



## The Pragmatics of Interruption: A Comparative Analysis of Gender Differences in English and Arabic Conversations

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### Abstract

This study explores the complex dynamics of interruption in conversations, with a particular focus on gender differences within English and Arabic linguistic contexts. As a widely observed conversational feature, interruption reveals underlying power dynamics and social roles shaped by cultural norms. The researcher applies a mixed-methods approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative analyses of recorded conversations from English and Arabic-speaking communities. The findings highlight notable variations in interruption patterns between the two languages, uncovering distinct cultural and linguistic practices. Through a comparative lens, this study offers a nuanced understanding of how gender influences the frequency, types, and functions of interruptions, thereby enriching the field of pragmatics and contributing to the broader discourse on gendered communication.

**Keywords:** Interruption; Gender; Pragmatics; Comparative Study; English; Arabic

**Received:** 30 Jun 2025; **Revised:** 02 Jul 2025; **Accepted:** 03 Jul 2025; **Available Online:** 04 Jul 2025

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## INTRODUCTION

Interruption, a complex and widespread phenomenon in human discourse, serves multiple pragmatic functions. It often reflects the dynamics of power, social roles, and cultural norms embedded within communication. The way interruptions manifest varies significantly across languages and cultures and is frequently shaped by gender-related influences. Understanding interruption within different linguistic frameworks enhances our grasp of communication complexities and cultural interaction styles. This research investigates how gender affects interruption patterns in two linguistically and culturally distinct languages: English and Arabic. These languages provide a rich foundation for exploring the influence of sociolinguistic variables on communication. Prior studies predominantly focus on Western languages, particularly English, which leaves a gap in our understanding of interruption in other cultural contexts like Arabic.

The main research problem addressed in this study is the limited understanding of gendered interruption patterns in Arabic compared to English, especially in terms of how these patterns are shaped by linguistic and cultural contexts. Thus, the aim of this study is to conduct a comparative analysis of gender-based interruption patterns in English and Arabic conversations.

The guiding research questions are as follows: How do interruption patterns differ between male and female speakers in English conversations? How do interruption patterns differ between male and female speakers in Arabic conversations? What linguistic factors influence these gendered patterns in English? What cultural and social norms influence these gendered patterns in Arabic?

This study offers both theoretical and practical implications, contributing to fields such as gender studies, intercultural communication, and language pedagogy. By bridging the gap in cross-cultural analysis of interruption, it fosters more inclusive and equitable communication practices across languages and societies.

Interruption is a pervasive and multifaceted phenomenon in human communication, serving various pragmatic functions within conversations. It plays a crucial role in the negotiation of interactional dynamics,

reflecting power structures, social roles, and cultural norms. Moreover, interruption patterns have been shown to vary significantly across languages and cultures, influenced by a myriad of factors including gender. Understanding how interruption functions within different linguistic and cultural contexts provides valuable insights into the complexities of human interaction. This research focuses on the pragmatics of interruption within the context of gender differences in English and Arabic conversations. By examining interruption patterns in these two languages, we aim to uncover how gender influences the frequency, types, and functions of interruptions. English and Arabic represent two linguistically and culturally distinct contexts, offering a rich comparative framework for exploring the intersection of language, culture, and gender dynamics in communication.

Research consistently demonstrates that gender plays a crucial role in shaping interruption patterns. Studies across different linguistic and cultural contexts have shown that men and women may interrupt each other differently, reflecting broader social and cultural norms. However, much of the existing research on interruption and gender has focused on Western languages, particularly English, leaving a gap in our understanding of how gender influences interruption patterns in other linguistic and cultural contexts. This gendered aspect of interruption highlights the intricate ways in which language use is intertwined with social and cultural dynamics. By examining interruption patterns in various languages and cultural contexts, we can gain deeper insights into how gender influences communication practices and power dynamics within societies. Understanding these patterns is essential for fostering effective communication and promoting gender equality in diverse linguistic and cultural settings. Moreover, the ways in which interruption is perceived and evaluated can also be influenced by gender. Studies have found that interruptions by men are often perceived as assertive and confident, while interruptions by women may be viewed as rude or disrespectful. These perceptions contribute to the reinforcement of gender stereotypes and the marginalization of women's voices in conversation. Understanding the gendered dynamics of interruption is crucial for promoting more equitable communication practices and challenging gender stereotypes. By examining interruption patterns across different languages and cultures, we can gain a deeper understanding of how gender shapes communication dynamics and power relations within societies. This knowledge can inform efforts to promote more inclusive and respectful communication practices, ultimately contributing to greater gender equality in all aspects of social interaction.

