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ADDRESS TERMS USED FOR BIRTHDAY WISHES: A CASE OF STUDENTS AND LECTURERS OF NWAFOR ORIZU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, NSUGBE

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ABSTRACT

This research investigated the address terms used by WhatsApp group members in expressing birthday wishes among its members. The WhatsApp groups constitute the undergraduates' WhatsApp platform and the College of Education Academic Staff Union (COEASU) WhatsApp platform, all in Nwafor Orizu College of Education, Nsugbe, Anambra State. Address terms is a phenomenon that exists in our day-to-day communication and are bound to vary as a result of many social factors. Therefore, this paper focuses on the address terms used by the members of these groups when expressing birthday wishes to their fellow members, as well as the factor(s) that may be the face behind the mask of choice of address terms. The address terms are classified under the following: first name (FN), last name (LN), title (T), special nickname (SN), pet name (PN) and without address term (WAT). This study revealed that the combination of two or more address terms neutralises the original concept of one address term or the other. The without address term depicts more of solidarity than degree of intimacy and familiarity. Furthermore, the use of dual language in the address terms portrays a high degree of intimacy and the use of codes and abbreviations depict the highest degree of

intimacy between the addresser and the celebrant or addressee. Finally, this simply means that the context in which an address term is used and the combinations of other address terms can neutralise the concept of a particular address term. Also, some address terms are status specific and the proposition of Wardhaugh (2010) that title (T) is the least intimate address term does not hold water in this paper, instead, it is without address term (WAT).

Keywords: Address Terms, Birthday Wishes, Students, Lecturers, Whatsapp Group.

INTRODUCTION

Language is the most important tool used by people to communicate with one another in their day-to-day activities. Through communication people can easily share their thoughts and feelings. Furthermore, relationships can be built through the use of communication. In the light of all the above mentioned, to communicate effectively is not as easy as it seems because there are expressions by an addresser, ordinarily that do not seem to threaten, but factors like profession, age, or gender of the addressee may make the expression threatening. As a result, successful communication requires that both the addresser and the addressee comprehend each other's ideas, feelings, and desires. In addition, there are styles that are used in every contact to avoid friction or a breakdown in communication, whether it is face to face, over the phone or the internet, in an interview, or in teaching. The usage of address phrases is one of the styles. The way individuals call or address someone else is known as address phrases. According to Wardhaugh (2010, p. 275), individuals address others in a variety of ways, including using titles, first names, last names, nicknames, a mix of all of these, or nothing at all. Most of the time, the choice of address phrases is completely determined by the connection between the addresser and the addressee, which can be impacted by social characteristics such as gender, age, familial relationship, occupational hierarchy, race, degree of closeness, and other considerations.

Every address phrase represents the addresser's, addressee's, or their relationship's social characteristics. For instance, when a student is with his/her friends, he/she uses words like "shock me ooo, awesome, guy and baby gal. However, when he/she speaks to his/her lecturer, he/she consciously makes an effort to use words that sound appropriate to his/her lecturer such as "nice, sir, mum and ma". The same thing applies when it comes to written aspects of communication. If he/she writes a text message to a friend, he/she knows he can use abbreviations like "lol". Conversely, if he/she writes an email or chats with a lecturer, he/she knows that "lol" is not right in the context of the relationship. Therefore, there is a norm to every type of conversation between two individuals. Furthermore, because language cannot be divorced from the culture in which it exists, each language has its unique manner of utilizing address phrases. People who do not belong to the same culture will struggle to comprehend the basic principles for using other languages' addressing phrases.

When we talk, we frequently make a variety of decisions, including what we want to say, how we want to express it, and which sentence patterns, words, and sounds best fit the what and how. What we say is only as essential as how we express ourselves. That is, the choice of words and how they are used are inextricably linked. According to Wardhaugh (2010), the way a speaker addresses the hearer portrays the interpersonal relationship between them. Ways of looking at this relationship can be through the use of pronouns which are language specific; for

instance, in a language like French, the use of the pronoun tu-vous (T/V) when addressing people portrays the relationship distinction between the addresser and the addressee. The use of 'singular you' **tu** (T) shows the familiarity between the addresser and the addressee while the use of the 'plural you' **vous** (V) portrays politeness. Also, naming and other address terms which are the crux of this work and the employment of politeness markers are among the ways one can mirror the interpersonal relationship that exists between the addresser and the addressee. In summation, in every conversation between two or more people, there must be the presence of an address term. Therefore in this work we are looking at various ways different WhatsApp groups: undergraduates of the department of Igbo and other Nigerian Languages and COEASU lecturers of Nwafor Orizu College of Education, Nsugbe express birthday wishes to the members of their group chats, bringing out different address terms that exist in each group and the social factor(s) that result to each address term.

