

**The Effect of Gender on the English language as**

**Used by Politicians**

**A Sociolinguistic Study**

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**Abstract**

The present paper sheds light upon a study which concentrates on the study of English as used by politicians with reference to gender. It conveys the idea of how politicians, whether female or male speakers, employ metadiscourse markers, as a language strategy, to function in the process of affecting the addressed audience. Moreover, it establishes the importance of gender, as a social variable, in this respect, and whether it is an effective factor or not. This study aims at the following: investigating the different types of metadiscourse markers employed by politicians in the political discourse; pinpointing which dimension is utilized more; finding out the differences between the female and male political speakers in their employment of such markers; figuring out the more and less frequent types employed by the female political speaker;

identifying those types which are more and less frequent in the male's political speeches; showing the similarities between the female and male political speakers in their utilizations of such markers; and revealing the pragmatic functions of those markers in the political discourse.

Certain hypotheses are set as follows: the interactional dimension of metadiscourse markers is used more by politicians, whether female or male speakers; the female political speaker utilizes more metadiscourse markers than the male political speaker's employment in the political speeches; the male political speaker tends to represent himself explicitly in his speeches, more than the female political speaker; the male political speaker shows a high level of confidence and certainty in highlighting the arguments in his discourse more than the female political speaker; both female and male political speakers reflect their personalities and personal views in their speeches; and the female political speaker is more systematic in her exposition of the text contents, direct in declaring her views and attitudes, and engages her audience into her discourse, more than the male political speaker.

For the purpose of testing the stated hypotheses and achieving the aims of the study, certain procedures have been followed by the researcher. It is in such a way that the current study is quantitatively conducted in a numerical form. The data under analysis consist of political speeches of two popular figures in Britain (Theresa May, the former prime minister of the UK and Boris Johnson, the current one). The speeches deal with various topics, especially the Brexit. They involve fourteen thousand and four hundred words, collected from the internet websites during 2020. They have been mathematically analysed by finding out the frequency and rates of the metadiscourse markers. The last point to be mentioned here is that all the hypotheses are verified and validated upon the basis of the obtained results. It is concluded that politicians, whether female or male speakers, rely heavily on the interactional dimension of metadiscourse markers, rather than the interactive one. The obtained results show that Theresa May employs more metadiscourse markers than those of Boris Johnson. Boris Johnson utilizes a high level of self-mention. Both Theresa and Boris explicitly intervene into the discourse by means of evaluation and commentary on a given material. Transition, attitude, and engagement markers are employed more by

Theresa May. Gender, as a social variable, is considered as an important and effective factor in the political discourse.

**Keywords:** language of politicians, Sociolinguistics, Gender and Political Discourse

## Introduction

Language is an effective means by which people can communicate, transmit, and produce a valuable message. It takes different forms, such as spoken, written, or even sign and body language. Through language, people can not only transmit information, but also convey hidden messages. This is indicated by using certain strategies, which help the receiver/ reader to decode what is said/ written. One of those strategies is the metadiscourse markers, which involve two dimensions: the interactional dimension, and the interactive one. Metadiscourse, as Hyland (2005: 1) has stated, is a wide-spread term in the area of discourse analysis and language education. It represents two important axes, the first one involves "the interaction between text producers and their texts", and the second one comprises "the interaction between text producers and users". In political discourse, the politicians tend to

use such markers, but the gap is associated with the problem of whether the female politicians or the male ones employ those markers more. It is also concerned with which dimension of metadiscourse markers they tend to utilize more. In an attempt to fill in such a gap, the current study is conducted for the hope of answering the following questions:

1. What are the types of metadiscourse markers that are used in political discourse?
2. Which dimension of metadiscourse markers do the politicians utilize more in their political speeches?
3. In what way does the male political speaker differ from the female one concerning the utilization of the metadiscourse markers?
4. Which types of metadiscourse markers are more frequent in the speeches of the female political speaker, and which ones are less frequent?
5. Which types of metadiscourse markers are more frequent in the speeches of the male political speaker, and which ones are less frequent ?
6. Are there any similarities between the male political speaker and the female one in their employment of the metadiscourse markers ?

For the purpose of finding out answers to the above mentioned questions, the current study aims at:

1. Investigating the different types of metadiscourse markers that are used by politicians in the political discourse.
2. Pinpointing which dimension of the metadiscourse markers that is utilized more by the politicians in the political speeches.
3. Finding out the differences between the male and female political speakers in relation to their utilization of the metadiscourse markers.
4. Figuring out the more and less frequent types of the metadiscourse markers that are used in the speeches of the female political speaker.
5. Identifying the types of the metadiscourse markers that are more and less employed by the male political speaker in his speeches.
6. Showing the areas of similarities between the male and female political speakers in their utilization of the metadiscourse markers.
7. Showing the pragmatic functions of those metadiscourse markers.

To achieve the aims of the study, the researcher puts the following hypotheses:

1. The interactional dimension of metadiscourse markers is used by politicians, whether female or male speakers, more than the interactive one.
2. The female political speaker utilizes more metadiscourse markers than the male political speaker in the political speeches.
3. The male political speaker tends to represent himself explicitly in his speeches, more than the female one.
4. The male political speaker shows a high level of confidence and certainty in highlighting the arguments in his discourse more than the female one.
5. Both female and male political speakers reflect their personalities and personal views in their speeches.
6. The female political speaker is more systematic in her exposition of the text contents, direct in declaring her views and attitudes, and engages her audience into her discourse, more than the male one.

The current study is delimited to the following:

1. Investigating the politicians' employment of metadiscourse markers in the political speeches.

2. Tackling the effect of gender as a social variable on the utilization of metadiscourse markers in the political discourse.

3. Analysing the political speeches of two popular figures in Britain about the Brexit, those are Theresa May, the previous Prime Minister, and Boris Johnson , the current one. The data consist of fourteen thousand and four hundred words, which are collected from Internet websites during 2020.

