

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF
GENDER DIFFERENCES IN THE ENGLISH
AND MYANMAR LANGUAGES, FOCUSING
ON CONVERSATIONS**

PhD DISSERTATION

LWIN LWIN SOE

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
UNIVERSITY OF YANGON
MYANMAR**

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to examine whether there are gender differences in the Myanmar language focusing on conversations. The results of the corpus-based research were used to make a comparative study of gender differences in the English and Myanmar languages.

To examine gender differences in conversational interaction in the Myanmar language, randomly recorded conversations in different domains and sources were analysed in seven discourse variables, namely, amount of speech, turns and floors, interruptions, overlaps, minimal responses, question-tags, and questions.

This paper proves that though Myanmar men talked slightly more than Myanmar women in the recorded conversations, women tend to interrupt men more than men interrupt them, but men's interruption tend to be more dominance-related, and women make more supportive. Myanmar women make more non-turn utterances, minimal responses, and use more tag questions, and questions than their male counterparts.

A comparative study of gender differences in the English and Myanmar languages shows that the results of the studies regarding turns and floors, overlaps, minimal responses, question-tags and questions in gender differences in Myanmar are similar to its English counterpart to some extent, but different in some units such as amount of speech, and making interruptions.