

# Gender and Power of Language in *A Passage to India* by Edward Forster

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## Abstract

In this research, the main issue is to illustrate the huge differences between female and male characters' choice of words and their linguistic and psychological effect of the novel's *A Passage to India* by Forster (1924). The researchers have set some questions and attempted to answer them through using qualitative methods endorsed by Potter's (1999) and Lakoff's (1973). These qualitative methods are the ones which focus on vocabulary, word analysis, and word meaning. The main concern of these methods is to gather non-numerical data proofing our main idea even more by giving examples from the incidents in the novel. They also refer to the meanings, concepts, definitions, characteristics, metaphors, symbols, and description of things. The research comes out with some important findings. It is revealed that words alone do deliver the whole meaning. However, it is demonstrated that gender, body language, words of politeness, and punctuations that show the tone of voice do help words convey their effect more clearly. It is also found that females have strong tendency to use descriptive words to express their feelings. This makes females' language more pleasant than males'. It is further noticed that females use tag questions more commonly to seek approval. On the other hand, it is observed that males produce formal sentences to realize and ascertain dominance in their speech.

**Keywords:** gender, language, differences, synonyms, politeness

## 1. Introduction

Language is the most important tool for human communication and words are the containers of power. Through words, people can achieve success, respect, and reputation. Words deliver love, peace and other emotions. Through words, one can express feelings, make someone's day, build and even harm relationships. The use of language, specifically the use of words, is very important. Therefore, in sociolinguistics, sociolects mention that people can be analyzed by their choices of words in which they represent significant cases like the person's status and background. A definition of sociolinguistics is given by Ervin-Tripp (1969), saying that: "[t]he systematic study of the relation of the linguistic forms and social meaning"(91-165). Another definition is given by Meyerhoff (2015), which indicates that "[s]ociolinguistics is a very broad field, and it can be used to describe many different ways of studying language" (1).

The goal of this research is to shed lights on the power of words and how it affects the development of the plot of the novel *A Passage to India* by Edward Morgan Forster (1924). We have focused on how each character affects the other characters through his/her use and choice of words. Also, the gender of the characters determines how much a word affects in which the effect differs depending on the different choices that were chosen by males and females.

In this research, the focus is on how words help the plot to develop. Certain characters in the novel tell about their relationships, their lives and their personalities indirectly through their choice of words. For example, in love stories, it is not necessary for a lover to say "I love you" to express his/her love to their partner. Love could be delivered through word choices that show caring, power, love, kindness and so on.

Many researchers take this subject, power of words as their matter of concern. People who are studying psychology will benefit from such studies in which they might help them examine their patients, know them better and study them well. As well as for sociolinguistics, this could help them in a way it feeds their curiosity and interests, teach

their students, if they were teachers, how to behave in a certain way, act in a certain way and how to use words in an appropriate way in certain situations. It is also beneficial in ordinary lives to know how to talk to people, show them respect, and strengthen relationships and so on.

The opposite could happen in the absence of certain instructions of word usage. For example, sometimes wrong word choice could harm others, shows them disrespect, and hurts them and so on. Studying words and language use are very important whether they were for the sake of education and knowledge, or for the sake of interests. It is a must for each one to know the appropriate use of language and words in particular and it is also a must to teach that to children from early age.

## 2. Significance of the Study

It is quite clear that males and females have a lot of differences in many fields. One of these differences is using vocabulary. Gender is one of the most important factors, which influences use of vocabulary. Many scholars have examined this topic, one of them is Sunderland (2006) who presents an up-to-date introduction in his book *Language and Gender*. Moreover, Freeman and McElhinny (1996), in their discussion of language and gender, they focus on analyzing the differences between men and women's language in society through their way of pronouncing the words, grammatical structure, and choice of words (21). However, the significance of this research lies in the concentration of the effect of words used by the characters either males or females in *A Passage to India* by E. M. Forster (1924), and how they help to form the plot of the novel. Hopefully, people who are interested in sociolinguistics and psychology will benefit from this research.

