

Difference between Afghan Male and Female Gossip

Hazrat Usman Mashwani¹, Hashmatullah Tareen²

¹Assistant Professor, Department of English language, Sayed Jamaluddin Afghani University, Kunar, Afghanistan,

²Assistant Professor, Department of English language, Kandahar University, Kandahar, Afghanistan

Email – ¹usman.kunar@gmail.com ²hashmatt2@gmail.com

Abstract: *Gossip, commonly known as idle talk or rumor about others personal or private affairs is the usual part of our daily communications. Gossip which is also known as dishing or tattling plays a significant role in the discourse of speech communities. This study which aims to investigate the difference between Afghan male and female gossip specifically about others appearance, achievements and social information is conducted at the University Technology MARA (UiTM), Malaysia. Totally 10 students; 5 male and 5 female postgraduate students participated in the study. Data was collected through a questionnaire and was analyzed and presented manually in tables using frequencies and percentages. The findings of the study revealed that female usually talk about others clothes and personal appearance compared to males. In part of the achievement, it is a male who talks most of the time about others' achievements compared to female. Similarly, in the part of social information; male talked more about others' failure, problems at work, colleagues and others' love affairs compared to female. Whereas, female talked more about friends, family members, and compatibility of couples and others who is dating compared to male.*

Key terms: *Gossip, appearance, achievements, social information, Afghan students, UiTM.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

Sociolinguistics is generally concerned with examining the connection between language and the society in order to have a proper comprehension of a language and also, it examines how the languages function during the communication. Similarly, the purpose of the sociology of a language is to figure out how social structures can be well understood through the language study. In the same way, language and gender are two important research topics which sociolinguistics consist along with other various important research topics. In order to be familiar with, whether or not the sociology of a language and sociolinguistics are to be successful, they both need to be studied systematically (Wardhaugh, 2006).

Every language consists holistic differences between the male and female language. These differences are phonological, politeness in the language use and the whole communicative style. Basically, as we can see that both men and women are physically different from each other, the same differences can be noticed in their speech and in their communication as well. Gossip is one of these differences between male and female speech style and the first person who recognized the gossip was Gluckman (1963) to be a real political tool. According to him, the social context was traditionally focused by the political anthropologists in which the political authority in its different appearances is showed, put into action and contested. Gluckman (1963), claimed that in the world, most of the political actions occur behind the curtain in a very informal, local and private setting and gossip is a model of such informal form of political actions which centers the attention from the actions of unimportant members of the society to the actions of the most important members. He added that gossip appears to be a great tool which influences the social and moral order.

Cowan (2011), in his study, has described gossip that it can be taken into account as two connected phenomena that have gone over time in many societies: the transmission of information via conversation and the real information that is communicated. According to the definition by Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2010), gossip is a conversation or report about other people's private lives which might be harsh, negative or not true. Traditionally, previous researchers have defined the term gossip as the evil tongue, chitchat, or idle chatter (Kurland & Pelled, 2000).

The term gossip refers to both male and female conversation and it is not considering any specific gender anymore. Culturally, the subjects of the gossip and the effects as they are selected and the way which they converse, all refer to the comprehension of a common set of cultural values as that can be considered as a basis within which people judge each other (Cowan, 2011). Furthermore, Baumeister & Zhang (2004) stated in their research paper that gossip is basically a means of acquiring information regarding other individuals in order to strengthen their social connections and also involving in unintended or unplanned violence. According to them, the purpose of the gossip is to assist people so that they can learn about other people and also learn how to live in their cultural society.

Nearly, all of us sometimes whether it is male or female generate, hear or take part in a conversation about someone else as the third party who is not available. Sometimes, it is inevitable to be part of such conversation which is sometimes valuable and sometimes not valuable (Foster, 2004). He added that probably everyone understands it

naturally because gossip is a significant social behavior and activity that almost every individual is involved and contributes to it. There are different views regarding the gossips, but generally, gossip is perceived as negative and has its roots in hateful desire to hurt other people by destructing their status and personality.