To achieve the aims of the study, verify or refute its hypotheses, the researcher adopts the following steps of procedure:

1. Reviewing the literature which is associated with the conducted study.

2. Choosing a model of analysis which is previously explained in a clear and an adequate way so as to help in analysing the collected data.

3. Collecting, describing, and analysing the data on the basis of the chosen model. Using representative data which go with the conducted study so as to reach conclusions that justify and test the suggested hypotheses.



4. Using a mathematical analysis so as to calculate the frequency and the percentage rates of the obtained results.

5. Listing the conclusions that the researcher has arrived at, recommending certain points to be applied, and suggesting topics for further studies.

As regards the significance of the study, it is hoped that the current study is to be valuable for Applied linguists, sociolinguists, politicians, discourse analysts, and those who are interested in the contrastive rhetoric.

## Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics has been defined by many scholars through focusing on the relation between language and society. Hudson (1980: 1) defines sociolinguistics as "the study of language in relation to society". According to Wardhaugh (2010: 118), sociolinguistics means the study of language use within or among groups of speakers who share some *social, religious, political, cultural, familial* factors and so on. Such a definition highlights the importance of a speech community which in turns can be defined as a group of people who have certain properties in common. Lyons (1970: 326) suggests a definition for the term "speech community" by indicating that those people use and share the same

language or dialect. Labov (1972: 120–21), in his turn, states that those people, within the same speech community, can be identified not only by sharing the same language but also by participating in a group of shared norms. Such norms can be noticed in overt kinds of evaluative behavior and the consistency of absolute samples of variation which are constant in terms of certain standards of usage.

## Language and Gender

According to Cameron (2006: 724), gender can be defined as the cultural features and behaviors which are adopted by a given society to be suitable and accepted by people, whether men or women, within such a society. Albirini (2016: 188–89), in his turn, points out that gender is a social concept which can be initiated through a variety of *discourses, practices, and relations*. Gender also indicates some social expectations, roles, and behaviors which are performed according to someone's sex, and they should be accepted by the society. It can be said that three aspects are related to the idea of gender as a social variable. The first one concentrates on gender as a *grammatical category*, which explores the social senses of *grammatical gender markings*. The second one is concerned with *language practices* by women and men which highlight the

diversity in "conversation styles, communicative practices, speech acts, discursive politeness, gender positioning, speech performances and ideological articulations". The last one is related to the differences between the linguistic properties of women's and men's speech in which language is considered as a *symbolic system*. In other words, language is deemed to change and to be varied from one situation to another according to the gender of the speaker (ibid).

Coulmas (2005: 36) states that men differ from women in the way they speak. This is reflected in the word selection. It is in such a way that women in the middle class tend to use more standard form of words to be near the prestige *norm*. That is for the purpose of developing their social status (ibid: 41). McConnell-Ginet and Eckert (2003: 14) reinforce such an idea by indicating that gender is a social structure. It is used by the society as a means for establishing the differences between men and women which are important in shaping the gender order. The way people interact with each other differs in respect to gender. Parents, for example, speak to their children differently. It means that the way they talk to their girls is different from that

to the boys. Talking to girls is characterized by the use of diminutive, more use of *inner state* words; while that of boys is full of direct and emphatic prohibitive words (ibid: 17).

## Discourse Analysis

Generally speaking, Bloor and Bloor (2007: 6–7) argue that discourse can be described as a term involving all types of "symbolic interaction and communication " among participants by means of language, either spoken or written, or even visually represented communication. In its restricted sense, it reflects the spoken interaction by means of "speech, talk, and conversation ", to be discrete from that of the written mode.

Paker (1992: 5) defines discourse as a "system of statements which construct an object ". According to Blommaert (2005: 2), discourse can be considered as "language-in-action ". Jones and Norris (2005: 7) comment on the notion that "discourse as an action" comes from the work of Austin (1962) and Searle (1969) in *Speech Act Theory*. They highlight such an idea by showing that discourse can be taken as a social action in which utterances can be analysed in such a way to influence on the intention of rising them in the outer

world. In other words, they bring "force" to be explained in terms of the environments of the given context. Burr (2006: 48) also defines discourse as "a set of meanings, metaphors, representations, images, stories, statements, and so on". All of these work together in one way or another to form a certain account of events related to a person, an object or an event. Various discourses can be used to tell different stories about the world in such a way that they can form different ways to represent the world.

Concerning the term *discourse analysis*, it has been explained by many scholars and sociolinguists. A lot of them comment and define such a term according to their own viewpoints. At the same time, they have agreed upon the notion that DA means the way of analysing language in use. Taylor (2013: 2) indicates that DA is a research approach that is used to examine a language material, for instance, talk or written texts, so as to prove the truth of a phenomenon beyond a given idea. Taylor also shows that DA can be defined as the study of the ways by which many aspects of talk or language use can be interpreted (ibid: 16). Paltridge(2012: 1-2) argues that DA is an approach by which language can be analysed by looking at patterns of language in terms of texts with reference to the social

and cultural contexts in which they appear. He also declares that Zellig Harris (1952) is the first person who highlights the term DA. Such a term can be used to analyse connected speech and writing. He introduces two main areas of such analysis. The first one is how to investigate language beyond the sentence level, whereas the second one is about the links between the linguistic and non-linguistic behaviors.

Brown and Yule (1983: 1-3) argue that analysing a discourse is associated with how to analyse language in use. Such an idea is concerned with the purpose or function of language. Two viewpoints are related to the function of language, which are the transactional and the interactional views. The transactional function is concerned with the expression of content, whereas the interactional one is used to show the social relations and personal attitudes. It means that the linguists and the linguistic philosophers embrace the transactional view, in which communication is the main function of language. They give more emphasis to the use of language to transmit "factual" and "propositional" information. Sociologists and sociolinguists, on the other hand, take on the interactional view, in which the phatic use of language has been highlighted to institute and maintain social relationships.

