A Textual Analysis of Gender - based Thematic Variations in Persian TV Panel Discussions

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In this quantitative research the data pertaining to the corpus of 10 Iranian TV panel discussions from the year 2012 based on the gender-based differences in using textual themes, the subtypes of textual theme, which are used more frequently by female speakers than by male speakers, and finally the number of unmarked themes in TV panel discussions was analyzed. In the female and male groups, the total numbers of textual and unmarked themes were found to be 281 and 309; the total frequencies of the different themes were 47.62 and 52.4 ; the highest number of textual themes in both groups were related to conjunctions, but the lowest was related to Wh-relatives and continuative themes, respectively; From the textual, the conjunction themes had the highest frequency in both groups, 35.94 and 32.69 , respectively. The highest number of unmarked themes in both groups was related to declarative themes but the lowest was related to imperative themes; the subject and adjunct themes had the highest frequencies in females and males, respectively, by 27.05 and 24.7 ; the conjunction and continuative themes had the total highest and lowest frequencies in the corpus, respectively, by 34.23 and 3.55 . This research, by using Halliday's SFL method, showed gender-based differences in using subtype and number of textual and unmarked themes in TV panel discussions. The present findings help to increase our understanding of the gender-based differences in using textual themes.