2. BACKGROUND:

Sociolinguistics research on the variances between men's and women's gossip has been remarkably pursued as a hot topic for a long time and many features of gossip showing sex-related variation have been recognized. In a study carried out by Haas (1979) exemplified in his research paper that a husband noted women usually talk about useless and trivial stuff. For example, Mrs X pulled out her tooth. Surprisingly, Emler (1994, cited in Foster, 2004) stated that majority of the women were part of more than half a million people who were burned so that they could not run their tongues. Petit & Marry (2005) provided an example from his research paper that men usually don't talk about their personal life the way women do. During his data collection, only one of the male speakers talked about his girlfriend only once. He added that it seemed men quite seldom talk about their family members, nonetheless, men often talk about their friends, colleagues, and associates and so on whether it is in a positive manner or negative manner. He also mentioned that normally, they don't seem to utilize the same language with their male friends compared to their women friends.

Surprisingly, there has not been any research carried out under the title of "The Differences between Afghan Men and Women Gossip" in the context of Afghanistan. Therefore, the need for research in this particular area was sensed. Afghanistan is made up of various tribes and in fact is an amalgamation of various cultures, traditions, and customs. The findings of this case study will offer some essential information about the variances in the sociolinguistic features of the gossip of men and women in a local setting. This is valuable and helpful particularly for Afghan researchers in Afghanistan as they will have a basis for doing further research related to sociolinguistics especially gossip in the local setting.

As many writers have suggested that the variances in both men and women speech in particular gossip are worldwide, the purpose of this case study is to identify the differences between the Afghan men and women gossip. Specifically, this study is an attempt to identify what men and women normally gossip about. What are their gossip topics when they gossip? The comprehensive role of gender in gossip is the most popular instance. Previously, there was a mentality that women gossip about worthless, trivial and hurtful issues, whereas the subject of the men's speech was arguments, debates, exchange ideas or doing business (Emler, 1994).

Research Objectives:

- To investigate the difference between Afghan men and women gossip in relation to talking about others appearance.
- To investigate the difference between Afghan men and women gossip in relation to talking about others achievements.
- To investigate the difference between Afghan men and women gossip in relation to talking about others social information.

Research Questions:

- What are the differences between Afghan men and women gossip in relation to talking about others appearance?
- What are the differences between Afghan men and women gossip in relation to talking about others achievements?
- What are the differences between Afghan men and women gossip in relation to talking about others social information?

3. LITERATURE REVIEW:

Nearly, all of us both men and women gossip on different topics related to other people. As far as the topic and the content of the gossip is concerned, Levin & Arluke (1985) found the differences and similarities between the men and women gossip. Long ago, there was a belief among the people that the content of the women gossip was known as insignificant issues regarding other people, whereas men's gossip was more concerned about other people's money and business (Emler, 1994). Many relevant research (Watson, 2012; Nevo, Nevo & Zehavi, 1993; Levin & Arluke, 1985; Massar, Buunk & Rempt, 2012; Owen, Shute & Slee, 2000; Waddington, 1985; Chesler, 2001; Tannen, 1991; Chua & Uy, 2014; Crnkovic & Anokhina, 2015) have been carried out in regards to the differences and similarities between men and women gossip and the content or the topic of their gossip. Specifically, Nevo, Nevo & Zehavi (1993) promoted the factors regarding gossipy topics. They categorized these factors in relation to male and female gossips such as appearance, achievement, and social information.

The first feature of the gossip when usually men and women converse is about the appearance of other people. Watson (2012), claimed in his carried out study that physical appearance was dominant topic found in women's gossip. He also added that this type of gossip can be a more competitive threat to their relationship. Similarly, (Nevo,

Nevo & Zehavi, 1993) ranked women higher than men in relation to the gossip of other people's physical appearance. Likewise, the differences in gossip were found in a study conducted in Belgium by De Backer, Nelissen, and Fisher. (2007). in same-gender competitors. He stated that women's gossips were signalling the physical attractiveness of other women. Additionally, he argued that women are very vulnerable regarding the reputation gossip.

Furthermore, Yu (2010), stated in her paper regarding the gossip. She claimed that when women gossip, their focus is more on personal experiences, relations, problems, feelings and other people. She also identified the women's gossip about other people's personal appearance as the leading topic. When it comes to the appearance, Levin and Arluck (1985) stated in their carried out paper that there were various judging references made in both men's and women's gossip which involves personal habits, manners, look or appearance and role of performance either positive or negative.