## 3. Objectives of the Study

The main objectives behind conducting this study are to:

- identify the differences in choosing words between males and females, and locate them.
- know how the gender creates such different effects and what leads each sex to choose different words.
- know whether other synonyms of a particular word would have the same affect in a different positions.
- find out the reason behind what makes a word affect in a certain way.
- analyze the characters' interaction, and how it has effects on the novel's plot and other characters.

## 4. Questions of the Study

As mentioned previously, this research's main concern is to tell the effects of different word. This can be achieved through reading the novel of *A Passage to India* and answering the following questions:

1. How do males and females vary in the interaction and use words differently?
2. What makes a word to have different effect and to influence the novel's plot and other characters?
3. Do the synonyms of a certain word have the same effect as the word itself?
4. What are the factors that help a word to affect in a certain way?

## 5. Review of Literature

Walker (2014) in his research concerns about examining current understandings of gender and the use of diagnostic categories in the description of gender language variance. In his search, he provides 46 peer-reviewed journal articles and selects 21 journals that are based on publication date (after 2003) and the use of gender as a term. His research conducts a common theme that the use language is absent and lacking in how individuals describe themselves without the resorting to the use of diagnostic categories to describe gender variance.

Baranauskienė and Arminian's (2012) paper aims to illustrate the differences between the speech of women and men in Hemingway's fiction and to typify the linguistic strategies representing females and males dominance or powerlessness in a different social context. The researcher picks 32 conversations from Ernest Hemingway story. The paper results in many characteristics of males and females' speech styles. Females use hedges and tag questions, differences in topics and choice of the lexicon.

Hirschman (1994) in her paper studies the differences of how females and males interact in conversation. The research analyzes data from an experiment of two females and two males conversing with each other for one hour. It concludes with the different results, as where the female participants use 1st person pronouns more than males, use frequency pitch that is higher than the male speakers, they interrupt each other more than men, their conversations are fluent.

Potter (1999), in his study explores the power of words and their usage in contexts of recent reforms. He mentions in his study that: "[t]he discipline of accounting is peculiarly dependent on a specialized vocabulary or terminology, both in determining the nature and content of accounting regulation and practice and also in shaping the accounting domain"(47). According to his saying, he focuses on the vocabulary itself, its parts of speech and the different meanings it has. As a result, he declares that this method helps to overcome "difficulties with the use of technical language in accounting reports"(47).

Burke and Porter (1987) have pointed out the importance of understanding language as a social institution, and as a part of a culture as well as to develop sensitivity to linguistic conversations (13). They are interested in the historical Italian modern works and use the methodology of analyzing the works to come up with the different meanings as a result. All of these studies have come to a conclusion which is showing the importance of the language and how we use it.

Xia (2013) in her research, *Gender Differences In Using Language*, focuses in many aspects of differences between males and females in using language such as pronunciation, intonation, vocabulary, syntax, manners, attitudes, and non-verbal body language, through few examples from everyday situations. Then, she mentions the important factors which cause these differences. Generally, her research presents a general idea about the differences in using language between males and females and the causes for those differences.

Maltz and Borker (1982) paper discuss the differences in the speaking patterns of American men and women. It is based on a reexamination of a wide variety of material available in the scholarly literature. Their study shows that when males and females try to interact as equals in cross-sex conversations they play the different role in the interaction. Women display a greater tendency to ask questions, use of positive minimal responses, and pronouns. Unlike men, who interrupt the speech of their conversational partners, challenge or dispute, and make more direct declarations.

Newman, Groom, Handelman, and Pennebaker. (2008) in their study investigate the differences in the ways that men and women use language. They examine 14,000 text files from 70 separate studies using standardized categories to analyze the varieties. Their paper results are that women use words related to psychological and social processes more than men who prefer to use object properties and impersonal topics.

## 6. Method of the Study

There are a number of qualitative methods that can be used in relation to the collection and analysis of data. This will be elaborated in the below sections.

### Data Collection

The data is collected from the novel *A Passage to India* by E. M. Forster (1924). For the novel, the researchers take certain conversations between the characters from different chapters and analyze the characters' choice of vocabulary, parts of speech, and synonyms, and also their conversational style of using tag questions, hedges, adjectives, and disclaimers.

