032 words, while the female gender pronounced 969 words. In episode S01e03[23] the female gender pronounced 953 words and the male gender pronounced 981 words. In episode S01e16[24] the female gender pronounced 1097 words and the male gender pronounced 1044 words. The collected data can be seen in the following chart.

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[21] New Girl S01e01 – The Pilot
[22] New Girl S01e02 - Kryptonite
[23] New Girl S01e03 - Wedding
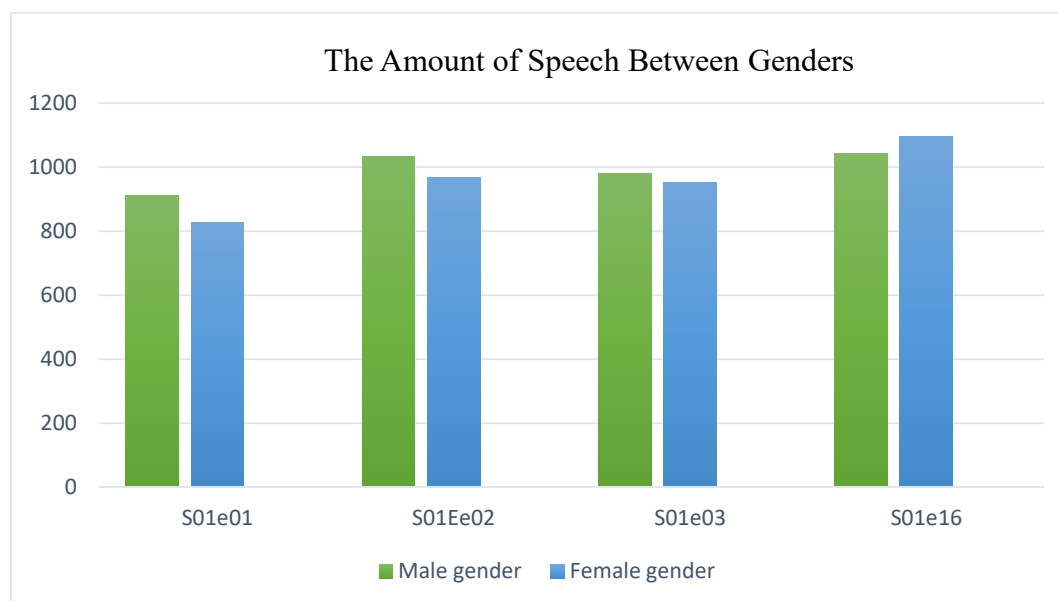[24] New Girl S01e16 - Control

Chart 6. The Amount of Speech Between Genders in the TV Show "New Girl"

Overall, the male gender spoke 3.968 words in dialogue with the opposite gender, while the female gender spoke 3.873 words in dialogue with the opposite gender. As it can be seen in the chart above, the number of pronounced words are almost the same for both genders. Only in episode S01e16, the number of pronounced words is higher for the female gender. In other episodes, the male gender pronounced more words in an episode.

On the other hand, and taking a look at the total picture, male speech is dominant in all of the shows and in all of the randomly chosen episodes, which cannot be a coincidence. There are two possible explanations for the encountered situation: either the male characters are the main characters (as in the case of the first two TV shows) or men generally speak more in everyday conversations.

3.4. The Analysis of the Use of Tag Questions

The following table provides a list of all the tag questions used in the twelve episodes: examples of the tag questions used, the episode they appeared in and the gender of the character who used it in a conversation with the opposite gender.

Table 2. Examples of tag questions (Author's work based on series analysis, 2023.)

Tag question	Series	Gender
Mrs Cooper: "You don't hunt, do you?"	"The Big Bang Theory" S02e03	Female

Bernadette: "He's taking a turn to the dark side, isn't he?"	"The Big Bang Theory" S04e09	Female
Sheldon: „I'm not getting the computing time, am I?"	"The Big Bang Theory" S02e03	Male
Bernadette: 'He's never gonna stop doing that, is he?'	"The Big Bang Theory" S07e05	Female
Robin: "I said, 'She's great' too many times, didn't I?"	"How I met your mother" S01e15	Female
Lily: "They grow up into skanks so fast, don't they, Ted?"	"How I met your mother" S01e20	Female
Robin: "This hand gesture thing doesn't really work on the phone, does it?"	"How I met your mother" S01e3	Female
"He didn't say the college part, did he?"[25]	"New Girl" S01e01	Female
Gretchen: "Ah, you going home with me aren't you?"	"New Girl" S01e03	Female

Statistically, the amount of tag questions used is 89 % by females and 11% by males. As we can see, the use of tag questions is not widely spread amongst characters because their purpose is to confirm a thought or statement and the conversations between characters are understandable without them.

