

**An ethnographic study of identity construction as
Police Women and/or Women Police**



Khalid Mahmood

Student I.D. No. 15018084019

Supervisor

Dr. Muhammad Shaban Rafi

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY,

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DEDICATIONS

I dedicate this thesis to my beloved mother and wife. My mother brought me in this world to explore the hidden realities through knowledge. And my wife always stood beside me in accomplishing the most difficult challenges and goals. This gave me a reason to complete four MA degrees and now M. Phil (Applied Linguistics), since I married her.

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to explore those masculine linguistic choices which women use to construct POLICEwomen identity (construction of police identity prior to natural feminine identity) in addition to WOMENpolice identity (construction of natural feminine identity prior to police) to counter the challenges of hegemonic masculine police workplace. A purposive sample of twenty seven (27) policewomen of different cadres of Punjab Police, Pakistan serving at two police stations i.e., mixed-gender and women police stations was selected to address the research questions. Participant observation and field interviews were carried out to collect the data. Culver's (2013) four phased theory and model of Gender Identity Development of Women in the Military (GIDWM) was adapted as two phased theory and analytical model of Linguistic Identity of Women in Police (LIWP) to analyze the data. The linguistic repertoire of the participants showcased dual identities i.e., POLICEwomen and/or WOMENpolice which were observed most of the time if not always. The same results were found while analyzing the data on the basis of participants' service, seniority and contexts of duties. The study recommends gender friendly policies in the security agencies of Pakistan.

Keywords: POLICEwomen, WOMENpolice, hegemonic, masculine identity, feminine identity, meshed language (code switching)

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

“I’m not the woman president of Harvard, I’m president of Harvard”.

Drew Gilpin Faust
President Harvard University

1.1. Overview of the Chapter

This chapter begins with the background and statement of the research problem. This is followed by a section on purpose of the study. The succeeding sections cover the significance and aims of the study. In the subsequent section, major and sub research questions are presented. In the next section, the chapter has been summarized. The final section outlines this study.

1.2. Background

During the twentieth century, the women in policing were restricted to the feminine roles of dealing with females, adolescents, clerical assignments and administrative support to their male colleagues. They were considered incapable of performing masculine roles of crime prevention and operations demanding physical aggression and control of emotions (Marshall, 2013). However, the global deteriorating law and order situation and war on terror have given reason for the security agencies to introduce gender-integrated roles for women in modern day policing. Mostly, the services of these women in policing and other law enforcement agencies are utilized to search and tackle the female suspects, bombers and spies.