

argues that, in order to face issues regarding men and women, “we must look beyond Mars and Venus”. She states that: “for any array of verbal abilities found in an individual woman, there will almost certainly be a man with exactly the same array”. Cameron is a proponent of the idea that gender is not the defining factor of an individual’s idiolect, linguistic attitude or mannerisms. Rather, she would argue that the biggest influence on language is who the subject is speaking to, as the speaker will converge towards the addressee (in terms of the addressee’s dialect, their knowledge and shared understanding).

One shortcoming of the source is that it does not relate directly to linguistics. Krizan states that the research relates to “psychological attributes” and the source does not even mention language. This added complexity to Text A is that linguistics may not be a factor in the research that ‘debunked’ the notion that men come from Mars and women come from Venus.

To conclude, linguists such as Deborah Tannen would disagree with the conclusions of Text A, arguing that there are stark differences between men and women’s attitudes towards language, causing miscommunication and missed opportunity. On the other hand, linguist Deborah Cameron would agree with the author of Text A, along with the researcher Krizan, and argue that gender is not a defining factor regarding language, or other traits for that matter. Men and women may not literally originate from different planets – however, there do remain undisputable differences that separate the genders. Thankfully, that gap is closing, yet the chasm is still open.