## Political Discourse Analysis

This section is specialized for discussing politics and political discourse in details. Starting with the term "politics", Garner (2020: 3) argues that politics, as a process, can be defined in terms of how people of different values and interest succeed in arriving at shared and some sort of agreed upon decisions. Those people ,the politicians , are members of a society who play a role in politics as a result of being elected by people of the same society. They employ some positions in the community or certain political organizations, whether official or unofficial, like presidents, prime ministers, parliamentary members or individuals of certain party. Schaffner and Bassnett (2010: 2) associate the term of politics with power and struggle. It is in such a way that people of a certain community try to preserve their existence by means of powerful language so as to affect their fellow people's views and attitudes.

Concerning the term of political discourse, it is considered as one of the main and wide-spread studies in linguistics nowadays. Memon et. al. (2014: 74) indicate that the political discourse, as a subtype of discourse, refers to any text or talk in which the main theme is politics. It involves two dimensions : the first

dimension is the functional one, which carries the idea of how the politicians employ such discourse to achieve certain functions in politics. The second one is the thematic dimension which is basically associated with the political ideas, acts and activities, as those preserve the speakers' ideologies. In addition to that, Fairclough (1995: 182), argues that the political discourse supplies an adequate explanation of the constitutive power of discourse. It is in such a way that it can change or alter the social world by reconstructing or altering how people can represent the world and according which standards of classification that trigger them. Such a type of discourse indicates the notion that ideational and interpersonal procedures are inseparable in discourse. In other words, the social world can be changed only in terms of changing the social classes and groups. The power of political discourse is capable of constituting and mobilizing those social forces so as to carry into reality the capacities of a new reality. Okulska and Cap (2010: 6) add the idea that, in addition to the institutionalised aspect of political discourse, it is also circulated around any type of human communication with the aim of chasing various objectives of discourse in diverse (power – marked) social associations and configurations. It is also about stimulating and leading



language attitudes for the purpose of establishing a foundation for societal progresses and modifications. As the main concern of political discourse analysis is the political speeches, so, Schmitz (2005: 698) shows that a political speech can be described as a "structured verbal chain of coherent speech acts", which is said in certain social event to fulfill certain purpose. It is said by a single speaker and directed to a particular audience. Speeches can be varied according to certain issues, such as length, occasion of occurrence, which involves time and place, topic, functions, the one who utters and to whom they are uttered and addressed, the form of presentation, style and structure. Hodges and Nilep (2007: 10–11) also argue that political discourse analysis is used in presidential speeches and checks the language used in media.

## Model of Analysis

The data under analysis are analysed according to Hyland's model (2005). Hyland's model (2005) is a well-known model for analysing data especially discourse with highlighting metadiscourse markers. Those markers are used to facilitate the analysis of texts, especially the spoken ones. Hyland (2005: 16) states that the term of "metadiscourse" can be identified as a "fuzzy term", in the sense that it is a "discourse about

discourse " or "talk about talk ". Such definitions aim at exploring the role of searching inside the text to show features of the text itself. In such a way, Hyland considers "metadiscourse" as "an umbrella term" which involves aspects of cohesive and interpersonal features whose role is to make a link between a text and its context.

## **The Functions and Resources of Metadiscourse Model**

Two dimensions of interaction can be recognised in respect to the metadiscourse resources which differ in functions to be fulfilled, these are the interactive and interactional dimensions.

## **The Interactive Dimension**

This type covers the resources which work as text-organisers, revealing the ways by which a discourse can be arranged to maintain coherence. It also helps the readers to negotiate and understand the discourse. Such dimension is based on the writers' knowledge of their readers' abilities in comprehension, text negotiation, and on the requirements for directing the interpretation and links between the writers and readers. Interactive resources involve five divisions with their subdivisions, which are "transition markers, frame markers,

endophoric markers, evidentials, and code-glosses" (ibid: 49–52).

## The Interactional Dimension

Hyland states that such a type of metadiscourse refers to the way by which the writers explicitly intervene into the discourse by means of evaluation and commentary on a given material (ibid: 44). It is also linked to Halliday's interpersonal metafunction. It is in such a way that Halliday and Hasan (1989: 26) argue that interactional metadiscourse is associated with "the social, expressive, and conative functions of language ". It indicates the writers' or speakers' positions, viewpoints, attitudes, judgments, and motives in declaring something.

Hyland (2005: 52) pinpoints that interactional expressions, like "hedges, boosters, attitude markers, self-mention, and engagement markers", accomplish certain issues, such as (i) they confirm the readers' involvement and contribution to the discourse. (ii) They link the writers with their readers by determining their social positions towards their texts and readers so as to direct those readers to a given argument. (iii) They indicate the different aspects of the writers' personalities by means of exploring their attitudes of uncertainty,

anticipation of interpretation, or suppressing alternatives.

For the purpose of simplicity and clearness, Hyland classifies and arranges metadiscourse markers in a way that helps in indicating what is metadiscourse and what is not. This is shown by a framework for analysis to pinpoint the metadiscourse markers and their functions (ibid: 49).

Table (1) Hyland's (2005) Interpersonal Model of Metadiscourse (Hyland, 2005: 49).

Category	Function
<b>A. Interactive dimension :</b>	
Transition markers	Arrange and relate main clauses and ideas.
Frame markers	State the order of the discourse steps.
Endophoric markers	Refer to other parts of the text.
Evidential markers	Refer to the sources of the information.
Code- glosses	Clarify the content of the argument.
<b>B. Interactional dimension :</b>	
Hedges	Express the writers' commitment to

	the content.
<b>Boosters</b>	Express the degree of the writers' certainty.
<b>Attitude markers</b>	Show the writers' attitudes and views.
<b>Self-mention</b>	Signal the writers' presence in the text.
<b>Engagement markers</b>	Engage the readers into the argument.