RELATED LITERATURE

Language remains the most significant instrument in communication, whether it is verbal or nonverbal, and address terms are one of the kinds of language. According to Mufwene (2001, p.1), language is a style of communicating, and each language has its own set of norms. This implies that even in the way they employ their address phrases, one language may differ from another. Widdowson (1996, p.8) repeats this sentiment, stating that the language of one group will differ from that of another. Because language is human and inseparable from humans, understanding how to communicate with others via the use of language and its laws is essential. To have an effective communication, the addresser must be competent in the language of communication in use. As a result, Saville-(2003, Troike's p.18) perspective on communication competence asserts that communicative competence necessitates an awareness of language code and how to use it effectively in certain settings. They also believe that communicative competence encompasses how people regulate their speaking behaviors by recognizing social contexts, such as knowing when to talk or keep silent and how to communicate with others of varied rank and positions. Being at home with these rules will facilitate a good conversation between two or more people in different modes of communication. This proposition brings to light the use of address terms in the society because knowing when and how to use a particular address term shows competence in the use of a language as well as facilitates communication. The address phrase, according to Hudson (2001, p.114), is another instrument for showing civility. For example, in solidarity politeness, which is the respect we acquire from others for the sort of person we are, our behavior, and our ideals, there are specific affection address phrases that come with it, such as mate sweetie, sweetheart, and in certain situations, First Name (FN) such as Charlie, Steven. When it comes to demonstrating authority politeness, which involves honoring someone's right, phrases like sir and please are frequently utilized. Furthermore, according to Holmes (2013, p.162), gender is one of the characteristics that influences the address term(s) used on an addressee. She backed up her claim with an example from Bengali culture, where a younger person should not address a superior by their first name. A wife cannot use her husband's first name since she is his subordinate.

People utilize language as a means of communication in social life, which includes the usage of numerous social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, among others. Language is used to organize and sustain connections with others. It's crucial to remember that the reason individuals communicate has an impact on how they communicate.

Furthermore, each community has its own method of communicating, which includes the right usage of address phrases. Robinson (in Wardhaugh 2010, p.291) proposes that some distinctions are made to define how individuals approach one another, particularly those who have made significant contributions to society. People of so many achievements are seen much in institutions of higher learning and one of our populations of study is among people of this class. In such societies like Nwafor Orizu College of Education, Nsugbe, they used basic forms of address terms in expressing birthday wishes which will be seen later in this work.

Different forms of language are used to communicate amongst individuals. The conversation's setting influences the language used, which might be professional or casual. People integrate their social identity in their conversation, whether consciously or unintentionally. Furthermore, people from various civilizations will have their unique addressing techniques, which include address phrases. There are many different sorts of address phrases that people might use to address others. Someone like Chaika (1982, pp.47-50) opines that address terms consist of the following: 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. Echoing the above position, Wardhaugh (2010, p.281) is of the view that address terms consist of the following types: first name (FN), title plus last name (TLN), by a nickname, by a combination of these, or by nothing at all.

In that titles frequently denote positions and vocations, such as colonel, doctor, or waiter, address by title is the least intimate form of address words (Wardhaugh 2010, p.282). There is no 'personal' stuff in them. This might just indicate that doctor Smith and doctor alone are more intimate. Knowing and utilizing another's first name is an indication of substantial closeness or at least of a desired intimacy. Using a nickname or pet name conveys even more closeness. Asymmetry in the usage of names and address phrases is frequently a sign of power imbalances. Sally and John, for example, are likely to be schoolchildren, while Miss or Mr. Smith are likely to be instructors. White people have been known to utilize name and addressing to put black people in their place. As a result, black guys are referred to as "boys." For example, in a southern town in the United States, a dialogue between a black physician, Doctor Poussaint, and a white police officer:

‘What’s your name, boy?’ the policeman asked.....

‘Dr Poussaint. I’m a physician.’

‘What’s your first name, boy?’

‘Alvin.’

Looking at what goes into addressing someone, it appears that a variety of social variables influence the choice of each address term: the situation; the other's social status or rank; gender; age; family relationship; occupational hierarchy; transactional status (a service encounter, a doctor-patient relationship, a priest-penitent relationship, or a lecturer-student relationship); race; or the degree of intimacy used to depict politeness. People may use more than one form of address phrase in their daily lives. These considerations have a significant impact on type selection. One of the social elements that might influence people's use of specific sorts of address phrases is the occasion.

