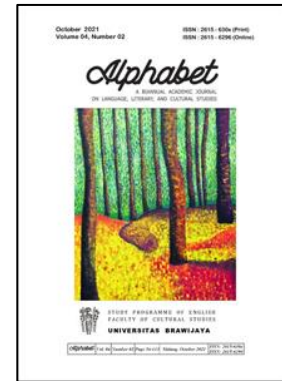


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Seeking Power from Two Different Voices: A Gendered Approach to Freedom Activists' Speeches

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Abstract

Our public domain is inseparable from the social construction stating that gender gives distinction to males and females. This study is aimed at identifying the language use of the Middle Eastern freedom activists' speeches based on gender perspective. The data source was male and female Middle Eastern freedom activists' speech videos. Several participants were also involved to measure the powerful voice in the speech. The results showed that male and female speakers produced a set of spoken language differences, such as form, topic, content, and purpose. In using the language for speech, both male and female speakers produced some elements in random frequency. To conclude, one gender could not be considered more potential than the other to influence the audience when delivering speeches. Other factors, particularly non-verbal ones, exist to give an impact on the speech performance so that it has a certain degree to influence the audience.

Keywords:

gendered perspective, speech, freedom activist, Middle East

The continuing wave of attacks in the Middle East draws major attention from many parties in the world system. Violence, terror, and death mark the period of tension in this territory. The crises that emerge in the Middle East are mostly caused by the oil resources possessed by the transcontinental region (Balat, 2006; Peretz, 1963). Several studies (Alashqar, 2018; Canetti et al., 2019; Freedman, 2019; Schiff, 2018) showed that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the most intractable issue in these lands around the Mediterranean Sea. Other conflicts related to civil right violation, women's liberation, and education are also emerging (Brown & Bjawi-Levine, 2002; Syed, 2013). Unsurprisingly, as a universal discourse, human rights uphold pluralism, ethnic diversity, and the right to speak. These reports revealed that the current confrontation in the

Middle East comes up to be a never-ending topic discussion all around the world.

These disputes subsequently come along with the rise of many activists in particular fields—from any sex, age, race, and social background—in search of freedom. The activists of human rights, women's rights, education, peace, and the internet appear to raise their voices among others (Jansen, 2010; Volpi & Clark, 2019). They generally depart from the same basic activism act as freedom activists. As a part of their efforts, delivering a speech to the public might be one of the activism actions carried out by these freedom activists.

Speeches delivered by freedom activists are considered powerful since their purpose is to reassure the world that a solution is required to the problem being discussed. Thus,

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they try to influence—and further, drive—the audience through their speech. Bayat (2000) categorized activism into four types, consisting of passive activism, survivalist struggles, collective protest, and social movements. As a part of social movement activism, freedom activists' speeches delivered by male and female speakers are interesting to examine in terms of the linguistic features based on the gendered approach. That is because in delivering their speech, these male and female free-

women's speech is non-assertive. The other evidence is that men and women may make requests in different ways: women make requests, while men give commands.

Besides the spoken language differences produced by male and female speakers, other factors might influence the representation of power in the way a speaker delivers the speech. Language style can convince the audience when the speaker thoroughly uses per-

Table 1. Descriptions of the speeches by male middle eastern freedom activists.

No.	Description				
	Name	Source	Nationality	Publication Date	Duration
1.	Mosab Hassan Yousef	<i>(Best Speech You Will Ever Hear - Peace in the Middle East, 2014)</i>	Palestinian	July 13 th , 2014	15.12 minutes
2.	Amos Klausner	<i>(Professor Amos Oz at Facing Tomorrow 2011, 2011)</i>	Israeli	August 2 nd , 2011	16.1 minutes
3.	Izzeldin Abuelaish	<i>(Izzeldin Abuelaish - Transcending Hate, 2011)</i>	Palestinian	June 3 rd , 2011	16.20 minutes

dom activists express spoken language differences.

