

**LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IN ENGLISH CLASSROOMS:
GREETINGS, WAYS OF EXPRESSING POLITENESS**

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Abstracts: This article informs us about language and culture in English, mainly greetings and ways of expressing politeness. Politeness is an important positive character that students should acquire in learning processes. Having a polite character, the students will be able to respect teachers and fellow students and, in return, obtain respect from them. This mutual respect will in turn create positive learning environments. In English language classrooms, it is not only taught directly, but it is also integrated in the teaching and learning processes. The integration can be through teaching language functions (for example, apologizing, greeting, respecting, and thanking) where polite verbal and non-verbal expressions in English are taught. The way to perform politeness, however, could be different between Uzbek and English culture. As students could use local language knowledge to learn English language, they could also possible to use local culture to learn English culture. This paper explores the way local cultural politeness is incorporated in English language classrooms.

Key words: English culture, politeness, local culture.

INTRODUCTION

Learning English is basically learning to use English language and this often means learning the grammatical structures, uttering them in good English pronunciation. In Uzbekistan English language is a second language which means communication and a medium of instruction at schools. While the students commonly use the first language or mother tongue out of school contexts, English language is confined only within English classes and it is, thus, seen as foreign language. English being an international language and the most widely used language in international communication, it is learned in non-English countries for a number of related purposes, but three main modes have been prevalent: acquisition of knowledge, technology and economic development. their rituals in the class.

Politeness

The following extracts show some expressions used by the two teachers as their rituals to be polite in the classroom.

Extract 1: Greetings and Apologies

L: “Assalamu alaykum .”

“peace be upon you.”

S: “Wa Alaykum Assalam.”

“peace be upon you too.”

L: “Sorry for being late, because I saw your SMS a few minutes ago, I forgot this class.

In the above extract of conversation, the teacher (L) used expressions which aimed to show his politeness in the class.

The excerpts from the recording above were taken at the beginning of the class, and the teacher was about to start the class. The teacher said, “Assalamu Alaikum” (peace be upon you) to start the lesson, which is a greeting for Muslim people.

That sort of greeting is commonly used since teachers and students are mostly Muslim. Very few of students as well as teachers in the university who are not Muslim, and therefore, this kind of greeting was regularly used in the class. In extract 1, after the teacher said the greeting, he followed by saying apology, that was by saying “Sorry for being late.” This apologizing expression was also commonly used by the teacher, especially when explaining the reasons for coming late to the class. The same case can be seen in the following extract:

Extract 2: Greeting in the class

L: “assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh..!” “peace be upon you”

S : “wa alaikum salam wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh” “peace be upon you too.”

L: “we open the program with basmalah together.” “We open the program [the class] by reciting “Basmalah.”

S: “bismillahirrahmanirrahim...” “in the Name of Allah”

L: “ok.”

“okey”

In extract 2 above, the teacher used the greeting “assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh”. After saying the greeting, the teacher indeed asked students to recite

“Basmalah.” This expression was also derived from Islamic teaching in which to start the activities, Muslim people are recommended to recite “Bismillah” (in the Name of Allah). The two extracts above are examples of expressions used by teachers to be polite in the class. These expressions were mostly found by most of the teachers as their ritual to be polite. Those expressions are intended to create a harmonious situation in the class which is good to begin the teaching.

Eventually, we can say that in Greek formalism, social distance and politeness can be expressed through the polite plural. Polite plurals can only be used in direct address and are limited to the use of a alternate plural verb for a single addressee[3].

The speaker's correct choice of pronouns and verb figures when addressing a Listener determines the status of the meeting. Avoidance of this verbal tool in further anticipated situations may lead to a communication breakdown or convey certain ideas and passions from the Speaker towards the Listener and/ or their relationship.

Operation forms in Greek

In addition to the T/ V pronominal system, Greek includes a variety of address options, listed then.

Title(T)(kirie, kiria, despinis)

First Name(FN)

Title Name(TFN)

Surname(LN)

Title Surname(TLN)

Title Position Title

Multiple Naming (MN)

Naming (NN)

The form TFN, absent in English, is an intermediate possibility in Greek, helping to bridge the gap between formality and closeness. Also, this particular construction is presumably the most used in everyday meetings[4]. The choice of number is determined by the form of the address. The listener's FN is always followed by the alternate singular, while the plural is used with T and T LN. The construction T FN can be either singular or plural. In addition to the common titles Mr.(kirios), Mrs.(kiria) and Miss(espinis), there are some words that can be used as impersonal and longer forms of address. These forms include professions or position (PT) and respect. For illustration, the forms of professional titles are dikigore (nonfictional meaning of dikigoros" counsel"), kadiyita(kadigitis" professor"), gatre (gatros" croaker"), etc. Simplifications of honorifics are sevazmiotatat and aksiotime(vocative of sevazmiotatos" most honorable" and axiothymos" good of respect"). Honorifics noway antecede other titles, but a Greek speaker might say, for illustration, kirie dikasta(a compression of kirios dikastis" joe judge") or kirie dimarru(joe kirios dimaros" joe).

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