## Data Collection and Description

The data under analysis are political speeches which are mainly about Brexit, that is the exit of Britain from the European Union. The speeches of two popular figures in politics, Theresa May, the former Prime Minister of the UK (Britain), and Boris Johnson, the current one, have been collected for analysis. Those speeches were collected during 2020 from the Internet websites, as they are transcribed in the written form so as to be easily analysed. Websites, such as( static.rasset.ie, aljazeera.com, standard.co.uk, and others which are mentioned in full on the bibliography page) have been

chosen as the main source of collecting data. The main concern of those data is the idea of Brexit, which is lasted from 2016 up to 2020. The data have been analysed and discussed in terms of how metadiscourse markers have been employed by politicians with reference to the effect of gender.

The data consist of speeches of an equal number of words. The total number is about fourteen thousand and four hundred words, which are divided into two groups. The first group, about three speeches, consisting of seven thousand and one hundred eighty words, is delivered by a female speaker, who is Theresa May. The other group, involving the other four ones, also consisting of seven thousand and two hundred twenty words, is delivered by a male speaker, who is Boris Johnson.

## **Data Analysis and discussion**

This section is meant to analyse the obtained data under examination. Thus, it is divided into two subsections.

### **Analysis of Theresa May's Speeches**

Theresa May, the former Prime Minister, is the first one who encourages and develops the idea of Brexit. She has delivered many speeches, some of them have been analysed and interpreted in this study. The total number of Theresa May's speeches, which are discussed here, is

about three ones .Through which, she employs both interactive and interactional metadiscourse markers. The task here is to categorize the metadiscourse markers into their types and to pinpoint the total number of such markers that are employed by the speaker, who is Theresa May.

### Frequency of the Total Metadiscourse Markers in Theresa May's Speeches

The frequency of such markers can be quantitatively indicated in table (2) and figures (1) and (2) on the basis of Hyland's (2005) Interpersonal Model of Metadiscourse (Hyland, 2005: 49).

Table (2) Frequency and percentages of the Total Metadiscourse Markers in Theresa May's Speeches

Category	Frequency	Percentage
<b>A. Interactive dimension :</b>		
Transition markers	432	85.37%
Frame markers	31	6.12%
Endophoric markers	0	0%
Evidential markers	7	1.38%
Code- glosses	36	7.11%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>506</b>	

<b>B. Interactional dimension :</b>		
<b>Hedges</b>	85	9.68%
<b>Boosters</b>	121	13.78%
<b>Attitude markers</b>	250	28.47%
<b>Self-mention</b>	68	7.74%
<b>Engagement markers</b>	354	40.31%
<b>Total:</b>	878	
<b>Total metadiscourse markers:</b>	1384	

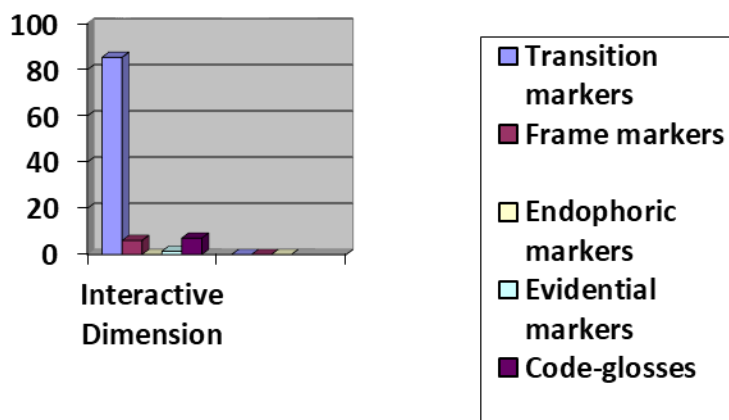


Figure (1) Meta-discourse markers in Theresa May's Speeches:

(Interactive Dimension/ percentage scoring)



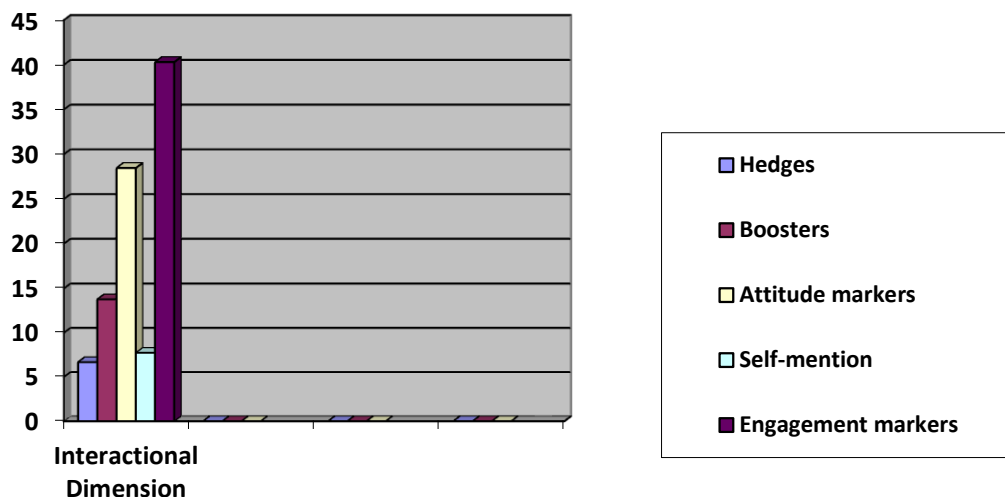


Figure (2) Meta-discourse markers in Theresa May's Speeches:

(Interactional Dimension/ percentage scoring)

### Analysis of Boris Johnson's speeches

First of all, to be more accurate, Boris Johnson has delivered more than one speech about Brexit, but the most popular ones have been collected to be analysed and discussed. It is observed that in all his speeches, Boris employs both interactive and interactional metadiscourse markers, but the matter of using one more than another is different. Boris' speeches can be analysed in the same way which is followed in the analysis of Theresa May's speeches, that is an extract followed by a table of analysis.