3.5. The Analysis of Interruptions in Conversation

In order to fully understand the difference in the language used between genders, it is crucial to take a look at the amount of interruptions that occurred and among which gender they occurred the most. A statistical review of interruptions in conversations gives us the percentage of interruptions between female and male characters in the TV shows "The Big Bang Theory", "How I Met Your Mother" and "New Girl".

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[25] Cece

Table 3. The Analysis of Interruptions in Conversation (Author's work based on series
analysis, 2023.)

Interruption	Series	Gender that interrupted conversation
Sheldon: "Well, the American Midwest was mostly settled by Scandinavian and Germanic peoples who, well they have a characteristic facial bone structure…" **Penny: "I know what it means, Sheldon!"**	"The Big Bang Theory" S02e03	Female
Penny: "Daddy, he had nothing to do…" **Wyatt: "Keep walking."** **Penny: "Okay."**	"The Big Bang Theory" S04e09	Male
Sheldon: "Couple things, actually. Your tone of voice, your body language…" **Amy: "Get out."**	"The Big Bang Theory" S07e05	Female
Penny: "Okay, fine, Sheldon. What is your side?" **Sheldon: "Well…"** **Penny: "Nope, got to go with Amy on this one."**	"The Big Bang Theory" S07e05	Female
Lily: (On Phone) "You're going to Philly? Why…"	"How I Met Your Mother" S01e03	Male

Marshall: (On Phone) "I...I didn't ask."		
Lily: (Smiling) "Hey. (Silence) **I'm engaged, sorry. (Puts ring on) I took my ring off! It's very, very sweet of you to come over and talk to me, but I... just..."** **Derrik: "Yeah, I'm gay."**	"How I Met Your Mother" S01e03	Male
Marshall: "I've been dreaming about this day since I was like..." **Lily: "A little girl?"**	"How I Met Your Mother" S01e12	Female
Ted: "Claudia, I'm pretty sure I checked..." **Claudia: "Ted, you did not check 'plus one', you are not bringing a date to my wedding."**	"How I Met Your Mother" S01e12	Female
Lily: "Really? Well, 'cause she gave me a videotape to give..." **Barney: "Where's the tape?"**	"How I Met Your Mother" S01e15	Male
Barney: "Shannon, there is no..." **Shannon: "Barney, it's your dream. It's only two years. I know we can make it."**	"How I Met Your Mother" S01e15	Female

Lily: "Okay, okay. Marshall's mom sent us cookies..." **Marshall: "Lily, no!"**	"How I Met Your Mother" S01e15	Male
Ted: "Victoria, I know this must be..." **Victoria: "Yeah. It kind of is."**	"How I Met Your Mother" S01e15	Female
Jess: "Uhm…" **Coach: "Your hair is on fire."**	"New Girl" S01e01	Male
Nick: (Nods) "It's no big deal, it's behind me. It's in the past so…" **Schmidt: "Thank you, I love you, (hugs him) very, very much."**	"New Girl" S01e01	Male
Jess: "(Holding a curling iron in her hair, turns around) Hey Coach, wha-" **Coach: "(Smashes an ornament with his basketball) Sorry. Uh, my boss says that I don't know how to talk to women, which is ridiculous..."**	"New Girl" S01e01	Male
Jess: "I'm so excited to meet him..." **Nick: "(Walking towards her) No, Jess, he's sleeping. He flew in late last night, we took him straight to the bar, took a bunch of shots,**	"New Girl" S01e02	Male

got drunk, screamed I love America. (Sits down)"		
Jess: "Yeah, I do, it's just really big and thin and brea..." **Nick: "Go get it!"**	"New Girl" S01e02	Male
Jess: "I love bikes... **Spencer: Not enough."**	"New Girl" S01e02	Male
Jess: "Spencer, I really need my stuff…" **Spencer:** **"Shuuuuuuuusshhh. I need something to."**	"New Girl" S01e02	Male
Winston: "Don't drop it, Jess, don't, don't drop it, don't..." **Cece: "Come on, everybody out. Now! (All rush out of car)"**	"New Girl" S01e02	Female
Guys: "Just take it easy on the love stuff..." **Winston: "(Bends down to pick up a hat) Give her the shirt back, man. (Puts hat on)."**	"New Girl" S01e02	Male

