
Forms of Greeting by Supporting Characters in Mark Twain's Novel: The Prince and The Pauper

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Abstract

Starting a conversation by using greeting forms was considered polite when two people met. Greeting was very significant and cannot be avoided in a conversation situation. Conversation that begun with a greeting can produce good conversation construction at the next stage. One language will differ from another one in expressing its forms of greeting which, of course, were influenced by different conditions and societal backgrounds. This research was aimed at identifying, analyzing, and describing the forms and uses of greetings by the supporting characters in the novel entitled *The Prince and the Pauper* written by Mark Twain. The qualitative descriptive method was chosen in carrying out the research to explain in detail the results of the analysis of the research subjects' utterances. The primary data for this research were the forms of greeting aroused from the conversation situations between the supporting characters in this novel. The data that have been obtained were then reduced, displayed and analyzed by referring to various backgrounds of the conversations that occurred, e.g.: situation, social status, position, and identity of the characters by paying attention to the concept of greeting that was proposed by Susan M. Ervin-Tripp. The results of this research showed that the forms of greeting used by the supporting characters in this novel matched or complied with the concept of greeting explained by Susan M. Ervin-Tripp.

Keywords

Greetings, Rules, Novel



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INTRODUCTION

Language as a communication tool is very important in daily life activities. According to Sapir (1921: 8) "Language is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of voluntarily produced symbols".¹ Humans use language in writing and speaking when sending information. Ferdinand de Saussure (1916) stated that "language" (*la langue*) as an internalized system of symbolic units (signs), determined by their intra-systemic relations, in contradistinction to "speech" (*la parole*) as the empirical speech activity".² Kridalaksana (2008: 24) states that "Language is a sound that is used by society to collaborate, interact and identify

¹ Sapir, E. (1921). *Language: an Introduction to the Study of Speech*. Harcourt, Brace and Company.

² Saussure, F. D. (1916). *Cours de linguistique générale (CLG, 1916)*. G-Duckworth. London

themselves".³ Through language, a speaker as a communicator conveys a message to the listener. Language not only expresses ideas but also explains the meaning contained in them. In other words, language not only explains everything but is also a tool for expressing identity and social relationships.⁴

Humans have different ways of building communication, each with different variations. Trudgill (1974: 103 – 105) states that "the use of language in social life varies greatly".⁵ According to Chaer (2004:62) "language variation is language diversity caused by social interaction activities carried out by very diverse communities or groups and because the speakers are not homogeneous".⁶ These variations are adjusted to the social characteristics (such as social class, ethnic group, age and gender) and the social context of the speaker. According to Bergman, A. (2017: 271), "social context includes information about the relationships between people who are speaking and what their roles are".⁷ Different social characteristics will of course result in differences in communication styles between individuals in each group. Conversation situations between individuals with different social levels tend to be formal comparing to the conversation situations between individuals with the same level or who are close, both in social and kinship relationships. Burgess, et. al (1945) defines kinship as "a group of people who are related by marriage, blood ties or adoptive relations who are members of a household and interact with each other according to their roles, such as husband, wife, child, brother or sister".⁸

In certain languages, there are number of rules that determine and regulate the types of words or forms of address that may and may not be used in society by certain individuals or groups. For example, in certain societies the use of forms of greeting were determined by social status, age, and the closeness of relationship between individuals who communicate. According to Rogers, E. M., et. al (1981), communication is "a process in which two or more people form or exchange information between each other, which in turn occurs in-depth understanding."⁹ Differences in

³ Kridalaksana. H. (2008). *Kamus Linguistik*. Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama.

⁴ Fishman, J. A. (1991). *Reversing Language Shift: Theoretical and Empirical Foundations of Assistance to Threatened Languages*. *Multilingual Matters*, 40.

⁵ Trudgill, P. (1974) *The social differentiation of English in Norwich*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

⁶ Chaer, Abdul. 2005. *Tata Bahasa Praktis Bahasa Indonesia*. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta.

⁷ Bergman, A. (2017: 271). *Language Files Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics*. Ohio.: The Ohio States University.