Ugorji (2009) focuses on address phrases within the Igbo family in order to examine politeness tactics in the Igbo language. It looks at how address forms are utilized in politeness

negotiations, and how the schemes are driven by social ties, which are dominated by age. The following are examples of appellations used in Mbieri and other central Igbo communities:

a) *dee/deede* (*Chukwuma*)

b) *daa/ daada* (*Nkechi*)

(Ugorji,2009,p.56)The Umuahia and Mbaise dialect communities frequently use examples (a) and (b). Chukwuma is a typical male name, whereas Nkechi is a typical female name in the aforementioned statistics. If the speaker does not know the person's name, he may be addressed as *dee* or *daa* if he is regarded to be older than the speaker. When the hearer is far away or not paying attention, it is often used as a vocative to summon or call attention. When the speaker calls the hearer with appellation (a) or (b), which might be interpreted as a stronger sense of respect or reverence, as in the case of siblings, and the speaker is younger. That is, *daa* or *dee* plus first name mark respect while *daa* or *dee* without name marks deference at the family level. When this expression takes place, the hearer responds with first name or some affective words like *nwune* (*m*).

Another social factor that facilitates the use of address terms is status. Ugorji (2009) claims that for status, certain honorific epithets or respect forms appear productive. He buttressed his argument with the following examples:

a) *Nna anyi / m ukwu* master/boss

b) *Nne anyi /m ukwu* mistress/boss

These honorific terms appear to show esteem for status or authority rather than age, to indicate respect or reverence; yet, derivations from father and mother figures may place them with age rather than power or authority. In other words, as *nna* and *nne* contained in the honorifics contain the information of 'parent', the reference to parents as a possible source of items may not be devoid of age considerations except when in colloquial use by peers. Therefore, when '*nne*' which stands for mother is used outside the biological context of mother it becomes a mark of affection or endearment and are largely derivable with semantic adjustments made to their more basic conception. For instance, it can be suffixed to a male or female name like Ugonne or Ugonna. As an address form that marks affection it includes *nwanne m*, *nna m*, etc. the latter stands for 'my dear'. Also, a woman may not call her husband by name but refers to him and addresses him simply as *nna anyi* 'our father'.

As a general rule, children do not address their parents by their first names. This has to do with age and social standing, and it reinforces the argument that language rules are significant even in informal, close, or so interactions. The forms listed below are appropriate:

Mpa/papa/dad/daddie 'father'

Mma/mama/mum/mummie 'mother'

(Ugorji, 2009:60)

With the increase in urbanization however, *daddie* and *mummie* are taking the place of "papa" and "mama". As a result, Ugorji (2009) believes that family peace is formed and maintained by coordinating respect with age and relative social standing within the community of study.

Ventalia & Jusmaya (2020) aim at analysing the type of address terms in WhatsApp group of Putera Batam University Justice League (2017) movie and the reason for the use of each of the address term. In this descriptive qualitative research, data was collected using observational method non-participatory technique. The data was analyzed by applying the theory of Wardaugh (2010). The results portray the following: 8 data were found in first name (FN) Man, Alfred, Diana, Barry, Howard, Silas, Bruce, Victor, 2 data were in the last name (LN) in Allen,

Lane, 2 data were also in title (T) as in Queen, Soldiers, 1 data was also in title plus last name (TLN) Ms. Prince, 4 data in pet name (PN) in Aquaman, Batman, Cyborg, Superman and 3 data in kinship term (KT) in Dad, Mother, Child. The reasons for the choice of address term and their examples are as follow : 12 data in intimacy as in Ma, Children, Diana, Man, Victor, Arthur, Barry, Alfred, guys, Bruce, Mom, Superman, 5 data in power differential as in Mr. Wilson, Master Wayne, ma'am, insects, Luthor and 3 data in equality as in Clark, Steppenwolf and Kal-El. Based on the results, it is said that first name (FN) is the most found type of address term and intimacy is the most in reason of address term.

Salihu researched the choosing, changes, and gender difference linguistics style of using names in a Hausa society (2014). She believes that in Hausa society, a person's name is established by the circumstances surrounding or prevailing at the moment of birth, such as the child's physical attributes, life achievements, and other qualities. Proper names, nicknames, titles, pronouns, and prefixes are widely used to depict cultural values and changes across time. Personal names, titles, pronouns, descriptive phrases, affection names, multiple names, kinship terms, adoptives, zero words, and semantic extensions are among the nine categories she investigates in Hausa address patterns. According to her research, the term "address" has a certain meaning for specific persons and under specific circumstances. The importance of supremacy and civility was demonstrated by the richness and frequency with which honorifics and titles were used in Hausa. The Hausa address system is notable for its excellent, respectful, and modest contact. The usage of kinship address phrases is another distinguishing element of Hausa language. That is, Hausa is discovered to be extremely reliant on family relationships; this is especially noticeable when addressing non-relatives in reverse or using kinship terminology. The sense of formality is a major aspect of Hausa culture, language, and address words in particular, due to restrictions on the use of personal names, pronominal, and the inclination to employ broad address terms such profession titles, honorifics, and terms of formality. As a result, Hausa interlocutors are likely to employ a variety of addressing tactics, which offer speakers with a wide choice of phrases with which to address their audience. Age, gender, personality, social standing, religious orientation, familial relationship, degree of respect, familiarity, formality, and closeness between the interlocutors all influence the use of a correct address phrase.

