



MJAL 7:1 Winter 2015

ISSN 0974-8741

A study of Modes of Greetings in a Global Perspective with particular reference to Urdu Speech Community in India by Nehal Ahmad

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Abstract:

Recent researches in the area social greetings have established that contrary to earlier scholarship, greetings are not semantically empty expressions, and that they are used for more functions than initiating social interaction. The present paper briefly discusses different types of greetings with varied situations in which a greeter uses various greeting forms appropriate to particular context. The speech community represented here covers speakers of Urdu language in India. Modes of greetings are used in a speech community by individuals who wish to welcome or to say good-bye. The present study is fully based on the author's own observations. The present area of investigation has been very interesting to the author since decades. The objective of this paper is to highlight some interesting inherent linguistic features in day today social interaction of Urdu speakers.

Key words: modes of greeting; hands shake; verbal greetings, non- verbal greetings; greeting expressions; Formal Alternative Greetings; Greeter and Greetee; Modes of Address and Verbal Greetings; Shaking Hands; cultural variations.



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1. INTRODUCTION:



Modes of greetings are important linguistic mechanisms by which a greeter's attitude toward, and interpretation of his or her relationship with, a speaker is reflected. There is no doubt that inappropriate choice of the greeting hinders good

communication between the greeter and greatee. The importance of greetings forms cannot be overestimated in the use of a language in any human society. They serve as an indicator of the social relationship between a speaker and a listener in terms of status and social distance.

In studying and using any particular language, it is not sufficient to master the phonology, syntax, lexis and morphology as a mark of communicative competence. The basic discourse rules or conversational routines of such a language are highly essential. These routines include among others how greetings, compliments, invitations. The acts of verbal and nonverbal greetings are universal phenomenon of human communicative behavior. Every speech community devises such interactive behavioral patterns, the "common formula for social intercourse" (Bloomfield 1933). Turner (1973: 212), however, claims that this act of greeting is semantically "empty, to accommodate and acknowledge a hearer [rather] than to carry a message". In the same line of thought, Searle (1969) states that salutations are insincere and have no propositional content. Consequently, greetings or salutations, in spite of their universal occurrence, have received very little attention by Western linguists and students of social behavior. In contrast, greetings in Urdu speech community in India which is the main concern in the present study are meaningful, context-sensitive and traditional in nature.

Needless to say, mastering the communicative competence is the most important objective of learning a language. In today's' global era greeting is a sine qua non for communication in real life situations and social interactions of all kinds such as personal life, official, business, face to face. It is the first impression of an individual. The customs and rituals involved in greetings differ from country to country, and unfamiliar customs can sometimes be confusing. Situations get even



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more confusing when different greeting gestures are required between male and female, female and female, male and male, meetings one-on-one, formal talks, etc. Travelers, especially when in unfamiliar cultures, almost need a manual or guide just to acquaint themselves and make sure not to offend someone when meeting and greeting. One can realize the differences of a person perspective behind the greeting of several countries. Though it seems just a matter of the way of phrase, in fact, the greeting is the best way to know their culture and customs. The present study made an investigation showing how people from different countries greet each other. Some people kiss, some hug, bow, pat and some shake hands while others just say hello. Here we will look in brief how people in different countries of the world greet each other.

Modes of greetings have been recognized as being among socially relevant linguistic category. As a greeter we employ plethora of linguistic expressions in various social roles. These social roles are well defined in the Sociology of language. Learning to greet someone known or unknown therefore, forms part of the socialization process.

Let's have look at what is "a greeting"? Greeting is a kind of polite expression or a gesture done when greeting another person. We all know that greetings are essential part in our everyday life no matter where we live, what we do; who we are or what culture we belong to. It is a fact that we cannot imagine a single day without greeting somebody. Greetings are embedded in our day today social life. There are lots of different kinds of greetings which are used in various situations depending on how well we know a particular person, on time of the day or circumstances of the meeting. The words said when greeting people can express respect or be just a normal polite expression. These social interactions in terms of greetings and parting show joyous moment for both the greeter and greeted.

Non-verbal gestures and greetings vary across countries, cultures, and religions. Bowing, kissing, saluting, touching fingers, tapping shoulders, clasping hands together, shaking fists, and pounding the chest are all gestures used to greet people both formally and informally in various countries around the world. In India the native speakers of Urdu language are the followers of Islam religion. Islam does not permit a person to touch the body of an unknown woman with little exception. In



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addition, it is a form of respect towards the other person by acknowledging no one has the right to touch them except for their nearest and dearest. The Urdu speakers not shaking hands with the opposite gender are a simple example of a cultural and religious difference.

Shaking hands as well touching members of the opposite sex when not related is not permissible for Muslims according to the teachings of Islam. There is a Hadith from Ma'qil ibn Yasser, saying; The Prophet (Peace and blessings be upon him) said, "It is better for you to be stabbed in the head with an iron needle than to touch the hand of a woman who is not permissible to you."

In Britain it was reported in the media few years back that a Muslim woman police officer has sparked a new debate by refusing to shake hands with Britain's most senior police chief for religious reasons. The woman had earlier insisted that it was contrary to her religious teaching for her to touch a man. However, it is clear that she is happy to come into contact with men, just not shake their hand or kiss them.

When we learn another language, greetings and goodbyes are among the first things we learn. The importance, form, and functions of greetings have been described as they take place in a number of social groups using a variety of languages. However, in spite of the pervasiveness of the rule-governed phenomena and in spite of the tremendous amount of social interactional "work" they accomplish, there have been no extensive comparative studies leading to specification of cross-societal uniformities.

2. Theoretical framework:

The modes of greetings are sine qua non component in a language and are one of the ingredient linguistic as well as semantic features in its structure. The study of greetings, therefore, provides a first useful method of exploring the structure of a speech community and a social group. For instance, Urdu civilization and traditions are completely distinct from civilizations and traditions of the world. However, greetings are the prerequisites in any social relations and interactions. Moreover, it is very quite significant to the language instructors who are teaching Urdu as a second/foreign language to give their students wider knowledge and vocabulary and the social base of the concerned language.

3. Greeting situation:



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Researchers have provided enough evidence in the past that greetings in our day today life are an important part of the communicative competence necessary for being a member of any language community. They are also of great interest to analysts of social interaction, who see them as establishing the conditions for social encounters. But despite the attention greetings have received in the social sciences, there is to date no generalizable definition of greetings and therefore no systematic way for deciding what qualifies as "greetings" in a particular speech community. Nonetheless, researchers have felt at ease identifying "greetings" in different languages and providing hypotheses about what greetings "do" for or to people.

Keeping in view the teaching and learning significance of the culture in the target language greetings in a language find enough space in the second/foreign language curriculum, syllabuses and classes. Language pedagogues and linguists pointed out the importance of culture in learning the target language.

In every greeting situation, two or more persons come in contact. Every greeting situation involves a "protocol of encounter," which is characterized by an opening move in the form of a statement, a gesture or a paralinguistic feature. Needless to say, modes of greetings are related to sociolinguistic parameters like age, sex, status and interpersonal relationships, etc. A greeter uses linguistics expressions appropriate to particular situations by taking into account these sociolinguistic factors. Greeting is not to be regarded as merely a usage of certain norms but it is a social ritual which is governed by the situation in which the greeter says what is expected by the one being greeted. The patterning of the greeting formula is found to be intimately connected with the hierarchical gradation and status differences on the one hand and with the strategies of interaction, on the other. Intimacy also plays an important role here. Modes of greeting vary from culture to culture, from person to another person, from one region to another region. The same language speech community in different areas and different countries has different modes of greeting their near and dear ones. An individual who is unknown to a country must be familiar with the norms of greetings. It has been noticed by the researcher that the unfamiliarity with these norms makes an individual ridiculous many times.

4. Greetings:



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“Greetings are found among many higher primates, as well as any number of preliterate societies and all civilized ones” (Goffman 1971:93). According to Goffman, “greetings and farewells provide the ritual brackets around a spate of joint activity” (Goffman 1971:79). This suggests that despite culture, language, and individual differences, without what he refers to as ‘supportive interchanges,’ interaction would make no sense. Greetings can be described as the exchange of expressions, pleasantries or good wishes between two people or a group interacting for the purpose of fulfilling social obligations or for the purposes of establishing interpersonal relationship.

The researches on greetings have received less attention in academic disciplines in the past and at present there is no generalizable definition. Nevertheless, the linguists in the past and present have felt at ease identifying greetings in different languages and providing hypotheses and definitions about what greetings do for or to people. The study at hand is one of the efforts in this direction.

Malinowski (1923:315) cited in Nodoushan (2006:3) defines an expression of greeting such as 'How do you do' as a special kind of speech that is called 'phatic communication' i.e., “a type of speech in which ties of union are created by a mere exchange of words”. These words do not exchange meanings, instead, they fulfill a social function. Similar to such expressions are 'Nice day' and 'You are looking smart today'.

The scholars of various disciplines defined the term ‘greeting’ in their own ways but yet no specific definition has come out on which the scholars in general agree. Jacobsen (1960:357) cited in Mey (1993:220) adopts Malinowski's term 'phatic communication' to identify communicative exchanges for the purpose of contact. Greetings are one of these exchanges. An example is borrowed from David Lodge's novel *Paradise News* is as follows: A question such as 'How are you this evening, sir?' is considered for Darlette, a servant, as phatic communication which for the sick person, Bernard, a British tourist in Hawaii, is considered as a question about his well-



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being (the relationship between the speech act of 'greeting' and social identity is going to be discussed below).