⁸ Burgess and Locke, (1945). *The Family*. American Book Company: Georgia. USA

⁹ Rogers, E. M., Kincaid, L. D. (1981). *Communication Network: Toward a New Paradigm for Research*. New York. The Free Press.

levels of politeness and respect can be seen based on the choice of words used by speakers when greeting one another. In English, when greeting other, we can use the following examples: I, You, Sir, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Frederick, mate, etc. The use of different greetings clearly shows the social, age and gender differences between one and another speaker. A speaker can be addressed with different forms of greeting either by the same person or by different people. For example, in one conversation situation Mr. John can be addressed as Sir. John by his subordinate, John by his co-workers, Darling by his wife, Father by his son, etc. These forms of greeting referred to the same individual but are differentiated by the respective conversational situations and interlocutors. A conversation between two people with the same social status will of course be very different from a conversation between by two people with different social statuses.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in examining in depth a literary work in the form of novel with the title of *The Prince and the Pauper* to find out whether the conversations between the characters in it are really follow the rules for using the correct forms of address. This novel was written by Mark Twain (November 30th, 1835 - April 21st, 1910). The novel *The Prince and the Pauper* was published for the first time in 1881 as a work of English fiction in Canada, and then in the following year (1882) it was republished because at that time there were so many fans of this novel liked to own one. In general, this novel describes the living conditions of a noble family in England in the Middle Ages. The main characters in this novel were a prince named Edward Tudor and a beggar named Tom Canty. Furthermore, in this novel, it is told that the beggar Tom Canty on one occasion met Prince Edward Tudor and at the end they became friends. The prince noticed that physically there were similarities between the two. Finally, the prince intended to exchange roles with Tom Canty so that the prince could walk around freely outside the palace without an escort to experience what kind of life poor people lived at that time. On the other hand, Tom Canty can also enjoy the luxury of being a royal prince. However, this research will not discuss the forms of greeting used by these two main characters. This research will focus on the forms of greeting used by the supporting characters, of which there are quite a lot in this novel.

Based on the explanation above, the question in this research were what forms of greeting are used by the supporting characters in this novel when they greet each other, and whether these forms of greeting are in accordance with the concept of greeting forms as stated by S.M. Ervin-Tripp (1971). The aim of this research was to identify and analyze the forms of greeting used by the

supporting characters in this novel, and to find the forms of greeting that were in accordance with the rules put forward by S.M. Ervin Tripp.

METHOD

The research methodology draws upon Susan M. Ervin Tripp's (1971) theory on greeting rules, as outlined in her work "Sociolinguistics." Tripp explains that in American social interactions, individuals adhere to certain greeting norms determined by seven factors. These factors include situations marked by status, rank, identity, and generation level, which are considered dominant, as well as age and racial factors, which are less dominant. Additionally, there is a variation factor, exemplified by the use of nicknames. The research adopts a qualitative approach with descriptive presentation, involving data identification, collection, reduction, analysis, and conclusions. Qualitative research methods, as per Sugiyono (2019), are characterized by post-positivism philosophy, researcher as the key instrument, triangulation in data collection, inductive data analysis, and emphasis on meaning over generalizations in research findings.¹⁰ The data for this study are derived from greetings found in the dialogues of supporting characters in Mark Twain's novel "The Prince and The Pauper." Data collection involves two stages: observation and documentation. During observation, the researcher meticulously reads the novel to identify instances of greetings used by characters. Subsequently, during documentation, all identified greetings are recorded, with greetings used by main characters excluded. The identified and reduced data are then analyzed using Tripp's concept of greeting rules.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Supporting Characters in the novel The Prince and The Pauper include:

1. Bet and Nam: Tom Canty's beggar sisters (main characters). The two are twins said to be around 15 years old. Together with his brother he was well known even though his clothes and body were dirty.
2. John Canty: He is Tom Canty's father. He has a bad temper. He likes stealing and drinking. He worked as a beggar and told his children to beg.
3. Father Andrew: An elderly and kind priest. He really loved children, including beggars and taught them good things, including learning to read.
4. Lady Jane Grey: Cousin of Edward Tudor (the prince).
5. Lady Elizabeth: Edward Tudor's 14 years old sister.
6. Henry VIII: 8th King of England
7. Lord Hertford: Nobleman or Lord Protector
8. Lord St. John: Nobleman
9. Lord Chancellor: Nobleman
10. Miles Hendon: Son of Sir. Richard

¹⁰ Sugiyono. (2019). *Metodelogi Penelitian Kuantitatif dan Kualitatif Dan R&D*. Bandung: ALFABETA.