### Data Analysis

The researchers will take the conversations from the chapters, and we will use two methodologies, for example:

1. Potter's (1999) word analysis methodology. He uses the method of focusing on analyzing the texts vocabulary, parts of speech, and synonyms to clarify the characters' choice of words while creating the sentences.
2. Lakoff (1973) conversational style. As it clarifies the differences between both males and females' style at producing sentences. In simpler words, we will read the selected conversations and compare the texts produced by female characters to those of males to clarify who use the tag questions, hedges, adjectives, or disclaimers items more than the other.

## 7. Discussions and Results

The data will be analyzed according to Potter's (1999) techniques which focus on selected vocabulary, parts of speech, or synonyms in the novel of *A Passage to India* by Forster. This is to investigate the power of words in this novel and to see how effective they are. Another technique will be also used to explain and link the relationship between our idea and the novel itself. That's done by applying Lakoff's (1973) method of gender differences in styles, adjectives, hedges, tag questions and disclaimers.

- Context 1

The researchers look at the conversation between Dr. Aziz and Mrs. Moore in their very first meeting at the mosque. This conversation shows how the events develop depending on the use of words, tones, body language and so on.

**Part 1. This part focuses on the effect of apology and words of politeness**

Dr. Aziz: "Madam, this is a mosque, you have no right here at all; you should have taken off your shoes; this is a holy place for Moslems."

Mrs. Moore: "I have taken them off."

Dr. Aziz: "You have?"

Mrs. Moore: "I left them at the entrance."

Dr. Aziz: "Then I ask your pardon." Still startled, the woman moved out, keeping the ablution-tank between them. He called after her, "I am truly sorry for speaking" (20).

The first time for Dr. Aziz and Mrs. Moore to meet is at the mosque. The first interaction between them is when she enters the mosque, she hears Dr. Aziz yelling to take her shoes off when she enters the mosque. As anyone else would do, Mrs. Moore steps out of the mosque, and she even would have left the mosque if he has not apologized to her like he has already done by saying: "I ask your pardon" and "I am truly sorry for speaking". This shows how polite and kind Dr. Aziz actually is. His choice of words when he apologizes delivers the feeling of true emotions.

When he tells her to take her shoes off, he addresses her "Madam" which gives a sense of respect even though she is a stranger, Christian, and a British lady. If another word is chosen instead of "Madam" for example, "Hey, you!", or if he did not apologize twice, the whole situation would have ended up with Mrs. Moore leaving the mosque instead of ending up being friends with Dr. Aziz.

**Part 2. This part focuses on the gender comparison as well as word choice and friendly tones.**

Mrs. Moore: "I have taken them off."

Dr. Aziz: "You have?"

Mrs. Moore: "I left them at the entrance."

Dr. Aziz: "Then I ask your pardon." Still startled, the woman moved out, keeping the ablution-tank between them.

He called after her, "I am truly sorry for speaking."

Mrs. Moore: "Yes, I was right, was I not? If I remove my shoes, I am allowed?"

Dr. Aziz: "Of course, but so few ladies take the trouble, especially if thinking no one is there to see." .....

Dr. Aziz: "Madam!"

Dr. Aziz: "May I know your name?" She was now in the shadow of the gateway, so that he could not see her face, but she saw his, and she said with a change of voice, "Mrs. Moore." .....

Dr. Aziz: "Mrs. Moore, I am afraid I startled you" (20-21).

This conversation shows more of gender similarities than dissimilarities through the technique of repetition where Mrs. Moore tends to repeat herself in: "I have taken them off", "I left them at the entrance", and "Yes, I was right, was I not? If I remove my shoes, I am allowed?" Dr. Aziz is also repeating himself when he apologizes in: "Then I ask your pardon", "I am truly sorry for speaking", and "Mrs. Moore, I am afraid I startled you". This shows that sometimes both males and females tend to repeat themselves to emphasize certain thoughts, concepts, ideas and or beliefs.