Bruns & Kranich (2021) focused their research on the usage of address phrases in British, American, and Indian English, as well as German, with a particular interest in recent modifications and a comparison of the situations in Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, and India. Discourse completion tasks (DCTs) were used to verify the extent to which the existence or absence of hierarchical disparities between speaker and addressee influences linguistic choices. Interviews with younger and older informants from the UK and Germany on shifting hierarchies enhance this data. The objectives of the paper hinges on the following: if the situations vary with respect to power differences (P) between the interlocutors, if the situations vary based on the weight of imposition of the request (W) and if the situations portray a wide variety of different interlocutor-combinations.

According to the data, the address words differ fairly between different types of English and between English and German. The most evident finding is that Germans and Indian English speakers are more likely to employ formal variations TT + LN, as well as the formal address term Sir, than English speakers who prefer first names and other casual forms of address. The study also shows that in German professional life, the T- and V-variant of the address pronoun

is often used. Overall, the distinctions across the varieties and languages are due to varied formality preferences. For instance, American English speakers use more of informal terms of address, followed by British speakers. Then, both speakers of Indian English and of German use formal terms of address in situations where they interact professionally with interlocutors of a different hierarchical level, while the use of informal terms of address is reserved for friends, well-acquainted colleagues on the same level, neighbours, family members, and so on. Furthermore, the informal Attention Getters, especially *hey*, is often used by the younger generations across languages / varieties. Also, the formal and informal choice of address terms remains relatively stable between younger and older speakers of the same language and same variety, and this echo also for the choice of T/V-pronouns in German.

Awoonor-Aziaku (2021) opines that it is of utmost importance to consider the roles and communication of teachers and students in the classroom through the use of address terms. Therefore, the work steers towards finding the type of address and reference terms used in classroom discourse between lecturers and students of the University of Cape Coast in Ghana. The study was nipped on the following objectives: the types of address and reference terms used by lecturers and students during classroom discourse at the University of Cape Coast and how power/relationship influence the choice of the address and the reference terms. In order to arrive at the above stated goals, Awoonor-Aziaku (2021) sourced data from 150 participants of 120 students and 30 lecturers and instructors. The data were analysed using both qualitative and quantitative methods. The recorded lectures and the interviews were transcribed manually and were randomly selected and rechecked to make sure what is on the script tallies with the audio recordings and the field notes. From the finding, the study revealed that four main address terms honourific or title only, first name, title plus last name and zero address term (avoidance term) were used during classroom interactions between students of University of Cape Coast and their teaching staff. Furthermore, the address terms used by students to address their lecturers in the classroom are different from those used by lecturers for their students. The students most times address their lecturers using honourific or title only and zero address term. The use of first names and titles plus last names happens on rare cases. In the case of nonlecturers, the students address them without title or title plus last name. Lecturers on the other hand address their students mainly by their first names. Also the use of honourific or title only was due to the fact that in Ghana many students address their teachers with honourific from basic schools. Therefore, since they are used to this honorific term from their early stage of education, it becomes easier to use it even at a higher level of their education. In addition, the said reason why students avoid the use of terms, instead resort to the zero term is that sometimes, they do not know the lecturers' academic qualifications. The work also state that Ghanaian culture significantly influences the way individuals are addressed in Ghana and this extends also on how lecturers and students addressed one another in the classroom. That is, both the students and the teaching staff are aware of each other's face needs and are cautious about saving it. Therefore, they try as much as possible to use the best polite system that is available to them at any particular point in time.

In daily communication, the use of address terms is very common and natural to communicants which can be among family members or by people publicly. The wrong use of the terms may disturb the social relationship among the communicants. Furthermore, Dahlan (2018) states that address terms can also be used variously by the people coming from different cultures. To

prove this, sociopragmatic approach was used in which the characteristics of the users of address terms were also considered. In this descriptive qualitative analysis, the culture in terms of which the address terms were used was Javanese culture with some subcultures. In English and Indonesian cultures, the address terms were analyzed as a comparison with Javanese culture. The data of Javanese and Indonesian address terms were collected from the daily life and those of English were collected from written and electronic sources. The data were collected by using observation method, noting technique, and intuition technique. The findings show that there are a lot of address terms which are used very variously in Javanese, Indonesian, and English cultures. Regarding the characteristics of the address terms users, in family life, there are many specific address terms, while in public life, there are many generic address terms. In certain cases, there is no a clear cut of the use of the address terms in family life and in public life. Some address terms are used both in family life and in public life. Address terms are also used formally and informally and the factors influencing the use of the address terms are different kinship, age, education, religion knowledge, sex, different job occupation/position, different intimacy, social class, and the geographical group.

