

Gender Expression under Dormitory Conflict Discourse

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Abstract: Dormitory interpersonal conflict is an important problem we face in college life. At the micro level, it not only affects students study life and physical and mental health, but also affects social opinion and student affairs management to a certain extent at the macro level. However, the expression patterns of different genders in the process of dormitory conflict are different. Therefore, our group aims to study the different expressions of males and females under the dorm conflict. This paper analyzes the gender expression of dormitory conflict in college students from the perspective of linguistics, communication and sociology. We find that females are more sensitive to trivial things influenced by the patriarchal society.

1. Introduction and Literature Review

1.1 Introduction

In China, the dormitory size is usually 4-6 people. The dormitory area is small but the number of students is large. College students are mostly in adolescence. Generally speaking, some of their personality is relatively strong and stubborn, causing conflicts with their companions easily. The purpose of this study is to explore the social background and deeper reasons reflected in the discourse expression of different genders in the process of dormitory conflicts. It can improve the dormitory management level of college and reduce the frequency of vicious conflicts in the dormitory. Next, we would like to define the concept of conflict discourse and gender expression in this study.

The conflicting language is called conflict talk, which means that one party's discourse conflicts with the other party's discourse [5]. This conflict manifests as one side opposing the other side's words, actions, or behavior and finally results in a discourse conflict. There are three stages of conflict discourse: the starting step, the conflicting step and the ending step. Males and females have different ways of expressing dorm conflicts. Gender expression is the physical and behavioral manifestation of one's gender identity. People vary greatly to which they hold and convey gender thoughts, feelings and behaviors. Gender expression refers to the way people convey their gender through mannerisms.

behaviors or expressions [1].

1.2 Theoretical Framework

British linguist Jenny Thomas pointed out that the pragmatics of language mainly focuses on interaction in verbal communication. Language communication is a dynamic process. The relevance theory of pragmatics is based on psychological cognitive factors to explore the discourse analysis mechanism of both sides in communication. The language function of meta cognition can be reflected in understanding and studying discourse conflicts, as well as exploring the intentions of communicators from a psychological cognitive perspective. Gender conflicts are guided and regulated by both sides meta pragmatic awareness. There is a subjective cognitive process of language selection. When conflict happens, both genders will independently make language choices based on context and communicative purposes in order to achieve their own communicative goals. Due to discourse conflicts, people do not have sufficient time to make judgments and choices. The entire process is made unconsciously by the communicator at a conscious level based on the needs of the context and communicative purpose. This is known as the regulation and guidance of meta pragmatic awareness. We use this theory to guide conflict avoidance.

2. Research Questions

At the personal level of college students, poor interpersonal relationships in dormitories can lead to negative emotions such as emotional instability, boredom and irritability. Living in an environment with a strong sense of conflict is even more detrimental to mental health and physical health. In the case of poor physical and mental health, college students may not be able to successfully complete their daily studies. For school administrators, the poor interpersonal relationships in students dormitories are a lack of responsibility in school management and education. So to what extent does dormitory interpersonal conflict affect college students' life?

According to the above literature review, gender difference is a blank field in the research process of conflict discourse. In the process of observation and experience, I have triggered such thinking: Is there a certain correlation between the occurrence of conflicts and gender? Therefore, we propose a hypothesis: Do the different expressions in the conflict process reflect social background and class?

3. Research Method

3.1 Questionnaire

Chinese university dormitory area is small, whereas the number of students living in it is large. We set up relevant questionnaire questions to specifically analyze this situation. A questionnaire is a form used for statistics and surveys to express questions in the form of questions. We used the questionnaire survey method and collected 252 questionnaires, of which 42.06% were male and 57.94% were female. In the design of the questionnaire, we divided it into five parts. There is basic information, the conflicting stage of the dormitory conflict discourse, the construction stage of the dormitory conflict discourse, the termination stage of the dormitory conflict discourse and the impacts of the dormitory conflict discourse.

3.2 Interview

Interview refers to the basic research method of understanding the psychology and behavior of

interviewees through face-to-face conversations between interviewers and interviewees. The interview method has different forms due to the nature, purpose or objects of the research question [3]. The group members set specific questions according to the discussion contents, and collected opinions from 25 people in China who currently or once had dorm life experience. At the same time, the interviewees included 14 females and 11 males with a balanced gender ratio. They paid attention to the gender differences and the reflection of social background in dormitory conflicts.