After Dr. Aziz's apology, Mrs. Moore continues the conversation and says: "Yes, I was right, was I not? If I remove my shoes, I am allowed?" She still wants to enter the mosque because Dr. Aziz gives her a sense of relief after his apology. He welcomes her to enter the mosque by saying: "Of course". He asks her: "May I know your name?" which gives a friendly feeling instead of a threatening one. She replies: "Mrs. Moore" which also shows her acceptance to continue talking with him. He apologizes again for the third time when he says: "Mrs. Moore, I am afraid I startled you".

Word choice in this situation is the reason that makes them friends. Soft words in some of the apologizing utterances such as "Madam", "I ask your pardon", "I am truly sorry", "I am afraid I startled you" lead the situation to be good rather than bad and mitigate the threatening act.

**Part 3. This part focuses on the good first-impression and the friendly atmosphere through the use of questions and jokes, as well as the gender differences.**

Dr. Aziz: "I think you are newly arrived in India."  
 Mrs. Moore: "Yes— how did you know?" ....  
 Mrs. Moore: "I have only come from the club. They are doing a play that I have seen in London, and it was so hot." ....  
 Dr. Aziz: "I think you ought not to walk at night alone, Mrs. Moore. There are bad characters about and leopards may come across from the Marabar Hills. Snakes also." ....  
 Dr. Aziz: "But you walk about yourself."  
 Mrs. Moore: "Oh, I am used to it."  
 Dr. Aziz: "Used to snakes?" They both laughed.  
 Dr. Aziz: "I'm a doctor"  
 Dr. Aziz: "Snakes don't dare bite me" (21).

They continue talking in friendly tones as Dr. Aziz's attempts to get to know her more in which he says: "I think you are newly arrived in India". This is one of the questions that are asked in situations where people want to get to know more about each other and to become friends. She replies: "I have only come from the club. They are doing a play that I have seen in London, and it was so hot" in which she tells him about the club and adds more details.

Dr. Aziz shows his concerns about Mrs. Moore when he says: "I think you ought not to walk at night alone, Mrs. Moore. There are bad characters about and leopards may come across from the Marabar Hills. Snakes also" (21). He wants her to be careful. When she tells him that she is "used to it", he makes a joke and says: "used to snakes?" and both of them laugh. This enriches the relationships in which telling jokes make the atmosphere more friendly and happy. He immediately introduces himself saying: "I am a doctor". He tells another joke and says: "snakes don't dare bite me" which also makes a good first impression. Using the sense of humor is one of the things that makes the first meeting successful. A definition of humor is given by Martin (2003) saying that humor is a case where the fun is being made at oneself and it is not taken seriously (3).

The researchers can agree on that males tend to make jokes rather than females do. Males are known for taking the first step and applying the first move rather than females because females are usually shy. Dr. Aziz jokes twice, and this can be taken as a proof to prove on this point.

**Part 4. This part focuses on detailed personal questions, and the body language which indicates a sense of comfort and relief.**

They sat down side by side in the entrance, and slipped on their evening shoes.

Dr. Aziz: "Please may I ask you a question now? Why do you come to India at this time of year, just as the cold weather is ending?"  
 Mrs. Moore: "I intended to start earlier, but there was an unavoidable delay." .....  
 Mrs. Moore: "He's my son all the same," she said, smiling.  
 Dr. Aziz: "But, Mrs. Moore, how can he be?"  
 Mrs. Moore: "I was married twice" (21).

He wants to know her more where he asks for more details and says: "Please may I ask you a question now? Why do you come to India at this time of year, just as the cold weather is ending?" Now she feels comfortable and says: "I intended to start earlier, but there was an unavoidable delay." The description in the novel says that both of them set aside, taking their evening shoes off.

Their action of wearing the evening shoes and sitting aside to continue the conversation shows how comfortable they have become. Body language, here, says a lot, as Meeren, van Heijnsbergen and de Gelder (2005) define it, saying that the face is not separated from the body, both face and body convey the emotional state of a person (1). The body movements, the facial expressions, and the tone of the voice, they all deliver certain messages. Through the description of their action, we come to a conclusion where both of them feel comfortable, and both of them set aside to continue talking more and more.

