

DIALOGUE AND COMMUNICATION MECHANISMS OF THE GREETING CONCEPT IN LITERARY DISCOURSE

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Abstract

This article examines the theoretical and practical aspects of the concept of greeting and its dialogue and communication mechanisms in literary discourse. Greeting is analyzed as one of the fundamental communicative acts that initiates interpersonal interaction and establishes social relationships within literary texts. The study explores the communicative functions of greetings, their role in dialogic interactions, and their representation within cultural and social contexts. Using linguistic, sociocultural, pragmatic, and discourse-analytical approaches, the research investigates how greetings contribute to character development, narrative progression, and the construction of interpersonal relationships in literary works.

Keywords: Literary discourse, greeting, dialogue, communication, pragmatics, discourse analysis, sociolinguistics, culture, interaction, narrative.

Introduction

Literary discourse represents a complex and multifaceted form of communication in which language functions not merely as a medium of information exchange but also as a tool for artistic expression, social interaction, and cultural representation¹. Within this framework, dialogue occupies a central position, enabling characters to communicate, establish relationships, and reveal their psychological and social identities. One of the

¹ Searle, J. R. (1969). *Speech Acts: An Essay in the Philosophy of Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

most significant components of dialogue is greeting, which serves as the initial stage of interpersonal communication and plays a crucial role in shaping subsequent interactions.

In everyday communication, greetings are often perceived as routine linguistic expressions. However, from a discourse-pragmatic perspective, they perform essential social and communicative functions². Greetings facilitate the establishment of contact, signal mutual recognition, express politeness, and indicate the nature of social relationships between interlocutors. In literary discourse, greetings acquire additional artistic and symbolic dimensions. Authors employ greeting expressions not only to imitate natural communication but also to reveal character traits, social status, emotional conditions, and cultural values.

The growing interest in discourse studies, pragmatics, and sociolinguistics has led scholars to examine greetings as culturally embedded communicative acts. Researchers have demonstrated that greeting practices vary significantly across languages and cultures, reflecting distinct social norms and communicative expectations. Consequently, the study of greetings within literary discourse provides valuable insights into both linguistic behavior and cultural representation.

The purpose of this article is to investigate the concept of greeting in literary discourse and to analyze its dialogic and communicative mechanisms from linguistic, cultural, and pragmatic perspectives.

1. The Concept of Greeting and Its Linguocultural Foundations

1.1 Linguistic Nature of Greetings

In linguistics, greeting is commonly defined as a speech act that initiates communication between participants. According to speech act theory, greetings belong to the category of expressive and phatic acts because they establish and maintain social contact rather than transmit substantial informational content.

Roman Jakobson emphasized the importance of the phatic function of language, which ensures the establishment and maintenance of communication channels. Greetings exemplify this function by creating conditions necessary for successful interaction. Expressions such as “Hello,” “Good morning,” “How are you?” and their equivalents

² Karimova, N. (2018). *Dialogic Principles in Literary Texts*. Tashkent: University Press.

in other languages serve as conventionalized linguistic signals indicating willingness to communicate.

From a pragmatic perspective, greetings perform several functions:

1. initiating interaction;
2. acknowledging the presence of another person;
3. expressing politeness and respect;
4. reducing social distance;
5. establishing a communicative framework for further discourse.

The linguistic structure of greetings varies across languages, reflecting specific cultural norms and communicative conventions³.

1.2 Cultural Context of Greetings

Greetings are deeply embedded in cultural traditions and social practices. Every society develops its own conventions regarding appropriate greeting behavior, including verbal expressions, gestures, body language, and contextual factors.

For example, in Uzbek culture, greetings often emphasize respect, hospitality, and social harmony. Expressions such as “Assalomu alaykum” carry not only a communicative function but also religious and cultural significance. The response “Va alaykum assalom” reinforces mutual respect and social solidarity.

In English-speaking cultures, greetings such as “Hello,” “Good morning,” or “How do you do?” generally reflect principles of politeness and social courtesy. Although these expressions may appear simple, they communicate important social meanings concerning familiarity, status, and interpersonal relationships.

Within literary discourse, cultural aspects of greetings contribute to characterization and world-building. Through greeting practices, authors depict cultural identities, social structures, and interpersonal dynamics.

2. Dialogue and Communicative Mechanisms of Greetings in Literary Discourse

2.1 Greetings as Dialogic Devices

The concept of dialogue occupies a central position in literary theory, particularly in the works of Mikhail Bakhtin. According to Bakhtin, dialogue represents the

³ Jakobson, R. (1960). *Linguistics and Poetics*. In T. Sebeok (Ed.), *Style in Language*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

fundamental mode of human communication and meaning construction. Greetings serve as the entry point into this dialogic process.

In literary texts, greetings frequently function as more than simple conversational openings. They may reveal:

- ✓ social relationships between characters;
- ✓ emotional attitudes;
- ✓ power dynamics;
- ✓ hidden conflicts;
- ✓ cultural expectations.

For example, a formal greeting between two characters may indicate social distance, while an informal greeting may suggest intimacy and familiarity. The specific choice of greeting often conveys implicit meanings that influence readers' interpretations of character relationships.

