The setting is in my apartments common room. The participants are three of my close friends from freshman year. Christian McCoy slumped deep into the couch with a large blanket draped across his lap, comfortably eating a bag of chips. Noah Shore, the hard working Kelley student - sitting up right in the middle of the couch with a proper collared shirt and khaki pants. Finally, Akaash Nirwan, in his athletic clothes post workout but still full of energy as per usual. An unfamiliar tone temporarily filled the air all thanks to this formal project we were setting up and getting ready to record. Quickly as we got into the thick of just having a conversation all of that faded and it felt like a very normal Sunday afternoon watching football with my friends.

Noah, being the insecure kid he is normally, would interrogate Christian often throughout the time of the recording so as to put him down and possibly give himself a sense of superiority. This was shown multiple times via the questions he asked starting with, “Oh wait Christian, what did you do yesterday after you left the game?” A simple, “We went and got food.” Would be responded to with, “Wow! You know there’s food at the stadium... what’s the real reason, we’re not buying that.” An aggressive way to disregard the answer Christian gave and quickly looks for the real one. This was insinuated by the fact that Christian, the day before, had left the MSU @ IU football game. Possibly one of the best games we will witness in our four years at IU ending with the stands rushing the field. This interrogative mood continues for
the next minute ending with Christian giving a second joking answer as to why he left, which was quickly responded to by Noah with, “So basically, you’re admitting that you shouldn’t have left.” The social business here is as clear as day, he finally gets to the whole purpose of interrogating which is to back Christian into a hole which forces him to admit his mistake of leaving the game early. In actual, Christian had a brother visiting who did not want to stay but that was irrelevant, Noah would never let him live down this error.

Another key moment in my recording was Akaash responding to the news that Christian left the game early to “meet a girl.” Akaash quickly responds with the question, “Ballena, Manatee, or Es-okay?” to get an idea of the attractiveness of this girl. This is a common theme I notice when women are brought up in conversation with males – the attractiveness trumps all other qualities as if that is the only thing that matters. In the moment though the social business behind that question appeared to be Akaash’s way of trying to come off at masculine, almost like the answer to his question didn’t matter he simply wanted everyone to know that that is what he was thinking about after hearing Christian came back to the apartment to meet a girl. This is clear because Christian got distracted after Akaash asked his question and in response to Christian ignoring his question he simply let it go as if the purpose was already fulfilled.

The two claims made above support Maltz and Borker’s claims made in *Male-Female Miscommunication* about a general men’s features in conversation. Specifically where its stated that, “men use more mechanisms for controlling the topic of conversation (170 Maltz and Borker).” This is especially true for the section
where Noah is interrogating Christian. However, the description of a male’s feature in conversation can also be applied to Akaash’s question due to the social business behind it.

Works Cited