

## ADDRESS TERMS ANALYSIS IN THE “GRIDIRON GANG” MOVIE: THE TYPES AND THE FUNCTIONS

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### ABSTRACT

The aim of this qualitative research was to reveal the types and functions of address terms in the Gridiron Gang movie. It applied the theories of Chaika (1982) and Wardhaugh (2014). observation method and non-participatory technique were employed to collect the data. Sociolinguistic approach was used for this study. Referential identity method and equalizing technique were then used to analyze the data. The result of this study is reported in descriptively and narratively. It was found all types and functions of address; Special nickname, First name, title only, kinship term, last name, pet name, and title plus last name. Special nickname was the most prevalent kind. Moreover, all three functions of address terms were discovered. The function of address terms most often used is to distinguish between stranger and power. Special nickname was used to demonstrate different power and authority in a prison or on a sports field. Additionally, there were three unique data. The uniqueness between these three data and others were that the function of the type of address term different from which is proposed by Wardhaugh and Chaika's theory.

**Keywords:** address terms, language, movie, Sociolinguistics

### 1. Introduction

Address terms is how people address one another. The way people address one another will be different according to their relationship and social factor. According to Holmes (2012), address terms is an important element to make people convey what happens among them and gather their social

information based on their context. By studying address terms, it can reveal many things that happen between people. This includes their power or authority with each other and their relationship.

address term phenomena can be found from communication in daily life.

Nowadays, communication not only happened orally, but on written form. People can express their opinion and read other people's opinions freely on social media. Social media is like the place where people's comments gather (Ambalegin & Arianto, 2020). The phenomenon occurred on Nick Adam's Twitter account on his tweet: "**Deplorable trump** is a sad pathetic little man. I can see why you like him. You are similar." (@JoycePerkins).

The address term expression above happened on the Twitter Donald Trump's favorite author, Nick Adams (@NickAdamsinUSA). In his account, he wrote a tweet about the USA needing a new president which was none other than Donald Trump. Many people replied to his tweet, one of them was @JoycePerkins. In @JoycePerkins reply, address term occurred. "Deplorable trump" was a word used by @JoycePerkins to address Donald Trump as disgraceful person. This word can be seen as special nickname type of address term, It functions to show less respect @JoycePerkins has to Donald Trump.

Address terms occurs in everyday life as it bounds to language and society. However, this can also happen in a movie as it is a reflection of real-life experience. A movie is regarded as a reflection of a society in seeing the world from their perspectives including how they use a language. The researchers chose a movie directed by Phil Joanou, Gridiron Gang. The reason was that it provided various settings enabling the characters to perform address terms frequently as they meet many people with different occupational and social backgrounds. This movie was about a true story of a man helping a teenager in a youth

prison center, and changing their life journey through hard work, commitment, and leadership. The expression of address form occurred in this movie as follows;

Roger: "Get off me **Homey!**"

Weather: "I'll shut your mouth **punk!** You don't know me! Shut your mouth!"

Roger: "Get off me!"

The address form could be seen from the word "Homey" and "Punk". Word "Homey" address form type was considered as a special nickname and it functioned to show respect. Word "Punk" was also considered as a special nickname with rude or impolite meaning and its function was to show less respect between Roger and Weather.

Andikha & Ambalegin (2022) revealed the address terms used by Instagram Users. This research used a theory proposed by Chaika (1982) and Wardaugh (2006) to analyze the types of address term. The results found seven types of address terms. Those were title, kinship terms, special nicknames, last name, title, first name, title plus last name, and pet name.

Lesmana (2022) identified the type of address terms and the social factors that influence the use of address terms by the characters in "Emily in Paris" Season 1, Episode 1. The research result found seven kinds of address terms and three factors using address terms. This research used a theory by Wardaugh (2014). The three types of addressing terms were the use of a name, intimacy expression, and title with respect, where the most common address term is using the name. At the same time, five factors of addressing terms were Particular Occasion, Gender, Age, Occupational Hierarchy, and Degree of Intimacy.

Similarly, the previous research and present research applied the theory of Wardaugh (2006) to identify types of address terms. Differently, The previous research used Wardaugh (2006) meanwhile in this present research applied Chaika's (1982) theory to analyze the functions. Furthermore, the data source of the previous research were different from this present research. This research used Gridiron Gang movie as the data source. Thus, the researchers focused on analyzing the types of address terms including with its functions in the Gridiron Gang movie.