11. Hugh Hendon: Miles Hendon's brother
12. Blake Andrews: Servant of Hendon Family
13. Lady Edith: Miles Hendon's wife who married Hugh Hendon
14. Ruffler: Gangster leader
15. Hermit: Old Meditator
16. Humphrey Marlow: Edward Tudor's sparring partner
17. Sir. Thomas: Nobleman
18. Prissy: Little Girl
19. Marger: Little Girl
20. Guard: Soldier at the Palace

Forms of Address by Supporting Characters:

1. Lord Hertford
 - a. Lord Hertford to Tom Canty (regarding Tom Canty as a prince), he used the following greeting pattern:
Possessive Pronoun + Noun
 - “It is the law, **your grace**- for prisoners”. (page 83)
 - “Please your majesty, the doctor testified that none die with such symptoms but by poison”. (page 84)
 - “Marry, no, **my liege**”. (page 84)
 - “None, **my liege**”. (page 54)
 - So please **your highness**, it is for you to commands, it is for us to obey”. (page 3)
 - “the 16th of coming month, **my liege**”. (page 72)
 - b. Lord Hertford to Edward Tudor (regarding Edward Tudor as a prince), he used the following greeting pattern:
Title + 0
 - “By your favor, **Sir**, I desire to ask certain questions”. (page 176)
 - c. Lord Hertford to Henry VIII (regarding Henry VIII as a king), he used the following greeting pattern:
Title + 0
 - “**Sire**, if that I may be sold, here be several that do remember, with me how that you gave the great seal into the hands of his highness, the prince of Wales to keep against the day” (page 37)
 - d. Lord Hertford to Sir Thomas (an adult male royal guard), he used the following greeting pattern:
Title + FN

“**Sir Thomas**, arrest this-no hold” (page 17)

2. Guard

Guard to Edward Tudor (as a prince dressed as a beggar, but the guards recognized him as a prince). The greetings used show differences in social status. He used the following greeting pattern:

Possessive Pronoun + Adjective + Title

“I salute **Your Gracious Highness**” (page 13)

Nickname

“be off, thou **crazy rubbish!**” (page 13)

3. Lady Jane Grey

a. Lady Jane Grey to Tom Canty (regarding Tom Canty as a prince), she used the following greeting pattern:

Possessive Pronoun + Title

“ Oh, what, ailed thee, **my lord?**” (page 19)

“Oh, **my lord**, on thy knees?” (page 19)

4. Henry VIII

a. Henry VIII to Tom Canty (regarding Tom Canty as prince Edward Tudor), he used the following greeting pattern:

Possessive Pronoun + Title + FN + Possessive Pronoun + Title

“How now, **my Lord Edward, my prince?**” (page 20)

Noun

“Come hither, **Child**” (page 22)

Kinship Term

“This my **son** is mad” (page 22)

Possessive Pronoun + Title

“Kiss me, **my prince**” (page 23)

Possessive Pronoun + Adjective + Kinship Term

“am I not **thy loving father?**” (page 23)

b. Henry VIII to Lord Hertford (regarding Lord Hertford as nobleman). He used the following greeting pattern:

Possessive Pronoun + Title + Kinship Term

“Take instant order for it, **my lord Hertford**” (page 23)

c. Henry VIII to Lord Chancellor (regarding Lord Chancellor as nobleman). He used the following greeting pattern:

Possessive Pronoun + Noun

“Man, hast lost **thy wits**?” (page 38)

5. Miles Hendon

- a. Miles Hendon to Edward Tudor (regarding him as the prince). He used the following greeting pattern:

Pronoun + Article “a” + Adjective + Noun

“Thy nap together, will make **thee a little man** again, never fear!”

(page 59)

Title + 0

“Yes, **Sire**” (page 60)

Possessive Pronoun + Title

“softly, softly, **my prince**”. (page 130)

“Welcome to Hendon hall, **my king**!” (page 139)

“tis done now, **my liege**” (page 65)

“thy commands, **my liege**” (page 162)

Adjective + Noun

“gently, **good friend**” (page 130)

“**poor child**” (page 155)

Nickname

“**idiot**, dost imagine I will enter a common jail alive?” (page 132)

Adjective + Title

“bide a moment, **good sir**” (page 134)

“bear me up, bear me up, **sweet sir**” (page 136)

Possessive Pronoun + Adjective + Adjective + Title

“I have lost thee, **my poor little mad master**” (page 168)