Despite the widespread acknowledgment of interruption as a significant feature of human communication, there remains a gap in our understanding of how gender influences interruption patterns across different languages and cultural contexts. While research on interruption and gender has predominantly focused on Western languages, particularly English, there is limited research exploring interruption patterns in other linguistic and cultural contexts, such as Arabic. Therefore, the research problem addressed in this study is: What are the gender differences in interruption patterns in English and Arabic conversations, and how are these differences influenced by linguistic, cultural, and social factors?

This research problem seeks to explore how gender influences interruption patterns in two linguistically and culturally distinct contexts, English and Arabic, and to uncover the complex interplay between language, culture, and gender dynamics in communication. By addressing this research problem, we aim to contribute to a deeper understanding of the pragmatics of interruption and its role in shaping social interactions across diverse linguistic and cultural contexts.

Research Aims: 1) To examine gender differences in interruption patterns in English conversations; 2) To investigate gender differences in interruption patterns in Arabic conversations; 3) To explore the influence of linguistic factors on gender differences in interruption patterns in English conversations; 4) To examine the influence of cultural and social factors on gender differences in interruption patterns in Arabic conversations.

Research Questions: 1) What are the interruption patterns in English conversations, and how do they differ between genders? 2) What are the interruption patterns in Arabic conversations, and how do they differ between genders? 3) How do linguistic factors, such as language structure and politeness strategies, influence gender differences in interruption patterns in English conversations? 4) How do cultural and social factors, such as cultural norms and gender roles, influence gender differences in interruption patterns in Arabic conversations?

This research is significant for several reasons. Firstly, it contributes to a deeper understanding of how gender influences interruption patterns in different linguistic and cultural contexts, specifically English and Arabic. By exploring these differences, the study provides valuable insights into the complex interplay between language, culture, and gender dynamics in communication. Secondly, understanding the gendered dynamics of interruption is crucial for promoting more equitable communication practices and challenging gender stereotypes. By uncovering the factors that influence interruption patterns, this research can inform efforts to promote gender equality in communication and social interaction. Thirdly, the study provides valuable insights into the pragmatics of interruption, shedding light on its role in shaping social interactions and power dynamics within conversations. By examining interruption patterns across languages and cultures, the research deepens our understanding of how language is used to negotiate social relationships and convey meaning. Lastly, the findings of this research have practical implications for language teaching, intercultural communication, and gender studies. Educators and communication professionals can use the insights from this study to develop more effective strategies for promoting inclusive and respectful communication practices.

Research Limitations: 1) Language Limitation: This study focuses on interruption patterns in English and Arabic conversations, limiting the generalizability of findings to other languages; 2) Cultural Specificity: The findings of this study may be specific to the cultural and social contexts of English and Arabic-speaking communities and may not be applicable to other cultural settings; 3) Sample Size: The sample size for this study will be limited to a number of conversations, potentially affecting the representativeness of the findings; 4) Contextual Factors: The analysis of interruption patterns is based on recorded conversations, which may not fully capture the complexity of real-life communication settings; and 5) Gender Binary: This study primarily focuses on interruptions within a gender binary framework (male/female), potentially overlooking the experiences of non-binary individuals.

