



Comparison and Contrast Essay

Deborah Tannen's - "Sex, Lies, and Conversation: "Why Is It So Hard for Men and Women to Talk to Each Other?" and Natalie Angier's "Why Men Don't Last: Self Destruction as a Way of Life" analyzes the weakness superimposed to both men and women in marriage life. Deborah's focus is on communication between women and men—whether teenagers, adults, or children due to the societal cross gender perception. In the case where both genders understand the existence of the problem of cross-culture communication, then the gender blame game would be ultimately avoided. Tannen stated that in her research, she was overwhelmed by the observation made on women conversations, "their eyes anchored on each other's faces and they faced each other directly". In the case of men, she states, "they sat at angles to each other and looked elsewhere in the room, periodically glancing at each other". She cited an example of a couple where when there is a communication, the man lies down on the floor, closing his eyes, and putting his arm on the face. This indicated, according to the

woman's perception, that the man was ignoring her and he did not want to listen to her. It is not in the case for the man, as that is the best way of concentrating to what she talks rather than being disrupted by the objects in the environment—as he cannot look at his wife directly in the eye.

On the other hand, Angier's focus is on the social, biological, and psychological differences that exist between men and women. The description provided by Angier about his father's bad and good habits denotes the emotional differences that may exist in the diversified gender. Unlike Tannen, Angier focuses more on men and provides the differences in anger and emotional management between the two genders. In psychological concept, she argues that women are often the ones who attempt suicide but majority of men kill themselves unlike women. In addition, she says that men are prone to car accidents and are always the frequent alcoholics, drug addicts, and drop outs while women are rarely involved in car accidents. This is constituted by the nature of men to be risk takers while women are risk averse—women tend to avoid risky undertakings. In regard to spending large sums of money, Angier points out that men tend to showcase their prowess in gambling and they will gamble in open space (tables). Women, on the other hand, undertake their gamble in private places, often in slot machines.

In both the articles, Angier and Deborah's article, there is contrasting behavior between men and women in their general life undertakings.

Deborah provides a battle of sexes when it comes to communication between the two sexes. Experts have analyzed that there is distinct difference between the way men's and women's brains are structured; the reason for different thoughts and communication between the two genders. Men and women react differently to stress, language, human relationships, spatial liability, emotions, and pain. Many of us have failed to put into consideration the impeccable differences that exist amongst us. Deborah argues that for women intimacy is considered the fabric for any relationship and that "...talk is the thread from which it is woven." (Tannen 245).

Angier argues on the differences of men and women in terms of their social life. She notes that men's drinking spree and over-use of drugs is done for the same reason that women over-eat. When one feels emotional down, he or she uses these tools as a self-mediating phenomenon. In the case of suicidal behavior, Angier says that when a person does not in the process of committing a suicide act then it is taken to be a "failed attempt" (Angier 48). According to Angier, failed attempt occurs often in women. Men would not be comfortable when they are regarded as weak, therefore, any attempted suicide by a man will always materialize. As such, she says that such phenomenon sprouts "weak-strong" imagery amongst the two genders. Angier suggestion on this perception is that it signifies the reason why most of the men successfully take their lives while fewer women succeed. Indeed, she quotes Dr. Pollack who argues that men who are embedded to feelings of triumph, lust, and rage characterize the

current society.

In conclusion, both Angier and Deborah's articles reciprocate to issues concerning gender differences in the society. Whether social, emotional or psychological differences, the vital measure are to understand the weaknesses in your opposite sex behavior and in turn divorce will be minimized. Indeed male have the instinct that they need to live to their own expectation of being authoritative and masculine. They believe that expressing their thoughts and feelings in a soft manner will demean their role in the family. They will be referred to as feminine, sissies, wimps, crybabies, or even gays. For marriages to be fruitful, both sexes need to understand the weakness of one another as put forth by Angier and Deborah.