- b. Miles Hendon to Edith (an adult female, his own wife). He used the following greeting pattern:

Possessive Pronoun + First Name + Possessive Pronoun + Noun

“O, **my Edith, my darling**” (page 142)

Title + 0

“Heavens, **madam**, but I am he” (page 146)

- c. Miles Hendon to Hugh (an adult male, his brother). He used the following greeting pattern:

First Name

“Embrace me, **Hugh**” (page 139)

Kinship Term

“Go on **brother**, go on and fear not” (page 140)

Possessive Pronoun + Noun + Adjective + First Name

"Scour and scam me to thy content, **my dear old Hugh**" (page 144)

Title + 0

"Give me thy hand, give me thy cheek, **lord**" (page 140)

d. Miles Hendon to John Canty (an adult male, a thief). He used the following greeting pattern:

Pronoun

"Not too fast, **friend**" (page 57)

e. Miles Hendon to Tom Canty (a boy who is not a prince anymore). He used the following greeting pattern:

Possessive Pronoun + Adjective + Noun

"I shall be greatly bounded to you, **my good lad**" (page 185)

f. Miles Hendon to the Servant. He used the following greeting pattern:

Pronoun

"Collect thy scattered wits-bethink thee take, **man**" (page 168)

Nickname

"out of my sight, **idiot!**" (page 68)

g. Miles Hendon to the Meditator. He used the following greeting pattern:

Title + Noun

"What a boy!, lie me no lies, **sir priest**,
play me no deceptions!" (page 121)

Adjective + Title

"for look you, **holy sir**" (page 121)

6. Ruffler

Ruffler to Edward Tudor (identified him as a prince). He used the following greeting pattern:

Adjective + Title

"be gracious to us, o **sweet king!**" (page 100)

Title + 0

"Deign to spit upon us, o **sire**" (page 100)

Pronoun

"Drop it, **boy**, tis not wise, not well" (page 100)

7. John Canty

- a. John Canty to Edward Tudor (identified him as a young prince). He used the following greeting pattern:
- Pronoun
"Thou must make no threats against thy mates, **lad**" (page 99)
"Stand forth, **lad**" (page 42)
- Nickname
"my name is changed, for wise reasons,
it's **Hobbs-John Hobb**; Thine Jack" (page 94)
- b. John Canty to Hugo (an adult male, his follower, a thief). He used the following greeting pattern:
- First Name
"Peace, **Hugo**, vex him not" (page 94)
- c. John Canty to Ruffler (an adult male, a gangster leader). He used the following greeting pattern:
- Pronoun
"**mates**, he is my son, a dreamer" (page 99)
Possessive Pronoun + Adjective + Noun
"I thank you, **my good people**" (page 99)
- d. John Canty to the Thief (identified him as a thief). He used the following greeting pattern:
- First Names
"Stand forth, **Yokel, Burns, and Hodge**,
show your adornments!" (page 97)
8. Humphrey
Humphrey to Tom Canty (identified him as a prince). He used the following greeting pattern:
- Adjective + Adjective + Title
"thanks, oh, **most noble master**" (page 77)
"alack, **my poor master**" (page 75)
Possessive Pronoun + Title
"of a surety thou must remember me, **my lord**" (page 94)
Possessive Pronoun + Adjective + Noun
"O, **my gracious liege**" (page 77)
9. Sheriff
Sheriff to Tom Canty (identified him as a prince). He used the following greeting pattern:
- Title + 0
"by pulling off their stocking, **sire**" (page 87)

Possessive Pronoun + Title

"Always, **my liege**" (page 87)

"indeed, did she, **your majesty**" (page 86)

Possessive Pronoun + Title + Article "the" + Title

"O, **my lord the king**, I have it not" (page 87)

10. Officer

- a. Officer to Tom Canty (identified him as a prince). He used the following greeting pattern:

Title + 0

"most clearly, **sire**" (page 82)

- b. Officer to Miles Hendon

Title + 0

"Please, you, **sir**, to follow me" (page 186)

11. Prisoner

- Prisoner to Tom Canty (identified him as a prince). He used the following greeting pattern:

Possessive Pronoun + Title + Title

"o, **my lord king**, an thou cast pity the lost,
have pity upon me" (page 82)

Adjective + Possessive Pronoun + Title

"Oh, **good my liege**, not so!" (page 83)

Possessive Pronoun + Title

"Naught that will avail, **my king**" (page 84)