Firth (1972:1) characterizes greetings as "the recognition of an encounter with another person as socially acceptable," the "prime relevance [of which] is the establishment or perpetuation of a social relationship, the recognition of the other person as a social entity, a personal element in a common social situation." (Similarly, he characterizes partings as recognition that an encounter has been acceptable.) Goffman (1971), in a related vein, looks at greetings and farewells primarily as ways of marking and validating the opening and closing of interpersonal access.

Austin (1962) was the first to give the formulation of what is called Speech Act Theory (SAT). He classifies illocutionary acts into five categories taking into consideration English verbs (cf. Austin, 1962:150-162). These categories are as follows: 1. Verdictives: They are typified by giving a verdict by a jury. 2. Exercitives: They are typified by exercising powers, rights or influence. 3. Commissives: They are typified by assuming of an obligation or declaring of an intention. 4. Behabitives: They are typified by adopting of an attitude. 5. Expositives: They are typified by clarifying of reasons or arguments. Austin (Ibid.:159) lists the speech act of 'greeting' within behabitives and says: "Behabitives include the notion of reaction to other people's behavior and fortunes and of attitudes and expressions to someone's else's past conduct or imminence conduct". Giving this definition, 'greeting' according to Austin's classification is considered as a kind of performatives concerns behavior towards others to exhibit attitudes and feelings.

Greetings vary a lot between cultures (Michael Argyle, 1996). Perhaps the most common way to greet someone in Western countries is a hand-shake. However, handshakes differ around the world. Apart from the commonness handshakes are not identical in various cultures. The hearty, hand-pumping handshake is a North American/Northern European tradition. In most of the world, handshakes are more like handclasps. The "grip" is never tight, and there is little or no pumping action. Like customs everywhere, increased cross-cultural interaction brings about changes in habits. On the other hand, it is very likely that in many situations bowing would still be the only polite move to make, especially in Japan. The people in the inferior position always bows longer and lower (Norine Dresser, 1996). The people from



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Asian countries like India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh use the linguistic expression /nəməste/ for both greeting and farewells and a sign of respect. They do this by holding their hands chest-high in a pray like position, then slightly nod the head, but they do not bow. Bowing in the form of greeting is an important part of the Japanese culture. In most of the Asian countries body contact is generally taboo elsewhere, and treated as bad. Hugging and kissing on the cheek are acceptable for both the same sex and opposite sex. The abrazo is commonplace – friends embrace and simultaneously pat each other on the back. When greeting, most people from France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, and other Mediterranean countries expect to be kissed on both cheeks. Since Islam does not allow the body contact between two opposite sex. So while greeting Middle Easterners in general and Muslims in particular, the body contact should be avoided with the opposite sex, but men may embrace and kiss one another. When shaking hands, men should avoid pulling their hands away too quickly.

While standing at the International Airport and Railway platform we notice that some groups of people exclaiming loudly, hugging and kissing, while some others are bowing down to touch one another's feet. Interpreting body language associated with greetings varies widely from culture to culture. Understanding body language or paralinguistic features (verbal communication that do not possess words) shows all greetings have some elements in common. First, greetings usually involve some kind of spoken language. Second, greetings almost always involve some type of body language especially between intimate friends or close relatives.

Modes of greetings are related to sociolinguistic parameters like age, sex, status and interpersonal relationships, etc. A greeter uses greeting forms appropriate to particular situations by taking into account these sociolinguistic factors. Greeting is not to be regarded as merely a usage of certain norms but it is a social ritual which is governed by the situation in which the greeter says what is expected by the one being greeted.

The old people of Sri Lanka will use the expression /nəməste/ 'palms clasped together as if in prayer at chin level with a slight nod of the head'. The Sinhalese may say /əyübōwən/ 'may you be blessed with a long life'. I was in constant touch the people of Tamil Nadu in India I came across innumerable times the phrase /vānəkkəm/ 'May you be blessed with a long life' uttered by the Tamils at the time of greeting.



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The Urdu speakers particularly Muslims use the greeting expression /əssəlām-ō-əlāikum/ and /səlāmōəlāikum/ 'Allah bless you'. The Hindus use the expression /nəmāste/ or /nəmāškār/. There are some social restrictions in some language speech communities. The younger people generally shake hands. Many Sri Lankan women will refrain from physical contact with a man outside their family. It is advisable that one should be very careful in greeting a woman in this country. Greetings are used worldwide, but types of greeting, and the usages of them, can be totally different depending on the culture of the ones greeting each other. Body language and cultural differences mean the expressions used to greet people are different, and so are the actions that accompany those expressions. Even within a culture, greetings have many forms. Two people may greet each other differently depending on familiarity, whether they are acquaintances or closer friends. Also, greetings can depend on the social status, ranking, or respect level of the people greeting one another for instance, a younger person may greet in a particular way to show the difference to an older. Undoubtedly it may be difficult to learn precisely how one should greet a person in a given culture. It is advisable that one should try to know a general greeting before visiting a new country. Keeping in view the cultural differences among countries we should never assume that the way we are used to greeting people in our own places will be identical in a country we are going. It has been seen that the Asians who are working Arab countries feel uncomfortable in greeting the local people. The reason is that these Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshi etc. are accustomed to a distinct culture in their own countries. Moreover, it is normal for friends to hug each other in the United States, this greeting is considered very intimate by the French; but, on the other hand, many Americans are uncomfortable with the double-kiss-on-the-cheeks greeting used by the French. One should acquaint himself with the norms of greetings before going to a new country. The familiarity with the norms of the social interactions will help an unknown person not to be looked ridiculous. Furthermore, he will be well accommodated in the social fabric of a new culture. Globalization expands and accelerates the movement and exchange of ideas and commodities over vast distances. People around the world now are coming closure to each other. In such a situation the greetings become important components of the language to acquire in order to interact with the people belonging to distinct cultures.



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4. 1 Origin of Hands shakes in brief:

The handshake has an interesting origin. Its practice started long ago as a way of showing people that you weren't carrying a weapon. An individual's shaking the person's right hand while looking him or her in the eye is the usual method.

5. The objective of the study:

The main objective of this study is to highlight the modes of greetings in various social situations among the Urdu speakers in India comparatively in a global perspective. It is hoped that the present study will be useful in highlighting the various linguistic features ingredients in the Urdu speakers' modes of greetings in day today life. The said study is expected to be significant for the researchers doing researches in area of descriptive linguistics, Sociology of language and for the writer who writes travel guide and also to those who are likely to visit to a new country, meet the new people there and encounter a distinct culture.

6. Significance of the study

The researches of modes of greetings provide a first useful method of exploring the structure of a social group. Both male and female greet in a different ways. Consequently, it is sine qua non on the part a language teacher teaching a second /foreign language to show to the students in the class the different ways to greet , so that they can have a wider knowledge in the usage of particular vocabulary in a second/foreign language.

7. Review of Related Literature:



Anthropologists, sociologist and linguists have conducted several researches in the past in this the area greeting and address of forms. Goffman (1964: 474) wrote "the rules of the conduct constitute part of the etiquette of the group and impose on each member an obligation to conduct themselves in a particular way towards others." Address and reference terms form part of such a practice. They are informed by rules of conduct and are an integral aspect of everyday interaction and conversational events that serve as a prelude to the establishment of social relations. Although address terms do not contribute to the content of discourse, they help mark different openings of boundaries of interactions. It is in the light of the significance of this aspect of sociolinguistic etiquette that



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Linguists and Sociologists give attention to the study of greeting forms in various cultures. See for example, (Brown/Ford 1964, Brown/Gilman 1962, Ervin-Tripp 1972, Paulston 1975, Blocker 1976, Fang/Hang 1983, Mehrotra 1982, Fasold 1990, Akindele 1992, 1993), among others.

Greetings are one of the most significant social phenomena. Every human society has various forms and ways of greeting. Many social norms are derived from Islamic tradition and thus may be similar to other Islamic countries. The common way to greet someone is to utter the expression /əssəlām-o-ələikum/. 'Peace be upon you' and to shake their hand. Since Islam does not allow opposite sexes to shake hand so men and women do not make any physical contact during greetings. Thus men shake the hands of other men, and women shake each other's hands. The elders of the community in the community are given respect. Generally the elders are addressed as "aunt" or "uncle," even if they are strangers.

Several studies have been conducted in the past concerning the modes of greetings in various cultures around the world. There is a bulk of researches which investigated the importance of speech act of greeting and its rituals in different cultures. New neuroscience research in the past as well as in present is confirming an old adage about the power of a handshake: strangers do form a better impression of those who proffer their hand in greeting. A firm, friendly handshake has long been recommended in the business world as a way to make a good first impression, and the greeting is thought to date to ancient times as a way of showing a stranger you had no weapons.

Goffman (1971: 79) characterized greeting exchanges as access rituals consisting of two types, passing greetings and engaging greetings which function as a switch that opens or closes relations. Goffman says that greeting exchanges serve to re-establish social relations, acknowledge status, and guarantee for safe passage when performed between strangers. Firth (1972) stated that greetings are rituals which consist of verbal and nonverbal forms. Verbal forms may be one of three linguistic units: question like how are you?, interjection (Hello) or affirmation (Good morning). Laver (1981) proposed that greeting exchanges have three components: formulaic phrases, address forms, and phatic communion. Laver views that greeting exchanges as a whole are routine rituals which serve to preserve face.