Regarding the references, Levin and Arluck (1985) said that the students both male and female criticized about the uncivilized feelings towards personal habits, for example, nose-picking. They added that the teachers usually fail to make comments regarding the showy manner of a Jewish-American princess and the discourtesy on a commuter train and as well as regarding an ugly girl who walks uncomfortably. However, regarding the positive side, the students admired a soccer player who looked very well and played very well. Also, the students complimented a classmate's nice appearance and talked about the qualities of a person who looks really nice.

Accordingly, Massar, Buunk, and Rempt (2012) mentioned that the individuals would be particularly concerned about the activities of the same-sex and the subject of their gossip is placed on harming other women's sexual reputation and their physical appearance. They added that these features refer to the female friend value. Similarly, when it comes to the content of the gossip, the research (Owen, Shute & Slee, 2000) revealed that compared to men, women were ranked high for making harsh comments regarding other women's appearance and their sexual reputation as their gossip topics.

The second set of features of gossip is regarding the achievements of other people. The results of a carried out study by (Nevo, Nevo & Zehavi, 1993) supported the claim that men do gossip more than women in a context where their gossip is concerned about other people's sports achievements. In the same manner, Watson (2012) identified the differences between men's and women's gossip topics and revealed that gossip related to the achievement was associated with men friendship quality. He added that men usually gossiped about others educational grades, salaries and etc. In addition, De Backer, Nelissen, and Fisher. carried out a study in order to find the differences between men and women gossipy topics. He found that men were more concerned about other men's wealth. Regarding the achievement, Menzer (2012) also carried out a study which figured out that both male and female children gossiped about their peers. He added that their gossip was based on conflicts and the implication was negative. He elaborated that this conflict clearly denotes that their peers were high achievers.

There are different literature (Molloy, Waddington, 1985; Chesler, 2001; Tannen, 1990) which supports the claim that the differences do exist between men and women gossip especially that girls gossip more compared to boys. They identified the difference that girls are said to be gossiping more about friends, while boys are said to be gossiping about unfamiliar people's accomplishments. Moreover, learning about either other's hardship or knowing about other's achievements help people to make a name in order to be shown in the social system (Chua & Uy, 2014). In addition, Chua and Uy mentioned that a man usually struggles for success and compares himself with other's success, therefore, he can make an attempt through the gossip to achieve the same success as that of others.

The third factor the research (Nevo, Nevo & Zehavi, 1993) identified is social information. According to them, since gossip is a social activity, it needs two or more other people to discuss other individuals. Obviously, the gossip of men and women consist similarities and differences (Levin and Arluck, 1985). Additionally, Emler (1994) did an outstanding study experiencing a sample of conversational topics of gossip such as social events, behaviors and third person's character. For example, Women were found to talk more about the people who they have closest social relationships, while men were likely to talk more about people who are distant (Watson, 2012).

Regarding the differences, Yu (2010) found her study that the focus of the women's gossip is more on personal experiences, other people's relations, problems, and feelings. Similarly, in a study carried out by Haas (1979) exemplified in his research paper that a husband noted women usually talk about useless and trivial stuff. For example, Mrs X pulled out her tooth.

A study conducted by Crnkovic & Anokhina (2015), identified the various favorite themes of gossip associated with both men and women such as betrayal, aggression, violence, sex, social status and standing, births and deaths, political and religious issues physical and psychological health, and many other human relationships. They also specified the leading gossipy topics as human relationships and social standing. Additionally, the variances that were found as with women can be related to the friendship and women were inclined to gossip about people they were socially closest to each other, whereas the gossip of the men is most probably related to the friendship as a social information (Watson, 2012).

Similarly, regarding the choice of the topic, Yu (2010) revealed the topics of male and female gossip. According to him, men are interested in talking about sex, love affairs in only men gathering. He added, however, men

do not prefer to gossip about the same topics when they are mixed with women. Contrary to men, women gossip about other’s relationships when it is only women gathering, but they prefer gossiping some impersonal issues with the mixed group. Likewise, Petit (1976) discovered in his study that men usually prefer to talk about their friends, colleagues, and associates in either positive or negative manner, but they don’t prefer to talk about their personal life as compared to the way women do.

