ABSTRACT

This study was motivated by previous research work done on the difference in language use between males and females particularly in the style of language use. The aim of this study is to investigate the speech style of male learners from Nigeria and China. Although Malaysia is a cosmopolitan country, not many studies have been conducted to examine the speech style difference of Nigerian and Chinese learners studying in Malaysia. To conduct this study, Lakoff’s (1973; 1975) ideas concerning linguistic features in gender differences were taken into account. Particular attention is given to the usage of three linguistic features; fillers, intensifiers and affirmatives. The speaking rate of the learners was also looked at. A questionnaire was used to obtain data from 20 learners: 10 from Nigeria and 10 from China. Their speech on ‘My Family’ was recorded, transcribed and analyzed. Data were then divided into four categories; 1) fillers 2) intensifiers 3) affirmatives and 4) speaking rate. The results showed that Chinese learners use fillers at a higher rate compared to Nigerian learners, suggesting that the Chinese learners may not be as comfortable when using English. Both the Nigerian and Chinese learners used the same amount of intensifiers which shows that they do not feel passionate when talking about this topic. Nigerian learners tended to use the affirmative ‘ya’ in their speech while the Chinese learners tended to use the word ‘okay’. As for the speaking rate, it can be said that majority of the foreign learners tended to have a slower speaking rate compared to native English speakers. Consequently, the speaking rate of the Nigerians fall under the category of slow, whereas for the Chinese, the speaking rate was under the category of very slow. The findings of this research will benefit researchers working on the speech styles of foreign learners and local educators developing courses for international students coming to Malaysia.
ABSTRAK

manfaat kepada penyelidik yang hendak atau sedang menjalankan penyelidikan ke atas gaya ucapan pelajar asing dan juga kepada pendidik tempatan yang ingin membangunkan kursus-kursus untuk pelajar antarabangsa yang bakal datang ke Malaysia.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ORIGINAL LITERARY WORK DECLARATION</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE OF CONTENTS</td>
<td>vii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF FIGURES</td>
<td>xi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF TABLES</td>
<td>xii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</td>
<td>xiii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction 1
1.2 Statement of the Problem 4
1.3 Aim of Study 7
1.4 Research Question 9
1.5 Significance of Study 9
1.6 Limitations of the Study 11
1.7 Definition of Terms 12
    1.7.1 Speech 12
    1.7.2 Speech Style 13
    1.7.3 Speaking Rate 14
    1.7.4 Fillers 15
    1.7.5 Intensifiers 15
    1.7.6 Affirmatives 16
1.8 Summary 16
CHAPTER TWO : REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction 18
2.2 Verbal Communication 18
2.3 Style, Speech and Speech Style 21
2.4 Powerful and Powerless Speech Style 26
2.5 Gender and Speech 27
2.6 Foreign Accented Speech 32
2.7 Spontaneous and Impromptu Speech 32
2.8 Speaking Rate 33
2.9 Stylistic Features 37
   2.9.1 Fillers 38
   2.9.2 Intensifiers 43
   2.9.3 Affirmatives 43
2.10 Background of Nigeria 44
2.11 Background of China 46
2.12 Summary 48

CHAPTER THREE : RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction 49
3.2 Research Design 50
3.3 Theoretical Framework 50
3.4 Background of the Participants 52
3.5 Task and Data Collection 55
   3.5.1 Task 56
   3.5.2 Data Collection 56
   3.5.3 Procedure of Transcription 57
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.5.4 Analysis</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6 Questionnaire</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.7 Data Analysis</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8 Summary</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHAPTER FOUR : DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1 Introduction</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2 Speech Style of Nigerian EFL Learners</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.1 Fillers</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.2 Intensifiers</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.3 Affirmatives</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.4 Rate of Speaking</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3 Speech Style of Chinese EFL Learners</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3.1 Fillers</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3.2 Intensifiers</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3.3 Affirmatives</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3.4 Rate of Speaking</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4 Differences in Speech Style of Nigerian and Chinese EFL Learners</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4.1 Fillers</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4.2 Intensifiers</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4.3 Affirmatives</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4.4 Rate of Speaking</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5 Similarities in Speech Style of Nigerian and Chinese EFL Learners</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6 Summary</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER FIVE : CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction
5.2 Summary of the Main Findings
5.3 Conclusion of Findings
5.4 Recommendations
  5.4.1 Instrument to record speech
  5.4.2 Environment
  5.4.3 Length of Speech
5.5 Summary

REFERENCES

APPENDICES

Appendix A: List of Subjects
  Appendix A1: Proficiency Skills in English Subject Outline
  Appendix A2: Academic English Subject Outline
  Appendix A3: English for Research Foundations Subject Outline
  Appendix A4: English Language Integrated Skills Subject Outline
  Appendix A5: Public Speaking in English Subject Outline
Appendix B: Questionnaires
Appendix C: Consent Forms
Appendix D: Time Slots
Appendix E: Transcribed Recordings
LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 3.1 Procedure of Research 55

Figure 4.1 Percentage of Fillers Used by Nigerian Learners 65

Figure 4.2 Percentage of Intensifiers Used by Nigerian Learners 69

Figure 4.3 Percentage of Affirmatives Used by Nigerian Learners 72

Figure 4.4 Percentage of Fillers Used by Chinese Learners 76

Figure 4.5 Percentage of Intensifiers Used by Chinese Learners 80

Figure 4.6 Percentage of Affirmatives Used by Chinese Learners 82

Figure 4.7 Percentage of Fillers Used by Nigerian & Chinese Learners 88

Figure 4.8 Percentage of Intensifiers Used by Nigerian & Chinese Learners 92

Figure 4.9 Percentage of Affirmatives Used by Nigerian & Chinese Learners 94
LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1 Features and Examples 50
Table 3.2 Demographic Factor of Nigerian and Chinese Learners 54
Table 3.3 Features and Examples Extracted from Data 60
Table 3.4 Words Per Minute and Ratings 62
Table 4.1 Example of Fillers Used by Nigerian Learners 66
Table 4.2 Example of Intensifiers Used by Nigerian Learners 70
Table 4.3 Example of Affirmatives Used by Nigerian Learners 72
Table 4.4 Total Length of Speech by Nigerian Learners 74
Table 4.5 Number of Words Spoken Per Minute by Nigerian Learners 75
Table 4.6 Example of Fillers Used by Chinese Learners 77
Table 4.7 Example of Intensifiers Used by Chinese Learners 81
Table 4.8 Example of Affirmatives Used by Chinese Learners 83
Table 4.9 Total Length of Speech by Chinese Learners 85
Table 4.10 Number of Words Spoken Per Minute by Chinese Learners 86
Table 4.11 Rate of Speech of both Nigerian and Chinese EFL Learners 96
**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EFL</td>
<td>English as a Foreign Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WPM</td>
<td>Words Per Minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L1</td>
<td>Native Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L2</td>
<td>Second Language</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>