When Mrs. Moore mentions her son, Dr. Aziz asks her: "how can he be?" She replies: "I was married twice". Also, she mentions the death of both of her husbands. This shows how much open she is. Then he tells her that both of him and she are in the same box where they both have experienced the death of their life partners and both of them have

two kids. Letting the other person know that both of the two have things in common, strengthen the relationship between them and brings closer to each other.

**Part 5. This part focuses on the invitation to a certain place, which creates a friendly atmosphere and strengthens the friendship.**

Dr. Aziz: "Would you care to see over the Minto Hospital one morning?" he enquired.

Dr. Aziz: "I have nothing else to offer at Chandrapore."

Mrs. Moore: "Thank you, I have seen it already, or I should have liked to come with you very much"(22).

Mrs. Moore rises to go, but he asks her if she would like to come with him to see the Minto Hospital. She thanks him and says: "Thank you, I have seen it already, or I should have liked to come with you very much." Both of them give the other good vibes and that they would love to see each other once again. The way they are open to each other and the choice of words show how comfortable they are with each other and give friendly feelings. They are formal with each other in which they are addressing each other with formal titles such as "Mrs." and "Dr.:" Also, they are kind and polite to each other in which they consistently say "thank you" and other soft words that show and give comfortable feelings such as mentioning what they have in common and the use of jokes in order to give a relaxing atmosphere.

**Part 6. This part focuses on the last words and the confession of good impression both characters have got from each other.**

Dr. Aziz: "You understand me, you know what others feel. Oh, if others resembled you!" Rather surprised, she replied: "I don't think I understand people very well. I only know whether I like or dislike them" (22).

They continue talking and he tells her about a lady they both know, but he thinks that the lady is not charming as Mrs. Moore thinks. He, then tells her: "You understand me, you know what others feel. Oh, if others resembled you!" Where he clearly shows how comfortable and how much he likes her. Then she modestly says: "I don't think I understand people very well. I only know whether I like or dislike them". Her usage of words shows how humble she is which mostly likable rather than being self-centered where it is the agreement on whatever makes a person looks good.

In these six parts, the whole situation could have gone to the totally opposite way. He could have let her go without apologizing, and she could have simply left. What has made them end up being friends is the use of apologies, expressing respect, body language, formal addressing\formal titles, soft words, making jokes, mentioning things in common and finally the invitation to visit the Hospital.

- **Context 2**

In Fielding's tea party at his house, every one of the five characters has a good time talking about India, especially since this is the first meeting for some of them. At this point, the researcher will analyze some of the most important conversations in this small tea party.

**Part 1. This part focuses on the choice of words according to gender differences.**

Miss. Adela to Dr. Aziz: "I want you to explain a disappointment we had this morning; it must be some point of Indian etiquette."

Dr. Aziz: "There honestly is none, we are by nature a most informal people."

Mrs. Moore: "I am afraid we must have made some blunder and given offence."

Dr. Aziz: "That is even more impossible, but may I know the facts?" (68).

In this conversation, the differences between them are not due to their gender, but also to their different background. For that reason, their choice of words will be different. According to the social scientist Oakley (1972), gender is not only about human sex (female and male); it also reflects the social value of each sex which is created by the interaction between females and males, and the environment they live in (158).

When Adela expresses her feeling, she chooses the word "disappointment". Which is a noun, while there are other adjectives' synonyms of this word such as disgruntled, or hurtful, but nouns are more suitable in this context?

However, that word she chooses i.e., "disappointment" expresses both her sorrow and discomfit. This shows how females prefer to express their feelings by choosing the words accurately.

Dr. Aziz's response shows us how some males are more receptive in some situations which females take seriously, and the reason behind these differences is that males often think by their logic, unlike females, who often allow their emotions to affect their decisions. Some scholars agree that females use conversation to talk about their problems. While males, on the other hand, use the language to offer solutions and give advice to the other without mentioning the details.

Mrs. Moore intervention confirms that even if females become more reasonable, their emotions will affect their interpretations of the situations, and their expressions will change too. Moreover, the way they use the language and their choice of words. As we see when Mrs. Moore tries to explain to Dr. Aziz, she begins by blaming Miss. Adela and herself "we must have made some blunder". Then she says "and given offence". Subsequently, Mrs. Moore feels offended just like Miss. Adela, but she wonders about the reason for such an offence.