## 2. Types of Address Term

Address terms are categorized into the first name, the title alone, title plus last name, last name, kinship term, and pet name (Wardhaugh, 2014). In addition, Chaika (1982) states that there are five types of address terms that people can use to address others, i.e. first name, title only, title plus last name, last name, and special nickname

### 2.1 First Name

First name is the way people address other people with their first name. Address people by the first name rarely occurs in formal society, this address uses by people with a close relationship towards each other. The use of first name is different according to the culture of society. In some regions, the first name is used to address people regularly.

Example;

Mrs. Weasley : Harry! How wonderful to see you. (back to the boys) Beds empty! No note! You could've died! You could've been seen! (again to Harry) I don't blame you, of

course, dear. (Utami & Indrawati, 2020)

### 2.2 Title Plus Last Name

In daily conversation, people often use title with last name to address their addressee. Title with last name indicates equality between speakers. In addition, title with last name can also to show respect toward the addressee.

Example;

Alfred : Looks like you have a date, **Ms. Prince**. (Ventalia & Jusmaya, 2020)

### 2.3 Title Alone

In a conversation, people also use title alone to address their addressee. That people address their addressee by using title alone indicates the least intimate relationship among them.

Example;

"I've been sent to play **fairy godmother**." (Lubis & Shara, 2022)

### 2.4 Last Name

The employment of the last name indicates power difference between the speaker and the addressee. People who have more power address the people who have less power by using last name or first name while in turn those who have more power are addressed by their title plus last name.

Example

"Happy birthday **Thompson** my crush" (Okafor, 2022)

### 2.5 Pet Name

The types of address terms to indicate intimacy. Pet name is rarely used in a formal situation as the employment of the type needs a very close relationship or high intimacy

among the participants of a conversation.

Example;

Edward: Now, **My Flower**, Do You Understand? (Sari, 2020)

### 2.6 Kinship Term

Kinship terms is the type of address terms used for family. It is a term to address a family member such as father and mother, brother and sister. Usually, kinship terms is used to show intimacy and to show respect.

Example;

Percival Graves: **My boy**, the sooner we find this child, the sooner you can put that pain in the past where it belongs" (Amelia & Ekawati, 2021)

### 2.7 Special Nickname

A special nickname is used by people who have an intimate relationship with each other such as among close friends and family members. A special nickname is functioned to show intimacy among the participants in a conversation.

Example;

@manchester\_dream: "**Becks**" (Andikha & Ambalegin, 2022)

## 3. Functions of Address Term

Chaika (1982) stated that the functions of address terms are to show intimacy, power difference, and respect.

### 3.1 Show Intimacy

Address form can be used to show the intimacy between speakers. The relationship between speaker can be show when both of them using address form. How close they are can

be seen how they address each other. For example, some people usually use special nickname to address their friends and a lover usually use a pet name to show how deep their relationship together.

Example;

Andrew Prior: Don't take too long in here. You need a good night's sleep... For tomorrow. I, um... We love you.

Natalie Prior: Good night. I'm so proud of you, **honey**. (Nufrajina & Iswandi, 2021)

### 3.2 Power Difference

Address form can be used to show power differences between speakers. The power difference is how much authority people have in a conversation with another. By using the address form, people can know how much authority a person has according to their address toward each other. For example, Between the boss and his employers. The boss will address his employers by using first name while his employers address him by title alone or title plus last name.

Example;

"Your report card came, **brain boy!**" He shouted after me. "I wouldn't act so snooty!" (Isdhianty, 2021).

### 3.3 Respect

Address form can be used to show respect between speakers. In conversation, both speakers want to be treated equal. People who have good manners can be seen from how they address another. To show good manners and respect towards each other, people usually address using title alone or title with last name. By addressing another speaker using title

or title with last name, both speakers can know they are treated equal in conversation. For example, by address stranger or the older with title to show respect.

Example;

Emily: "Your name, **monsieur**?"

Luc: "My name is Luc" (Lesmana, 2022)

#### 4. Research Method

The research applied qualitative method. The analysed data used in the research were in form of words uttered by speakers, as Bryman (2012) mentioned that the qualitative research are research method which emphasizes words rather than quantification. For collecting data, the researchers applied the observational method proposed by Sudaryanto (2015) which focused on observing the data. This research was under the category of non-participatory observation. Sugiyono (2014) claimed that during the data collection process, the researcher did not work directly with the subject.

The data was analyzed with referential identity method proposed by Sudaryanto (2015) which focused on analyzing and identifying the relationship between language and the specific entity outside the language that was being referred to. The research used equalizing technique proposed by Sudaryanto (2015) which was analyzed the types and functions from collected data based on the theory proposed by Wardaugh (2006) and Chaika (1982). The descriptive narrative approach was employed to display the research result. Descriptive narrative, as noted by Taylor et al. (2016, p. 21), dealt with stories, particularly those told is a description of certain paragraphs. This research was entirely descriptively provided.