### **Frequency of the Total Metadiscourse Markers in Johnson's Speeches**

In the same way which is used in the process of calculating the frequency of such markers in May's speeches, the quantity of using these markers can be indicated in table (3) and figures (3) and (4) below. Such a table and figures show the results of the application of Hyland's (2005) Interpersonal Model of Metadiscourse (Hyland, 2005: 49).

**Table (3) Frequency and Percentages of the Total Metadiscourse Markers in Johnson's Speeches**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>A. Interactive dimension :</b>		
<b>Transition markers</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>80.83%</b>
<b>Frame markers</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>10.62%</b>
<b>Endophoric markers</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.20%</b>
<b>Evidential markers</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1.25%</b>
<b>Code- glosses</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>7.0%</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>480</b>	
<b>B. Interactional dimension :</b>		
<b>Hedges</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>11.0%</b>
<b>Boosters</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>16.89%</b>

<b>Attitude markers</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>19.16%</b>
<b>Self-mention</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>13.11%</b>
<b>Engagement markers</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>39.72%</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>793</b>	
<b>Total metadiscourse markers:</b>	<b>1273</b>	

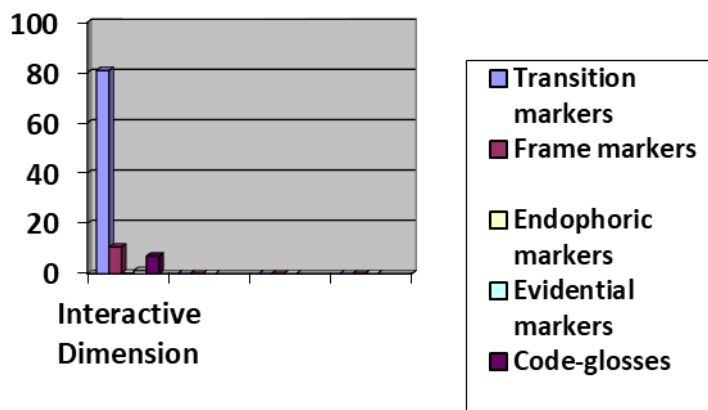


Figure (3) Meta-discourse markers in Boris Johnson's Speeches:

(Interactive Dimension/ percentage scoring)

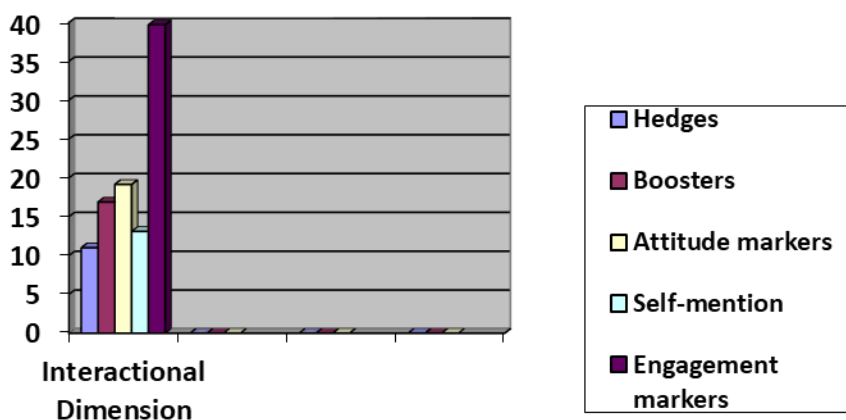


Figure (4) Meta-discourse markers in Boris Johnson's Speeches:

(Interactional Dimension/ percentage scoring)

### Discussion and Interpretation of the Obtained Results

After the mathematical calculation of the whole metadiscourse markers, which are employed by both Theresa May and Boris Johnson, it is possible to draw a clear indication about which metadiscourse marker is employed more than another. To fulfill such an idea, a comparison between interactive metadiscourse markers and interactional ones can be made on the basis of the total number and the percentage scoring.

## Discussion and Interpretation of Theresa May's speeches Results

Starting with Theresa May's speeches, as shown in table (2) above, May, on the one hand, employs a heavy use of interactional metadiscourse markers, (878) out of (1384). In other words, she relies heavily on the interactional category so as to fulfill a function in language. Since such a category is associated with the speaker/writer him/herself, to express his/her ideas, attitudes, viewpoints and personal engagement, and with the audience/reader by means of engagement, so, it is referred to as participant-oriented. It means that the interactional dimension indicates the way by which the speaker/writer intervenes into the discourse by means of evaluation and commentary on a given material. So, by using such a category, she can have an effect on the audience's attitudes, especially about the idea of Brexit, in the sense that the audience can notice whether the speaker has a strong commitment towards a given idea or not. That's why, she uses more boosters, (121) out of (878), than hedges, which are used (85) out of (878) respectively, to achieve such an aim, that is, the impression of having a strong commitment and certainty towards the Brexit. The highest metadiscourse markers of this category used are the engagement

markers, (354) out of (878). It is for the purpose of involving the audience in the given discourse. Attitudes markers are used higher than others, but less than the engagement markers, (250) out of (878). This is to establish the idea of giving the audience/readers a clear indication of what the speaker's/writer's position towards the declared propositions. Theresa May uses such markers to clarify her attitudes towards the intended message or purpose, so that the audience can have a clear idea about her attitudes and viewpoints. The least markers used are self-mention, (68) out of (878). The reason behind this is to reduce individuality, as such markers are used to indicate the extent to which the speakers/writers explicitly represent themselves in the given discourse.