Zavitri, Machmoed & Sukmawaty (2018) study on address terms aim at revealing the use of address terms in English and Selayarese based on the situation and context of use as well as to understand the aspects that influence the use of address terms in both languages. They used descriptive qualitative approach for the study. In sourcing data for the study, those of the English language were sourced via some conversational events in some movies while those of Selayarese language were obtained from the participant observation, depth interview, and field notes. The findings of the study portray that the following address terms exist in the languages of study: pronouns, kinship terms, title and professional terms, religious terms, nobility terms, and terms of endearments. The difference between both languages is the presence of the nobility and teknonyms address terms which are visible only in Selayarese language. Furthermore, Selayarese uses certain address terms to refer to cousin and nephew or niece. Not minding the above mentioned distinction between the two languages as it relates to address terms, they both have some common address terms which are as follow: both languages use first name to call their mother, father, grandfather and grandmother and both languages applied endearments when addressing someone. From their collated data, they realised that the use of these address terms in English and Selayarese are as a result of factors like age difference, social situation which consist of formal and informal situation, social status which also consist of achieved and ascribed status and social distance or degree of intimacy.

Address terms is the study of different ways people are addressed and reason(s) for every choice made. Therefore, Rahmadani & Wahyuni (2018) in their research aimed to investigate types and functions of address terms used by people in *IPMK-SB "Kampar Students Studying in Padang"* within the view of Wardhaugh (2006) and Esmæ'li (2011) theories about types and functions of address terms. Also, they used descriptive qualitative approach supported by quantitative for this study. In their findings, four out of seven types of address terms stated by Wardhaugh were used by IPMK-SB. They are special nickname, kinship terms, pet name and title only. The biggest percentage goes to kinship terms (55.38%) followed by special nickname (37.95%), and pet name (4.62%). The smallest percentage goes to title only (2.05%). Then, for the functions, the writer found five functions of address terms based on Esmæ'li and Wardhaugh theories. They were attract people attention, show intimacy, show politeness, show

power differential, and reflect identity. The first dominant function of address term was show intimacy (47.69%), followed by attract people attention (37,44%), show politeness (9.23%), and reflect identity (3.59%). The last dominant function of address term was show power differential (2.05%).

Afful (2007) investigated the address forms and variations among students from various ethnolinguistic backgrounds at the University of Cape Coast (UCC), Ghana, who are pursuing a variety of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, with the goal of identifying key naming practices and understanding the differences in the various address forms used for an interlocutor among Ghanaian university students. The information used came from observations of both spontaneous and deliberate spoken language, as well as interviews with university students. The data came from participant and non-participant observations of real address phrase usage in 256 dyadic scenarios on the university campus at two separate times. According to the conclusions of the data research, students on campus usually employ three important naming practices: personal name, descriptive phrase, and title. Aside from the academic environment, socio-cultural aspects including gender, mood, domain, goal of discourse, presence or absence of a third person (typically a professor), and interactant connection impact the usage of various address forms for an addressee. Finally, the many address formats for a student interlocutor at UCC highlight students' inventiveness and wit. In the light of the above literatures on address terms, this paper tends to discuss the address terms used in WhatsApp group chats as it relates to different ways members of the following groups: undergraduate students of Igbo and other Nigeria languages and COEASU lecturers, all in Nwafor Orizu College of Education, Nsugbe express birthday wishes to their fellow group members. The address terms used in these WhatsApp group chat will be discussed within the umbrella of Wardhaugh (2010) categories of address terms, as well as the social factor(s) or relationship that leads to the use of each address terms.

Address Terms used by the Addressers to Celebrants for Birthday Wishes

Birthday is a celebration that comes around once a year for every individual. It also comes with lots of gifts and wishes as well for some people. Due to the advent of social media, wishes to the celebrant come from various people of different types of relationship with the celebrant. Also in group chat like WhatsApp, the members of the group always flood the platform with wishes to the celebrant in solidarity to whatever he/she is celebrating. Therefore, address terms used by individuals in expressing birthday wishes to the celebrant often vary as a result of the extent of relationship between the celebrant and the addressers. In this work, we shall discuss various types of address terms used in expressing birthday wishes in the following WhatsApp group chat: department of Igbo and other Nigerian languages undergraduate group chat and COEASU WhatsApp group chat and the social factor(s) that brought about the use of each address term.

1. First Name (FN)

It is used to address other people by their first name like “Tony”, “Myke”. The use of a first name in communication indicates equality, familiarity, and intimacy. It also shows an effort to assert some power to other people.

