

## Janet Hyde & Marcia Linn “Gender Differences in Verbal Ability”

- **Thesis:** The previously stated “fact”, that F perform better in verbal ability, NO LONGER EXISTS
  - No difference in cognitive processes
  - It is also the case that there is only a minor G-difference in spatial ability
    - Spatial perception & visualization:  $M = F$
    - Mental rotation:  $M \geq F$
- **History of Psychological Findings:** G-differences in Verbal Ability [VA]
  - 50's-60's **F > M** in VA
  - 70's **F > M** in verbal maturity – more rapidly & at an earlier age (~11 yrs) prior to that, no significant G-difference
  - 80's **F > M** in VA – advantage occurs earlier (preschool) and becomes stronger later (~10 yrs)
    - CLEAR CONSENSUS that  $F > M$
- **Meta-analysis of Previous Psychological Findings:**
  - Current magnitude of G-diff in VA: **F > M = 0.11**
  - Magnitude declining? **Somewhat** (p. 30) Previously: **F > M = 0.25**
    - Is this due to increase in M-VA or decrease in F-VA?
  - Uniformity of G-diff in VA across various measures/abilities or task variation
    - Implications for **Brain Lateralization** [see chart on canvas]
      - Previous Theories for  $F > M$  in VA of 0.25
    - **Conclusion: NO S-diff in brain organization**
  - Ages of G-diff appearing/disappearing and on which tasks
    - **Conclusion: Few age trends**
    - Exception: Aggression – Preschool 0.58 vs. College 0.27
  - G-diff in Verbal Processing and impact on Testing
    - SAT Results:  $F > M \rightarrow 1972 \rightarrow M > F$
    - Possible Explanations: More technical & Sampling
    - **Conclusion: There may be NO diff at all**
- **Conclusion: NO G-diff in VA** (at this time, in this culture)
  - Currently: G-diff in VA = 0.11
  - Might as well be **ZERO** when compared to other G-differences:
    - Spatial Ability:  $M > F = 0.73$  [only in mental rotation]
    - Math Performance:  $M > F = 0.43$  [see article on possible explanations]
    - Aggression: All Ages  $M > F = 0.50$  Adults  $M > F = 0.40$
    - Helping Behavior:  $F > M = 0.13$