These two ladies just like many other females; they begin their speech without explaining what has happened? What makes them have such bad feelings? What are the facts? That is why Dr. Aziz asks them about the reasons for their feelings of disappointment to determine if their reasons are qualified to get an explanation. Finally, his question "but may I know the facts?" asserts that males often use a dominance style in speaking.

### **Part 2. This part focuses on the use of descriptive words.**

Dr. Aziz: "Oh, but we will talk of something else now," he exclaimed. "I wish I lived here. See this beautiful room! Let us admire it together for a little. See those curves at the bottom of the arches. What delicacy! It is the architecture of Question and Answer. Mrs. Moore, you are in India; I am not joking" (70).

In these lines, the researcher will discuss how some types of males describe things. Generally, description depends on the individual's capacity in compiling the words. We know that males by their nature do not prefer to speak a lot or to use descriptive words, while females do. Here Dr. Aziz presents a special type of males when he went on to describe the place.

Dr. Aziz begins his description by wishing if he lives in a similar house, which explains how impressed he is in the house. Nevertheless, he uses descriptive words to express his feeling, but still, he does not reach the level of females in the use of description. It appears when he chooses the word "beautiful room", the word beautiful regards as a simple word compared to other words which have the same meaning such as gorgeous, charming, and fantastic. According to Xia (2013) in her research "...women are more sensitive to the environment and more likely to express their emotions with words, which makes women's language more interesting than men's sometimes" (1486).

However, Dr. Aziz surprises the reader whenever he uses some descriptive techniques, he approves that every rule has its exception, and not all males do not have description skills. Dr. Aziz uses the repetition when he asks the others to see the place, he says the word "see" twice. While he can say look or watch, but he chooses the most comprehensive one in the meaning, the meaning of the word "see" include not just looking, but also examine, recognize, and think of it. Moreover, he uses the exclamation style when he says "What delicacy", the meaning of the word delicacy similar to the meaning of the word accuracy, but it has more expressive of admiration and both of them are nouns. Finally, Dr. Aziz ends his admiration by saying "Mrs. Moore, you are in India; I am not joking." To emphasize that all these developments in architectures are in India.

### **Part 3. This part focuses on the personality differences between the individuals of the same gender.**

Miss. Adela: "Are they large caves?"

Godbole: "No, not large."

Miss. Adela: "Do describe them, Professor Godbole."

Godbole: "It will be a great honor, there is an entrance in the rock which you enter, and through the entrance is the cave."

Dr. Aziz: "They are immensely holy, no doubt"

Godbole: "Oh no, oh no."

Dr. Aziz: "Still, they are ornamented in some way"

Godbole: "Oh no."

Dr. Aziz: "Well, why are they so famous? We all talk of the famous Marabar Caves. Perhaps that is our empty brag."

Godbole: "No, I should not quite say that."

Dr. Aziz: "Describe them to this lady, then."

Godbole: "It will be a great pleasure" (75).

This conversation is totally different from the previous one, which clearly shows that Prof. Godbole speaks in a traditional style of males in describing things in general. When Miss. Adela asks him about the caves, it is obvious that she is passionate to know more than if they are large caves or not. On the other hand, Prof. Godbole seems very discreet in his responses with Miss. Adela and Dr. Aziz, most of his answers are "no", while their style of asking questions require explanations from him. Many researchers agree that in social interaction females resort to be more excited while communicating with others, while males are unexcited and less personally involved in conversations. Moreover, Prof. Godbole uses the repetition for the word "no" for many times in this conversation, this kind of repetition is often considered annoying to the person you are talking to. Although Miss. Adela asks him to describe these caves, he answers: "It will be a great honor" and he uses a simplified explanation of these caves. In addition, Dr. Aziz asks him the same thing and he says "It will be a great pleasure". Then, he keeps silent. It is clear that Dr. Aziz involvement in this discussion is to improve narrating habit and encourage the professor to talk, but his attempts kept failing.