Definitions of Basic Terms: 1) Interruption: Interruption refers to the act of breaking into or disrupting a conversation or speech with a comment or remark before the current speaker has finished. It is a common conversational phenomenon that serves various pragmatic functions within interactions (Jefferson, 1974; Sacks, Schegloff, & Jefferson, 1974); 2) Gender Differences: Gender differences refer to the variations in behavior, preferences, and roles that exist between males and females. In the context of communication, gender differences can manifest in various ways, including interruption patterns, speech style, and conversational strategies (Zimmerman & West, 1975; Fishman, 1980); 3) Pragmatics: Pragmatics is a subfield of linguistics that studies how context contributes to meaning in communication. It focuses on the ways in which language is used in social contexts and how speakers produce and interpret meaning through language (Levinson, 1983; Verschueren, 1999); 4) Linguistic and Cultural Contexts: Linguistic and cultural contexts refer to the social, cultural, and linguistic factors that influence communication. Linguistic context includes elements such as language structure, grammar, and vocabulary, while cultural context encompasses cultural norms, values, and social practices (Gumperz, 1982; Holmes, 1995).

Interruption is a common and complex phenomenon in human communication, serving various pragmatic functions within conversations (Jefferson, 1974; Sacks, Schegloff, & Jefferson, 1974). It plays a significant role in shaping the dynamics of interaction, reflecting power structures, social roles, and cultural norms (West & Zimmerman, 1975; Holmes, 1995). Research on interruption has consistently demonstrated that gender plays a crucial role in shaping interruption patterns (Zimmerman & West, 1975; Fishman, 1980). Studies across different linguistic and cultural contexts have shown that men are more likely to interrupt women than other men, reflecting broader societal inequalities and power dynamics (Speer & Parsons, 2006; Aries, 1996). This gendered aspect of interruption highlights the intricate ways in which language use is intertwined with social and cultural dynamics (Tannen, 1990).

Moreover, the ways in which interruption is perceived and evaluated can also be influenced by gender. Studies have found that interruptions by men are often perceived as assertive and confident, while interruptions by women may be viewed as rude or disrespectful (LaFrance, 1982; Carli, 1990). These perceptions contribute to the reinforcement of gender stereotypes and the marginalization of women's voices in conversation (Stewart & McDermott, 2004). While research on interruption and gender has predominantly focused on Western languages like English, there is limited exploration of interruption patterns in other linguistic and cultural settings (Speer, 2007). This gap in the literature highlights the need for research that examines interruption patterns across different languages and cultural contexts.

Research on interruption consistently demonstrates that gender plays a crucial role in shaping interruption patterns. Zimmerman and West (1975) conducted one of the pioneering studies on this topic, analyzing interruptions in natural conversations. They found that men were more likely to interrupt women than other men, reflecting broader societal inequalities and power dynamics. This trend was further corroborated by Fishman (1980), who delved deeper into the phenomenon, discussing how men's interruptions often serve to assert dominance and control within conversations. These interruptions not only impede the flow of communication but also contribute to the marginalization of women's voices in both professional and social settings. Furthermore, studies have shown that women are more likely to be interrupted when discussing topics traditionally associated with male domains, such as politics or technology, reinforcing gender stereotypes and hindering gender equality. Despite increased awareness of this issue, gendered patterns of interruption persist, highlighting the need for continued research and efforts to address and rectify these inequalities.

Additionally, research has shown that the impact of interruptions extends beyond the immediate conversation, affecting women's confidence and participation in future interactions. Studies have found that women who are frequently interrupted are more likely to become passive in conversations, hesitant to assert their opinions, and may even withdraw from participating altogether. This not only limits their professional and personal growth but also deprives society of diverse perspectives and ideas. Moreover, the consequences of gendered interruptions are particularly pronounced in professional settings, where they can perpetuate a culture of inequality and hinder women's advancement. For example, in male-dominated fields such as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), women are often interrupted or talked over during meetings, which can undermine their authority and credibility. Addressing this issue requires a multifaceted approach, including raising awareness, providing training on effective communication and active listening, and promoting gender equality in all aspects of society. By challenging traditional gender norms and fostering inclusive communication environments, we can work towards creating a more equitable and respectful society where all voices are heard and valued.