The interactive metadiscourse markers, on the other hand, are used less than those of the interactional dimension, (506) out of (1384). Those are text-oriented markers, as they are used in organizing the text by means of sequencing and framing. It is for the purpose of easiness and clarity in exploring the propositions, so that what is said/written is clearly linked to what has gone and to what is to come. The highest metadiscourse markers of this category that are used are transition markers, (432) out of (506). Theresa May uses

such markers to maintain the function of assisting the audience's/reader's interpretation of linkage among propositions, as those achieve the contrastive, causative, and additive functions. There is an equal average of using frame markers, (31) out of (506), and code glosses, (36) out of (506). Since the former is used for the purpose of sequencing the order of the propositions, and the latter is used for clarifying the content of the arguments, so those help to ease the audience's/reader's interpretation of the content of a given discourse. The least markers employed by May are evidential markers, (7) out of (506). This gives the indication that she is not concerned with the idea of providing the audience with the source of information, which are mentioned throughout her speeches. At last, it is important to mention that Theresa May employs no use or (0) use of endophoric markers.

## Discussion and Interpretation of Boris Johnson's speeches Results

As for Boris Johnson's results, as shown in table (3) above, Boris also relies heavily on interactional category of metadiscourse markers, (793) out of (1273), rather than the interactive ones. The engagement markers are of the highest average among others, (315) out of (793),

which indicates that the speaker (Boris Johnson) tends to involve his audience in the discourse. The attitude markers are used less than the engagement markers, but more than the others, (152) out of (793). By using those attitude markers, Boris Johnson declares his ideas, viewpoints, personal attitudes to his audience. So the latter, in return, can draw a clear and an accurate view about Boris Johnson's attitudes. In addition to that, Johnson shows a high level of certainty in declaring his propositions. This is indicated by using more boosters, (134) out of (793), than hedges, which are used (88) times out of (793). He also shows his position in the content of his speeches and represents himself explicitly by means of self-mention, (104) out of (793). The least metadiscourse markers of this dimension used are hedges, (88) out of (793). This proves that Boris Johnson is more confident or less hesitant in declaring his propositions and ideas.

Furthermore, Johnson employs less interactive metadiscourse markers, (480) out of (1.273), than interactional ones. Those of high frequency are the transition markers, (388) out of (480). They function as connectors among different parts of the discourse, helping the audience in accounting the pragmatic links by means of additive, causative, and contrastive items.



Frame markers, which are one of the text-oriented markers, are employed by Johnson less than transition markers, but more than others of the interactive category, (51) out of (480). Those achieve the purpose of sequencing the content of the discourse. Less than those frame markers are the code glosses. Those, which are helpful for the audience in clarifying the propositions by means of reformulation and exemplification, are used (34) times out of (480). The least ones are the evidential markers and the endophoric ones. The evidential markers are employed by Boris Johnson (6) times out of (480). Such a number of use indicates the fact that Boris is less concerned with declaring the source of information mentioned. There is one and only one use or employment of endophoric markers throughout the whole speeches. It is (1) out of (480), which indicates that Boris provides his audience with no reminders or announcement of the arguments in the given discourse.

## A Comparison of Theresa May's and Boris Johnson's Results

On the basis of the obtained results in tables (2) and (3) above, a comparison between Theresa May and Boris Johnson speeches can be made in respect of which metadiscourse markers are employed more than others.

The comparison can be clarified in the following table (4), which involves an overall analysis of the category of each metadiscourse marker used by each speaker on one side, and the frequency and average of each one on the other side.

**Table (4) A Comparison of an Overall Analysis of Theresa May's and Boris Johnson's Results**

Category	Female/ Theresa May		Male/Boris Johnson	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Interactive dimension	506	36.56	480	37.70
Interactional dimension	878	63.43	793	62.29
Total metadiscourse markers	1384/7180	19.27	1273/7220	17.63

Apparently, as noted in the table (4) above, both female (Theresa) and male (Boris) speakers use interactional dimension of metadiscourse markers more than those of the interactive one, but with different rates. The interactional category is used more by the female (Theresa) speaker in a rate of (63.43), (878) out of (1384); whereas the interactive one is employed less than that, (506) out of (1384), and in a rate of (36.56). Similarly, the male (Boris) speaker relies heavily on the interactional dimension. It is (793) out of (1.273), and at

the rate of (62.29), while the interactive one is calculated less, (480) out of (1.273), and the general rate is (37.70). This highlights the fact that politicians, whether female or male speakers, tend to reflect their personalities and personal attitudes throughout their speeches. It is in such a way that they declare their viewpoints, attitudes, commitment and certainty about a certain issue to their audience so as to achieve their aims. It is the aim of affecting the audience's attitudes to go with or against the declared issue.

It is also obvious that the female (Theresa) speaker utilizes a high level of metadiscourse markers, (1384) out of (7180), and at the rate of (19.27) than that of the male (Boris) speaker, who uses (1273) out of (7220) at the rate of (17.63). In the same way, the female (Theresa) speaker differs from the male (Boris) speaker in the respect of employing more metadiscourse markers of the interactional dimension than those which are employed by the male (Boris) speaker. The overall frequency of the female (Theresa) speaker is (878) out of (1.384), and at the rate of (63.43), which is contrasted with the male (Boris) speaker's application of such a category, as (793) out of (1.273), and the rate of (62.29). The same idea is applicable to the female (Theresa) speaker's employment of the interactive category,

which is described as being more than that of the male (Boris) speaker's utilization in this respect. The former's application of the interactive category is (506) out of (1.384), and at the rate of (36.56), while the latter applies less markers of such a category than those used by the female speaker in a frequency of (480) out of (1273), and a rate of (37.70).

Thus, from the gained results mentioned in tables (2), (3), and (4), which are previously discussed in details, it is possible to make a detailed comparison of the subtypes of each category used by each a speaker so as to give a clear and obvious analysis of the obtained results. This can be made by means of the table (5) and Figures (5) and (6) below.