4. Division of roles & responsibilities

Name	Role	Responsibility
Liangqi Gui	Leader	Project concept and task allocation
Xiaohan Li	Literature reviewing	Presentation draft revising and polishing
Haoyang Guan	Interviews conducting	Videos making and analysis
Mengxin Cui	Resource investigator	Create and collect questionnaires
Jiaqi Li	Teamworker	PowerPoint making
Xu Hao	Teamworker	Report making

5. Visual Analysis of Data

5.1 Analysis of the questionnaire

There are 106 males and 146 females filling out the questionnaire. The gender distribution of the sample data we collected is shown in Figure 1. It is clear that more than half of the subjects had encountered conflict discourse in the dormitory, and the most concentrated frequency was one or two, accounting for 35.71%, during the last six months. To our surprise, people who have conflicts often maintain normal relationships, even pretty good relationships. As for the number of people involved in the conflict, in most cases two people participate, and the proportion is 79.76%.

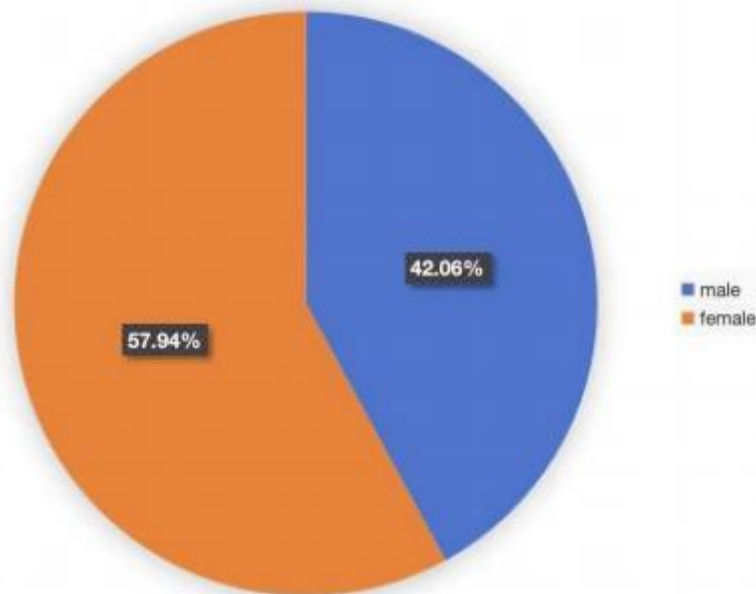


Figure 1: Gender

The first stage is the initial turn of the dormitory conflict discourse. Based on our questionnaire, we find that habits contribute most to the conflict (82.54%), while values and semantic misunderstanding rank at the second and the third contributors respectively (68.65% and 55.95%),

each of their data can be observed from Figure 2. In this stage, the most used expression is that somebody's tongue is mocking and bitter, accounting for 86.11%.

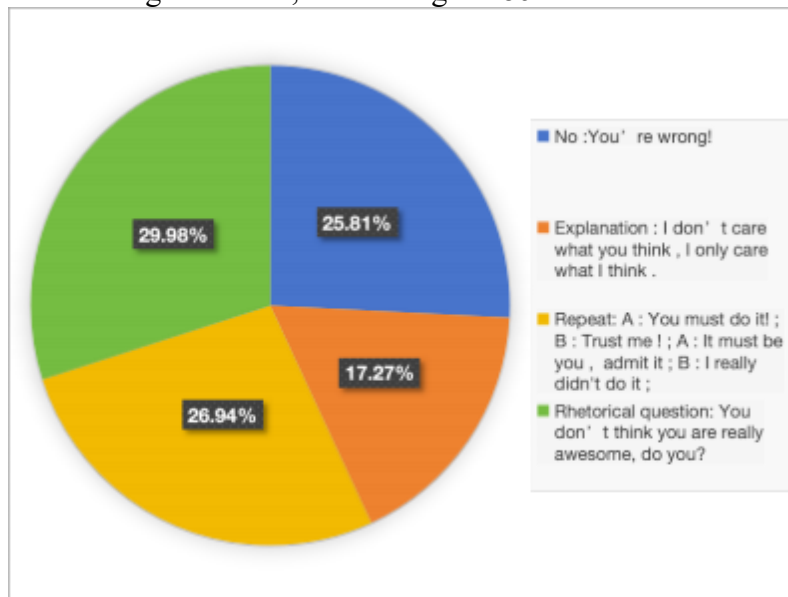


Figure 2: Different expression in the initial stage of conflict

The second stage is the construction of the dormitory conflict discourse. According to the results of the questionnaire survey, we find that rhetorical questions may deteriorate further conflicts, which take up approximately 62.95%. But other modes of expression, including negation, interpretation and repetition, can have the same effect during this stage.

