

CHAPTER - VIIUSE OF ADDRESS TERMS7.1 Social Dyadic Relations

A person comes into contact with various types of people in his social life and plays different roles in a given society. These contacts can be of different types, namely, contact among relatives, friends, colleagues, employer-employee, village headman, religious people, service caste people, etc. of a given society.

Certain socio-cultural and socio-economic factors also bring the individuals and families close together. As a result, diverse interpersonal relations of individuals develop among the members of the society. The use of address forms and pronominal terminations depends upon different factors in the interpersonal relationship.

To study the variations in the use of address forms, the possible contact situations in the village level have been identified first. Twelve types of contact situations have been identified and the informant's choice of address terms and pronominal terminations in a given situation has been observed and taken up for analysis. The contact situations identified for this study are listed below :

1. Classmate
2. Classmate but placed in a higher position currently
3. Hotel server
4. Colleague
5. Village headman
6. Owner of the concern
7. Barber
8. Dhoby
9. Sweeper
10. Grocery shop-keeper
11. Temple priest - Local deity
12. Temple priest - Major deity.

7.2 Classmate

7.2.1 Forward Communities

In the forward communities most of the informants address their classmates by their names and use the intimacy pronominal termination -ta: [intimate, non-honorific]. However, one exception is also noted. Hindu temple priests (Brahmin-Gurukkal) do not add the suffix -ta: (intimate and non honorific pronominal termination)

while addressing the classmates. This may be because of the holy work which they do and, naturally, their speech behaviour has to be formal. Therefore, they usually avoid using the intimate forms while interacting with other persons.

7.2.2 Backward Communities

In the backward communities, the mixed trend of using -ta: [intimate and non honorific pronominal termination] and not using -ta: is found in various social groups. Most of the old age group persons of all social groups address their classmates by their names and use the verb base only while asking them something. i.e., there will be no honorific markers in their addressing pattern. However, here also one exception is found.

School educated, washermen of low income group address their classmates as e:nunka 'attention caller + honorific suffix' whereas they receive non-honorific suffix in return. All the middle and young age group informants address their classmates by their names and use the pronominal termination -ta: i.e., intimacy and non-honorific suffix.

7.2.3 Scheduled Communities

In the scheduled communities, most of the persons address their classmates by their name and use the pronominal termination -ta:

which expresses intimacy and non-honour of the speaker towards the hearer. However, one exception is found here also : School educated, high income old age group informants address their classmates by their names and use the non-honorific pronominal terminations.

7.3 Classmates placed in high position

7.3.1 Forward Communities

In the forward communities, a classmate who is currently placed in a higher position than the speaker is addressed by using any one of the address terms presented below :

sa:r

ennanka

caste name

ennaṭi

The address term sa:r 'sir' is used by primary educated, lower income, middle age group informants. College educated, lower income, young age group informants address their classmates by using the caste names like mutaliya:re:, etc. Similarly, the college educated, high income group, young girls address their classmates by non-honorific intimacy pronominal form -ṭi.