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There are studies into greetings as a sociolinguistic element or as a speech act which concentrated on traditional forms as Fadipe (1970) and Akindele (1997) investigated Yoruba greetings, Irvine (1974) and Ibrahim et al (1976) researched into greetings in northern African communities, Dzameshie (2002), Ameka (1991), Egblewogbe (1990) studied Ewe greetings, and Akindele (2007) studied Sesotho greetings pointing out that greetings are extremely important strategies for the negotiation and control of social identity and social relationships. Emery (2000: 201) investigated the phenomenon of greeting, congratulating and commiserating in Omani Arabic. He views that greetings are used to establish identity and affirm solidarity. Greetings comprise an indispensable phase on the direction to interpersonal access where information can be sought and shared. For Akindele (2007) greetings are ".....extremely important strategies for the negotiation and control of social identity and social relationships between participants in a conversation". There are three kinds of greetings: temporal greetings which Dzameshie (2002) calls 'Time-of-day' greetings; Inquiries about health which he calls 'How-are-you greetings'; and the valedictory greetings which Akindele (2007) refers to 'Ways of Parting/ Leave-taking'. Dovlo and Agozie (1995) and Mankattah (2002), a research with which this was jointly held - however, in different ways respond to the issue of greetings in the new social context, and it is in furtherance of this that this study has been conducted into the use of greetings in a Christian community. Hudson (1980) distinguishes between propositional and non-propositional greetings. The propositional forms express a complete thought and they can be analyzed in terms of the message they carry, outside of the functions they perform in the actual context of interaction. The non-propositional ones he sees as those that have no real sense outside their social functions. Schottman (1995, 489) says "Greetings are the essential 'oil' of encounters of all types and a reassuring confirmation of human sociability and social order". Holmes (1992:308) states "Greeting formulas universally serve an affective function of establishing non-threatening contact and rapport but their precise content is clearly culture specific"; therefore, a foreigner may face difficulties in using certain greeting terms appropriately.

8. Methodology, Data collection and Data Analysis:

During the process of this study the two following research questions were designed:



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1. How do the native speakers of Urdu including both male and female greet other in day today social interactions?

2. What factors influence women and men to choose certain linguistic expressions?

The data on which the researcher bases his claims were collected from his own speech community. The researcher is the native speaker of Urdu language and has been observing Urdu speakers' various social interactions quite carefully as a paradox observer since decades. The linguistic expressions used in these social exchanges in day today life were been recorded, noted and consequently carefully described and analyzed within the perspective sociology of language. The ingredients linguistics features in these greeting exchanges were phonemically transcribed.

The data were collected from different naturally occurring conversational settings and both the greeter and greetee were unaware that their conversations were been observed carefully and recorded. The relevance of these greeting expressions was looked from the social as well as linguistic point of view. The data were carefully analyzed to identify the relevant patterns of social greetings, and point out their social meaning. This is an empirical study which is basically descriptive in nature, but the inductive approach is indispensable for such kind of researches. Being an observer paradox assisted me to analyze interlocutors' social interactions, behavior as well as paralinguistic features.

9. Greetings around the World at a glance:

Now we will look in brief comparatively how the greetings are going on in some countries of the world.



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India is a multi-lingual, multi-racial and multi-religious country. It offers a diverse, varied, and fascinating culture. It has a long history of tolerance, and has been able to accommodate tremendous variety in culture, religion and social levels. Having a basic awareness of some of the common perceptions and differences in attitudes in India will help visitors better understand what's going on around them, and perhaps reduce culture-based annoyances.

We observe in our day today life that some people shake hands, bow, some kiss and hug. Some other people just say hello while greeting. These exchanges are common in many countries. Now we will see how people in other countries greet each other in their day today social interactions. It is true that handshake is very common way of greeting in the world.

9.1 Greetings in Sri Lankan:



Shaking hands is the most common form of greeting.

- ❖ Handshakes are firm.
- ❖ Greetings are given upon meeting and leaving.
- ❖ Men may shake hands with other men and women may shake hands with other women.
- ❖ Many Sri Lankan women may not want to shake hands with men. In this country one should wait for a woman to extend her hand.
- ❖ If someone does not have a professional title, use the honorific title "Sir" or "Madam".



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- ❖ Titles are used with the person's name or the surname.
- ❖ Typical greetings depend on the ethnic group people belong. But the foreigners will not be aware of such ethnical differences.
- ❖ The younger people generally shake hands. Kneeling down and worshipping parents and elders of the family is another holy way of greeting especially for the Buddhists in Sri Lanka.



Many Sri Lankan women will refrain from physical contact with a man outside their family. In such a situation the foreigners should wait till a woman extends her hand.

When addressing people you should always use the appropriate title followed by the surname. Always wait for the other party to move to a first name



basis. Some greetings are done in accordance with ethnic group one belongs to. The older generation of Sri Lankans will use the

expression /nəməste/ 'palms clasped together as if in prayer at chin level with a slight nod of the head'. The Sinhalese may utter the phrase /əyūbōwən/ 'may you be blessed with a long life'



- Tamils usually use the expression /vānəkkəm/ 'may you be blessed with a long life'.
- The people also use the expression /kūhō mādu/ 'How do you do'?

- The adults in Sri Lanka normally follow the practice of hands shake.
- Sri Lankan women in general will refrain from physical contact with a man outside their family.

9.2 Greetings in Belgium:



- In Belgium one should repeat his name at the time introduction.
- A person should handshake as well as kisses three times alternating cheeks (left, right, left).

- A person should kiss the cheek among people of same sex.
- A person should maintain eye contact.



- A person should shake hands when parting.



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- A person should shake hands with everyone in a party or gathering etc.
 - In case of meeting an intimate friend in this country, a person must greet them with a kiss. This would be done by brushing the lips against the other person's cheek three times in a row...one cheek, the other cheek, and then back again to the first cheek.
 - Greetings entail a degree of formality. A brief handshake is the common greeting among people who do not know each other.
 - Men never kiss other men; they always shake hands.

9.3 Greetings in Bulgaria:



Bulgaria is still rather a formal society where greetings are concerned, and when meeting new people it is still a fairly reserved society.

The handshake is the usual form of greeting people in Bulgaria.



Greetings consist of a firm handshake, direct eye contact and the appropriate greeting for the time of day.

. If you know a person we should address people with their titles with Mr Petar, Maria, Ivan, Teodora, Georgi, Nikolay, Mihail, Paraskeva, Dimitar / Mrs Marija, Penka, Marijka, Rosica, Daniela, Petja, Desislava, Violeta followed by the surname.

. It is to be remembered that only friends and family address each other with first names and possibly a hug or kiss.



There is no constraint for the men to shake hands with a woman if she offers her hand, but many women will just say 'hello,' perhaps with a nod of the head, and not shake hands.

9.4 Greetings in Canada:



In Canada a simple handshake or nod is the norm. A firm handshake plus direct eye contact is the standard form of greeting in Canada.

- When the local people first meet, they often



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shake hands and introduce themselves by stating their name. Family members and close friends sometimes hug or kiss each other on the cheek.

- Smiling and nodding are the common greeting norms in this country. People often greet friends by uttering the form “How are you today?” Typically, the response is: “Fine thanks, and you?” If the greeter is at a distance, one can also wave his hand to indicate that the greeter sees him.

- Both formal and informal greetings are used in this country. Canadian names are usually spoken and written in the following order: first name (or given name) and then family name. When speaking, people will often call each other by less formal first names, such as John or Mary. Canadians also tend to make eye contact when talking. When a foreigner meets someone in this country he should use a formal title, such as Dr., Ms., Mrs., Miss or Mr., in combination with his or her family name as a sign of respect.

The most common greetings here are:

- the handshake.
- it is to be noted that the handshake should be firm and accompanied by direct eye contact and a natural smile.
- two friends may greet each other by lightly kissing once on the left and right cheeks respectively.
- one should always use the expression (formal pronoun) /vāus/ ‘you’ when speaking to someone.



A firm handshake is still the common and preferred method of greeting in all social situations. Also, close male friends may embrace lightly when meeting and women may do the same, while adding a light kissing motion to the cheek.

9.5 Greetings in Chile:



Needless to say, one should be familiar with the cultures and traditions of another country. A person who is new to Chile should stick to the following greetings:

- Greet the eldest person first
- Handshake



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- Hug
- Kiss on the cheek
- Maintain eye contact
- Smile
- Do not shake hands with a woman unless she extends her hand first



- A person greets everyone in a group individually.
- A firm handshake and direct eye contact is the norm for greetings.
- It is common for close friends to hug and pat each other on the

back.

- For women, a kiss on the right cheek is a common greeting.
- A person must use the specified greetings at the appropriate time.

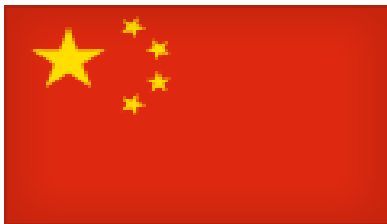
In this country whenever a male is familiar with a female, the two do the



cheek-to-cheek kiss. With two people, generally they will just shake hands, but if they are really close they will do the cheek-to-cheek kiss as well.

Men should note that when a woman enters the room, the polite gesture is to stand up and be prepared to shake her hand provided that she offers her hand. A woman sitting, however, need not stand nor is she obliged to offer her hand when a man enters.

