

campus

Communication affects male-female relations

By JACKIE FAIR

Battalion Reporter

Men who talk less and listen more will have more rewarding relationships with females, Dr. Annette Kolodny suggested Tuesday in her presentation "Why Men and Women Can't Talk to One Another," sponsored by the MSC Great Issues Committee.

Kolodny, a feminist and expert in linguistics, said the way we learn to speak reflects and maintains unequal relations between the sexes in our society.

"Women in our society are molded to believe that they don't have anything worthwhile to say," Kolodny said. "Their conversation should be grammatical and polite since the content is thought by men to be trivial."

Kolodny's interest in social linguistics began while she was teaching English at the University of British Columbia.

"I noticed a definite discrepancy in the spoken slang and eloquent written language of my female students," Kolodny said. "It seemed as if some women have two vocabularies and it is more accepted among

males if the female hides the better of the two."

Kolodny referred to a study by Dr. Otto Jespersen in the 1920s that said women have a natural shyness that causes them to invent euphemisms and avoid slang.

They also have an inability to complete sentences because they don't think before they speak. However, Kolodny believes women could complete their sentences if they weren't interrupted by men so often.

"Males usually don't interrupt other males if one has status over the other, but males interrupt females frequently and women don't object," Kolodny said.

She added that men and women not listening to each other is another problem. In an 18-month study at the University of Illinois, couples either married or living together consented to having their homes bugged for a study on their conversations, Kolodny explained.

The results showed that 62 percent of all conversations were initiated by women, and only 38 percent of these conversations got a response from the men. On the other hand, all conversations initiated by males got

a response from the females. Kolodny suggested that women become more declarative in their speaking patterns.

"Say what you mean rather than asking for an affirmation of everything you say," Kolodny said.

"This lack of communication in our society is as debilitating for the males as it is for the females," Kolodny said. "You'll have a more fulfilling relationship if you talk with a person rather than talk at them."

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Feminist and social linguistics expert Dr. Annette Kolodny told an audience Tuesday that the way we speak reflects and maintains unequal relations between the sexes in our society.

Battalion photo by Becky Leake

Library is testing retrieval system

An information retrieval system in which U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists can acquire copies of documents in minutes from the USDA library in Maryland is being tested at Texas A&M University.

transmitted by a machine linked to its counterpart at the USDA library in Beltsville, Md. The original request is sent on a standard size page in two to three minutes.

Dodd said documents could be transmitted if the system is approved. Records on the project will reveal cost, handling features and man-hours involved in transmissions.

"The system must be reliable and it must also fit into library routines," Dodd said. "Anytime we introduce some kind of new technology, we introduce some problems."

Silver Taps rite set for Tuesday

Silver Taps for Mark R. Iverson Jr., a Texas A&M University environmental design major is tentatively set for 10:30 p.m. Tuesday in front of the Academic Building, University officials said.

Iverson, a 20-year-old from Dallas, died Saturday of injuries received in an Oct. 27 automobile crash.

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