#### 4. Result and Discussion

##### 4.1 Result

The researchers found 221 data. According to Sugiyono (2013), the researcher can reduce the data during analysis if the data have similar qualities, such as the same physical appearances in words, phrases, or expressions. The researcher used 36 data that were examined for this research. 11 data were related to special **nickname term**. 7 data were related to the **kinship term**. **First name term** was found from 5 data. **Title plus last name term** was showed 4 data. **Title alone term** appeared in 5 data. Related to **pet name term**, it showed in 2 data. And **last name term** detected in 2 data. Thus, the function of address term used to show **respect** in 11 data. To show **power difference** appeared in 12 data. 13 data in research analysis showed **intimacy**.

##### 4.2 Discussion

In this section, there are seven dialogues taken from the "Gridiron Gang" movie. Each dialogue showed different number of address terms as they were data to be analyzed. Each data represented each type of address term and function of address term.

The eleven data were analyzed to reveal the types and functions of address terms. It also showed how the characters addressed the interlocuters differently based the social characters. And it showed also the culture of westerns respect the others by applying address terms.

##### Dialogue 1 (00:03:45-00:03:50)

Roger Weather : "<sup>1</sup>**Mr. Porter**?"

Sean Porter : "Gettin' beat in the middle of the night, how do you like it, <sup>2</sup>**Roger**? You like that?"

Roger Weather : “What you hitting me for?” contained the address terms expression. The word "man" was used as an address term because it was seen as a **special nickname**.

After the commotion was over, the scene changed to isolation place. Sean Porter, the warden, went to see Roger, who was being held in isolation after what he had done to Kevin Owens. As the warden, Sean was angry about Roger who made a commotion with Kevin. In their conversation, the address terms expression was included. The words "Mr. Porter" and "Roger" revealed the address terms' expression. "Mr. Porter" was **title plus last name** address term type, while "Roger" was first name.

Mr. Porter was used to denote a **power difference** and was regarded as a title and last name. This supports Wardhaugh's hypothesis. Wardhaugh (2014, p. 268) said that the title and last name show an imbalance of power and a lack of intimacy between the speaker and the addressee. The word "Roger" was used to highlight the power gap between Sean Porter, an adult, and Roger Weather, a teenager. It was seen as a first name address term type. Additionally, Wardhaugh (2014, p. 268) stated that the first name is used to try to exert some power over other people.

**Dialogue 2** (00:03:50-00:04:00)

Roger : “Hey, <sup>3</sup>man. Can you do  
Weather that?”  
Sean : “Can I do what?”  
Porter  
Roger : “Be smackin' me and  
Weather shit”

The chat between the former gang member Roger Weather and the jail warden Sean Porter took place while they were both still in isolation. On their conversation once again, address term expression happened. The word "man"

Special nickname which was used by Roger, it functioned to denote familiarity or showed **intimacy**. This is consistent with Chaika's hypothesis. According to Chaika (1982), this type of address terms is used in communication by the speaker and the addressee that has an intimate relationship. Thus, this type shows how close Roger with Sean as close friends.

**Dialogue 3** (00:05:44-00:05:53)

Danyelle : “Yo, I remember this  
Rollins poem said once, "The moon is a friend for the lone some to talk to."  
Willie : “Damn, <sup>4</sup>girl. You got a  
Weather poem for everything that comes up”.

Still on the same place, where Roger went to walk with his cousin Willie. A girl named Danyelle was with them. Danyelle Rollins was the girlfriend of Willie. She was going on walk to accompany Willie to celebrate Roger release from detention center. When the conversation happened, the address term expression occurred. Word “girl” is the address term, especially **pet name** type.

Wardhaugh (2014, p. 268) stated that pet name indicates higher level of intimacy compared to the use of first name in addressing other people. Thus, this type functioned to show the **intimacy** between Willie and his girlfriend Danyelle.

**Dialogue 4** (00:08:12-00:08:25)

Roger’s : “Roger! <sup>5</sup>Baby! Roger!

Mother           **Baby!** Oh, God!"  
Witness       : "I saw the whole damn  
                  thing,                     <sup>6</sup>**officer**.  
                  Destroying                 the  
                  community."

Roger was killed by 95s gang member. Roger's mother arrived with police officer after the accident happened. Police tried to ask the witness about the accident. There were two address term expression happened when Roger's mother and police officer arrived. Word "Baby" and "officer".