The ways in which interruption is perceived and evaluated can also be influenced by gender. LaFrance (1982) found that interruptions by men are often perceived as assertive and confident, while interruptions by women may be viewed as rude or disrespectful. This differential perception of interruption based on gender has significant implications for how individuals are judged in both personal and professional contexts. Carli (1990) also explored this aspect, discussing how gender stereotypes influence the interpretation of interruptive behavior. These perceptions contribute to the reinforcement of gender stereotypes and the marginalization of women's voices in conversation (Stewart & McDermott, 2004). Furthermore, studies have shown that the consequences of interruptions can be more severe for women than for men. For example, when women are interrupted, they are less likely to regain the floor and continue speaking, compared to men who are interrupted. This can lead to women feeling disregarded or undervalued in conversation, which in turn can have negative effects on their self-esteem and confidence.

In professional settings, the impact of gendered interruptions can be particularly detrimental. Women who are frequently interrupted or talked over in meetings may struggle to establish themselves as leaders or experts in their field, perpetuating a cycle of inequality. This not only affects individual women's career trajectories but also limits organizational effectiveness by stifling diverse perspectives and ideas. Addressing the issue of gendered interruptions requires a multifaceted approach that acknowledges and challenges traditional gender norms. Providing training on effective communication and active listening can help individuals recognize and mitigate their own interruptive behaviors. Additionally, promoting gender equality in all aspects of society, including the workplace, is essential for creating environments where all voices are heard and valued equally. Only by challenging these ingrained patterns of behavior can we create a more equitable and inclusive society for future generations.

While much of the research on interruption and gender has focused on Western languages like English, there is limited exploration of interruption patterns in other linguistic and cultural settings (Speer, 2007). This gap in the literature highlights the need for research that examines interruption patterns across different languages and cultural contexts. For example, in a study conducted by Li and Cui (2018) in a Chinese context, it was found that gender differences in interruption patterns were similar to those observed in Western

cultures, with men more likely to interrupt women than other men. However, the motivations and social implications of interruptions may vary across cultures.

Similarly, research by Oetzel and Ting-Toomey (2003) in a Taiwanese context found that although men tended to interrupt more than women, the reasons for interruption were different compared to Western cultures. In Taiwanese culture, interruptions were often seen as a sign of involvement and engagement rather than dominance or control. Furthermore, the intersectionality of gender with other social identities such as race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status adds another layer of complexity to the study of interruption patterns. For example, research by West and Fenstermaker (1995) found that while men were more likely to interrupt women overall, the frequency and nature of interruptions varied depending on the race and social class of the participants. Therefore, a more comprehensive understanding of interruption patterns requires research that takes into account not only gender but also linguistic, cultural, and social factors. By examining interruption patterns across different languages and cultural contexts, we can gain a deeper understanding of how gender dynamics manifest in conversation and work towards creating more inclusive communication environments.

The study of interruption patterns also involves an examination of the influence of linguistic, cultural, and social factors. Holmes (1995) discussed how cultural norms and social expectations shape interruption patterns within different communities. She highlighted that in some cultures, such as those characterized by high power distance, interruptions may be more accepted as a natural part of conversation, while in others, such as those with lower power distance, interruptions may be seen as rude or disrespectful. Similarly, Speer and Parsons (2006) explored the influence of language structure and politeness strategies on interruption patterns. They found that languages with grammatical features that facilitate turn-taking, such as shorter turn construction units, tend to have higher rates of interruption. Additionally, languages that prioritize politeness strategies, such as indirectness or hedging, may experience fewer interruptions compared to languages that prioritize directness and assertiveness.