Jess: "It's our first wedding together, so we need nicknames. Nick is 'Nicknack' or 'Mr. Suspenders'..." **Schmidt: No nicknames, okay, your only job tonight, is to be Nick's girlfriend, okay and make sure he stays out of trouble with Caroline."**	"New Girl" S01e03	Male

The examples shown in Table 2 show that only 36% of interruptions were made by the female gender. Many other interruptions were made, but between the same genders. Therefore, those examples are not relevant for the research. As it can be seen in the written examples of interruptions, the sentences that were interrupted were finished with three dots. When we listen to the conversations, we can notice interruptions during their dialogues where the listener does not wait for the speaker to finish stating his opinion.

3.6. The Analysis of Gossip Between Genders

In the previous statistics, the male gender produced a greater amount of speech in comparison to the female gender. But it can be seen that this is not the case in the research that was done on tag questions. And what about gossiping? Females tend to gossip more while men are more succinct and enjoy showing their masculine side. Only dialogues between opposite genders were analyzed. For this part of the research, the focus was only on the topic, "Who Gossips More: Men or Women?"

Table 4. Examples of gossiping in conversations on a daily basis (Author's work based on series analysis, 2023.)

Line	*Series*	*Gender*
Penny: "Hey, if I tell you something, will you	"The Big Bang Theory" S06e06	Female

promise not to tell anybody?" Leonard: "It doesn't matter what I say, you're gonna tell me anyway." Penny: "What? That is not true. Bernadette wants a pre-nup."		
Leslie: "Right, I heard you've been pulling all-nighters with middle-earth Barbie." Sheldon: "She comes into my room. No-one's supposed to be in my room." Leslie: "Well, I would postulate that she's escaping into the online world to compensate for her sexual frustration."	"The Big Bang Theory" S02e03	Female
Sheldon: "Well, I was. but that was before Howard explained to me how awful it would be if he had to work with his significant other." Bernadette: "He said what?" Sheldon: "Now, don't be insulted. He just thinks too much of you would be mind-numbingly tedious."	"The Big Bang Theory" S07e05	Male

Bernadette: "Excuse me, I need to have a chat with my husband."		
Sheldon: "What if I told you that over the past few months Amy has secretly been giving you little puzzles to test your intelligence against chimpanzees in her lab?" **Penny: "What? She didn't give me any puzzles."** **Sheldon: "Are you sure?"**	"The Big Bang Theory" S08e15	Male
Barney: "What I don't get is, why is Claudia marrying Stuart? She's way hotter than him. How way? Way way."	"How I Met Your Mother" S01e12	Male
Stuart: "I love you too, babe. Marshall and Ted set me straight, and when Marshall told me not to marry you, it made me realize..."	"How I Met Your Mother" S01e12	Male

Claudia: "Marshall said what?"		
Robin: "Oh, sure. She's great. Oh, what? Because of the whole thing where I said I liked Ted? No. Victoria's great. She's fun, she's free-spirited, she's great. I said, "she's great" too many times, didn't I?"	"How I Met Your Mother" S01e15	Female
Jess: "No, I can't, I haven't spoken to Spencer since he cheated on me with that hoe! Actually, that's not fair, she might be a really nice hoe. I just don't wanna get in a big fight with Spencer, I want to be friends with him eventually." **Nick: "Why do you wanna be friends with your ex? I don't wanna be friends with Caroline, and all she did was rip me open and tear out my heart out with her perfect, perfect hands."**	"The New Girl" S01e02	Male and female

Cece: "Yeah, like he'd ever have a job." Schmidt: "Didn't you just kinda assume he'd have a handlebar moustache."	"New Girl" S01e02	Male and female
Winston: "Those guys were jerks, but I know that they're glad you're around." Jess: "Really?" Winston: "Yeah, I'm just gonna come out and say it, especially Nick, but they're all thinking it. Even me. most of the time."	"New Girl" S01e03	Male
Jess: "It's very nice. hey...she had a boyfriend..." Nick: "Yeah." Jess: "She shouldn't have been flirting with you all night."	"New Girl " S01e03	Female

As we can see from Table 4, the amount of gossiping is used 55% by males and 45% by females. There were also some other examples of gossiping in the episodes, but they were made by the same gender which is not relevant for this research.