4. METHOD:

Participants:

The participants of this study are 5 male and 5 female Afghan students. So totally 10 students participate in this study. They are postgraduate students at the University Technology MARA(UiTM).

Research Design and Instrument:

This is a quantitative study which collects data through a questionnaire. "The questionnaire is a well-established tool within social science research for acquiring information on participant social characteristics, present and past behavior, standards of behavior or attitudes and their beliefs and reasons for action with respect to the topic under investigation" (Bulmer, 2004 cited in Bird, 2009, p.1307).The questionnaire is adopted and adapted from (Nevo et al.1993, 1994). It is composed of three parts. Part one collects information about male and female gossip about the appearance of others. Part two collects information about male and female gossip in part of the others achievements and the third part of the questionnaire collects information about male and female gossip in part of the others social information. The data is analyzed and presented manually in tables using frequencies and percentages.

5. RESULTS:

This part presents the results obtained from the participants’ responses about their gossip in part of appearance, achievements and social information.

Appearance:

The following responses are about the male and female gossip in part of the appearance of others. The respondents were required to provide the information about how often they talk about others appearance while talking with friends.

Table 1
Gossip on the part of physical appearance

| No | Items | | | Alternatives | | | | | Total |
|----|--|--------|------|--------------|--------|-----------|---------|--------|-------|
| | | | | Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Usually | Always | |
| 1 | I talk with friends about other people's clothes | Male | Fre. | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| | | Female | Fre. | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 0 | 20 | 80 | 0 | 100 |
| 2 | I talk with friends about other people's personal appearance | Male | Fre. | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| | | Female | Fre. | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| 3 | I talk with friends about other people's personal appearance after social events | Male | Fre. | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 40 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| | | Female | Fre. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 100 |
| 4 | I talk with friends about other people's workplace costume | Male | Fre. | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 40 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| | | Female | Fre. | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 20 | 60 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 100 |

According to the participants’ responses to the question "I talk with friends about other people's clothes", 5(100%) male participants responded rarely while 4 (80%) and 1 (20%) of female participants replied usually and sometimes respectively. In part of the question “I talk with friends about other people's personal appearance”, 5(100%) of male participants replied rarely while 5 (100%) female participants replied sometimes. In part of question No. 3, "I talk with friends about other people's personal appearance after social events" 2 (40%) and 3(60%) males participants replied rarely and sometimes respectively while 5 (100%) female participants replied usually. Similarly, in part of question No. 4, "I talk with friends about other people's workplace costume" 2 (40%) and 3(60%) of male participants replied never and rarely respectively while 1 (20%), 3 (60%) and 1 (20%) of female participants replied never, rarely and sometimes respectively.

Achievement:

The following responses are about the male and female gossip about others' achievements. The respondents were required to provide the information about how often they talk about others' achievements while talking with friends.

Table 2
Gossip on the part of achievement

| No | Items | | Alternatives | | | | | Total | |
|----|--|--------|--------------|--------|-----------|---------|--------|-------|-----|
| | | | Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Usually | Always | | |
| 1 | I gossip about people who left the country | Male | Fre. | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 40 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| | | Female | Fre. | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 40 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| 2 | I talk with friends about other people's grades and achievements | Male | Fre. | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 0 | 40 | 60 | 0 | 100 |
| | | Female | Fre. | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 0 | 40 | 60 | 0 | 100 |
| 3 | I talk with friends about educational level of celebrities | Male | Fre. | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 60 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| | | Female | Fre. | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| 4 | I talk with friends about other people's salaries | Male | Fre. | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 0 | 20 | 60 | 0 | 100 |
| | | Female | Fre. | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| 5 | I talk with friends about other people's success at work | Male | Fre. | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 0 | 40 | 60 | 0 | 100 |
| | | Female | Fre. | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 |