9.6 Greetings in China:



Due to the western influence the hands shake is becoming widespread throughout China. However, often a nod of the head or a slight bow will suffice. These people do not always smile and nod. The Chinese culture is rooted in the attitude of keeping

one's feelings insider at her than displaying emotions openly and publicly.



The Chinese handshake is light and may be rather prolonged. Men and women may shake hands, although the woman must extend her hand first. Men should always wait to shake hands. While meeting



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elders or senior officials, the handshake should be gentler and accompanied by a slight nod.



Many older Chinese lower their eyes during the greeting as a sign of respect. It can be noticed generally among those people who are old.

Respect for Older People in China: Many codes of behavior revolve around young people showing respect to older people. Younger people are expected to defer to older people. Younger should not speak first, let the old man speak first, have a seat with him and do not contradict while talking with him. Sometime when an older person enters a room, everyone stands.

People are often introduced from oldest to youngest. Sometimes people go out their way to not cross their offering a book you, a person



open doors for older people and legs in front of them. When or paper to someone older than should show respect by using two hands to present the object. On a crowded subway, railway platform or train, bus etc. a person must respect the older and give up his seat to an elderly person.

It is a fact that Chinese often stare at foreigners. Sometimes children call out various things at them, particularly "Hello," shouted in an annoying way, and the linguistic expression /lāōwāi/ the most polite word used for "foreigner." The local people here sometimes look over the shoulders of foreign tourist to know what he is reading. When greeting each other or meeting acquaintances, say 'how do you do', nod your head or shake hands. This applies to greetings between the same sexes and the opposite sexes. A handshake may linger for longer than is normal in Western culture - this is a gesture of respect.

9.6 Greetings in Mauritius



day' is a commonly used in day

Mauritius is a small country but has a unique cultural history. The people of Mauritius usually shake hands when they meet. The linguistic expressions of French greeting /bōnjōr/ 'Good today social life.





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The migrant Indian Hindus well known expressions /nəməste/ or /nəməškār/ is the traditional greeting.



A person places the palms together and hands upwards in front of the chest or chin and says /nəməste/, sometimes bowing slightly. English greetings in this country are also acceptable by the people. Among friends and relatives, kissing on both cheeks and hugging is common.

9.8 Commonwealth of Independent States:



A firm handshake with direct eye contact is the common greeting in this country. However, among close friends, many residents greet good friends with a Russian Bear hug, which would be to hug someone and then kiss the person two or three times on alternating cheeks, with sometimes a final kiss directly on the lips. However, in Uzbekistan, to add a kiss would be inappropriate.

Always shake hands while in a formal or informal atmosphere. This applies to once arrival as well as departure.

9.9 Greetings in Philippines:



The people in Philippines are casual, fun loving, sensitive and hospitable people. Personal and family honor are stressed, as well as dignity and pride. Education is highly valued and families make great sacrifices to educate their children.



Men and women shake hands with everyone present at a business meeting or social occasion and when saying "goodbye." Handshakes should be friendly and informal, but limp. The male should never extend his hand to a woman unless and until she initiates it first. Men should wait for a woman to extend her hand. If you are talking to someone who is older or of higher social rank, always add the expression /pō/ to sentences and use "oo" to say "yes". The phrase /pō/ is usually mentioned at the end of a sentence, e.g. /səlāmət/ 'Thank you'.

9.10 Greetings in Singapore:



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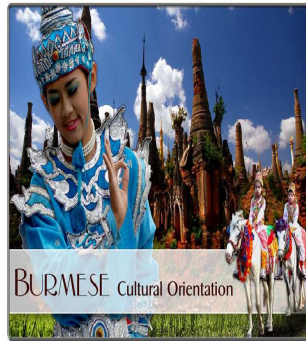
Greeting customs vary according to age, ethnicity, and situation. Malays greet with the expression /səlām/ two people bring right palms together, as if to shake hands, and then slide them apart; each person then touches the palm to his or her heart.

Malays greet with /səlmət pəgi/ ‘Good morning’, /səlmət pətəŋ/ ‘Good afternoon’ or /səlmət mələm/ ‘Good evening’. But Muslims in this country use the well known expression /əssəlām-o-ələikūm/. ‘Peace be upon you’.

I encountered as well as interacted with many Singaporeans in Saudi Arabia and I noticed that these people consider Finger gestures, such as pointing or forming the rounded “okay” sign, as very bad and rude. A slight bow at the time of joining, parting etc. the people reveal the ingredient courtesy of the person.

9.11 Greetings in Myanmar:

The people in this country while greeting use the linguistic expression /mingələba/ ‘Have an auspicious day’. This is very common used in day today life. In Burma, 89% of the population is Buddhist, but among the Burman, Theravada Buddhism. The name of the country of as it is now officially known) is Burma (or Myanmar, associated with the dominant ethnic group, the Burmese. Burmese is a Tibeto-Burman language derived from south Indian ethnic group that speaks whose alphabet is the Myanmar.



Technology Integration Division

July 2013





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Expats: The Myanmar people pride themselves on proper etiquette. Anyone who is new to this country must follow the etiquette as well as the religious norms of the people. In this country it is considered improper to lose one's temper or show much emotion in public, but the people here are a very friendly and gentle. The people in general follow the Buddhist custom of not touching a person on the head, since spiritually this is considered the highest part of the body. Patting a child on the head not only is improper but is thought to be dangerous to the child's well-being. A person should not point the feet at anyone. Footwear is removed upon entering temple complexes for religious reasons, and it is polite to remove footwear when entering a house.

9.12 Greetings in Brunei:



The common people in Brunei use the following expressions. The common greeting depends upon the ethnic origin and the age of the person. It can be noticed in this country that many men have adopted the western concept of shaking hands.



Ethnic Malay men shake hands with one another, but men and women do not traditionally shake hands. The adults may shake hands with foreign women or they may merely bow their head in greeting.

- People in general bow their heads before senior persons in order give them respects. It is unacceptable to stare into another person's eyes, particularly those of a person who is senior to the greeter in age or status.



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- Pointing is considered rude, especially with the foot.
- The right fist should never be smacked into the left palm.
- It is considered impolite to show the soles of the feet to someone seated opposite.
- Casual touch should be avoided, especially between members of the opposite sex.
- Avoid direct eye contact.
- Bruneians tend to look downwards or look away as a sign of respect and modesty.
- A foreigner should keep a reasonable distance while talking, especially with members of the opposite sex.

It is to be pointed out here that the public display of affection such as hugging and kissing is not usual in Brunei.

9.13 Greetings in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:



Arabs have comparatively their own unique and distinctive way to greet their own people. While living in this country I observed long linguistic expressions in Arabic during greeting which is prolonged and is really a time consuming process. It

takes time for two Saudi's to exchange different questions and answers which interest them about each other, their families, and life in general.



It can be observed that between Muslims, the most common greeting is a handshake and the /əssəlām-o-ələikum/. 'Peace be upon you' and also /əssəlām-o-ələikum wə rəhmətullāhe bərəkātūhu/. 'Peace be upon you'. The reply of the greete would be /wālēkum əssəlām wə rəhmətullāhe bərəkātuhu / 'Peace be upon you too'. Frequently, males will follow up by extending the left hand to each other's right shoulder and kissing the right and left cheeks. The day today greetings go in accordance with the individuals' relationship, age, status in society etc. Saudi Arabia is an Islamic country so religious norms are strictly followed and maintained in all spheres of life. When accompanied by a woman wearing a veil, a man normally will not introduce her, and one does not



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expect to shake hands with her. While living in this country I have encountered the phrases like /səbah əl-xər/ ‘Good morning’ and /məsāh əl-xər/ ‘Good evening’ in day today life. The foreigners should try to acquaint themselves with the various common cultural and religious norms. The religious norms do not allow a person to use her left hand for eating and receiving something from others. If a person is new to this country he should never use his left hand for eating, receiving and giving anything. All kinds of social interactions and transactions in real life situations are carried out here with the right hand or with both the hands. When I came to this country, I was not very much familiar with cultural norms. Once I was giving 1 Saudi riyal to a Saudi driver with my left hand. He immediately refused to take the money and told me to give the money with the right hand. When I used my right hand then he accepted the money. At that I was holding my bag in my right hand.



Many Saudi men accompany their greetings with an embrace and cheek kissing.

- The linguistic expression /əssəlām-o-ələikum/. ‘Peace be upon you’ is the standard Muslim greeting. The reply is slightly different, /wālēkum əssəlām wə rəhmətullāhe bərəkātuhu / ‘Peace be upon you too’.

- The well known and commonly used expression /əhlən wə səhlən/ ‘welcome’. The response of the greeatee is /əhlən fik/ ‘welcome to you’.

- Saudis find it offensive to expose the soles of the shoes, even accidentally, by crossing the legs when seated, or resting the leg on a nearby chair.

- Saudi men often greet each other with kisses, but Saudi men usually just shake hands with immigrants unless they are close friends. I have noticed that the expatriate who have been living in this country since decades they follow the Saudi style of greetings. The women of all religions in general are required to wear veil in public places. It is obligatory. Opposite sexes kissing in public will violate the religious norms. It is not tolerable at all. It is fully prohibited.



- Men sometimes hold hands with each other in Saudi Arabia. Holding hands with another man is a sign of friendship and courtesy.

- Foreign people may feel uncomfortable when another man grips their hand, but it would be insensitive to prematurely withdraw from the contact.