Word "Baby" is a address term expression, especially **kinship** term. It was the way how Roger's mother addressed his son, and it functions to show **intimacy** as parent and child. Wardhaugh (2014, p. 271) stated that kinship term is related to generation and age oriented. In this type, speaker call someone as closest person, such as family.

On the other hand, word "officer" is **title alone** address term type. Wardhaugh (2014, p. 268) said that, title only usually used to determine the ranks of occupation. It functions to show **respect**, especially police officer as the one who help community. Thus, this type was used to show respect to the police who come to the crime scene where Roger was killed.

**Dialogue 5** (00:09:45-00:09:52)

Sean           : "Hey! <sup>7</sup>**Junior!** To the  
Porter           box!"  
Junior         : "I know the way"  
Malcolm       : "You get your hand  
Moore         behinds your back,  
                  <sup>8</sup>**Mister!**"

Still on the detention center, Sean and Malcolm was talking about Roger Weather death. Suddenly, on the

prisoner bedroom commotion happened. The commotion was about the fight between prisoners. Junior Palata was the one who started the commotion by hitting another prisoner. Junior was the most temperamental person in the detention center. Sean immediately ceased the commotion and told Junior to go to the isolation room accompanied by Malcolm. The address term expression happened at that time.

When Sean told Junior to go the isolation room, he addressed Junior with his first name. It could be known that **first name** was the type of address term used by Sean. Based on Wardhaugh's hypothesis (2014, p. 268), the use of first name in communication indicates equality and familiarity, **intimacy**. However, on this social situation especially between prisoner and warden, this type functioned to show power difference between Sean as warden and Junior as prisoner.

When Junior went to the isolation room, he accompanied by another warden, Malcolm. When Malcolm accompanied Junior, he addressed Junior with address term expression. The address term expression used by Malcolm was "mister". Mister was **title alone** type of address term. According to Wardhaugh (2014, p. 268), title only usually used to determine the ranks of occupation. But, on this social situation especially between prisoner and warden, this type was also functioned to show **power difference** between Malcolm as warden beside Sean and Junior as Prisoner.

**Dialogue 6** (00:19:09-00:19:15)

Donald       : "Yo, <sup>9</sup>**Mr. Porter**. Can I  
Madlock      play?"  
Sean         : "You're getting out in a  
Porter        week, <sup>10</sup>**Madlock.**"

Donald : "I wanna stay in."  
Madlock

Inside detention center, Sean tried to recruit the member for football team, then Madlock asked if he could join the team. Donald Madlock is one of many prisoners in Sean area of work. Madlock called Sean "Mr.Porter". "Mr.Porter" is **title plus last name** type of address term. Wardhaugh (2014, p. 268) said that, title plus last name indicates the unbalances power and unfamiliarity between speaker and addressee. It functions to show **respect** Madlock has as prisoner to Sean as prison warden with different authority or power.

Sean called "Madlock" which was the **last name** of Donald Madlock. Chaika (1982, p. 49) stated that the use of last name indicates that the speaker is more superior that addressee. She added that the inferior will receive her/his last name alone while the superior will be addressed by her/his tittle plus last name. Thus, the function is to show the **power difference** between Sean the prison warden and Madlock as prisoner.

#### Dialogue 7 (49.10-49.20)

Bug : "Ey, don't forget you work for me now, <sup>11</sup>**Jermaine.**"  
Evans Jermaine : "Shit man, long as i don't gotta run, i'll call you "boss", homey."

On the way to the stadium for their first match, inside the bus the teams were in high spirit. Inside the bus, Bug told Evans that he was the boss because he was the first appointed equipment manager, Evans agreed with

Bug. Bug used word "Jermaine" to address Evans. Evans full name is "Evans Jermain", so Bug addressed Evans with his **last name**. According to Wardhaugh (2014) last name also can be used to show the difference in power depending on the social situation. The function is to show **power difference** between Bug as the first equipment manager and Evans as a new equipment manager.

## 5. Conclusion

There were seven different sorts of address terms; First name (FN), title with last name (TLN), title alone (T), last name (LN), pet name (PN), kinship term (KT), and unique/special nickname (SN) identified, used by characters in the Gridiron Gang movie. The most frequently occurred for address term types were special nickname. It was because the conversation in informal situation and also the speaker and hearer were prisoners and wardens.

Thus, the characters in the Gridiron Gang movie utilized three functions to employ address terms; power differences, familiarity/closeness, and respect. power difference was the most frequently on address term function inside the movie. It was because this movie took place in detention center and football field.

Additionally, the speaker and the hearer were inmates, coaches, and wardens, indicating a power difference needed to be demonstrated, particularly for coaches or wardens who were tasked with guiding the convicts.

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