



no way denies the existence of male dominance (1993, p. 9). (In Wardhaugh, 2006:328)

The reason why men's and women's speech differ is because boys and girls are brought up differently and men and women often fill different roles in society. Moreover, most men and women know this and behave accordingly. If such is the case, we might expect changes that make a language less sexist to result from child-rearing practices and role differentiations which are less sexist. Men and women alike would benefit from the greater freedom of choice that would result. (Wardhaugh, 2006:333)

Trudgill found that women tended to use the prestige form more than men (women over thirty years of age also tended to use the prestige forms of the other phonetic variables he studied more than men). He also found that women (more than men) tended to over-report their pronunciation, that is, when asked about their pronunciation, said they produced more 'prestigious' sounds than they actually did. (Jane, 2006:7)

In biological factors pitch of the voice, for instance, is produced by vibration of the vocal cords can be set to vibrate. Thick and heavy vocal cords vibrate more slowly than lighter ones. Since men tend to develop a larger larynx than women, their voices tend to be pitched lower. By considering the pitch, it is not difficult to determine which voice belongs to, whether it belongs to men or women.

Psychologically, men and women are biologically different. Women are somehow predisposed to be involved with one another and to be mutually



are less sure about themselves and their opinions than are men. (Wardhaugh, 2006:321)

Women's linguistic behaviour is often characterised as being concerned with co-operation (more positively polite than men) and avoidance of conflict (more negatively polite than men). This characterisation is based on the assumption that women are powerless and display their powerlessness in language; these forms of politeness are markers of their subordination. (Sara, 2003:203)

Robin Lakoff's *Language and Woman's Place (LWP)*, published in 1975, was one of the first publications of its time to address the relationship between language and gender. As a result, *LWP* served as the impetus for both linguists and feminists alike to look more closely at gender variation in language. "Women's language", a term coined by Lakoff, became a commonly used identifier among language and gender researchers. According to Lakoff, women's language describes how women use language and how language is used to talk about women, both which position women as powerless. This position has been adopted by a number of sociolinguistics and feminists. In an effort to support Lakoff's rationale with empirical evidence (Lakoff's argument was based entirely on personal observation), many studies focused on identifying and quantifying the linguistic resources that men and women utilize when they speak. The overall goal of such studies has often been the classification of certain linguistic features as occurring more often in women or in men.















#### **2.1.4 Possible Factors that Shape the Features of Female Language**

The factors that shape the features of female language are not only the influence of physiology and psychology, but also because of the influence of the society and the culture. The difference of social work distribution, cultural factors and social psychological factors are all responsible for the appearance of these characteristics. (Qi Pan, 2011)

##### ***2.1.4.1. Social Factors***

As language is closely related to social attitudes and it reflects language's, creators' and users' thought as well as attitudes and cultural values. And people's attitudes are affected by social ideology and their own value orientation, which will, in turn, have great influence on people's evaluations about objects. Therefore, early linguists' attitudes towards women's language are inevitably influenced by their social ideology and value orientation. Specifically speaking, their evaluation about women's language is based on several social factors: women's social status, women's sex role socialization and dominant gender system.

##### ***2.1.4.2. Culture Factors***

The relationship between language and culture is interactive and language is one expression, one mirror and carrier of culture. Thus, the image of women's language, of course, is closely linked to cultures, like sex discrimination, western women's subculture and Bible, so is the early evaluations about western women's language. On the whole, in the sense of culture, their evaluations are affected by such factors, like gender culture, gender ideology and gender stereotypes.