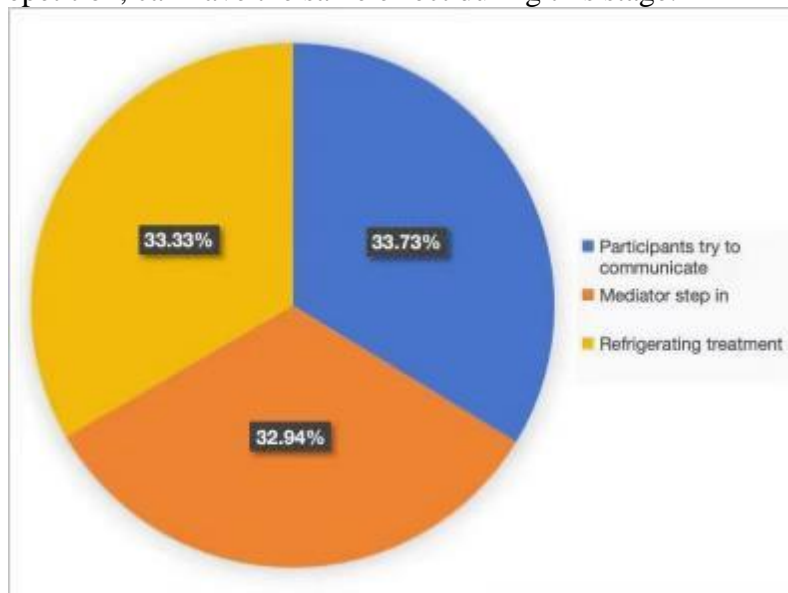


Figure 3: Different methods to defuse the conflict

The third stage is the termination of the dormitory conflict discourse. At this stage, people who are tested usually adopt the following three ways to resolve conflicts. As shown in Figure 3, the ways that participants try to communicate, mediator step in and participants use refrigerating treatment are effective to end the conflict, and the proportions adopted for the three ways are similar, all about 33%. Looking into more detailed, rational communication becomes the most important method to resolve conflicts in terms of the way of communication among participants, and that is

30.59%.

As for the negative impact of the dormitory conflict discourse, the first thing to bear is the deterioration of the relationship. 73.41% subjects encounter this influence. Over half of people experience mental pressure (58.33%).

5.2 Analysis of interview videos

After collecting questionnaires, we created a semi-structured in-depth interview based on the research objectives and relevant literature. Then, we conducted a simple experiment in the group, and selected two team members to conduct an interview pilot, and slightly adjusted the interview questions according to their feelings about the questions, so as to improve the accuracy and rigor of the questions. We interviewed 25 current or former dorm dwellers in China, and balanced the gender ratio of them. The specific questions we study are as follows:

First, the differences in conflict. There are huge differences in the whole processes of dorm conflict. In the beginning, development and end stages of conflict, male and female have different forms of expression. For example, respondents rated females as more emotional and males as more rational; females care more about privacy, males care more about living habits; females are more likely to communicate and resolve, while males are more likely to seek third-party help, and if conflicts escalate in males dormitories, they can easily turn into fights.

Most importantly, almost every interviewee thought there was a gender expression in dormitory conflict, as a consequence of which, dorm routines can show the difference between male and female. A third of the population recognized that the difference was due to social background.

In the context of a male-dominated society, males do not need to fight for their own rights to obtain the corresponding rights, and then, in daily life, males will not feel the crisis of lack of rights because of contradictions, so the externalization is reflected: they seem to be more rational.

However, in the past few hundred years, females have been in a relatively dominated position, and they focus on the pursuit of equal rights and interests. With the development of feminism, females status is rising day by day, and the pursuit of equality is also becoming stronger, which promotes the development of social equality. As a result, females are more sensitive to respect issues, and in the small matters of dorm life, they may feel that they are not treated with equal respect. Interestingly, the majority of those who recognize this are female.

Half of them recognize that with the development of society and the advancement of equality between males and females, the gender boundary is increasingly blurred, and people are more likely to be angry about certain topics, language expressions or lifestyle habits. Therefore, when talking about this issue, the first to think of the inherent differences between the sexes is actually gender bias, or the inherent impression of gender. At the same time, we found that young people aged 18-21 have a deeper understanding of gender issues and a more subjective and clear cognition of gender bias, and the inherent bias cognition of gender shows an age trend.