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- Saudi Arabia is an Islamic country and governed by Sharia laws (Islamic Laws) so the couples in general should avoid any physical contact with each other in market places.
- It to be pointed out here that a foreigner should respect the religious norms.

9.14 Greetings in Hong Kong:



Hong Kong is a unique country of blending the cultures of Asia and Europe. Its people are highly educated, very motivated and westernized. Hong Kong is 98% Chinese (Cantonese), but the people view themselves as different from other Chinese. Cantonese habits and customs are dominant. An individual's actions, prestige, education, wealth and reputation reflect positively or negatively on the entire family.

In Hong Kong one can shake hands with everyone men, women and children upon meeting and leaving. Hong Kong Chinese handshakes may be comparatively Western handshake. Higher-ranking persons are introduced before those of lower rank. An older person comes before a younger person, and a woman before a man. Family members are greeted in accordance with the age, oldest first and youngest last.

In this country it is considered good and polite to inquire about a person's health or activities upon greeting. Greet people with a light handshake, and observe the Hong Kong culture of lowering your eyes. This is a sign of respect, as is waiting to be introduced to someone. If, however, you hold a higher position than your guests, feel free to initiate the handshake and maintain slightly more eye contact.

9.15 Greetings in Malaysia:



A hand shaking is a very common form of greeting in this country. One should shake hands with men at business meetings, farewell parties, birth day parties



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or any other social events. We should not forget to shake hands at the time departing.

It is required to nod or give a slight bow when greeting a woman or an older person.

Introduce higher ranking people or older people first. Introduce women before men.



Western women should greet Malay men with a nod of their head and a smile.

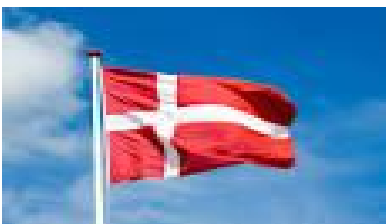
Greetings in a social context will depend upon the ethnicity of the person you are meeting. In general, most Malays are aware of Western ways so the handshake is normal. There may be slight differences though and a few things to bear in mind include:



The women in Malaysia may not shake hands with men.

Women can of course shake hands with women. Men may also not shake hands with women and may bow instead while placing their hand on their heart. It is advisable not to offer to shake hands unless a person knows that his acquaintances are fairly westernized. Even then, let them offer to shake hands first and never shake hands with a woman unless they offer to do so first. The traditional greeting 'Salam' resembles a handshake with both hands but without the grasp. The Chinese handshake is light and may be rather prolonged. Many older Chinese lower their eyes during the greeting as a sign of respect.

9.16 Greetings in Denmark:



The following greetings are common in this country: Greetings are casual, with a firm handshake, direct eye contact, and a smile.

Shake hands and say good-bye individually at the time of arriving and departure. One should shake hands with woman first.



While meeting someone, a firm, brief handshake is common. Children will offer to shake hand, and are taught to make direct eye contact with their host for the first time. Always shake a woman's hand before the hand of the gentlemen in a group situation. In case if someone is seated a person should stand to shake hands with another person.

9.17 Greetings in England (United Kingdom):



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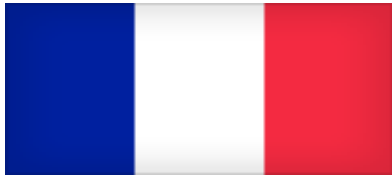


English-speaking people usually greet each other in an informal way. A firm handshake, accompanied by direct eye contact, is the standard greeting in the United States.



Occasionally, among very good friends who have not seen each other for a long time. Women may briefly hug other women, and men may quickly kiss the cheek of a woman. Males rarely hug one another, however. Sometime men may shake hands with the left hand.

9.18 Greetings in France:



In France, a light, quick handshake is common. A person can shake hands frequently in France, particularly in situations on arrival and departure every day. A strong, pumping handshake is considered uncultured, disrespectful. In this country it is advisable to greet each person present in a room. A woman in France will offer her hand first.



In France, friends traditionally greet one another with a kiss on both cheeks. Observing such conventions of courtesy is expected by the French, who take great pride in their culture.

9.19 Greetings in Germany:



The greeting situation is quite distinctive comparatively in this country. At a dinner table if someone is unable to shake everyone's hand due to the arrangement of the seating, the Germany guest will rap his knuckles lightly on the table to signal his greeting to everyone. This same gesture also applies to when the person leaves the table. The University students adopt this gesture in order to greet their teachers in the classroom.



The phrase (Grüße) is very common German expression for greeting.

9.20 Greetings in South Korea



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Racially and linguistically Korea is one of the most homogeneous countries in the world. It has its own culture, language, dress and cuisine, separate and distinct from its neighboring countries. Hard work, filial piety and modesty are characteristics esteemed by Koreans. They are proud of their traditional culture and their modern economic success. Education is highly valued as the path to status, money and success.



The bow is the traditional Korean greeting, although it is often accompanied by a handshake among men. In order to show the respect while shaking hands, a person must support his right forearm with his left hand. So far as the greetings among women are concerned, Korean women usually nod slightly and will not shake hands with Western men. Western women may offer their hand to a Korean man. It is advisable to bow while departing. The adults here normally wave or move their arm from side to side.



Many Asian languages people show respect and acknowledge a person's age or status with different greetings. Needless to say, basic greetings in Korea are not based on the time of day, for instance "good afternoon". Showing proper respect for age and status are significant aspects of 'face' in Korean culture.

9.21 Greetings in Bosnia Herzegovina:



The common linguistic expressions for greetings are /dō brōjūtro/ 'Good morning' /dōbærdæn/ 'Good day'. Friends may wave to one another on the street. It is not considered polite to beckon with the index finger or shout in public.



The phrase /zdrəvo/ 'Hi' is an informal greeting. Friends add a kiss—once on each cheek for Bosnian Croats and Bosnian Muslims, and three times total for Bosnian Serbs.

9.22 Greetings in Tunisia:



Greetings in Tunisia are an important and expressive part of personal interaction. Friends and family



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members often greet each other by “kissing the air” while brushing cheeks. Among strangers, both men and women, a handshake is the most common form of greeting. After a handshake, many rural people also kiss their right hand then lay it flat on the heart to signify warmth or sincerity. Men might also shake hands when parting. Standard greetings include /əlsəlməh/ ‘Hello’. Tunisians take their time during greetings to converse about their families, friends, and other general topics. Handshakes are the customary greeting among individuals of the same sex. In any greeting between men and women, the woman must extend her hand first. If she does not, a man should simply bow his head to show respect to the greetee.

Generally in all the parties and social gatherings the hosts will introduce the invited person. This usually starts with the women and then moving on to the men in a rough approximation of age order, oldest to youngest. Greet and say good-bye to each person individually.

9.23 Greetings in Ghana:



In Ghana, the people are extremely friendly. Greetings are very important in Ghana. A person must learn to say I am fine.

In response to any kind of greeting question one should always respond with the expression that ‘I am fine’. It is advisable that on the part of the greeter there is no need to utter any phrase regarding the sufferings.

The people of Ghana are very polite as well hospitable and also respect the foreigners. When they come to know that Mr. so and so is trying to learn their language they respect and greet them. They have the tendency to adjust the strange people in their culture.



The linguistic expression /ɔbūrōni/ ‘Foreigner’ is a common phrase and frequently used by the local people.

While it may sound offensive, as in many Western cultures shouting “foreigner!” at someone is taken rudely but in Ghana they mean it in a friendly manner as a way to say hello and try to get to know you.

Western-style greetings are used here, but be aware that Ghana consists of a multitude of ethnic groups, thus each group has its own unique culture, customs and language.



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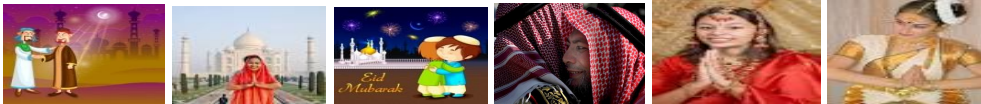
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9.24 Greetings in Hungary:



The adults in Hungary greet each other with a firm handshake. A man usually waits for a woman to extend her hand first. Many Hungarians kiss each other lightly on each cheek. To embrace someone in public in Hungary is uncommon. However, intimate friends may do so after not seeing one another for a long time. Brushing greeter's cheek against the greeter's cheek may then follow this gesture. The greetings go in accordance with the time of the day.

9.25 Greetings in India:



India is a multilingual, multi-religious, multi-racial and multicultural country. India is said to be a socio-linguistic giant and the nerve system of this giant is multilingualism. Indian multilingualism is huge in size, having 1620 mother tongues reduced to 200 languages. With the population of many of minorities larger than European countries" (Annamalai E. 2001). India is not only multilingual but multicultural too, having multiple religions, castes, sects, professions and lifestyles. These diversities result into different kinds of greetings. When two different religious groups they adopt a common expression, for instance when a Muslim interacts with as non muslim in India he while greeting uses the linguistic expression / ādāb ərz/. This phrase is commonly observed in the business circle. India offers a diverse, varied, and fascinating culture. It has a long history of tolerance, and has been able to accommodate tremendous variety in culture, religion and social levels. Yet at heart, India is grounded in tradition.