**Table (5). A Detailed Comparison of Theresa May's and Boris Johnson's Results**

Category	Subtype	Female/ Theresa May		Male/Boris Johnson	
		Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Interactive dimension	Transition markers	432	85.37	388	80.83
	Frame markers	31	06.12	51	10.62

	<b>Endophoric markers</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.20</b>
	<b>Evidential markers</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>01.38</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1.25</b>
	<b>Code- glosses</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>07.11</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>07.08</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>36.56</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>37.70</b>
<b>Interactional dimension</b>	<b>Hedges</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>09.68</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>11.09</b>
	<b>Boosters</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>13.78</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>16.89</b>
	<b>Attitude markers</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>28.47</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>19.16</b>
	<b>Self-mention</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>07.74</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>13.11</b>
	<b>Engagement markers</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>40.31</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>39.72</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>63.43</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>62.29</b>
<b>Total metadiscourse markers</b>		<b>1.384/</b>	<b>19.27</b>	<b>1.273/</b>	<b>17.63</b>
<b>Total words used</b>		<b>7.180</b>		<b>7.220</b>	

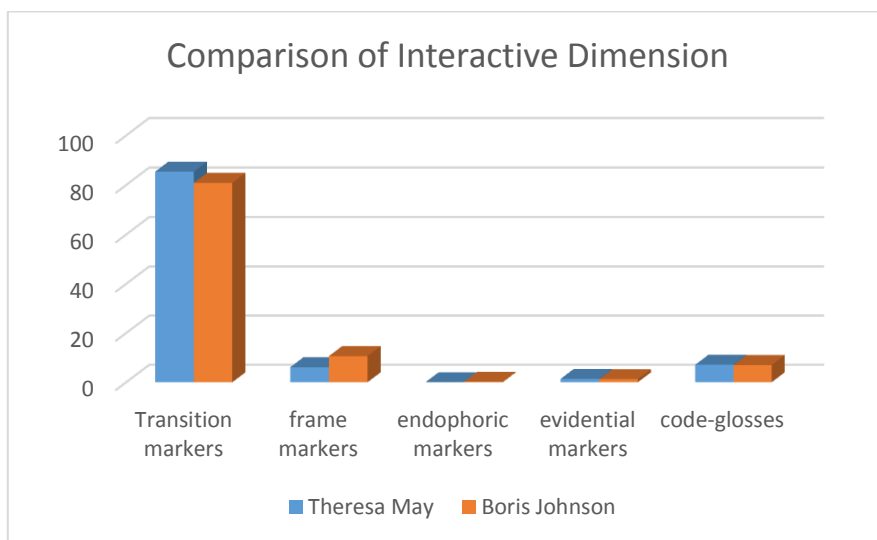


Figure (5) Comparison of Interactive Dimension

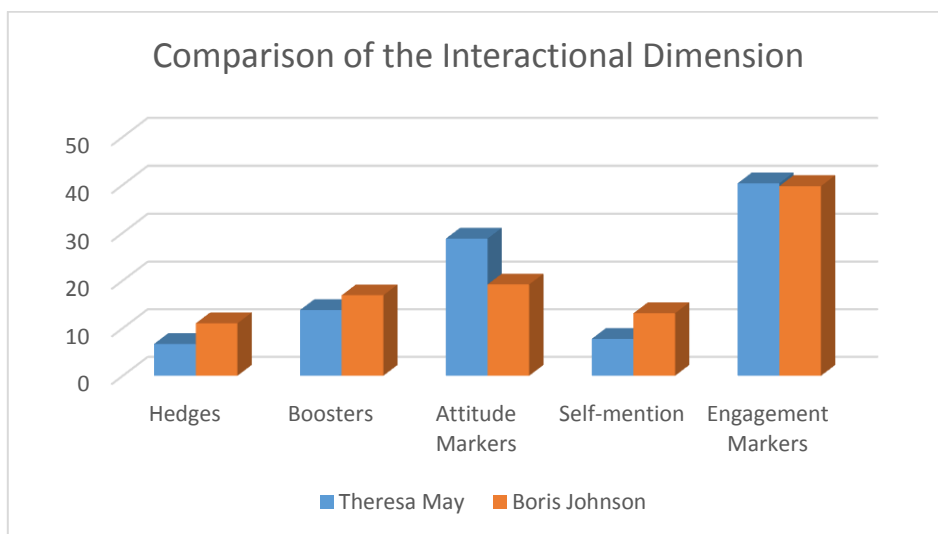


Figure (6) Comparison of Interactional Dimension

From the table (5) and figures (5) and (6) above, it seems that transition, attitude, and engagement markers are employed more by the female (Theresa) speaker than the male (Boris) speaker. The female (Theresa) speaker's utilization can be calculated with their rates as follows: transition markers are scored as (432) out of (506) with the rate of (85.37); attitude ones are calculated as (250) out of (878) with the rate of (28.47); and engagement ones are counted as (354) out of (878) with the rate of (40.31). The male (Boris) speaker, on the contrary, utilizes less number of those markers about, (388) transition markers out of (480), at the rate of (80.83); (152) attitude ones out of (793), at the rate of (19.16); and (315) engagement ones out of (793), at the rate of (39.72). Such results clarify the indication that the female political speaker tends to be more systematic in the exposition of an issue. This is indicated by means of the transition markers which relate the main ideas and arguments so as to make a declared discourse or text a cohesive one. This employment helps the audience to understand what is said by the systematic links between the arguments. In addition to that, by using more attitude markers, the female political speaker declares her attitudes and viewpoints to the audience as a way of affecting their views concerning a given issue. She also

relies heavily on involving the audience in her speeches by means of engagement markers.