Table 1

First Name

Undergraduate Students	COEASU
Happy birthday @ Oby Nwokolo	
Happy birthday Chioma	
Happy birthday @ Ifeoma Tunde-asolo	
Happy birthday Ifeoma	
Happy birthday Nene	

Table 1 are the examples of First Name (FN) address term found in the chats of the WhatsApp group of the undergraduate students of Igbo and other Nigerian Languages of Nwafor Orizu College of Education, Nsugbe used in expressing birthday wish to their fellow students. The use of FN was applied only by the undergraduate students and null to the COEASU. The use of FN address term in expressing birthday wishes is viewed within the degree of intimacy because inasmuch as students have their differences, they never hesitate, most times in identifying with one another in occasions like this. However, the use of address terms easily portrays the extent of their intimacy as we can see in the above examples which consist of the following combination of address terms: FN alone signifies familiarity which is based just on course mates' levels; therefore, the degree of intimacy is medial. The case of FN plus LN is within the same pictures as the previous but except the FN plus LN of 'Happy birthday @ Ifeoma Tunde-asolo' which seems more of 'in solidarity with others' birthday wish. But that with the abbreviated FN 'Oby' signifies that the familiarity is more intimate than that of just FN address term because some students are of the habit of including LN when addressing people.

Last Name (LN)

In communication, the addresser's last name denotes social distance and unfamiliarity with the addressee. This form of address word is typically employed by someone with a greater social rank than the persons they wish to address. People's age can influence whether or not they utilize this form of address phrase. When younger people address elder individuals, they frequently use their title and last name; nevertheless, the context of conversation might disprove this notion. This address word denotes a lack of familiarity and power imbalance between the addresser and the recipient. Individuals of greater rank frequently use it to address people of lesser status.

Table 2

Last Name

Undergraduate Students	COEASU Staff
Happy birthday Thompson my crush	Mrs Ng Oguejiofor happy birthday Happy birthday Mrs Eucharia Nwosu

The address term LN often shows a huge distance in relationship or a high degree of unfamiliarity between the addressee and the addresser in communication. However, there are occasions where it can be as a mark of respect due to age difference or occupational hierarchy. As stated earlier, sometimes context as well as the addressee can disclaim the idea that use of LN indicates unfamiliarity. For instance, in the address term under the column of undergraduate students, the addresser addressed the addressee using her LN which in the real sense signifies unfamiliarity. Conversely in this context, both are students of the same age group; moreover, the use of 'my crush' neutralises more the stated rules that guide the use of LN address term. In

our society presently, some people prefer to use LN in addressing people which can be as a result of habit or that within the circle, there are two individuals going by the same first name, so the best way to differentiate them is by the use of their LN. The same applies to the address terms in the column of COEASU; the addresser included an abbreviation FN 'Ng' of the addressee along with the TLN. The abbreviation signifies that there is a close relationship between them. Like stated above, sometimes in a group, there is every possibility of having individuals that bear the same FN, so the best way to indicate which one the addresser is addressing is to include the person's LN and sometimes T as the case may be. Finally, the last address term in the column of COEASU signifies the low degree of intimacy between the addresser and the addressee.

Title (T)

This is a situation when the addressee communicates to the addresser using only his/her title, such as Professor, Doctor, and Barrister, so on. According to Wardhaugh (2010, p.268), the use of title only in addressing other people indicates the least intimate relationship, yet there are contexts where the addresser may choose to include FN or LN. The title only is 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 addresser and the addressee have no close relationship or there is need for formality based on the context of use. Certain titles like 'Father', 'Sister', 'My Chairman', 'His or Her Excellency' and 'Your Honour' are applied without adding the last name.

Table 3

Titles

Undergraduate Students	COEASU Staff
	Happy birthday to my HOD
	Happy birthday to you doc
	My emeritus HOD, congratulations!
	Happy birthday Dr Anuli
	Happy birthday Doc
	Congratulations Doc
	Happy birthday my beloved director
	Happy birthday HOD emeritus
	Happy birthday Dr
	Onyeisi happy birthday ma
	Happy birthday the most powerful HOD
	Happy birthday my hardworking HOD
	Dame, happy birthday

The use of T address term is a norm in the academic community and it can be a two-way thing: between two academic staff or from a non-academic to an academic. The use of T address term featured only in the group chat of the COEASU staff because students do not go with titles, even if, they always go with their FN in the school among their fellow students. In the above T address terms that existed among COEASU staff when expressing birthday wishes consist of the following forms: title alone 'HOD, Director, Dame', title with name 'Anuli', title with pet name 'beloved' and title with kinship term 'ma'. The ones that are addressed with only T show that the degree of intimacy between the celebrant and the addresser is very low; therefore, the addressers chose to be official in the birthday wishes. Furthermore, the ones with FN and pet name show that inasmuch as there is presence of T in addressing the celebrant, there is still a high degree of intimacy; however, the ones with FN are less intimate and more like just a wish

in solidarity with the celebrant. The use of KT in this context signifies reverence as regards to age difference between the addresser and the celebrant. Finally, some of the T address terms bear an additional description to the title like hardworking, emeritus, powerful, and these explain the extent of familiarity between the addresser and the addressee or the quest for familiarity from the addresser to the addressee.