Haas (1979) reported certain stereotypes and evidence of male and female spoken language differences. They explained that males' and females' language use can be differentiated in four following aspects. First, in terms of the form, men's speech is considered to be coarser and more direct as compared to women's. In contrast, women's speech is considered more polite than men's. Second, in terms of the topic, men tend to talk about works and sports, while women tend to talk about work, homes, families, and the daily things they are familiar with. To be specific, women are more likely to talk about people, whereas men are more likely to talk about business and politics. Third, in terms of the content, women's language is more emotional and evaluative than men's. As an illustration, various words that are associated with women include lovely, pretty, and nice, and those associated with men include great, terrific, and neat. The last, in term of the purpose, it indicated that assertiveness is a part of the male stereotype, while

suasive language. Jones & Peccei (2004) highlighted that persuasive language holds the power of rhetoric which is the art of expressing eloquence in using language giving impact in persuading and influencing others, this can be the instrument of measuring the strength of a speech. The language for speech is classified into five categories, including metaphor (a way to distinguish two separate concepts to turn an abstract concept into a specific one), euphemism (a figure of speech that uses modest, unthreatening, or undefined expressions to communicate sensitive topics), the 'Rule of Three' (three equal ideas to give emphasis), parallelism (expressions that can provide a sense of symmetry and rhythm to make the speech memorable), and switching the pronouns to reveal responsibility, to shape emotions, or to represent power as well.

Despite an extensive range of gender-based work on linguistic knowledge, there are still few studies on the speeches of freedom activists applying the theories mentioned above. In addition, seeing that the society in the Middle East is highly patriarchal (Ochsenwald &

Fisher, 2004), an analysis of gender relations is considered significant to reveal the role of male and female speakers in shaping the audience's point of view. Therefore, this study is aimed to fulfill the gap by investigating language use in speeches delivered by Middle Eastern freedom activists. By comparing the presented speeches by the male and female speakers, it can measure the influence to the audience, how the oration brings impacts to broader society and the power that implicitly runs from the inside.

METHOD

This study implemented a qualitative method by applying a gendered approach. The data source was YouTube speech videos of male and female Middle Eastern freedom activists. Six videos consisting of three speeches by male speakers (Table 1) and female speak-

To support the measurement of power in the presented speeches, a group of respondents was selected as the audience. Their responsibility was to provide opinions about the Middle Eastern freedom activists' speech videos provided by the researcher. Since the data were in English, the research respondents must be a group of people who understand this language well. Thus, the respondents chosen were the students of the Study Program of English Literature of the 2011 academic year, Faculty of Cultural Studies, the University of Brawijaya with an advanced level of proficiency of TOEFL test (minimum 501).

RESULTS

Measuring Power in the Language Use

According to (Haas, 1979), there is no indication that any linguistic element is primarily used by one sex. It means that the linguistic

Table 2. Descriptions of the speeches by female middle eastern freedom activists

No.	Description				
	Name	Source	Nationality	Publication Date	Duration
1.	Malala Yousafzai	<i>(Girl Shot in Head by Taliban, Speaks at UN: Malala Yousafzai United Nations Speech 2013, 2013)</i>	Pakistani	July 12 th , 2013	19.35 minutes
2.	Manal al-Sharif	<i>(Manal Al-Sharif - The Drive for Freedom, 2012)</i>	Saudi Arabian	May 10 th , 2012	17.35 minutes
3.	Jenan Moussa	<i>(Jenan Moussa - Syria's Uncovered Story, 2013)</i>	Lebanese	May 24 th , 2013	9.10 minutes

ers (Table 2) were selected by following these pre-determined criteria: (1) the speaker was a freedom activist from the Middle East, (2) the speaker was a man or woman that may come from any age, race, and social background, (3) the speaker delivered his or her speech in English to the public, (4) the speech should be published in or after 2011, (5) the duration of the speech was about 5 to 20 minutes.

components might be impossible to be applied by a specific group. For the time being, however, differences have been identified in the amount of output. Thus, we might still find male speech style in female speeches and vice versa, but in the limited frequency of production. The finding of four aspects of gender differences in language use is presented in Table 3 and Table 4.

Table 3. The language use of middle eastern freedom activists’ speeches by male speakers

