

Background/Previous Research

- Sarcasm = verbal form of irony with emotional component
- Biased believe that men use more sarcasm than women (spoken and written)
- Females more likely to use sarcasm with males than other females

Hypotheses

- More instances of sarcasm by male characters than female
- More instances of sarcasm between mixed-gender conversation groups than same-gender groups
- More instances of sarcasm coinciding with forms of risk

Materials/Method

- 20 NYT Bestseller Middle Grade books
- Books coded for:
 - Sarcastic utterances
 - Speaker/Hearer Gender
 - Character’s prevalence in book
 - Main, Supporting, Cameo
 - Situational, Emotional, Face Risk score
 - 3-pt. scale: Negligible, Marginal, Critical

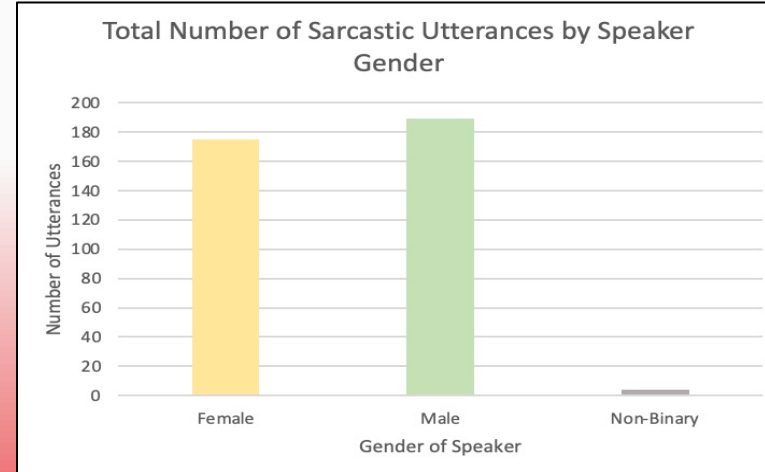


Figure 1: Speaker Gender in Number of Sarcastic Utterances

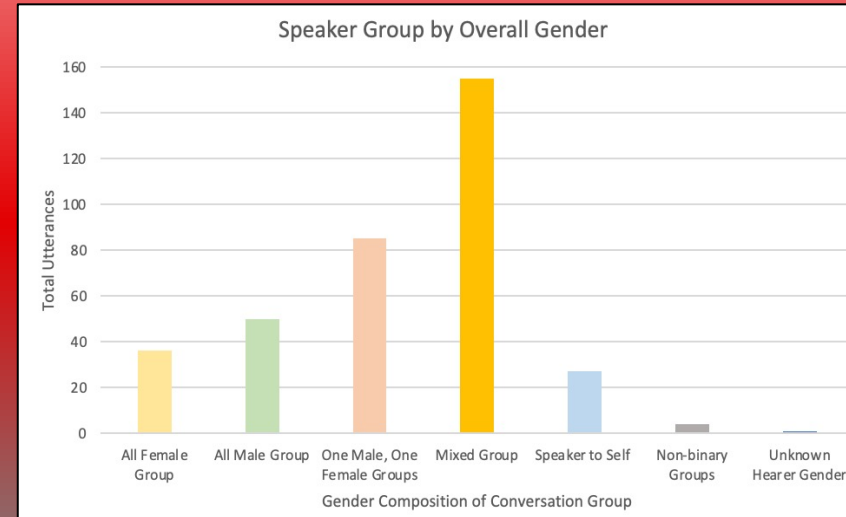


Figure 2: Speaker Group by Overall Gender

Type of Risk	Mean Risk Score Across All Books
Situational Risk	1.17
Emotional Risk	1.04
Face Risk	2.91

Table 1: Mean Risk Scores Across All Books

Results

- 368 total instances of sarcasm
- 47% female/51% male sarcastic utterance split
- 43% of sarcastic utterances to a mixed group
- Only 10% uttered with no risk present
- Mean risk scores: {1.17, 1.04, 2.91}

Conclusions/Next Steps

- Majority of sarcastic utterances did take place in a mixed-gender conversation group
- No real difference between male/female sarcastic utterances (14 utterance difference)
- Majority of sarcastic utterances occurred when at least one form of risk present
- Implications for how young girls interact with and view sarcasm
- Additional research in gendered sarcasm needed
- Analyze spoken sarcasm as well as written
- Examine sarcasm across: culture, age