Special Nickname (SN)

This is an address term used during communication where the addresser and the addressee have a very high intimate relationship, such as being close friends. Furthermore, special nickname portrays the presence of more intimacy between the communicators. It is often as a result of someone's attitude to things or his/her personality.

Table 4

Special Names

Undergraduate Students	COEASU Staff
Happy birthday Oyii	Mummy south happy birthday
Happy birthday mbaofesi Chinwe	Happy birthday Ada Awka
Oby nwannem happy birthday	Mama south I wish you a very happy birthday
Nmalicious Nkey Congrts	Happy birthday Ojenanwayo
	Happy birthday my mathematician
	Happy birthday great mathematician
	Happy birthday greatest dy/dx
	Omalicha di m, happy birthday
	congrats my classmate
	My special lady D, happy birthday
	Age gracefully my good neighbour
	Happy birthday C C
	Chi baby, I thank god you're +1 today

Nickname can be a two-way thing: nickname used by an individual to a person based on personal relationship or nickname used by many to a person based on communal relationship or can be based on personal relationship that transcends communal use. This can be seen in the stated examples above. For instance, mummy south and its variants are a nickname addressed by many to a particular lecturer in the college; likewise Ada Awka and mathematician. But in the case of Ojenanwayo, my good neighbour and my special lady D, the special nicknames are examples of an individual special name to another individual. Nonetheless, one thing is apparent between these two forms of special nickname, both show a high degree of intimacy between the addresser and the addressee, and they feel it is right in an occasion like the celebration of their birthdays, in solidarity with others, it is right to identify with the celebrant with his or her special nickname which can be known by all in the college or known as an individual.

Pet Name (PN)

Pet names are comparable to nicknames. Wardhaugh (2006, p.268-9) claims that using a pet name while addressing someone suggests a higher level of closeness than using a first name. The examples of pet name are "Honey" and "Sweetheart".

Table 5

Pet Names

Undergraduates Students	COEASU Staff
Tomorrow for U baby...in addy sweetheart	Happy birthday my dear HOD
Happy birthday Nwendy love	Happy birthday beloved

Happy birthday Shuga	Lovely happy birthday my love
Happy birthday to you princess	Happy birthday dear
Happy birthday to you dear	Adanyi happy birthday
Happy birthday Rita baby	Ezigbo Di ma anu! Happy birthday
Happy birthday to you my love	HBD dear
Oby darling happy birthday	Happy birthday to an amazon
Happy birthday to you beautiful	My beautiful sister congratulation
More blissful years 2 U Nky babe	My darling is plus 1 today
Happy birthday my babe	Happy birthday nne ogbo nwa m
Happy birthday baby girl	My beautiful angel both physical and spiritual happy birthday
Happy birthday gorgeous	Happy birthday my dear sister
Happy birthday Chiommy girl	Happy birthday to my own sister and beloved friend
Nnem more glorious years	Happy birthday my darling wife
Happy birthday darling	Happy birthday to a wonderful woman
Happy birthday 2 U lovely damsel	Happy birthday glorious sister
Happy birthday nne	My ever glittering sister, congratulations
Happy birthday Ezigbo	Ada di ora mma happy birthday
Happy birthday nwanyi mara mma	Ada mbaise, very happy birthday
Happy birthday my jewel	Happy to the original Ada Imo

This address term remains the highest degree of intimacy among other address terms. It can also be called endearment address terms. The use of this address term does two things: it signifies an already existing intimacy or a pass for there to be an intimacy. Inasmuch as this particular address term is gradually becoming rampant among the young and the old, and from the data analysis, it remains the most used; an inappropriate use of it can be threatening to the addressee. In addition, looking at the examples of pet names and nicknames, both seem interwoven in the sense that some examples in any can serve as an example in the other. For instance such addresses like 'Ada di ora mma', 'Ada mbaise', 'original Ada Imo' can serve as nickname address terms.

Kinship Term (KT)

Kinship words pertain to how different relatives are addressed and terms of reference used to determine their connection. The kinship system is divided into generations and ages, including terminology for both paternal and maternal lines. 'Father,' 'Mother,' 'Aunt,' and so on are examples of this address phrase. According to Luong (in Wardhaugh, 2010, p.271), Vietnamese address phrases such as "chau" which means "grandchild," "ba" which means "grandmother," and "bac" which means "older uncle/aunt" have a wide range of functions.