No.	Speakers	Language Use	Types	Evidence	
1.	Yousef	Form	Direct	And I don’t care if I’m considered whatever people want to consider me.	
			Pun	“What’s the difference between Hamas and hummus? ”	
			Polite	Thank you so much for coming this evening.	
		Topic	Politics	I know that Israel is not the problem in the Middle East. Israel is the solution to the Middle East.	
		Content	Male adjective	It’s a great privilege to be here.	
			Hyperbole	We still have thousands of innocent people’s blood witnessing Hamas terrorist attacks.	
		Purpose	Lecture	I want my people to see and study the Israeli experience after all the tragedies that this amazing nation had to face. Their focus was not to take revenge after the Holocaust. The focus was to survive and to choose life over death. Unfortunately, my people did not learn from this amazing experience and they are doing the opposite. They are seeking death over life. This is why I say that Israel is the solution, not the problem.	
				I can promise that I will be the best at being a politician.	
		Form		Coarse	What the hell is the difference—the moral difference—between Libya and Syria, between Gaddafi and Assad?
				Direct	This dilemma is called Hamas in Gaza. It has no good solution.
Pun	Perhaps I could convince the Ten Commandments into one moral categorical command: thou shalt not inflict pain.				
Polite	Thank you very much.				
Pronominal apposition	The Palestinians, they have no other place and the Israelis have no other place.				
Topic	Politics	I believe the solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is two states roughly in the line of 67, but not exactly in the line of 67, with modifications: a turning this house into a semi-detached house.			
Content	Male adjective	It’s not a Hollywood movie. It’s more like a great tragedy, a clash between right and right.			
Purpose	Lecture	Well-meaning people—people of goodwill—in Europe, in America, everywhere in the world should stop wagging the finger like an old-			

			fashioned Victorian headmistress. Moralizing and preaching. Instead, they should ask themselves “what can we do?” to help—to help—both sides.
		Assert	And, therefore, I believe that when we inflict pain on others, we know what we are doing.
		Command	It is no longer needed to choose between being pro-Israel and being pro-Palestine, you have to be pro-peace.
	Form	Polite	Thank you and God bless you.
3.	Abuelaish	Topic	Human relation No one should be killed to get freedom. Freedom is free for everyone without any cost. And I believe we must defend the freedom of all. Your freedom is from my freedom. No one is free as long as others are not. It’s time to stand up for the freedom of all and to defend it loudly.
		Content	Hyperbole To forget there are millions behind you.
		Purpose	Assert And I believe we must defend the freedom of all. Command Just to start and not to wait for others. Have hope, have faith, but most important, is to take action. Actions resonate more than words.

Table 4. The language use of middle eastern freedom activists’ speeches by female speakers

No.	Speakers	Differences	Types	Evidence
		Form	Polite	Thank you.
		Topic	Social problem	Dear fellas, today I am focusing on women’s rights and girls’ education because they are suffering the most.
		Content	Male adjective	Being here with such honorable people is a great moment in my life and it is an honour for me that today I am wearing a shawl of Benazir Bhutto syahid.
1.	Yousafzai		Hyperbole	And out of that silence came thousands of voices.
			Command	Dear Brothers and Sisters, do remember one thing: Malala Day is not my day.
		Use	Tentative	I don’t know where to begin my speech. I don’t know what people would be expecting me to say, but first of all thank you to God for whom we all are equal, and thank you to every person who has prayed for my fast recovery and a new life.
			Coarse	My heroes were nothing but bloody terrorists.
2.	Al-Sharif	Form	Polite	To understand, I used to burn my brother’s music cassettes in the oven. Sorry , Brother.

3. Moussa	Topic	Social problem	And we believe in full citizenship for women, because the child cannot be free if his mother is not free. The husband cannot be free if his wife is not free. The parents are not free if their daughters are not free. The society is nothing if the women are nothing.
	Content	Hyperbole	Some hundreds of women drove that day.
	Use	Assert	And I think it was a turning point in so many people in my generation.
		Tentative	That video, when I posted it online, I got like 700.000 views in one day.
	Form	Polite	Please just have a look at the pictures and listen to the sound of war.
	Topic	Social problem	Women’s rights in Syria. Sure, I’m very much interested in the subject of women’s liberation in the Arab worlds.
	Content	Hyperbole	Because as I try to discuss women’s rights with women in Syria, grenades fly over the house, exploding couple of hundred meters away.
		Adverb of intensity	The economy of Chile during the rule of dictator Pinochet, do it pretty well.
	Use	Assert	She told me something which I think is very important and which pretty much sum it all out.
		Command	Don’t mirror your own set of rules and morals and think that Syrian women will abide with these same rules.
Non-assertive		Based on the ground reality, I would advise you to stop expecting that Syrian women—or Arab women in fact—will follow the same path as Western families do.	
	Tentative	More than 70.000 people have been killed.	

Based on the data above, male speakers’ speeches were coarser than female speakers’ speeches (2 compared to 1 coarse form). Male speakers tended to be more direct than female speakers (3 compared to no direct form). Male speakers were also good to use pun or word-play in their speeches (6 compared to no pun). Moreover, female speakers were more polite than male speakers in using language in their speeches (6 compared to 5 polite forms). Lastly, in terms of the form, male speakers also tended to use pronominal apposition in their speeches (1 compared to no pronominal apposition).