A well known and commonly used expressions by Hindus /nəməste/ or /nəməskār/ is the traditional greeting whereas Muslims use /əssəlām-ō-ələikum/. 'Peace be upon you'. A Muslim lifts his right hand towards his forehead and utters the said expression. A person places the palms together (hands upwards) in front of the chest or chin and says /nəməste/, sometimes bowing slightly. It is not essential to lift the right hand towards the forehead. Many



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times he just lifts his head little bit upward and utters the expression. The greetings in India comparatively are not governed in accordance with the time such as good morning, good afternoon and good evening. The educated Indian Muslims use the expression /khuda hāfīz/ or / šəbbə xər/ 'good night'. It is to be pointed out here that the expression /nəməste/ or /nəməskār/ is used in order to show respect to elders.



A Western woman should not initiate a handshake with a man in India. Many Indian women will shake hands with a foreign woman, but not a foreign man.

9.26 Greeting in Nepal:



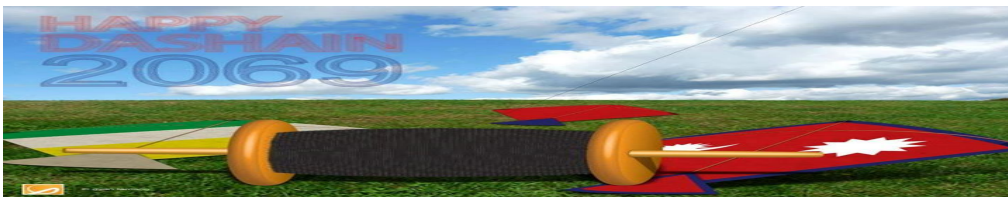
Nepal is considered a multi-linguistic country. The well known and commonly used linguistic expressions /nəməskār/ or /nəməskārəm/ is a customary greeting when Nepalese meet. It is the accepted form of greeting and introduction amongst Nepali people. It can be used for any part of the day and when meeting or parting. The Hinduism culture is quite prevalent in this country.



It is a form of greeting commonly found among Hindus of South Asia, in some Southeast Asian countries. The phrase /nəməste/ is used with a slight bow and hands pressed together, palms touching and fingers pointing upwards, thumbs close to the chest.



In everyday greeting /nəməste/ or /nəməskār/ means 'I bow to the divinity in you'. In Hinduism and Nepali culture, it is believed that God resides in all living beings and hence the form of greeting. But in meetings, or conferences, /nəməste/ or /nəməskār/ to participants or those present means 'May your mind and my mind/thinking come together and may this meeting/conference be a successful one.'





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When a Nepali is introduced or greets another Nepali it is normally done so with /nəməste/ or /nəməskār/. Nepali men may choose to shake hands with each other but when introduced to a woman they will exchange /nəməste/ or /nəməskār/. However, if a person from another country extends his/her hand on introduction then a Nepali man or woman will accept it although many Nepali women may feel slightly uncomfortable shaking hands with a male.

9.27 Greetings in Nigeria:



Nigeria like India is a multicultural, multilingual and multi-racial country in the world. In Nigeria, greetings are highly valued among the different ethnic groups. Neglecting to greet another or rushing through a greeting is a sign of disrespect. People are courteous and cheerful at the time of greetings.



Because of the diversity of customs, cultures, and dialects in Nigeria, English greetings are widely used throughout the country. Nigerians use the phrase 'Hello' but perhaps it does not mean Good morning, Good afternoon, and Good evening. After the initial greeting, people usually inquire about each other's well-being, work, or family. The appropriate response is usually Fine, but one listens carefully to this response before proceeding with the conversation.



The most common greeting is a handshake with a warm, welcoming smile.

- Men may place their left hand on the other person's shoulder while shaking hands. Smiling and showing sincere pleasure at meeting the person is important.

- In other parts of Africa, it is rude to rush the greeting process.
- A person should take the time to ask about the person's health, the health of their family, or other social niceties.
- Close friends and family members often kiss and hug when meeting.
- A person should not offer his hand to a Nigerian woman unless she extends her hand. A Nigerian generally waits for the woman to extend her hand.



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- The Muslims in general will not generally shake hands with members of the opposite sex.



The foreigners should always address people initially by their academic, professional or honorific title and their surname.

Friends may address each other in a variety of ways: the title and the first name, the first name alone, the surname alone, or a nickname. Always wait until invited before using someone's first name. When greeting someone who is obviously much older, it is a sign of respect and deference to bow the head.

9.28 Greetings in Indonesia: Indonesians usually shake hands when they greet.

When meeting someone for the first time in Indonesia, we should offer our hand to be

shaken, and slightly nod the head. While



shaking hands with a child signals showing

his or her parents respect.

Indonesia is the fourth largest country in the world is home to more

than 195 million people. Mainly Muslims — with substantial Christian, Hindu and Buddhist minorities. The official language is Bahasa Indonesia with numerous regional languages and dialects. English is widely understood particularly in Jakarta, Bali and other major cities.

Muslim men may follow a handshake by touching their right palm to their heart in a show of friendship. Women often brush cheeks. The most common verbal greeting among Indonesians is /əssəlām-ō-ələikūm /. 'Peace be upon you' and in reply the greetee will say /wālēkūm əssəlām / 'Peace be upon you too'.

9.29 Greetings in Iran:



In Iran, the family is the basis of the social structure.

Families tend to be small, only one or two children.

Iranians take their responsibilities to their family quite seriously. The main religion of Iranians is Islam

but some of them are Zoroastrian, which is ancient

religion of Iran. Muslims' holiday is Friday.



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The most common greeting in this country is /sə'lām/ 'peace be upon you'. When Iranians meet each other they shake hands and sometimes kiss each other.

- To signal to someone, one should put his hand out with his palm down, and curl the fingers in a scratching motion.
- To signal yes, one should dip head down with a slight turn.
- To signal no, one should move his head up and back sharply.
- Shaking hands with a child shows respect toward the parents.

I have met many Iranians in India and also had friendship with some of them. I noticed that the people of Iran are warm, friendly, hospitable and very formal. When interacting with people of Iran it is a good idea to have some understanding of gestures, expressions and socially acceptable behavior. Here are some tips on social etiquette in Iran.



Physical contact in greeting people is commonly observed and Iranians can be quite physically intimate with same-sex friends, even in public. A hug and three kisses are a standard greeting for family members and even the slightest physical contact with non-family members of the opposite sex, unless they are very young children, is forbidden.

The cultural differences make a person quite confused sometimes. For instance Iranian's downward gaze on meeting someone is a sign of respect not a sign of disinterest. But the same gestures may have different meanings in another culture.



A man staring at a woman is usually taken as a sign of interest, and can cause difficulties.



However making eye contact with a friend is a sign of affection and intimacy. The Iranian children are charming and well disciplined in day today life however praising a child is largely regarded as a sign of envy, casting an "evil eye." While praising a Persian child one should use the expression /mašā'ellāh/ literally, "What God wills."



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Younger people should greet older people and those of lower status must greet others above them first. The universal Islamic /səlām/ ‘peace be upon you’ or/əssəlām-ō-əlāikum/. ‘Peace be upon you’ and the universal phrase for leave-taking is /khūda hāfīz/ ‘May God protect you’ should be used by you.

9.30 Greetings in Israel:



Warm handshakes are customary in Israel, and good friends will normally shake hands with friendly pats on the shoulders or back. Israelis generally do not embrace or hug each other when meeting unless they are very close friends. People in Israel may stand quite close when talking with each other. It is also common to touch another person on the arm when conversing, as touching is customary among friends.

The following gestures are used here in the form of greetings.

We have also got some gestures which are sometimes used as a greeting:

Shaking hands



- ❖ Taking off one’s headgear for a moment
- ❖ Raising one’s open hand up
- ❖ Nodding one’s head

❖ Smile

❖ Kissing somebody’s hand (a man kisses a woman’s hand)



- ❖ Kissing one’s cheeks
- ❖ Embracing

Although Jews have adopted the languages of the countries in which they live, they have always tended to retain traditional forms of greetings and congratulations either in Hebrew or Yiddish or occasionally in Aramaic, and some of these forms of greetings are adaptations of biblical verses while others are taken from the liturgy. The linguistic expression /šəlōm/ ‘Peace’ is the usual greeting and parting phrase. Handshakes are common. Additional touching (hugging, kissing) depends largely on one's ethnic origin and the relationship between the greeter and greetee. The religious people here men and women do not touch in public.



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9. 31 Greeting in Poland:



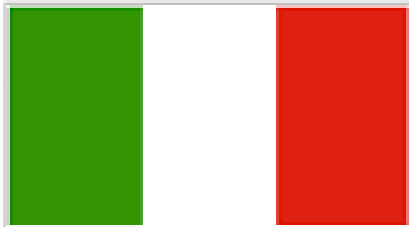
Poles greet each guest might kiss the hand of an older hand of a woman near his age.

In Poland adult males and teenagers usually greet each other with a handshake. Close friends greet by kissing the right, left, and then right cheeks.



At social and business gatherings, personally, women first. A man or younger woman, but not the

9. 32 Greetings in Italy:

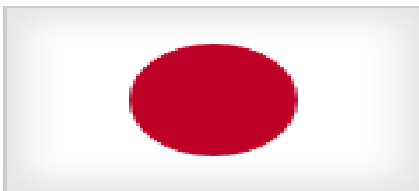


Italians are very demonstrative. When greeting each other, you may kiss each other's cheeks, embrace warmly and offer a long handshake.



In Italy the most prevalent and common ways to say "Hello" in Italian are with the words "ciao" or "salve," but in Italian culture there are actually innumerable ways to greet someone.