Table 6

Kinship Name

Undergraduate Students	COEASU Staff
	Happy birthday beautiful mummy
	Happy birthday ma
	Happy birthday my lovely wife
	Happy birthday wifey

This is one of the least used address terms because it has to do more with family and its relatives. Often times the age difference among the students is so slim that they see themselves as the same in almost everything they do, even in the use of address terms. The older ones among them also try to blend in with the younger ones that they address them with their FN. Conversely, it does not apply same in the case of the COEASU which consists of different people of various ages. However, the degree of relationship between the young and the old

members of this group will determine the choice of address term. From the above examples, for the addresser to address the addressee as ‘mummy’, it means that she treats the addresser in particular as her child or that she extends her love as a mother to people around her or that the age difference between both is so much to be addressed as ‘mummy’. For the former, it means there is a familiarity or an extent in degree of relationship, but the latter signifies respect or reverence. In the case of ‘wife’ and its variants, it shows family because in Igbo culture, a woman is not just married to the husband, she is also married to all her husband’s relations. Therefore in the stated above examples, the addressers used ‘wifey and my beloved wife to portray the high degree of intimacy is narrowed down to family.

Without Address Term

According to Wardhaugh (2010), this is a situation where the addresser chooses not to use any address terms towards the addressee. Perhaps, the addresser has no prior information about the person or there is a relationship gap between the communicators.

Table 7

Without Address Term

Undergraduate Students	COEASU Staff
Hbd to U	Happy birthday
Happy birthday to you	Happy birthday to you
	Congratulations!
	Congratulations on your birthday
	Have a glorious bornday
	Congratulations on your new age

The avoidance of address term can be seen as impolite or deficient in French language, but not so in English language. This type of address term gives us a true picture of solidarity in a group. The college consists of staff that run in hundreds, so there is no way they all will know one another not to say anything about identifying one another by name. Also, the WhatsApp group was created for dissemination of information which can be a joyous or sorrowful one. Therefore on such occasions, there are some staff that will like to congratulate the celebrant, though they do not know him/her, they deem it necessary to do the needful by sending their own birthday wish without address terms. In such a situation, it is better to go without address terms than to go with the wrong one, mostly, when it will threaten the face of the celebrant. It can also be that the addresser wishes to be formal in this situation by going without address term.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

From the above discussions, there are lots of seeming controversies related to the concept of address terms based on Wardhaugh (2010). This is as a result of the context the address terms took place in which is birthday wishes from one member of a WhatsApp group to another. This makes it an informal communication whereby anyone can use any type of address term to congratulate the celebrant. It is somehow limited, mostly in that of the COEASU. The following are the findings:

1. The context in which the address terms are used is informal. Therefore, there are combinations of address terms which neutralize the original concept of one address term or the other. This is as it relates to the degree of intimacy or familiarity. Examples are seen in LN (happy birthday Thompson my crush, Mrs Ng Oguejiofor happy birthday).

2. Also, because the address term is discussed with an informal occasion which is birthday wishes, some address terms used are just to show solidarity and this can be seen in the birthday wishes without address term. In a community like this, there is no way all the staff will know one another, but this group chat becomes a link that unifies all. Therefore in an occasion like this, congratulatory messages are bound to flow in from so many people, both known and unknown with different forms of address terms. The people that know less of the celebrant and wish to congratulate him/her will go by address term with nothing.
3. Presence of dual language in the address terms also shows a high degree of intimacy between the celebrant and the addresser because language becomes a code when not everyone understands it. Even if others understand the code but so long it is used by a particular set of people, it still remains a code.
4. Also, the use of abbreviation like 'C C' and codes like 'shuga', 'mama south', dy/dx, dame in the birthday wishes signifies a high degree of intimacy between the celebrant and the addresser. Though the above mentioned can be classified under pet name or nickname, it remains a code to some users because not all the people that read the address term up from the chat know the origin.

In summary, the combination of two or more address terms can thwart the original concept of an address term. Also, some address terms are status specific and this can be seen in the above stated data whereby some columns of the undergraduates were empty. Wardhaugh's (2010, p.282) proposition is that "Address by title is the least intimate form of address terms in that titles usually designate ranks and occupations". However, this work states otherwise because the use of Without Address Term (WAT) on the side of COEASU depicts the lowest degree of intimacy because the people that used it are likely the people that may be seeing the celebrants for the first time or perhaps do see them but have not had any close encounter with them; however, wish to congratulate them in solidarity with others. Then on the part of the undergraduates, it is based on the differences among students, in that, each student has one or more students that he/she prefers to have as close friends. Therefore, the previous and latter can still be mirrored within the quest of solidarity.

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