In terms of the topics, male speakers preferred to talk about politics (2 of 3 male speakers). Only one male speaker talked about human relations. On the other side, all-female speakers preferred to talk about social problems. Regarding the content of the speech, male speakers were more likely to use a male adjective in their speeches than female speakers (3 compared to 1 male adjective). Yet, female speakers used more hyperbole in their speeches than male speakers (9 compared to 3 hyperboles). Moreover, female speakers tended to use adverbs of intensity more than male speakers (2 compared to no adverb of intensity).

Based on the data, the use of speech was also distinguished. Male speakers tended to lecture the audience in their speeches more than female speakers (2 compared to no lecture structure). Male speakers also tended to assert the audience in their speeches (26 compared to 3 assertive structures). Furthermore, male speakers tended to command the audience in their speeches (5 compared to 2 command structures). On the other hand, female speakers' language is more non-assertive than male speakers' language (1 compared to no non-assertive structure) and more tentative (6 compared to no tentative structure).

Measuring Power in the Language for Speech

In delivering a speech, the core target of the speaker is to influence the audience. While the basic purpose is to transfer information. To make a great impact on the public is one thing that gives the speaker additional value. Several factors might influence the representation of power in the way the speaker delivers the speech. Those factors can be the content, the moral message, the speaker's gesture, and language style. The findings of five categories of the language for speech were presented in Table 5 and Table 6.

Table 5. The language for speech of middle eastern freedom activists' speeches by male speakers

No.	Speakers	The Language for Speech	Evidence
1.	Yousef	Metaphor	-
		Euphemism	-
		The 'Rule of Three'	I had political reasons, personal reasons, ideological reasons.
		Parallelism	I know the language, I know the people, I know the mentality, I know everything about that culture.
		Pronouns	And I know deep in my heart that that was the most important motivation that I had: love your enemy.
2.	Klausner	Metaphor	-
		Euphemism	Well-meaning people—people of good will—in Europe, in America, everywhere in the world should stop wagging the finger like an old-fashioned Victorian headmistress.
		The 'Rule of Three'	Ever since we were little children, even before we learn how to speak, even before we learn to pronounce our first words, we already knew that pain hurts, that pain is bad.
		Parallelism	Fascism and Anti-Fascism were black and white. Colonization and Decolonization was black and white. Vietnam was black and white. Apartheid was black and white.
		Pronouns	-
3.	Abuelaish	Metaphor	My life was a war, was a tragedy.
		Euphemism	-
		The 'Rule of Three'	But, it needs determination, goodwill, and hard work.

Parallelism	They have no faces. They have no names. They have no blood or future.
Pronouns	There are human beings and saving one's life, you save the world. Killing one, you kill the world.

Table 6. The Language for Speech of Middle Eastern Freedom Activists' Speeches by Female Speakers

No.	Speakers	The Language for Speech	Evidence
1.	Yousafzai	Metaphor	-
		Euphemism	-
		The 'Rule of Three'	But, nothing's changed in my life except this: weakness, fear, and hopelessness died.
		Parallelism	My ambitions are the same. My hopes are the same. And my dreams are the same.
		Pronouns	Dear Brothers and Sisters, we want schools and education for every child's bright future. We will continue our journey to our destination of peace and education. No one can stop us. We will speak up for our rights and we will bring change to our voice. We believe in the power and the strength of our words. Our words can change the whole world because we are all together, united for the cause of education. And if we want to achieve our goal, then let us empower ourselves with the weapon of knowledge and let us shield ourselves with unity and togetherness.
		Metaphor	For them, I was <i>awra</i> .
2.	Al-Sharif	Euphemism	-
		The 'Rule of Three'	So, we were voiceless, we were faceless, and we were nameless.
		Parallelism	For them, my face was <i>awra</i> . Even my voice was <i>awra</i> . My name was <i>awra</i> .
		Pronouns	I remember one day, it was hajj time, and this is Kaaba, which is the holy shrine for Moslems. They left the curtains up so you can see the walls. I was performing <i>tawwaaf</i> with my mother, where you have to walk in circles around the Kaaba.
3.	Moussa	Metaphor	-
		Euphemism	-
		The 'Rule of Three'	-
		Parallelism	Scared to die. Scared to get wounded.
		Pronouns	-

Based on the data, there were no significant differences in the way male and female speakers using the language for speech. The data showed that male speakers were more

likely to use metaphor than female speakers (3 compared to 1 metaphor). Male speakers tended to use euphemism than female speakers (1 compared to no euphemism). Female speakers insignificantly dominated the use of the 'rule of three' over male speakers (18 compared to 17 'rule of three'). Besides, female speakers also dominated the use of parallelism than male speakers did (14 compared to 9 parallelisms). In the last category, male speakers tended to emphasize using pronouns more often than female speakers (6 compared to 2 pronouns).