3.7. The Discussion of Analysis of Language Use Between Genders in the TV series

In the chapter dedicated to quantitative research, we provided answers to the following questions: 'What are the differences between men and women in the amount of speech?', 'Who interrupts more?', 'Who uses tag questions more, men or women?' and 'What are the differences in the use of gossiping?'. The data for our analysis consisted of transcripts of the TV series "The Big Bang Theory", "How I Met Your Mother" and "New Girl".

In terms of data collection, four episodes from each TV series had been chosen randomly. In the TV show "How I Met Your Mother", the amount of speech by male characters dominated by far, which can be explained by the fact that the main characters are male, so it is expected that their speech will be represented more (Ted's and Barney's long monologues and Ted's narration of events). We recorded a similar situation in "The Big Bang Theory", which can again be explained by the fact that Sheldon's long monologues dominate space in conversations. Altogether, male speech was dominant in all analyzed episodes of three TV shows and this cannot be a coincidence. There are two possible explanations for the encountered situation: one of them is the major role of male characters in "How I Met Your Mother" and "The Big Bang Theory", and the second explanation could be that men tend to speak more in everyday situations. In the TV show "New Girl", Jess is mainly the only female character in the episodes (except when her friend shows up, but she is not always there) which explains why male characters speak more.

Our second quantitative concern was the use of tag questions and we recorded the predominance in their use by female characters (89%). Thorne and Henley (1975) suggest that women tend to use more tag questions then men and by doing so, for the purpose of confirming whether their statement is correct, they reinforce their subordinate position. During our research, four episodes from the TV show "The Big Bang Theory" were picked. In the other analyzed TV show, "How I Met Your Mother", tag questions were not used in a large amount. Finally, in the TV show "New Girl", not many examples of the usage of tag questions were found.

Moreover, the analysis of the amount of interruption revealed that only 36% of interruptions in all of the TV shows were made by the female gender. This can also be linked with previous theoretical findings that the male gender used this type of action to gain superiority over the female gender. Coates and Johnson (2001), as cited in Bell, McCarthy, McNamara (2006), state that the male gender uses more interruptions in order to have an overall control of a conversation. Many other interruptions were made in dialogues, but for this research

only the ones between the female and male gender are important. When talking about interruptions in the TV show "New Girl", more interruptions and less tag questions were made. In the TV show "New Girl", most interruptions were made when the character Jess was present. As it can be seen in the transcript of the TV show, Jess talks more than Cece and she is always with at least one person of the male gender who makes interruptions when talking to her.

Our next concern was the amount of gossiping in conversations. The findings in this research have shown that both genders used almost the same amount of gossiping in their conversations. The female gender is mainly characterized as the gender that gossips more, but as it can be seen from the research, the male gender gossips in order to 'transfer information'. In part 3.4. of this research, few but meaningful examples of gossiping in the TV show were given. The female gender is described as gossiping more than the male gender, which is proven with Penny's line about Bernardette and Howard during their casual conversation with Leonard. This episode is not the only example. Through the entire TV show, Penny gossiped, and not only with the male characters, but also with the females (if not equally, then more). In the TV show "How I Met Your Mother", there is not much gossiping since the friends are usually together. If they are apart, they use gossip to transfer information from one to another or to confirm something.

4. Conclusion

Although the question of gender differences in language has been subject to many studies in the last decades, we cannot state that there are general agreements among scholars regarding the issue. Some studies deeply rely on traditional beliefs regarding the biological and social subordinate position of women with which they tend to compensate for their unfavorable status through language means.

Given the traditional dependence of women on men economically and their major role in the household as well, it is believed that women tend to compensate for their position through language: use of standard language register, avoidance of slang, bad words, curses, interruptions, a pronounced use of positive adjectives, emotionally colored speech especially when greeting someone. Despite the fact that women are more active and present in the labor market, politics and public space in recent decades, traditional beliefs and stereotypes are still inevitable and rooted in basically all modern cultures.

The differences between the language and gender of speakers are more complex than we think, and this topic should not be observed only from a linguistic perspective, but from a social perspective as well. According to Dong (2014), when we analyze social life and human differences, we need to take into consideration gender differences as well because much research throughout history has shown that they are fundamental facts in language difference phenomenon. The truth is, language is a dynamic phenomenon and social, cultural, economic, technological and other changes reflect on it. But, on the other hand, deeply rooted stereotypes and beliefs, which result from centuries of traditional lifestyle and social and professional position, cannot rapidly disappear from a language, as many of them make up parts of proverbs, popular sayings, literary and even scholarly works which also make up parts of a culture.