In these three parts, the researchers concentrate on both genders and individuals differences. However, in gender differences which cause distinction between the choices of words, we find that besides the effect of the psychological nature, there are social and cultural effects. All these effects appear when we analyze the characters' conversations. On the other hand, in the individual's differences between the members who belong to the same sex we find that as they have common characteristics between them, they still differ in some aspects and situations.

- **Context 3**

In the third part of the novel where Dr. Aziz invites his English friends to a trip to the Marabar caves, and the trial of Dr. Aziz when Adela accuses him of assaulting her. The researcher will analyze some of the important dialogues that occur in this part.

**Part 1. This part focuses on the differences in the structure and words meaning.**

Miss. Adela: "...And have you children?"

Dr. Aziz: "Yes, indeed, three"

Miss. Adela: "Are they a great pleasure to you?"

Dr. Aziz: "Why, naturally, I adore them"

Miss. Adela: "Have you one wife or more than one?"

Dr. Aziz: "One, one in my own particular case" he sputtered (152-153).

From this conversation, the researchers extract two lines that show the differences among males and females' use of language. Adela's question to Dr. Aziz, she uses "Have you" instead of "Do you have". So, Adela does this to confirm the idea she has on Muslims; being able to marry more than one woman. Therefore, her question affects Dr. Aziz's emotions and it is obvious in his reply "One, one in my own particular case". His choice of the word helps us to follow Potter's (1999) method for analyzing the synonyms of vocabulary. Therefore, the word "case" which has synonyms like situation, status, or state, shows the importance of his deceased wife, as he refers to his current condition as "case" which represents a powerful and important word.

**Part 2. This part focuses on the connected words, dominance, and the use of adjectives.**

Mr. Fielding: "I knew these women would make trouble."

Mrs. Moore: "This man, having missed the train, tries to blame us" (158).

By analyzing Fielding's choice of the word "trouble" instead of using any other of its synonyms like scene, or fuss, he chooses that word. Therefore, we conclude that the word trouble connects with the word women in the context, because according to Dobie (2012), she mentions a saying by a Greek ecclesiast about women, that they are compared to the devil "a necessary evil" (103) as they tend to start troubles, so due to that Mr. Fielding expects women to bring problems with them.

Mrs. Moore "Miss Derek is most unsatisfactory and restless, always in a hurry, always wanting something new; she will do anything in the world except go back to the Indian lady who pays her."

Mr. Fielding "She wasn't in a hurry when I left her. There was no question



of returning to Chandrapore. It looks to me as if Miss Quested's in the hurry" (157).

Here in this conversation, the two lines explain Lakoff's comment in *Woman's Place* (1973). He claims that women use more adjectives than men in describing thing and that men seek dominance in society (46). In addition, Mrs. Moore uses "most unsatisfactory" and "restless", which are negative adjectives to describe Miss. Derek. Also, Fielding's response "She wasn't in a hurry when I left her" indicates his instinct to seek dominance rather than agreeing with her.

### Part 3. This part focuses on the politeness, and words' psychological impact.

Dr. Aziz: 'it is my highly painful duty to arrest you.'

"Hullo, some mistake."

"Sir, they are my instructions. I know nothing" (161).

There are different ways to rearrange the above utterance. He could have said "you are under arrest" without "it is my highly painful duty". This utterance shows politeness of the officer towards Dr. Aziz. Although, the officer's politeness does not leave an impact on Dr. Aziz who in return tries to escape while shouting "My children and my name!" The arrest matter leaves Dr. Aziz's emotions to tense up. He cares for his children, and also his name. Therefore, the word "name" here resembles reputation, Dr. Aziz reputation, not only his real name. During the trial of Dr. Aziz, Mr. McBryde is angry of Fielding being on the Indian prisoner side. He claims that the Indians are not vice. He says:

"All unfortunate natives are criminals at heart, we should be like them if we settled here" (166).

To clarify his comment, McBryde refers to the natives, the Indians, as criminals, which is quite negative and a strong word. Originally, it means people who commit sins, but in the above utterance, it coincides with the word heart that changes its meaning to hatred, or jealousy indicating the Indians feelings towards the colonizers, the English.