DISCUSSION

The international crises in the Middle East come forth with the hard situation experienced by the people in their daily life. The situation deals with the economic challenges, also wider questions about employment, working conditions, cost of life and public urban demand, medical services, educational opportunities, and mobility (Bayat, 2000). Freedom activists from all cultures, thus, raise their voices to achieve a better life. As a strategy to overcome the challenges and difficulties, activism continues to grow. Delivering speech, for instance, is one of the ways freedom activists carry out.

Despite the apparent assumption that freedom activists, both male and female, have the same right to stand before an audience to transfer their opinions, the public realm has been a predominantly male territory in contemporary times (Cameron & Kulick, 2013; Talbot, 2010). It is asserted that in societies where men dominate the high status and the authority among others, women do not experience the equality they deserve to. It was observed that the public sphere was indeed gendered over time, which illustrated a regrettable part. More specifically, the patriarchal circumstances in the Middle East led us to question the power of male and female freedom activists to exert influence through their speeches.

The themes discussed by the freedom activists were mainly related to their life experi-

ence, both living as a victim in the conflicted area and as a witness behind the line of dispute in the neighborhood countries. The first male speaker, Mosab Hassan Yousef, delivered his speech at the Deutscher Israel Kongress in 2011. He was a son of the Hamas leader who left the terrorist organization his father had built. In his speech, he conveyed his opinion in considering Israel as the solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by referring to his background as a secret agent of Israeli intelligence. Next, Amos Klausner, a novelist, remarked on morality and politics. He offered a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to separate the two countries like a semi-detached house. The third male speaker, Izzeldin Abuelaish emphasized the way to forgive the enemy in his talk at the Oslo Freedom Forum 2011. This Palestinian doctor wanted to underline such an issue since he has lost his daughters in an Israeli bombardment.

Female speakers mostly shared their life experiences in their speeches. The first female speaker, Malala Yousafzai, talked about the freedom of education as the central issue of her activism. This Pakistani girl who was the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner raised the schooling opportunity subject in her speech delivered at the United Nations in 2013. The second speaker, Manal al-Sharif, was one of the women's liberation activists actively involved in the feminist movement. In his speech, she highlighted the freedom of driving vehicles because women were not allowed to drive in her native country, Saudi Arabia. The last, Jenan Moussa discussed women's rights at the Oslo Freedom Forum 2013. As a Lebanese correspondent for a pan-Arab television channel, she tried to describe this social problem from her point of view.

These backgrounds must be highlighted apart from the analysis on the language use and language for speech expressed by the freedom activists. First, the investigation was conducted to examine the language used between the male and female speakers. In terms of the form, male speakers tended to be coarse, direct, use a pun, and use pronominal apposition than female speakers. In other

words, men's language was not tentative because men were more likely to be outspoken in asserting their opinions. They used two similar words to create humorous wordplays, switch words position to compose memorable phrases and witticisms from a taboo principle or a popular slogan. Oppositely, the research findings showed that female speakers commonly used standard form of language compared to male speakers. This can be concluded from their use of pronominal apposition as we would find double subjects in a male speaker's speech more frequently. Besides, female speakers were more polite than male speakers because they recurrently expressed their gratitude in their talk. These findings supported a previous study where males were related to "died" and females were related to "passed away", an obvious example of males' direct and females' polite forms of language use (Ferraro, 2019).

In terms of topic, male speakers preferred politics and human relations, while female speakers preferred social problems. The topic selection was strongly related to the background of the speakers. Female speakers had an interest in social problems because of their background as activists.

In terms of content, the evidence showed that male speakers used more male adjectives than their opposite gender group. Female speakers, on the other side, used hyperbole more often, such as "thousands of voices", "some hundreds of women", "a couple of hundred meters away", etc. Both genders used hyperbole—excessively but with inaccurate evidence—to convince the audience of the issue being discussed so that they could bring the public to follow their argument. However, female speakers dominated the use of hyperbole than male speakers, which all at once also indicated the tentativeness of women's language.