Consider the following literary example:

"Good evening, Mr. Darcy," Elizabeth said politely.

The greeting immediately establishes a formal social context and reflects the interpersonal dynamics between the characters. Even before the conversation develops, readers receive information about social hierarchy, politeness norms, and emotional attitudes.

2.2 Communicative Strategies and Interactional Mechanisms

Greetings in literary discourse function through various communicative strategies. These strategies help authors construct realistic interactions and reveal character intentions.

Formal Greeting Strategy

Formal greetings typically occur in situations involving:

- ✓ social hierarchy;
- ✓ institutional communication;
- ✓ unfamiliar interlocutors;
- ✓ professional relationships.

Examples include:

- ✓ "Good morning, Professor."
- ✓ "How do you do?"
- ✓ "It is a pleasure to meet you."

Such greetings establish distance and emphasize social roles.

Informal Greeting Strategy

Informal greetings reflect familiarity and interpersonal closeness.

Examples include:

- “Hi!”
- “Hey!”
- “What’s up?”
- “Nice to see you.”

These expressions create a relaxed communicative atmosphere and indicate solidarity between speakers.

Emotional Greeting Strategy

In literary narratives, greetings often communicate emotional states:

- excitement;
- surprise;
- affection;
- anxiety;
- hostility.

For instance:

“Oh, it’s you!” she exclaimed.

Although technically functioning as a greeting, the utterance simultaneously reveals emotional tension and interpersonal history.

2.3 Communicative Functions of Greetings

Greetings fulfill multiple communicative functions within literary discourse:

Contact-Establishing Function

The primary role of greetings is to establish communication between participants.

Social Identification Function

Greetings indicate social identities and group membership.

Politeness Function

Greeting expressions reflect politeness norms and social etiquette.

Emotional Function

Greetings communicate feelings and interpersonal attitudes.

Narrative Function

In literary texts, greetings contribute to plot development and characterization.

Cultural Function

Greetings transmit cultural values and social traditions.

These functions often operate simultaneously, enriching the communicative complexity of literary discourse.

3. Analysis of Greeting Mechanisms in Literary Texts

3.1 Greetings Across Literary Genres

Different literary genres employ greetings in distinct ways.

Drama. In dramatic works, greetings often appear directly in dialogue and serve to initiate action. Since drama relies heavily on spoken interaction, greeting exchanges become essential tools for establishing relationships and advancing the plot.

Novels. In novels, greetings frequently provide psychological insights into characters. Narrative descriptions surrounding greeting acts may reveal internal thoughts, motivations, and emotional responses.

Short Stories. Short stories often use greetings economically, allowing brief exchanges to convey significant social and emotional information.

3.2 Greeting Structures in Dialogue

Analysis of literary dialogues reveals several common greeting patterns:

Reciprocal Greeting

Character A: "Good morning."

Character B: "Good morning."

This structure demonstrates social harmony and mutual recognition.

Expanded Greeting

Character A: "Hello, John. How have you been?"

Character B: "Very well, thank you."

Such greetings establish a stronger interpersonal connection.

Asymmetrical Greeting

Character A: "Good afternoon, Sir."

Character B: "Hello."

The asymmetry may reflect differences in status or attitudes.

These patterns contribute to the realism and communicative authenticity of literary dialogue.

3.3 Greeting Violations and Their Dramatic Functions

One of the most interesting phenomena in literary discourse is the deliberate violation of greeting conventions.

Examples include:

1. ignoring a greeting;
2. refusing to respond;
3. interrupting the greeting sequence;
4. using inappropriate greeting forms.

Such violations often signal:

1. interpersonal conflict;
2. emotional distress;
3. social tension;
4. ideological opposition.

For example:

“Good morning,” he said.

She walked past without answering.

The absence of a response communicates hostility more effectively than explicit verbal confrontation. Thus, greeting violations become powerful narrative devices that enhance dramatic tension and character development.

Discussion

The analysis demonstrates that greetings represent a significant communicative mechanism within literary discourse. They function at linguistic, pragmatic, cultural, and narrative levels simultaneously. Through greetings, authors construct social realities, express cultural values, and develop complex interpersonal relationships.

The dialogic nature of greetings supports Bakhtin’s view that meaning emerges through interaction. Even seemingly routine greeting expressions become meaningful when interpreted within broader narrative and cultural contexts. Furthermore, greetings contribute to discourse coherence by marking transitions, initiating interactions, and structuring conversational exchanges. Their communicative significance extends far beyond simple politeness formulas.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the concept of greeting occupies a central position within the dialogic and communicative framework of literary discourse. Greetings are not merely conventional expressions used to initiate conversation; they function as complex discourse mechanisms that shape interpersonal relationships, reveal character identities, transmit cultural values, and contribute to narrative development.

The study has shown that greetings perform multiple linguistic and communicative functions, including establishing contact, expressing politeness, signaling social relationships, conveying emotional states, and organizing dialogue structures. Their representation in literary texts reflects broader sociocultural norms and communicative practices.

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