As the days go on, and Dr. Aziz is still in prison. Fielding has sent a letter to Miss Quested, telling her his thoughts on Dr. Aziz's innocence. She has read the letter and paused at: "Dr. Aziz is innocent" this short utterance makes Ms. Quested guilty for what she has done. The term "innocent", is a powerful notion, comparing to "Dr. Aziz did not do it", which do not have a strong meaning beyond them that could affect the emotions. Lastly, an interaction that has happened between the victim Adela Quested and her fiancé Ronny. In their conversation:

"Help me ... Aziz is good. You heard your mother say so."

"Heard what?"

"He's good; I've been so wrong to accuse him."

"Mother never said so" (203).

It displays two differences among females and males characters. Adela is feeling guilty for what she does to Dr. Aziz after reading Fielding's letter, and Ronny is disapproving her comments on hearing his mother mentioning the innocence of Dr. Aziz. However, he himself knows that Dr. Aziz is not guilty, yet he dislikes to approve with his fiancé.

In these three parts, what the researchers conclude from these three parts is that both genders differ in many aspects. It is found that females use the adjective and tag questions more than males. The choice of words in the utterances like "Are they a great pleasure to you?", "I adore them", "highly painful duty to arrest you", or "Aziz is good" leave an impact on the emotions of other characters. Lastly, in both gender interaction, we notice that males tend to seek for power more than female characters.

## 8. Conclusion

In this research, the main concern of the researchers is to focus on how gender affect the choice of words in written texts, specifically the novel *A Passage to India* by Forster (1924). The researchers analyze specific dialogues through using the methods of Potter's (1999), and Lakoff's (1973) which are focusing on vocabulary, word analysis, the usage of adjectives and tag questions. The results, in general, are diverse due to how each gender interacts with the other and to their style in communication.

As a result, the researchers find out that males and females use words differently in a way females tend to be very hesitant by repeating and asking the same question many times. They also use soft words that resemble their shyness. On the other hand, males tend to be more daring where they use jokes to make the atmosphere friendly, as well as being polite for which they apologize a lot. The researchers also find that synonyms of the words chosen

from the text would not show its effect unless there is punctuation, because sometimes a person cannot know whether the character is surprised, or questioning without the use of punctuations.

Also, females tend to use more flowery words and adjectives than males who tend to produce formal sentences with fewer adjectives. Also, females sometimes use a different grammatical structure in creating their sentences by using tag questions as a path of confirmation to their curiosity. Moreover, the researchers conclude that males sometimes are problematic in their conversational behavior as they tend to seek dominance that can be detected from their use of dominating words. So, in simpler words, the force of gender roles cannot always be avoided in the text due to the huge varieties between males and females characters in the novel. Therefore, gender differences influence the language and how each gender chooses to speak.

All of the studies we have mentioned in our research are related to our subject of gender in a way or another. Taking Holmes's and Meyerhoff's (2003), as an example, it is related to our subject in which their paper and ours are both talking about the relationship between gender and language usage in which they have similar results of us.

Based on the results, the researchers can say that the right and powerful word can evoke the emotions as given before. Words are tools that can hurt or heal the soul which are reflected in our body language. Meeren, Heigensbergen, and Gelder (2005) cover and show the importance of body language in conveying emotions and feelings. Body language also helps in sending the wanted message when using the words and gives them more power and stronger impact.

The contribution of this manuscript shows the importance of learning the power of words. By learning and grasping the main idea of this paper, we can be better in handling tough situations and to even be wiser in our usage of words in embarrassing situations. Our research has a great pedagogical implications in which it teaches us how it is important to be careful when we communicate with others. The words we use can leave such great impact on others in both good and bad ways. We have to pay attention to our tone, our body language, our choice of words and the list goes on. Each one of those play a big role in the success or failure of a certain situation. As a suggestion of other studies that deal with a similar issue, Tambiah's (1968), is a good choice to be read. It talks about the linguistic relevance for its theoretical advance, and focuses on the impact the words leave. Its theory can be applied on other plays focusing on the importance of words and how they strongly determine a certain direction for an incident to follow.

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