Based on the collected data, none of the stereotypes hold a firm ground. The results of the conducted research are presented in the discussion of this paper but it is necessary to make a final conclusion. As it can be seen in the theoretical part of the paper, women are characterized as a gender that is more likely to produce a greater amount of speech, but this was not the case (as it can be seen in chapter 3.2. The Analysis of the Amount of Speech).

From the presented research, it is evident that by saying that women speak more, we are forming a prejudice towards women, as one can see in the above examples, where the male gender is the one who had a greater amount of speech. Tag questions are not commonly used in everyday conversation and to gain more information on how they are used, it would probably be necessary to conduct research on selected full seasons of TV series. In this case, the female

gender used more tag questions than the male gender. Also, when it comes to the use of interruptions, we can see that they were slightly more used by the male gender. In the last part of the research, the prejudice that women gossip more than men was analyzed, and we came to the realization that this prejudice does not have a firm base in our research. As it can be seen from a theoretical and practical view, men also gossip but psychologically speaking, they do it in order to 'transfer information' while women are characterized as a gender which does it for fun and interaction.

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6. APPENDICES: TABLES AND CHARTS

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7. GENDER-RELATED DIFFERENCES IN LANGUAGE USE: THE CASE OF THE TV SERIES "HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER", "THE BIG BANG THEORY" AND "NEW GIRL": Summary and key words

This master thesis deals with gender-related differences in language use in three popular and modern comedy TV shows: "The Big Bang Theory", "How I Met Your Mother" and "New Girl". After considering previously conducted research that deals with gender differences in language use, both those that favour biologically and sociologically conditioned differences that are reflected in language, and those that show that generalisations regarding gender and language use are not possible, but rather depend on a number of factors, such as social status, age, context, education, mood and so on, the research for the purpose of this thesis was conducted. The main aim was to answer questions related to differences in the amount of speech between characters of both genders, the amount of gossiping, the use of tag questions and the amount of interruptions made. The results enabled us to confirm or dispute whether the widely accepted stereotypes apply to the conversations in the said TV shows. Tag questions are used more by the female gender. Greater amount of speech is traditionally associated with the female gender, but as it can be seen from the research, the male gender has a greater amount of speech. Interruptions and gossiping are traditionally associated more with the female gender, but the results show that both genders were equal regarding this.

Keywords: gender, language use, male language, female language, stereotypes, 'The Big Bang Theory', 'How I Met Your Mother', 'New Girl'

8. RODNE RAZLIKE U UPOTREBI JEZIKA: SLUČAJ TV SERIJA "KAKO SAM UPOZNAO VAŠU MAJKU", "TEORIJA VELIKOG PRASKA" I "NOVA CURA": Sažetak i ključne riječi

Ovaj diplomski rad se bavi rodnim razlikama u uporabi jezika u tri popularne humoristične TV serije: "Teorija velikog praska", "Kako sam upoznao vašu majku" i "Nova cura". Nakon razmatranja prethodno provedenih istraživanja koja se bave rodnim razlikama u uporabi jezika, kako onih koja idu u prilog biološki i sociološki uvjetovanim razlikama koje se odražavaju na jezik, tako i onih koja pokazuju kako generaliziranje po pitanju roda i uporabe jezika nisu moguća, već da razlike ovise o nizu drugih faktora kao što su društveni status, dob, kontekst, obrazovanje, raspoloženje i sl. provedeno je istraživanje. Glavni je cilj bio pružiti odgovor na nekoliko pitanja te prikupljanje rezultata o razlikama u količini govora među likovima oba spola, razlikama u uporabi dopunskih pitanja te koliko su prekidanja i ogovaranje zastupljeni u razgovoru između dva različita spola. Prikupljeni su rezultati omogućili afirmaciju, odnosno negaciju općeprihvaćenih stereotipa o uporabi jezika na primjeru razgovora među likovima u navedenim serijama. Rečenice s dopunskim pitanjem više koriste pripadnice ženskog spola. Veća količina govora tradicionalno se povezuje sa ženskim spolom, ali kao što je vidljivo iz istraživanja, osobe muškog spola su izgovorile više riječi. Prekidanja i ogovaranja stereotipno se povezuju više sa ženskim spolom, ali je istraživanje pokazalo da su oba spola podjednaka po ovim pitanjima.

Ključne riječi: rod, uporaba jezika, muški jezik, ženski jezik, stereotipi, 'Teorija velikog praska', 'Kako sam upoznao vašu majku', 'Nova cura'