According to the participants' responses to the question "I gossip about people who left the country", 2(40%), 3(60%) male participants responded rarely and sometimes respectively while 2 (40%) and 3 (60%) of female participants replied never and rarely respectively. In part of the question "I talk with friends about other people's grades and achievements, "2 (40%) and 3 (60%) of male participants replied sometimes and usually while 2 (40%) and 3 (60%) female participants also replied sometimes and usually respectively. In part of question No. 3, "I talk with friends about the educational level of celebrities" 3 (60%) and 2(40%) of male participants replied rarely and sometimes respectively while 5 (100%) female participants replied rarely. Similarly, in part of question No. 4, "I talk with friends about other people's salaries" 2 (40%) and 3(60%) of male participants replied sometimes and usually respectively while 5 (100%) of female participants replied rarely. In part of the question "I talk with friends about other people's success at work", 2(40%) and 3 (60%) of male participant replied sometimes and usually respectively while 5(100%) of female participants replied rarely.

Social Information:

The following responses are about the male and female gossip in part of social information. The respondents were required to provide the information about how often they talk about others' social information while talking with friends.

Table 3
Gossip on the part of social information

| No | Items | | Alternatives | | | | | Total | |
|----|---|--------|--------------|--------|-----------|---------|--------|-------|-----|
| | | | Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Usually | Always | | |
| 1 | I talk with friends about other people's failure | Male | Fre. | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 60 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| | | Female | Fre. | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| 2 | I talk with friends about other people's problems at work | Male | Fre. | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 0 | 40 | 60 | 0 | 100 |
| | | Female | Fre. | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 40 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| 3 | I talk with my friends about our | Male | Fre. | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 0 | 60 | 40 | 0 | 100 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--------|------|----|----|-----|----|---|-----|
| | other friends | Female | Fre. | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 0 | 40 | 60 | 0 | 100 |
| 4 | I talk with others about my family member | Male | Fre. | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 60 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| | | Female | Fre. | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 20 | 60 | 20 | 0 | 100 |
| 5 | I talk with my friends about my colleagues | Male | Fre. | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 20 | 20 | 60 | 0 | 100 |
| | | Female | Fre. | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 40 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| 6 | I analyze with friends the compatibility of couples | Male | Fre. | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 40 | 40 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| | | Female | Fre. | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| 7 | I talk with friends about others who are dating | Male | Fre. | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 80 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| | | Female | Fre. | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 60 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| 8 | I talk with friends about other people's love affairs | Male | Fre. | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 0 | 60 | 40 | 0 | 100 |
| | | Female | Fre. | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 40 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| 9 | I talk with friends about other people's wealth. | Male | Fre. | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 0 | 40 | 60 | 0 | 100 |
| | | Female | Fre. | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | % | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 100 |

According to the participants' responses to the question "I talk with friends about other people's failure", 3(60%), 2(40%) of male participants responded rarely and sometimes respectively while 5 (100%) of female participants replied rarely. In part of the question "I talk with friends about other people's problems at work ", 2 (40%) and 3 (60%) of male participants replied sometimes and usually while 2 (40%) and 3 (60%) female participants replied never and rarely respectively. In part of question No. 3, "I talk with my friends about our other friends" 3 (60%) and 2 (40%) of the male respondents responded sometimes and usually respectively while 2 (40%) and 3 (60%) of the female respondents responded sometimes and usually respectively. In part of question 4 "I talk with others about my family members" 3 (60%) and 2 (40%) of the male respondents responded rarely and sometimes respectively whereas, 1 (20%), 3 (60%) and 1 (20%) of the female respondents responded rarely, sometimes and usually respectively.

In part of question 5, "I talk with my friends about my colleagues" 1 (20%), 1(20%) and 3 (60%) of the male respondents responded rarely, sometimes and usually respectively whereas 2 (40%) and 3 (60%) of the female respondents responded rarely and sometimes respectively. In part of question no.6 "I analyze with friends the compatibility of couples" 2 (40%), 2 (40%) and 1(20%) of males participants replied never, rarely and sometimes respectively while 5 (100%) female participants replied sometimes. Similarly, in part of question No. 7, "I talk with friends about others who are dating" 4 (80%) and 1(20%) of male participants replied rarely and sometimes respectively while 3 (60%) and 2 (40%) of female participants replied never and rarely respectively. In part of the question "I talk with friends about other people's love affairs", 3(60%) and 2 (40%) of male participants replied sometimes and usually respectively while 2(40%) and 3(60%) of female participants replied never and rarely respectively. In part of question no. 9 "I talk with friends about other people's wealth" 2 (40%) and 3 (60%) of the male participants responded sometimes and usually respectively and in the same way 2 (40%) and 3 (60%) of the female participants responded sometimes and usually respectively.