12. Lord St. John

- a. Lord St. John to Tom Canty (identified him as a prince). He used the following greeting pattern:

Title + 0

"**Sire**, the seal is not there" (page 178)

- b. Lord St. John to Edward Tudor (identified him as a prince). He used the following greeting pattern:

Article "the" + Adjective + Title

"long live **the True King!**" (page 181)

Title + 0

"Please you, **sir**, keep diligently in mind" (page 26)

13. Lord St. John to Lady Princess Elizabeth (identified her as a princess). He used the following greeting pattern:

Title + 0

“he hath indeed, **madam**”

(page 27)

14. Lady Jane

Lady Jane to Tom Canty (identified him as a prince). She used the following greeting pattern:

Possessive Pronoun + Title

“hast paid thy duty to the queen’s majesty today, **my lord**” (page 27)

15. Chancellor

Chancellor to Henry VIII (identified Henry VIII as a King). He used the following greeting pattern:

Possessive Pronoun + Title

“Will’t please, **your majesty**,

to order that the seal be now restored to me” (page 37)

16. Mediator

Mediator to Miles Hendon (identified him as an old warrior). He used the following greeting pattern:

Adjective + Title

“Oh, **good sir**” (page 121)

Pronoun

“Thou hast lied, **friend**” (page 122)

17. Bet

Bet to John Canty (an adult male, a father and thief). She used the following greeting pattern:

Kinship Term

“Do, **father**” (page 44)

From the findings above, it can be observed that in the novel "The Prince and The Pauper" by Mark Twain, various characters use diverse greeting patterns depending on the context of social relationships and hierarchical status associated with the characters they address. Here are some significant findings:

1. Greeting Patterns Based on Status and Titles: Characters like Lord Hertford, Lady Jane Grey, and the Chancellor employ greeting patterns that emphasize social status and titles in their interactions with other characters. They use titles corresponding to the social status or hierarchical position of the individuals they address.
2. Greeting Patterns Based on Identity and Family Relationships: Characters like Miles Hendon use greeting patterns that highlight identity and family relationships. For example, he uses titles appropriate to his social position and family relationship with other characters.

3. Greeting Patterns Based on Character Recognition: When characters like John Canty or Ruffler interact with unfamiliar characters, they tend to use brief introductions or common titles to address them.
4. Greeting Patterns Based on Identity Acknowledgment: When characters realize the true identity of someone, there is a shift in their greeting patterns. For instance, when Edward Tudor is dressed as a beggar but recognized as a prince, the greeting used by the guard and the prisoner changes to reflect acknowledgment of his true identity.
5. Non-Normative Greeting Patterns: Some characters, like Ruffler or the Sheriff, use unconventional or inappropriate greeting patterns in certain situations, indicating disobedience or disregard for social norms.

Thus, the data findings indicate that in the novel, greeting patterns are used to reflect social relationships, status, and acknowledgment of identity among interacting characters. These patterns reveal the complexity of social dynamics and hierarchy in the society at that time, as well as depict the characteristics and personalities of each involved character.

CONCLUSION

Conclusions that can be made according to the results of data identification and analysis the forms of greeting used by the supporting characters in the novel *The Prince and the Pauper* are aligned with the concept of greeting as raised by Susan M. Ervin-Tripp in *Sociolinguistics* (1971). It is clear that there are various things that emerged which, if the readers pay close attention, are very much influenced by the differences in status, rank and identity of the characters. It can also be seen that forms of address related to age and race did not appear in the conversations of the supporting characters because the story in the novel was set in the royal people living environmental setting so that the status, rank and identity of the characters were clearly differentiated. In the various conversational situations that occurred, it can be seen that the supporting characters tried as clear as possible to greet their interlocutors according to their respective social status because if the form of greetings used were not appropriate then misunderstanding and offense will arise between them. This was also intended for people who listened to the conversation among the characters to easily identify the relationship between the speakers and the direction of their conversation. Further research on the use of forms of greeting in the royal environment is highly recommended considering that this research was only limited to conversation situations by the supporting characters in the Novel *the Prince and the Pauper* without involving the conversation situations between the main characters which of course play an important role in determining the direction of conversation in this novel. Further research needs to be carried out to see whether it is true that all the characters in this novel actually use forms of greeting according to the concept put forward by Susan M. Ervin Tripp, or whether there are characters who use forms of greeting that deviate from the existing concept.

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