Problems & limitations

There were some limitations in the experiment. First of all, we couldn't consider the overall technical and phonetic factors when constructing our experiment. In terms of our experiment method using the noise, the speaker's voice could interact with the noise more in some environments, therefore it could be harder to hear the feminine or masculine sentence regardless of the speaker’s gender for certain recordings. And some kinds of vowels, e.g. /ㅡ/ are much harder to hear than others, e.g. /ㅏ/. We couldn't predict that the scores can be affected a lot by which kinds of vowels and consonants are used in the word when selecting the feminine or masculine words and constructing sentences. In addition, many test subjects generally had a difficulty in writing down the first word of each sentence no matter what kinds of vowels were used in the first part, while they easily wrote down a verb which located in the last part of a sentence. We thought that is because it’s hard to catch the beginning word in noise and to guess the first word from the context as it is the start point of hearing.

Second, the overall feminine sentences' scores showed less clear gap between both genders' voice compared to the masculine sentences' case. According to this result, we thought that we made some faults for constructing feminine sentences in the experiment.

Third, we lack of the validity in the process of selecting the feminine or masculine words which mean 'certain words more associated with certain gender' as we choose them on our own terms. We should have conducted a survey above all to answer the question "Which words are people associate more with certain gender?"