The male political speaker, in contrast, does not rely heavily on those markers, if such rates are to be compared with the female political speaker's ones. Conversely, he tends to represent himself explicitly in his speeches by means of self-mention. It is (104) out of (793), and the rate of (13.11), which is contrasted with the female political speaker's employment, who uses less number about (68) out of (878), and the rate of (07.74). Moreover, he (Boris) uses more boosters, (134) out of (793), and the rate of (16.89), than that of the female political speaker's utilization, who uses (121) out of (878), and the rate of (13.78). This fact proves that the male political speaker is more confident and certain in declaring his arguments. Furthermore, he employs more frame markers, (51) out of (480), at the rate of (10.62), than that of the female political speaker, as the latter accounts (31) out of (506), at the rate of (06.12). Such an account shows that the male political speaker is interested in sequencing his arguments for the purpose of clarity and easiness.

The last thing to be mentioned, here, is the close application of the evidential markers, code-glosses, and hedges, and the zero or nearly zero employment of the



endophoric markers by both female and male speakers. It is (07), and the rate of (01.38) of evidential markers; (36) of (07.11) of the code-glosses, out of (506); and (85) at the rate of (09.68) of hedges out of (878) by the female (Theresa) speaker. The male (Boris) speaker's use is accounted as (06) of (1.25) of the evidential markers; (34) of (07.08) of code-glosses, out of (480); and (88) at the rate of (11.09) out of (793) of hedges. Such similarity or closeness highlights the idea that both female and male political speakers are less concerned with giving the source of information, clarifying the ideas by means of exemplification and reformulation, and they show less degree of uncertainty or hesitation. They are even not interested at all in referring back to their texts by means of endophoric markers, reminders or announcements.

## Conclusions

In the light of the obtained results of the current study, a number of conclusions can be listed below.

1. It is concluded that politicians, whether female or male speakers, rely heavily on the interactional dimension of metadiscourse markers, rather than the interactive one. This is evident by the obtained results of the frequency and the rates of such markers of this category if those are compared with those of the

interactive one. The overall frequency and rates of the former dimension are (878) out of (1384) at the rate of (%63.43) for the female (Theresa May) speaker, and (793) out of (1273) at the rate of (%62.29) for the male (Boris Johnson) speaker. The latter dimension, in contrast, is employed less by both female and male speakers. It is (506) out of (1384) at the rate of (%36.56) by the female speaker, and (480) out of (1273) at the rate of (%37.70) by the male speaker. Furthermore, the evidential and endophoric markers, which are subtypes of the interactive dimension, are the least of the politicians' concern. As those markers are employed at the rates of (%1.38) of evidential markers, and ((%0) of endophoric ones by Theresa May; and (%1.25) of evidential markers, and (%0.20) of endophoric ones by Boris Johnson. Such a conclusion validates the first hypothesis, which states that "The interactional dimension of metadiscourse markers is used by politicians, whether female or male speakers more than the interactive one".

2. The obtained results also show that Theresa May employs more metadiscourse markers than those of Boris Johnson. This is reflected by the total number of those markers in Theresa May's speeches with the frequency of (1.384) out of (7.180), and at the rate of

(%19.27); while Boris Johnson's speeches are counted less than those, (1.273) out of (7.220), and at the rate of (%17.63). This point verifies the hypothesis number two, which indicates that " The female political speaker utilizes more metadiscourse markers than the male political speaker's employment in the political speeches "

3. Throughout his speeches, Boris Johnson utilizes a high level of self-mention. It is (104) out of (793), and the rate of (%13.11), which is contrasted with the female political speaker's employment, who uses less number about (68) out of (878), and the rate of (%07.74). This highlights the notion that the male (Boris Johnson) speaker represents himself explicitly in his speeches. This conclusion confirms the validity of the third hypothesis, which involves that "The male political speaker tends to represent himself explicitly in his speeches, more than the female one".

4. Boris Johnson uses more boosters, about (134) out of (793), and at the rate of (%16.89), than that of Theresa May's utilization, who uses (121) out of (878), and at the rate of (%13.78). Such a fact proves that the male political speaker is more confident and certain in declaring his arguments. So, it goes with the fourth hypothesis " The male political speaker shows a high

level of confidence and certainty in highlighting the arguments in his discourse more than the female one".

5. Both Theresa and Boris Johnson explicitly intervene into the discourse by means of evaluation and commentary on a given material. They reflect their positions, viewpoints, attitudes, judgments, and motives in declaring something. This is in such a way that they rely heavily on the interactional category, using a high level of attitude markers, boosters, engagement markers, so as to reveal their personalities and personal attitudes. The general rates of those markers are (40.31 %) of engagement markers, (28.47%) of attitude ones, and (13.78) of boosters by Theresa May. As for Boris Johnson, he utilizes the rates of (39.72) of engagement markers, (19.16) of attitude ones, and (16.89) of boosters. Accordingly, this conclusion highlights the validity of the fifth hypothesis, which is " Both female and male political speakers reflect their personalities and personal views in their speeches ".

6. Transition, attitude, and engagement markers are employed more by Theresa May. Her utilization can be calculated with the rates of (85.37) of transition markers, (28.47) of attitude ones, and (40.31) of engagement ones. Boris Johnson, on the contrary,

utilizes less number of those markers with the rates of (%80.83) of transition markers, (%19.16) of attitude ones, and (%39.72) of engagement ones. This indicates the fact that Theresa May employs those markers more than Boris Johnson to fulfill her aims of, making the text as a cohesive one, clearly indicating her attitudes to her audience, and engaging her audience more in her discourse. This point verifies the hypothesis number six, which is " The female political speaker is more systematic in her exposition of the text contents, direct in declaring her views and attitudes, and engages her audience into her discourse, more than the male one".

7. As all the hypotheses are verified and validated, it can be said that the current study has shown that gender, as a social variable, is an important and effective factor in political discourse.

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