

A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF DIALOGUES IN
"FAMILY ALBUM, U.S.A."

HUANG SHI QI

A RESEARCH PAPER SUBMITTED IN FULFILMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF B.A. (HONS)
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

FACULTY OF MUSIC, SOCIAL SCIENCES, AND DESIGN
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
UCSI UNIVERSITY
KUALA LUMPUR

APRIL 2009

ABSTRACT

There are many differences between males and females. Certainly, those differences include their use of spoken language. Many people do not understand these differences very well; thus, many avoidable conflicts happen. This study depends on Deborah Tannen's six contrasts as the basic theory. They are status versus support, independence versus intimacy, advice versus understanding, information versus feelings, orders versus proposals, and conflict versus compromise. Based on these six contrasts, I have chosen some representative dialogues from an American situation comedy *Family Album, U.S.A.* All dialogues are between males and females. They could clearly show the differences between males and females in their spoken discourse. Then, I have explained and analysed these dialogues to prove these six contrasts. The findings of the study show the reasons for differences between males and females, when they use spoken language. Because the background of *Family Album, U.S.A.* is in America, it also shows male and female relationships in the context of the American family life. If we could understand these differences clearly, there are many misunderstanding and conflicts that could be avoided in our daily life.

Library Services
UCSI Education Sdn. Bhd. (185479-U)
No. 1, Jalan Menara Gading, UCSI Heights,
56000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Tel: 603-9101 8880 Fax: 603-9102 3606
Website : www.ucsi.edu.my