6. DISCUSSION:

The findings of the appearance part show that Afghan men rarely talk about others' clothes while talking to their friends, whereas, talking about others' clothes is the usual part of Afghan women gossip. Similarly, males rarely talk about others personal appearance while talking with their friends, whereas, females sometimes talk about others personal appearance when they talk to their friends. In the same way, females usually talk about others personal appearance after social events as compare to males who rarely talk about others personal appearance after social events. It is in line with the study carried by Watson (2012) that female usually talk more about others appearance as

compare to male. However, this study found that both male and female rarely talk about others' workplace costume, when talking to their friends.

On the part of others achievements, the findings show that males mostly talk about others who have left the country as compared to females. On the other hand, both Afghan male and female sometimes talk about others' grades and achievements when talking to their friends. In the part of talking about celebrities' educational level, it is usually males who talk about celebrities' educational level compared to females who rarely talk about celebrities' educational level. Similarly, Afghan males usually talk about others' salaries as compared to females who rarely include talking about others' salaries in their gossip. A study carried by Zarbatany et al (2004), also revealed that in part of others grades and salaries, Afghan males usually tend to talk more compared to females. Likewise, talking about others success at work is the usual part of males' gossip whereas, female very rarely talk about others' success at work.

The findings on the part of others social information show that Afghan men sometimes talk about others' failure while talking with their friends. Whereas, Afghan females rarely talk about others' failure when they are talking to their friends. Likewise, males usually talk about others' problems at work as compared to females who rarely talk about others' problems at work. Males sometimes talk about their friends, whereas, talking about friends is the usual part of female gossip. In the same manner, Afghan females talk more about their family members compared to males. Talking about colleagues is the usual part of male gossip as compared to females who sometimes talk about their colleagues.

On the other hand, Afghan men rarely talk about the compatibility of couples as compared to females who usually talk about the compatibility of couples when they are talking to their friends. Similarly, males sometimes talk about others who are dating compared to females who rarely talk about others who are dating. In the same way, the majority of Afghan male usually talk about other people's love affairs whereas, female very rarely talk about others' love affairs. It is both Afghan male and female who usually talk about others' wealth while gossiping with their friends. This result is somehow in accordance with the study carried out by Watson (2012), who found that in part of the overall social information, females talk more compared to female.

7. CONCLUSION:

Since there are gossips in every community and where men and women both gossip regarding various topics, this study aimed to investigate the difference between Afghan male and female gossip. The study focused on the difference between Afghan men and women gossip in relation to talking about others appearance, talking about others achievements and talking about others social information. The findings revealed that Afghan men rarely talk about others' personal appearance as compared to the women who usually talk about others' personal appearance. On the other hand, Afghan men usually talk more about others' success and achievement as compared to female who rarely talk about others' success and achievements. In part of talking about others' social information, it was found that in some aspects of social information it is men who talk more, whereas in other aspects, it is females who surpass males.

This is a mini research (case study) which aims to find the differences between Afghan men and women gossip in just three aspects i.e. appearance, achievements and social information. It is a very broad field and the researchers have only touched a small segment of it, so it is recommended to everyone who is interested in this field to explore and they can explore countless other aspects of gossip.

