

TERMS AND TYPES OF ADDRESS

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***Annotation:** In social life, people use language as a medium to communicate it is their way to organize and maintain their relationship with others. It is important to bear in mind that the purpose of people in conducting communication will affect its forms. Moreover, every society has its own way in conducting communication, especially in the way its' members address other people. Speaking about the address terms, sometimes people find it difficult to differentiate between greetings, summons, and address terms. This article discusses specific terms and types of treatment*

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According to Chaika, addressing is different from greeting. First, addressing is used by people when they want to show their power or solidarity to other people, while greeting depends on the mood of the speaker. Second, people use the address terms to strengthen intimacy and power between people. On the other hand, people greet others only when they want to set the stage. Chaika adds that summon is used only when the speaker wants to get someone's attention and then the speaker will start the conversation after it. For examples, "Uh" or "Excuse me".

Robinson (in Wardhaugh, 2006:274) states in his hypothesis that some distinctions are made to determine the way people address someone else, especially those people who have some achievements in society. In such societies they may use basic forms of addressing terms. However, in a society where status is ascribed like in the royal family like in the United Kingdom, people tend to use finely graded address terms.

a. Types of Address Terms

When someone communicates with other people, he/she may use different style of language. It depends on the context of conversation that contributes to the choice of language. Moreover, when people engage in communication, they also include their social identity through the way they talk. Those people who come from different society will also have their own addressing or greeting styles.

Based on Chaika's theory, there are so many types of address terms that people can use to address other people. According to her, the types of address terms are first name (FN), title plus last name (TLN), title only (T), and last name (LN). Special nicknames (SN) are also often used among close friends. On the other side, Wardhaugh has his own types of address terms. He states that the types of address

terms are first name (FN), title plus last name (TLN), title alone (T), last name (LN), pet name (PN), and kinship term (KT).

1) First Name (FN) First naming is used to address other people by his/her first name. Wardhaugh states that the first name covers generic titles like “Mack”, “Buddy”, “Jack”, or “Mate”. According to Wardhaugh, the use of first name in communication indicates equality and familiarity, intimacy and in the same time it also shows an effort to assert some power to other people.

2) Title plus Last Name (TLN) The second type of address terms is title plus last name. According to Chaika, the use of title plus last name in communication indicates social distance and unfamiliarity between the speaker and the interlocutor. This type of address terms is usually used by a person who has relatively higher status than the other people who he/she wants to address. Age is a factor that can affect people to use such type of address term. Younger people usually use title plus last name to address older people.

This is in line with Wardhaugh’s theory. He states that this type of address terms indicates the unfamiliarity and unbalance power between the speaker and the addressee. People with higher status tend to use it to address other people with lower status.

3) Title only (T)

Another type of address term is title only. It means that a speaker addresses his/her interlocutor only by his/her title, such as “Professor” or “Doctor”. According to Wardhaugh, the use of title only in addressing other people indicates the least intimate relationship. Title only usually used to determine the ranks of occupation. It can be concluded that the use of title only in addressing someone else is a sign that the speaker and the addressee have no close relationship or intimacy.

Chaika adds that certain titles like “Father”, “Sister”, “Rabbi”, and “Your Honor” are applied without adding the last name.

4) Last Name (LN)

Chaika states that the use of last name indicates that the speaker is more superior than addressee. She adds that the inferior will receive her/his last name alone while the superior will be addressed by her/his title plus last name. It can be concluded that the use of last name in communication shows asymmetric power between the speaker and the addressee.

5) Special Nickname (SN)

Another type of address terms is special nickname. According to Chaika, this type of address terms is used in communication by the speaker and the addressee that has an intimate relationship, such as between close friends. She adds that special nickname also used as a sign of intimacy. The example of special nicknames are

“Charles” turns into “Charlie”, “James” turns into “Jim”, “Daniel” turns into “Dan”, and “Patrick” turns into “Pat”.

6) Pet Name (PN)

Pet name is similar with special nickname that is proposed by Chaika (1982:49) in the previous description. However, Wardhaugh states that pet name indicates higher level of intimacy compared to the use of first name in addressing other people. The examples of pet name are “Honey” and “Sweetheart”.

7) Kinship Term (KT)

The examples of kinship term are “Father”, “Mother”, “Aunt”, and etc. Wardhaugh (2006:271) states that kinship term is related to generation and age-oriented. Luong (in Wardhaugh, 2006:271) explains that Vietnamese create extensive function of kinship terms as one of the types of address terms such as “chau” that means “grandchild”, “ba” means “grandmother”, and “bac” that means “senior uncle/aunt”.

b. Functions of Address Terms

People will use different ways in addressing other people. For example, the way someone addresses his/her friend will be different from the way he/she addresses his/her teacher. Address terms that are used in communication have several functions.

A certain type of address term will bring different kind of functions. Chaika states that addressing is often part of greeting. Address and greeting can indicate the same meaning that show power and solidarity. The functions of the address term are to show intimacy, power differential, and respect. The relationship between the speaker and the addressee can be noticed from the use of certain types of address terms. Wardhaugh states that the use of first name in addressing someone else is a sign of intimacy between the speaker and the addressee but in the same time the speaker, can also, assert his/her power to the addressee. Besides the first name, people also used nickname to address other.

Special nicknames are usually used in daily conversation as a sign of intimacy. From the statement above it can be concluded that the use of first name in addressing someone else can be functioned to show intimacy or to show power differential. Wardhaugh explains further that the asymmetric use of title, title plus last name and first name points out the existence of differences in power. He also adds that in the case of mutual title plus last name, it shows inequality and unfamiliarity, and the mutual first name points out equality and familiarity. Usually people use such type of address terms to address their friends. People may use different types of address terms in their communication. Addressing by title alone indicates the least intimate form of address terms; it is because the title usually related to ranks of occupations.

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