9.33 Greetings in Japan:



Japanese people bow to the greeter. Bowing (ojigi) is an important custom in Japan. People commonly greet each other by bowing instead of handshaking, and people generally have a small conversation after or before they bow.



Japanese ways of greeting look quite distinctive in its appearance. The Japanese show much respect while bowing before the greeter. Its greeting is quite popular



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in the world.



This custom is used constantly in Japan. One can even see people bowing while on the phone. We should not forget that men and women bow differently—men usually keep their hands at their sides, while women put their hands together on their thighs with their fingers touching. In Japanese greetings there are three degrees of bowing before the greeter.



15 degree bow: This is the most informal bow. In Japan it is used normally for casual greetings. It is obligatory on the part of a greeter to bow before the greeter. It is incredibly impolite not to return a bow if greeter bows to greeter.



30 degree bow: The most common type of bow is done to a 30-degree angle to greet customers or to thank someone. It can be generally observed in Japanese business situations, and is not used for formal events. It equates to welcoming a customer to your shop or inviting a friend to come into your home.



45 degree bow: In Japan 45 degree bow is the most formal type of bow. It signifies deep gratitude, a respectful greeting, a formal apology, asking for favors, and so on.

9. 34 Greetings in Jordan:



Among senior citizens and the more traditional Jordanians, the /səlām/ gesture may be used. Taking the right hand, touching the ear it, then the forehead and then gesturing forward is how this is done. The verbal saying is, /səlām-ō-ələikūm/ "peace be upon you."



Jordan is a mainly Muslim dominated country in the world. The greeting and norms of greetings are very much resembling to the Arab world. The Jordanians warmly greet each other with a handshake. The two intimate friends of the same gender often kiss on both cheeks. Common verbal greetings include /əssəlām-o-ələikūm/. 'Peace be upon you' /əhlən wə səhlən/ "You are welcome in this place", /səbāh əl xər/ 'Good morning', /məsa'a əl xər/ 'Good evening', and the more casual /mərhəbā/ 'Hello'. After initial greetings,



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each person inquires about the other's welfare. When one joins or leaves a small gathering, it is customary to shake hands with each person.

The researcher has good friendship with the qualified Jordanians working in Saudi Arabia. They provided the data of day today greetings of their people in their country and consequently helped me in the analysis of the data. Gender and age peers address one another by first name after an initial introduction. Other people are referred to by various titles, depending on their relationship to the speaker. For instance, adults are respectfully addressed as the mother (Um) or father (Abu) of their eldest son.

It is a sign of great respect to use /əl həj/ 'for men' or /əl həjjāh/ 'for women' as nicknames for those who have completed a pilgrimage to Makkah 'religious place of Islam where Muslims perform hajj and Umrah. Acquaintances may be addressed as /əxi/ 'my brother' or /uxti/ 'my sister' with the last name.

9. 35 Greetings in Kenya:



common greeting in business

- the handshake is short for the first time.

- the handshakes among people with a personal relationship are longer than usual.



extend her and first.

- rushing towards greeting is considered rude.

- inquiring other's health, family, and business in general is a considered good.

- always present and receive business cards with two hands.



The most common form of greeting is the handshake, however some local tribes show greeting by gently slapping palms and then gripping each other's fingers which are cupped.

9. 36 Greetings in Lebanon:

In Kenya a greeter supporting the right forearm with the left hand while shaking shows special respect for a leader or elder.



- the handshakes are the most circle.

when being introduced to someone



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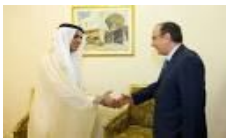
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Greetings in Lebanon are an interesting mix of both the French and Muslim/Arab cultures. A warm and welcoming smile accompanied by a handshake while uttering /mərħəba/ is a greeting. Greeting is offered to intimate friends with three kisses on the cheek, alternating cheeks in the French style. A person should rush in greeting but at the same time be sure to ask about their family, health, etc. Never extend the hand to a woman unless and until she extends her hand first.

When a person meets a stranger, acquaintance, or friend, it is important to exchange greetings as well as inquire about the person's health and family, and in general to make polite small talk before getting stating any kind of conversation. It is considered as polite behavior of the greetee.

A warm and welcoming smile accompanied a handshake is the common greeting, along with a nod of the head. Men may tip their hat when greeting a woman.



Personal space is somewhat limited, and people may stand close in conversation. The most common greeting is /mərħəba/ 'Hello'. Urbanites might also use an English Hi, or the varied Arabic expressions for male /Kəifə hāluk/ or /Kəifə hālū kə/ 'How are you' and for female /Kəifə hā lūki/.

9. 37 Greetings in Mexico: In Mexico the female do not shake hands each other here. In social situations they pat each other on the right forearm or shoulder.



- The male shake hands provided they are acquainted with the concerned person well.

A warm, somewhat soft handshake is the customary greeting among both men and women.



A person should not initiate the greeting with a woman first, let the woman make the first move toward and shaking. After the second or third meeting, Mexican men may begin with or add the abrazo, the embrace along with a few pats on the back. Women friends will embrace lightly and pretend to kiss a cheek.

9. 38 Greetings in Morocco:



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Greetings and farewells (good byes) are two important aspects of Moroccan life. It is time consuming process for Moroccan to exchange different questions and answers which interest them about each other, their families, and life in

general. Greetings change from one region to another, both in the questions posed and in the fashion of the greeting (i.e. shaking hands, kissing cheeks head or hands, or putting one's hand over one's heart after shaking hands). In Morocco there must be uniformity in greeting the people. One has to greet the people in a party or gathering in an equal way.



The expression "How are you?" requires only a simple "Fine, thanks be to God." Moroccans are very fond of shaking hands every time they see someone they know or meet someone new.

When Moroccans move to their work places in the morning, they are expected to shake each of their colleagues' hands. After shaking hands, touching the right hand to the heart is a sign of respect.



Moroccans generally shake hands when greeting, after which one might touch the heart to express pleasure at seeing the other person or to show personal warmth. The well known expression /əssəlām-ō-əlāikūm/. 'Peace be upon you' is commonly used as "Hello." The linguistic expression like /səbāh -əl-xər/ 'Good morning' and /məsāha-əl-xər/ 'Good evening' are also heard here in Moroccans day today life. Greetings are important in Morocco but they vary according to location. In urban areas, good friends greet each other by brushing or kissing cheeks. Many kisses signal close and sincerities of friendship. In rural areas, you may see handshakes accompanied by touching the heart with the right hand.

9. 39 Greetings in Norway:



Handshakes in Norway are brief, but firm. It is to be pointed out here that one should avoid putting his arm around someone else, or even patting him or her on the back. It is considered as impolite. At the time of



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introducing to someone one should always stand during the introduction. It is considered good for the greeter as well as shows the respects to the greetee.

9. 40 Greetings in Poland:



Familiarities with the norms of cultural greetings of a country are very important for a foreigner. In Poland an older polish gentleman may kiss the hand of a woman upon introduction, but an unknown person should not imitate this gesture. Women greet their close friends by embracing briefly and slightly kissing each other on the cheeks.

9. 41 Greetings in Romania:



Women greet each other with a handshake or a kiss on each cheek if they are good friends. Handshakes are more common among men. A man can not extend his hand to woman unless she extends her hand first. Greeting, women often use the phrase /būna/ 'Good', while men and young people say /səlūt/ 'Salutation'.



The commonly used greeting expression is /būna ziua/ 'Good day'. The expression /būna diminieta/ 'Good morning' and /būna sierra/ 'Good evening' are also used.

Male stand up when they are introduced to a female.

9. 42 Greetings in Spain:



The abrazo (embrace) is common among male friends, while female do the same, as well as make the motion of kissing on each cheek. Both men and women always shake each other's hand upon meeting.

The basic way of saying "good morning" in Spanish is/ būnō dīās/." There are other ways to give a morning greeting in Spanish, however. Here are some of the most commonly used. This phrase translates literally into "good days. The expression "Buenos is a masculine plural form of the word "buen" or "bueno," literally meaning "good."



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Those who are business men, then after the greeting, a simple handshake is sufficient. There is no need to utter any other greeting phrases.



But if you're friends, a kiss on the cheek is expected. It's also expected that it's just an air kiss. In general, physical contact is much more common in Spanish cultures. Spaniards generally stand at a much closer physical distance when they talk to each other than foreigners are used to.



In Spain both male and female greet each other with the expression "besitos" meaning they briefly touch the cheeks and make a kissing sound with their lips. It doesn't matter if they are good friends or if they are meeting for the first time, the cheek kissing is a universal form of greeting in this country. These little kisses are purely friendly. These are well accepted norms of the society. In the Spanish culture they are considered more as a formality.



Generally both male and female enjoy each other's company and flirting is a natural way of communicating with each other. This attitude has to be considered as a part of Spanish nature. It can be seen in all age groups



When a pretty woman is passing by on the street, men will most likely compliment her or might even whistle at her. These flirtatious comments are called /pīrōpōs/ and include usually a simple / gūāpa/ 'beautiful'. The woman should not acknowledge the compliment and should try to keep a straight face in order not to encourage the men. These comments are harmless and happen a million times per day on pretty much every street corner in Spain. Making comments on a woman on a street or on a public/ market places are quite common and traditional in this country. Spanish men simply express their admiration for women by acting that way.



A peculiar feature is to be noted that men greet each other while shaking hands. A woman can give two kisses on the cheek. She will start from left to right, and women can be both. The hands shake is very common between man and woman and also between two women. For



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example, in a job interview, the interviewer usually shakes hands with the interviewee.