REFERENCES:

1. Baumeister, R. F., Zhang, L., & Vohs, K. D. (2004). Gossip as cultural learning. *Review of general psychology*, 8(2), 111.
2. Bird, D. K. (2009). The use of questionnaires for acquiring information on public perception of natural hazards and risk mitigation-a review of current knowledge and practice. *Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences*, 9(4), 1307.
3. Bulmer, M. (2004). Questionnaires, Sage benchmarks in social science research methods.
4. Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2010).
5. Chua, S. V., June, K., & Cerna, D. (2014). The Psychological Anatomy of Gossip, 14(2004), 64–69.
6. Cowan, A. (2011). TOUCHING HER REPUTATION: MARRIAGE, GOSSIP AND SOCIAL NETWORKS IN EARLY MODERN VENICE. *ACTA HISTRIAE*, 19(4), 611-624.
7. Crnkovic, D., & Anokhina, M., (2015) Workplace Gossip and Rumor: The Information Ethics Perspective.
8. De Backer, C. J., Nelissen, M., & Fisher, M. L. (2007). Let's talk about sex: A study on the recall of gossip about potential mates and sexual rivals. *Sex roles*, 56(11-12), 781-791.
9. Levinson, D., & Ember, M. (Eds.). (1996). *Encyclopedia of cultural anthropology* (Vol. 4). New York: Holt.
10. Emler, N. (1994). Gossip, reputation, and social adaptation.
11. Foster, E. K. (2004). Research on Gossip : Taxonomy, Methods, and Future Directions, 8(2), 78–99.
12. Gluckman, M. (1963). Papers in honor of Melville J. Herskovits: Gossip and scandal. *Current anthropology*, 4(3), 307-316.

13. Haas, A. (1979). Male and female spoken language differences: Stereotypes and evidence. *Psychological Bulletin*, 86(3), 616.
14. Kurland, N. B., & Pelled, L. H. (2000). Passing the word: Toward a model of gossip and power in the workplace. *Academy of management review*, 25(2), 428-438.
15. Levin, J., & Arluke, A. (1985). An exploratory analysis of sex differences in gossip. *Sex roles*, 12(3), 281-286.
16. Massar, K., Buunk, A. P., & Rempt, S. (2012). Age differences in women's tendency to gossip are mediated by their mate value. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 52(1), 106-109.
17. McAndrew, F. T. (2017). How "the gossip" became a woman and how "gossip" became her weapon of choice. *The Oxford handbook of women and competition*, 191.
18. Menzer, M. M. (2012). Group Norms and Intimacy Among Best Friends: A Normative Cross-Sectional Developmental Study (Doctoral dissertation).
19. Molloy, A. G., & Waddington, J. L. (1985). The enantiomers of SK&F 83566, a new selective D-1 dopamine antagonist, stereospecifically block stereotyped behaviour induced by apomorphine and by the selective D-2 agonist RU 24213. *European journal of pharmacology*, 116(1-2), 183-186.
20. Nevo, O. Nevo, B. & Derech-Zehavi, A. (1993). The development of the tendency to gossip questionnaire; Construct and concurrent validation for a sample of Israeli college students. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, 53, 973-981.
21. Owens, L., Shute, R., & Slee, P. (2000). 'I'm in and you're out...'. *Psychology, Evolution & Gender*, 2(1), 19-46.
22. Petit, E. (1976). Topics of Conversation and Gender in French single-sex friendship groups. *Aries*, 13.
23. Petit, E., & Mary, Q. (2005). Topics of Conversation and Gender in French Single-Sex Friendship Groups, (October).
24. Tannen, D. (1991). *You just don't understand: Women and men in conversation* (pp. 1990-1990). London: Virago.
25. Wardhaugh, R. (2006). An Introduction to sociolinguistic 5 th Edition. *Australia: Blackwell publishing*.
26. Watson, D. C. (2012). Gender differences in gossip and friendship. *Sex Roles*, 67(9-10), 494-502.
27. Yu, H. (2010). Gossip in Face-to-Face Conversations: A Study of Gender Differences in Gossip in the American Movie Couples Retreat (2009).
28. Zarbatany, L., Conley, R., & Pepper, S. (2004). Personality and gender differences in friendship needs and experiences in pre adolescence and young adulthood. *International Journal of Behavioral Development*, 28, 299-310.

ABOUT AUTHORS:

Hazrat Usman Mashwani, M.Ed (TESL), Asst. Professor at the Department of English Language, Education Faculty, Sayed Jamaluddin Afghani University, Kunar, Afghanistan. Email: usman.kunar@gmail.com

Hashmatullah Tareen, M.Ed (TESL), Asst. Professor at the Department of English Language, Education Faculty, Kandahar University, Kandahar, Afghanistan. Email. hashmatt2@gmail.com