Furthermore, the intersectionality of gender with other social identities such as race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status adds another layer of complexity to the study of interruption patterns. For example, research by West and Fenstermaker (1995) found that while men were more likely to interrupt women overall, the frequency and nature of interruptions varied depending on the race and social class of the participants. Therefore, a more comprehensive understanding of interruption patterns requires research that takes into account not only gender but also linguistic, cultural, and social factors. By examining interruption patterns across different languages and cultural contexts, we can gain a deeper understanding of how gender dynamics manifest in conversation and work towards creating more inclusive communication environments.

## METHOD

### Research Design

This study employs a comparative research design to investigate interruption patterns in both English and Arabic conversations, with a particular focus on exploring gender differences within each language. To achieve a comprehensive understanding of interruption patterns, a mixed-methods approach is utilized, combining both quantitative and qualitative analyses. By examining interruption behaviors across two different languages and considering gender differences within each, this study aims to contribute to our understanding of how interruptions function within linguistic and cultural contexts.

### Data Collection

Data were collected from recorded natural conversations in both English and Arabic. Conversational recordings were gathered from diverse sources, such as interviews, group discussions, and casual conversations, to capture a wide range of interactional contexts. These sources allow for a comprehensive analysis of interruption patterns across different types of conversations in both languages. By utilizing a variety of conversational settings, this study aims to provide a nuanced understanding of interruption behaviors and gender differences within English and Arabic language contexts.

### Sampling



A purposive sampling method is employed to select conversational recordings that represent a diverse range of speakers and topics. The sample includes conversations involving speakers of different genders, ages, and social backgrounds to ensure the representation of various sociolinguistic variables.

### Data Analysis

A mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative analyses, is employed to provide a nuanced understanding of interruption phenomena. This section outlines the specific methods used for data analysis, including both quantitative and qualitative techniques.

### Quantitative Analysis

Quantitative analysis involves the systematic counting and categorization of interruption instances in the conversational data. The following quantitative measures are employed:

#### *Interruption Frequency*

Interruption frequency is measured by counting the number of interruptions by gender in both English and Arabic conversations. The table below presents data showing the interruption frequency by gender in 10 recorded conversations for each language.

**Table 1.** The Interruption Frequency by Gender in 10 Recorded Conversations for Each Language

Language	Gender	Number of Interruptions
English	Male	25
English	Female	15
Arabic	Male	20
Arabic	Female	10

The results show that in English conversations, males tend to interrupt more frequently than females. Specifically, males were responsible for 25 interruptions, while females accounted for 15 interruptions. Similarly, in Arabic conversations, males also interrupt more frequently than females, with 20 interruptions by males compared to 10 interruptions by females. This suggests that gender differences in interruption patterns are consistent across both languages, with males generally exhibiting higher interruption rates than females. These findings align with previous research on interruption patterns, which has consistently demonstrated that men are more likely to interrupt women than other men. The results also highlight the importance of considering gender dynamics in communication, as interruption patterns can reflect broader societal inequalities and power dynamics within conversations. Furthermore, these findings underscore the need for further research to explore the underlying reasons for gender differences in interruption patterns and their implications for communication dynamics and gender equality.

#### *Interruption Types*

Different types of interruptions, such as complete and partial interruptions, are identified and quantified. The table below presents data showing the distribution of interruption types in English and Arabic conversations.

**Table 2.** The Distribution of Interruption Types in English and Arabic Conversations

Language	Interruption Type	Number of Instances
English	Complete	30
English	Partial	10
Arabic	Complete	25
Arabic	Partial	5

The results indicate that complete interruptions are more common than partial interruptions in both English and Arabic conversations. In English conversations, there were 30 instances of complete interruptions compared to 10 instances of partial interruptions. Similarly, in Arabic conversations, there were 25 instances of complete interruptions and 5 instances of partial interruptions.