In terms of purpose, male speakers tended to lecture, assert, and command in their speeches, while female speakers' language was considered non-assertive and tentative. Male speakers had no doubts to criticize people di-

rectly, then offer an action that people should take to solve the problem. Moreover, they directly gave orders or even prohibitions in showing their strict commands. On the contrary, female speakers did not generally assert the audience but gave options that can be selected. They also showed their uncertainty to the audience by saying "I don't know," or using an approximation in telling numbers.

Secondly, the examination was carried out to explore the use of language for speech between male and female speakers. In delivering the speech, male speakers dominated the use of metaphor, euphemism, and pronouns; whereas female speakers dominate the use of the 'rule of three' and parallelism. This evidence indicated insignificant differences because both male and female speakers had the same intention to use any language for speech to influence the audience. It is strongly related to the ability of the speakers to modify the art of their language.

Both male and female speakers used metaphors to compare an idea to another. This is in line with several previous studies (Balam & Couto, 2019; Dziallas, 2019). In "for them, I was *aware*" or "my life was a war, was a tragedy", the speakers tried to juxtapose a concept with another concept which established a heartbreaking atmosphere. In another example of metaphor, such as "education is the light", the purpose is to establish a positive value derived from reality.

Almost all of the speakers, male and female, did not show the use of euphemism. This can be considered the most unpopular one among the other categories since the frequency of production seems too small. Based on the data presented in the tables, only one male speaker demonstrated the use of euphemism. The use of "wagging their finger" indicated how the speaker tried to build an inoffensive suggestion without directly telling what he meant.

Next, the intention of using the 'rule of three' is to make a united group of three ideas, so that it can stress the issue being discussed. By stating the three ideas in one classification,

the issue will be more memorable for the audience. This category was considered the most broadly used among the other categories. All of the male speakers and almost all of the female speakers used this “three-part statement” in their speeches.

In terms of parallelism, all of the speakers from both genders had the experience to express a shared structure. There was no wide gap between the frequency of production between one speaker and another in applying parallelism. However, female speakers still dominated the use of this category than male speakers. The same as the goal of using the ‘rule of three’, the aim of creating parallelism is to draw the audience’s attention, so that the speaker can easily influence the audience.

In terms of pronouns, not all of the speakers revealed the use of this category in their speeches. Only two male speakers and two female speakers demonstrated the change in their pronouns. In this case, male speakers dominated female speakers in applying this device. Sometimes, the speakers switched the pronoun they used with another pronoun. Further, the speakers also showed the consistent use of certain pronouns to represent a deep response to an issue.

In the last stage of the investigation, interviews were conducted with ten qualified respondents. The researcher measured the respondents’ reactions after watching the speech videos based on three aspects: the speaker, language use, and topic. The results indicated that language use was the most potent aspect to influence the audience in delivering the speech. This result was suggested by 6 out of 10 respondents. According to them, language use has the power to influence people, to move the public to make an action, and to shape their understanding of a certain issue.

Specifically, the results of the interview showed that the power of speech could not be significantly influenced by genders. The findings led to a conclusion that one gender cannot be considered more potential than the other to influence the audience in delivering a speech. The respondents who chose the male

speakers as the powerful group explained that they were more persuasive, confident, certain, and firm in delivering their speech. The male speakers also provided more examples, emphasized particular words, and presented the speech based on their own experiences. From another point of view, those who chose the female speakers as the powerful group explained that female speakers were more emotional in delivering a speech, and the speeches delivered were based on their involvement in particular incidents. This provided a remark that language use and language for speech are not the only parameters to be applied to assess the power of speech. Other factors are also crucial to be taken into consideration.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis of male and female Middle Eastern freedom activists’ speeches, it can be concluded that male and female spoken language differences exist in some ways. All of those differences can be classified into four aspects, specifically the form, topic, content, and purpose. In using the language for speech, both male and female speakers demonstrated insignificant differences in the production of metaphor, euphemism, the ‘rule of three’, parallelism, and pronouns. Besides, it cannot be concluded that one gender is more potential to influence the audience than the other in delivering the speech. Both male and female speakers had the same intention to influence the audience so that their ideas can reach the public. Yet, other factors, both internal and external, can influence the way a speaker presents their speech so that it will be powerful. The artistry in using language, gesture, and emotion are parts of these indicators.

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