There is still a long way to go for equal rights between male and female, and the methods for resolving dorm conflicts are getting better and better.

6. Summary

Conflict and mitigation are two states in interpersonal communication. Resolving conflicts and realizing the harmony of interpersonal relationships are eternal themes. This is not only the need for the development of human society, but also an inherent requirement of human nature [2]. Conflict and mitigation in communication change with the speakers choice of speech and act, and affect the communicative human relation. Its restriction and transformation mechanism is one of the important topics in contemporary sociolinguistics and pragmatics [6]. The study of discourse

conflict and its construction model is conducive to reducing college students discourse conflict in actual communication and promoting greater communication.

On this basis, our group studies the different gender expressions of dormitory conflicts among college students. According to the meta-pragmatic theory, both parties in gender conflict are guided and regulated by their meta-pragmatic consciousness, and there is a subjective cognitive language selection process. We analyzed the triggering factors, and then explored effective constraint strategies to guide college students to correct. Understanding and properly handling the issue of dormitory conflict discourse can promote the harmonious development of interpersonal communication, and also provide useful reference and value for the study of interpersonal conflicts among college students. We need to guide college students to use effective ways to communicate and communicate. College students need to consider their language choices. For example, a interviewed college student mentioned that their roommates were still talking on the phone during their night break, and a roommate said, Hang up the phone now. Are other people making noise like you? So, both sides attacked each other. Another roommate, upon seeing this, said, Bro, everyone needs to wake up early tomorrow morning. Just rest well. I'll treat you to breakfast tomorrow. Obviously, the latter roommates touching words not only conveyed positive information, but also effectively resolved the roommates conflicting words.

College students are prone to all kinds of contradictions and conflicts in their dorm life. Our research can help guide college students to correctly understand and deal with the problem of conflict discourse, promote the harmonious development of interpersonal communication, and provide beneficial reference value for the study of college students interpersonal conflict.

Linguistic is the most important means of information dissemination, and the different choices made by males and females in information transmission reflect different gender expressions, which are closely related to social background. Dormitory life is an important means of communication, and we need to study gender expressions to obtain a more significant understanding of communication tendencies and help students solve conflicts in dormitory life.

Patriarchal ideology is an objective spiritual force established by a patriarchal society through a series of gender systems and a set of means and facilities to discipline individual gender temperament [4]. In the coercion and encirclement of this spiritual force, no gender individual can escape the real world and meaningful world defined by patriarchal ideology, and must construct his own reasonable social gender attributes in accordance with the logical rules designed by him. The differences between males and females reflected in dormitory conflicts have deeper social reasons besides physiological reasons.

From the perspective of sociology, the reason for gender differences in dormitory conflict discourse is the inner inequality of females caused by the oppression of females by patriarchal society. Traditional China is a typical patriarchal society, and patriarchy is an extension of familism. In ancient China, the small peasant economy was the main mode of production, and the main characteristics were males farming and females weaving. Coupled with the differences in physiological structure, this led to females losing their chance to associate with society. Most females lost the right to participate in politics, which led to females unequal status in society. The oppression of females, in the final analysis, is a problem of the stage of civilization development. After entering modern society, especially in China after the reform and opening up, the level of civilization development has improved, females have received more opportunities for education, and globalization has increasingly become a trend. An open mind has gradually penetrated into the consciousness of modern females, and both males and females have the opportunity to obtain the fruits of labor through their own efforts and talents.

With the improvement of the status of modern females, they have more willingness to pursue their own rights, which has also caused them to become very sensitive to right protection, which

happens to be reflected in the discourse of dormitory conflicts. For example, in a females dormitory, someone will have a conflict because of the unfair distribution of some resources. This resource can be understood as fruit or snacks purchased by someone. This food, she will feel why she lost the right to enjoy the food, which will cause a psychological gap, and may also lead to the formation of cliques in the dormitory, which will eventually lead to intensification of conflicts. Females are more sensitive to some trivial matters, which are caused by the violation of their rights in the final analysis.

Author Contributions

Project Concept: L.G; questionnaire production: M.C.; Interview video production: H.G; writing-original draft preparation: L.G and X.L; project administration: L.G; M.C; H.G; X.L; J.L; X.H. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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Data Availability: Please contact the corresponding author(s) for all reasonable requests for access to the data.

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