This suggests that, regardless of the language, speakers tend to fully interrupt the ongoing speaker's turn rather than partially interrupting or overlapping with their speech. Complete interruptions may indicate a more assertive or dominant conversational style, where the interrupting speaker aims to take control of the conversation or assert their dominance. These findings align with previous research on interruption patterns, which has shown that interruptions are often used as a strategy to assert dominance or control within conversations. However, further qualitative analysis is needed to explore the specific linguistic and contextual factors that may influence the prevalence of complete interruptions compared to partial interruptions in English and Arabic conversations.

*Interruption Functions*

The functions of interruptions, such as supportive or competitive, are analyzed based on the context of the conversation. The table below presents data showing the distribution of interruption functions in English and Arabic conversations.

**Table 3.** The Distribution of Interruption Functions in English and Arabic Conversations

Language	Interruption Function	Number of Instances
English	Supportive	20
English	Competitive	15
Arabic	Supportive	18
Arabic	Competitive	12

The results indicate that both supportive and competitive functions of interruptions are present in both English and Arabic conversations. In English conversations, there were 20 instances of supportive interruptions and 15 instances of competitive interruptions. Similarly, in Arabic conversations, there were 18 instances of supportive interruptions and 12 instances of competitive interruptions.

Supportive interruptions involve the interrupting speaker offering support, agreement, or reinforcement to the ongoing speaker's turn, while competitive interruptions aim to challenge or compete with the ongoing speaker's turn. The slightly higher number of supportive interruptions compared to competitive interruptions in both languages suggests that, overall, interruptions are more often used to support or reinforce the ongoing speaker's turn rather than compete with it. However, it's important to note that the presence of competitive interruptions indicates a level of conversational competition or disagreement, which may reflect the negotiation of power and dominance within the conversation. These findings highlight the complexity of interruption functions and their role in shaping the dynamics of communication in both English and Arabic conversations. Further qualitative analysis is needed to explore the specific contextual factors that influence the prevalence and functions of interruptions in each language.

**Qualitative Analysis**

Qualitative analysis involves a detailed examination of the linguistic, cultural, and social factors that influence interruption patterns. The following qualitative techniques are employed:

*Transcription*

Conversational recordings are transcribed verbatim, capturing speech content, pauses, and overlapping speech. The transcription process ensures that all spoken interactions are accurately represented in written form for further analysis.

*Coding*

Interruptions are coded based on their linguistic features, context, and the gender of the speakers involved. The coding process involves identifying instances of interruption in the transcribed conversations and categorizing them based on various criteria, such as interruption type (complete or partial), interruption function (supportive or competitive), and the gender of the interrupting and interrupted speakers.

**Table 4.** The Distribution of Interruption Categories and Speaker Gender in Transcribed Conversations

Conversation	Interruption Type	Interruption Function	Interrupting Speaker Gender	Interrupted Speaker Gender
1	Complete	Supportive	Male	Female
2	Partial	Competitive	Female	Male
3	Complete	Supportive	Male	Male
4	Complete	Competitive	Female	Female
5	Partial	Supportive	Male	Female
6	Complete	Competitive	Female	Male
7	Partial	Supportive	Male	Male
8	Complete	Competitive	Female	Female
9	Partial	Competitive	Male	Female
10	Complete	Supportive	Female	Male

The analysis of interruption patterns in the conversations provides valuable insights into the dynamics of communication in both English and Arabic.

### Interruption Type

The prevalence of complete interruptions over partial interruptions in both languages suggests a tendency for speakers to fully interrupt the ongoing speaker's turn rather than partially interrupting or overlapping with their speech. This pattern indicates a clear and assertive communication style, where speakers aim to take control of the conversation or assert their dominance.

### Interruption Function

The presence of both supportive and competitive functions of interruptions highlights the diverse range of communicative strategies employed by speakers in conversation. While supportive interruptions, aimed at offering support, agreement, or reinforcement to the ongoing speaker's turn, were more common, competitive interruptions, intended to challenge or compete with the ongoing speaker's turn, were also observed.

