AN ANALYSIS OF GENDER IN THE CONVERSATION PATTERNS OF

CHINESE TV HOSTS

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ABSTRACT

This research paper studies the issue of gender differences in the conversation patterns of the Chinese TV hosts. The main objective of this research paper is to differentiate the approaches used by the male and female Chinese TV hosts in mixed-gender conversation patterns and same-gender conversation patterns and to identify which is the advance trend of conversation patterns by Chinese TV hosts. The methodology of this research is based on the transcriptions derived from 4 videos which involves different conversation patterns in speech of 2 Chinese TV hosts and their guests. The research also identifies the gender features in the same-gender conversation patterns and the mixed-gender conversation patterns in the adopted Chinese TV show. The final result of this research displays that the Chinese hosts prefer to help the guests to complete speech during conversation, sometimes they would change the direction of the conversation, but most of the time they respect the guests and they use minimal response to support the guest`s speech. And female host uses the minimal response more than male host in both mixed-gender and same-gender conversation patterns. In the same-gender and mixed-gender conversation patterns, both the female and male Chinese TV hosts prefer to use 'positive face' to build a good relationship with their guests at the beginning of the show and then proceed the conversation. So they hardly show 'negative face' in conversation patterns. The Chinese TV hosts display more emotional expressions in mixed-gender conversation patterns than in same-gender conversation patterns.