

GENDER COMMUNICATION
ICS/SPCH 7
Instructor: Khanna

Students—here is what we discussed in class about men and women’s speech. I started with the questions:

What are some ways in which men and women’s speech is characterized? How does style of talk differ between men and women?

**Note: These are generalizations and tendencies in most men and women, doesn’t apply to everyone and in every context.*

Men	Women
“Report-talk”	“Rapport-talk”
Information-oriented	Relationship-oriented
Less expressive (verbally) and w/ attentiveness	More expressive (verbally) and responsive with obvious visual/ vocal cues (“encouragers”)
Men respond to women using delayed minimal responses (discourage turntaking)	Women give more backchannel cues to encourage turntaking
Vocabulary: Objective, less detailed	More detailed terms (eg. Colors; use of stories)
Less disclosing	Disclose more and receive more disclosures
Men make more declarative statements	Women ask more questions
Use stronger expletives	Use more evaluative adjectives (cute, fabulous, adorable)
Grammar:	More qualifiers (somewhat, kind of) More disclaimers (I’m no expert but,) More tag questions (right, don’t you think?) More polite forms