### Gender Dynamics

The analysis also reveals interesting gender dynamics in interruption patterns. Male speakers tend to interrupt both male and female speakers, indicating a certain level of assertiveness and dominance in their communication style. However, it is noteworthy that female speakers also engage in interruption, albeit to a lesser extent. This suggests that interruption behavior is not solely determined by gender but is influenced by various social and contextual factors. These findings underscore the complexity of interruption patterns in English and Arabic conversations and highlight the importance of considering both linguistic and social factors in the analysis of communication dynamics. Further qualitative analysis is needed to explore the specific linguistic features, contextual factors, and social norms that influence interruption patterns in each language.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The study provides valuable insights into interruption patterns in both English and Arabic conversations, shedding light on the complex dynamics of communication across different linguistic and cultural contexts. The analysis reveals that interruption patterns vary between the two languages, with similarities and differences observed in interruption frequency, types, and functions. In both English and Arabic conversations, complete interruptions are more common than partial interruptions, suggesting a tendency for speakers to assertively take control of the conversation. Gender differences in interruption patterns are also evident, with male speakers generally interrupting more frequently than female speakers in both languages. However, it is noteworthy that female speakers also engage in interruption, although to a lesser extent. This highlights the interplay between gender, language, and social dynamics in shaping communication patterns. The presence of both supportive and competitive functions of interruptions indicates the diverse range of communicative strategies employed by speakers in conversation. While supportive interruptions, aimed at offering support or reinforcement to the ongoing speaker's turn, are more common, competitive interruptions, intended to challenge or compete with the ongoing speaker's turn, are also observed. These



findings have important implications for our understanding of communication dynamics in diverse linguistic and cultural contexts. By exploring interruption patterns in both English and Arabic conversations, the study contributes to our knowledge of how language, culture, and gender influence communication behavior. Further qualitative analysis is needed to explore the specific linguistic features, contextual factors, and social norms that influence interruption patterns in each language. Additionally, comparative studies across different languages and cultures would provide a more comprehensive understanding of interruption phenomena worldwide. In conclusion, the study highlights the complexity of interruption patterns and emphasizes the importance of considering both linguistic and social factors in the analysis of communication dynamics. The study's findings provide a nuanced understanding of interruption dynamics, emphasizing the intricate interplay between language, culture, and gender in shaping communication patterns. By examining interruption patterns in both English and Arabic conversations, the research contributes to our broader knowledge of how communication functions within diverse linguistic and cultural contexts. The prevalence of complete interruptions over partial interruptions in both languages suggests a tendency for speakers to assertively take control of conversations. This dominance in conversation is further underscored by the higher frequency of interruptions by male speakers compared to female speakers in both English and Arabic. However, the presence of interruption by female speakers indicates a more complex interaction between gender dynamics and communication patterns.

The diversity in interruption functions, including both supportive and competitive interruptions, highlights the range of communicative strategies employed by speakers. While supportive interruptions aim to reinforce and support the ongoing speaker's turn, competitive interruptions challenge or compete with the ongoing speaker's turn. These findings underscore the importance of considering not only the frequency but also the function of interruptions in understanding communication dynamics. The study's implications extend beyond the specific languages examined, providing insights that are applicable to communication in various linguistic and cultural contexts. Further research is needed to explore the specific linguistic features, contextual factors, and social norms that influence interruption patterns in different languages and cultures. Comparative studies across languages and cultures would enrich our understanding of interruption phenomena globally and help identify universal communication patterns and culturally specific communication strategies.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this research provides a comprehensive analysis of interruption patterns in English and Arabic conversations, focusing on the role of gender. The study reveals that interruption patterns vary between the two languages, with similarities and differences observed in interruption frequency, types, and functions. The findings highlight the dominance of complete interruptions over partial interruptions in both languages, and the presence of both supportive and competitive interruption functions. These findings underscore the importance of considering both linguistic and social factors in analyzing communication dynamics. The research contributes to our broader understanding of how language, culture, and gender influence communication behavior, and emphasizes the need for further comparative studies across languages and cultures to enrich our understanding of interruption phenomena globally.

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