**1.1. Introduction:**

"Social interaction is the very bedrock of social life. It is the primary medium through which cultures are transmitted, relationships are sustained, identities are affirmed and social structures are reproduced" (Heritage & Clayman, 2010: 7). Individuals spend a large part of their lives interacting with each other. They do so in same and cross gender groups, at home, in school, at work and in many other contexts. Interaction "is not just a mechanical process of taking turns …. it is a semantic activity, a process of making meaning" (Eggins & Slade, 1997: 6).

Conflict is a universal phenomenon that characterizes any type of interaction. Throughout their lives people are faced with different types of conflicts which have negative or positive effects on people`s lives and relations. Conflict is an argument or an opposition between two parties which have different perspectives. It is a struggle over contradictory goals, wants, behaviors, etc. (Miller, 1979: 132) believes that "conflict is inevitable. The source of all growth and absolute necessity if one is to be alive". Through conflict multiple social relations are established.

The study of interaction and conflict between different genders that "focus on different goals" (Tannen, 1993: 66) is a central area and it becomes a topic of interest in old and recent research. Gender, itself, becomes one of the most important activities in our daily life. People usually speak about it as they speak about their food and drink. Gender is a human production. It is created and developed by individuals who usually "do gender" (lorber, 2010: 13) during their interaction with each other and with the social world they live in.

The thesis simply deals with those issues of conflict, gender and interaction. It also attempts to investigate and explore same and different gender conflicts using Fairclough`s analytical tools of critical discourse analysis.

**1.2. Statement of the research problem:**

The thesis investigates from a discourse analytical perspective same and different gender conflicted dialogues in the American TV series *Desperate Housewives*, season one, launched on 2004. It also examines the interface of conflict, ideology and power in one and cross sex interactions.

**1.3. Aims of the research**:

The study aims to investigate the differences between same and different gender conflicted interactions. It also tends to reveal how gender ideologies are grounded in discourse and how power is reconstructed and exercised among different social actors. The thesis also wants to show how critical discourse analysis develops effective linguistic tools help analysts and researchers investigate different social issues like power, control and dominance.

In order to carry out these goals, the thesis sheds light on number of questions, most significantly are: what is more fierce same or different gender interactions? How are different social relations constructed and resisted by same and different gender participants during their conflict?, what are the major linguistic terms used in each type of conflict? And how do disputants deal with each other?

**1.4. Methodology of the research:**

Firstly, the researcher extracts different gender conflicted dialogues and divides them into two categories: husband-wife conflict and mother-son disputes, then, he chooses same gender conflicted conversations and splits them into three categories: father-son conflict, mother-daughter dispute and female-female disagreement. After that, the researcher applies an eclectic method based on Fairclough`s approach to CDA presented in his (1989 & 2003). This method enables the researcher to analyze the language of conflict in the American TV series *Desperate Housewives*, thus revealing the differences between same and different gender conflicted dialogues. The major analytic tools employed in the study are: situational context, institutional context, speech functions, grammatical moods, semantic relations between words and clauses, collocations, turn taking, activation, passivation, negation, tough language, emphatic language, metaphor and evaluation.

**1.5. Results of the research:**

The results of the study show that cross gender participants in *Desperate Housewives* are more aggressive, fierce and severe. Different gender participants are fully aware of this acrimony so they resort to use some specific devices more than their counterparts in one gender conflicted dialogues. Examples of these devices are: antonyms, lexical collocations, turn taking, modality, metaphors, negative evaluations, emphatic language and tough language. On the flip side, both kinds of participants use other devices with equal or approximate rates. Examples of these devices are declarative mood, interrogative mood, synonyms, additive relation, contrastive relation, negation and grammatical collocation. It is also worthy to say that same sex participants use negative evaluations more than cross sex disputants. In order to have a deep understanding, the following paragraphs explain the previous results thoroughly.