Among friends, the usual hand remains between boys and two boy-girl kisses and among girls. Hugging is also quite normal depending upon the trust that prevails between two people. Instead of giving two kisses, some people give only one. This is because the taste of each person, even a single kiss is more widely understood among family, like a gesture of confidence even more.

9. 43 Greetings in France:



Greetings like “good morning” or “good afternoon” are incredibly important in French culture. The French greetings here go in accordance with the time of the day. As the French culture is more formal, going through the ritual of greeting another person is an important way of showing respect. The people in France shake hands while uttering the expressions like “Bonjour” or “Bonsoir” depending on the time of the day. A person is expected to greet every person individually in gathering, party etc. The expression “Bonjour,” must be used for the each and every person in the group.



Kissing on the cheek is very common greeting in this country. But the norms of cheek kissing differ from country to country. The basic French greeting is bonjour, which can mean hello, good morning, or good afternoon. To greet someone informally at any time of day, one can utter the phrase ‘salut’, meaning ‘Hi’. The common French greeting for Hello has varied expressions.



A woman is expected to kiss everyone on the cheek and getting kissed by everyone. A woman is supposed to kiss women on the cheek and shaking men’s hands. Intimate male friends or family members will kiss each other on the cheek.

9.44 Greetings in Ghana: The greetings vary among the various ethnic groups in this country. The Handshakes are the most common means of greeting in this country. One should not extend his hand to a woman first. He should always wait for a woman to extend her hand first.



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❖ A person should take time to enquire about people's health, family and jobs.



❖ A person should not rush a greeting. It is considered as impolite.

❖ A person should maintain eye contact during the greeting. It is very important part of the greeting.

❖ The foreigner should stick to a normal handshake

❖ Ghanaians while shaking hands among themselves will hold the right hand in the normal manner but will then twist and click each other's middle finger.

9. 45 Greetings in Sweden:



Swedish is a fascinating language that, upon arrival, will sound incredibly strange. When the people in Sweden meet each other they offer a firm handshake and retain good eye contact. It is quite natural.

The foreigners should not first faux pas people often



forget to take their shoes off. The make is entering a Swedish home

without doing removing their shoes. The removal of the Shoe is considered as polite and its makes a good impression among the people in Sweden. Once that becomes a habit, expats will only have to get on board with the Swedish facade of being anti-social. The phrase 'Hej!' 'How do you do' as well as 'Hi (there)' is the most common way of greeting someone in both the formal as well as in informal situation.

A person who is new to this country must try to comprehend the social relations. There is a perceived coldness to social relations in Sweden that can be alienating and even upsetting to some. Swedes are often described as reserved, introverted, serious, reticent and unfriendly.

A foreigner should shake hands with everyone men, women, and children present at business and social meetings and should shake hands again when leaving. Younger people generally do not shake hands when meeting friends. Older people expect a handshake when being greeted or when leaving. If no one is available to introduce you, shake each person's hand and introduce yourself.

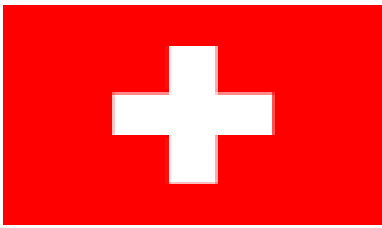
9. 46 Greetings in Switzerland:



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Switzerland is a multilingual society so actual verbal greetings in such confederation may result in variation. A handshake is very common here. Both male and female shake hands. Those who are the intimate friends may exchange three kisses on the cheeks, first on the left, then the right and back to the left. At the time of entering or leaving an elevator or a store most of them exchange simple greetings, even with strangers. People from villages exchange greetings on the street.

9. 47 Greetings in Sudan:



Arab customs prevail in the North of the country, where handshakes are warm and gentle. Good friends of the same gender may embrace one another. However, men will only shake a woman's hand if she offers her hand first. Physical contacts

between two opposite sexes are prohibited in public places. It is perceived as impolite and is not accepted by the people.



I have personally encountered many Sudanese in Saudi Arabia. I have observed their greeting carefully and attentively and noticed that Sudanese greetings are very polite and rather complex compared to ours. They generally greet each other with smiles and gentle shoves on each other's shoulder. The expressions like "Hello, How are you? How is your family?" are commonly used in their day today greetings. Consequently they shake hands and inquiring while using the expression /təmām/ all is "well". We can hear the same expression from greeatee.

9. 48 Greetings in Thailand:



The traditional greeting in Thailand is the /wāi/ wherein the hands are placed together in a prayer like position and the head is slightly bowed. It is similar to the physical position of /nəmāste/ in India.



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The phrase /wāi/ meant 'hello', "thank you", and "good-bye" and sometimes "I'm sorry." It is a fact that the higher the greeter hold his hands while performing the /wāi/ the more respect he is conveying to the greetee. It is to be noted that a person who is not familiar with their culture should not raise his finger tips higher than his face.

9. 49 Greetings in Russia:



People in the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States, a collective of post-Soviet countries) are known as extremely hospitable and overall very amicable, openhearted human beings. Classic Belarusian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Russian, Ukrainian and Tajik literature shows how important the friendship relationship is in these countries. The Western saying, "A friend in need is a friend indeed" echoes the Russian proverb "a friend is known in a trouble"



Friendship is very important to Russians, and relationships with friends are characterized by trust and openness. Russians believe in helping friends, and they know that they can rely on their friends to help them.



Russians greet by shaking hands firmly and offering a word of greeting. At the time of greeting full names are used when introducing one another. Titles, even those as simple as Mr. or Mrs., were replaced by "comrade" during the days of Russian Communism, and the term may still be heard. Close friends greet each other by first name. Handshakes are also common in other parts of the world, including Britain and Russia. In Russia, males grasp other men's hands very strongly during the handshake. In Russia, it is impolite to point using your index finger, or to talk with your hands in your pockets, or talk with your arms folded across your chest. It is considered bad luck to shake hands across an entrance.

10. Top ten greetings and gestures in the world:



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Greetings around the world differ radically from culture to culture, many times shaped by religious or superstitious beliefs, by different sensitivities to touch and intimacy and the roles males and females play in society.

10. 1 Double cheek kisses:



In Europe the double cheek kiss is very common. Both cheeks are gently kissed, with the slightly awkward moment of figuring out which direction is first (left or right). It is an important part of their culture. Right cheek or left? Actual or simulated contact? Single or double? In all its iterations, the social kiss is spreading across the U.S. In most American cities a social kiss typically consists of a single, right cheek to right cheek. Europeans and New Yorkers often double kiss, first right cheek and then left.

10. 2 Hand-kiss:



Kissing is also a form of greeting but it is not common or popular around the world. Normally the hand-kiss is offered by a female. It is a gesture of affection and quite extreme politeness. This form of greeting depends upon the kinds of relationship between two opposite sexes. It is considered impolite to refuse an offered hand. Hand kissing is also observed among the Urdu speaking community in India. It is due to the norms of belief of a Muslim sect which shows the deep affection between two people or between two opposite sexes. The Christians while meeting the Pope in the churches kiss the hands.

10. 3 High Five:



The ubiquitous high five is considered to be a celebratory gesture made by two people, each raising one hand to slap the raised hand of the other — usually meant to communicate mutual satisfaction to spectators or to extend congratulations from one person to another. This form of greeting is quite popular around the world. In case if the greeter initiates a high five



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by raising a hand into the air and the greetee does not respond. It will be considered as faux pas and impolite by the people.

10. 4 Handshake and Handshake among Muslims:



Handshaking is an ancient ritual. It is reported as long ago as 2800 B.C. in Egypt and it is speculated that because the right hand is the weapon hand, presenting it open and without a sword came to be seen as a sign of peace and acceptance. It is quite old in its tradition but the handshake is still the accepted form of greeting around the world and is accepted by the speech communities and human societies. People always shake hands when they are introduced to each other. The women rarely do so with the man who is introduced to them; but they usually shake hands with other ladies, if they are standing near together. All people who know each other, unless merely passing by, shake hands when they meet.



A handshake often takes place when someone meets someone who is new or meeting after certain period of time. At the time of meeting or leaving a man shakes hand. Also when someone offers congratulations or agreement on a contract they normally greet other by shaking hands. Islam does not allow two opposite sexes to handshake. Shaking hands when meeting and saying /əssəlām-ō-ələikūm/ 'Allah bless you' is part of the etiquette of Islam and its good morals. It is an expression of love between the two who shake hands, as it dispels hatred, rancour and grudges among the Muslims. There is a great Hadeeth (saying of prophet) which speaks of its virtue, in which the Prophet Mohammad, the last prophet of Islam (P.B.U.H.) said: "There are no two Muslims who meet and shake hands with one another, but they will be forgiven before they part." (Reference Narrated by Abu Dawood (5212); classed as Saheeh by al-Albaani in Saheeh Abi Dawood). Shaking hands was a custom that was well known among the Sahaabah karaam Raziallah ho taalla Ajmayaan (companions of Prophet) (may Allah be pleased with them).



A common greeting among Muslims, meaning /əssəlām-ō-ələikūm/ 'Peace be upon you' and the appropriate response is /wālēkūm əssəlām/ or /wālēkūm əssəlām wə rəhmətullāhe bərəkātuhu/ 'Peace be upon you too'. Extended forms include /əssəlām-o-ələikūm wə



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rəhmətullāh/ ‘May the peace and mercy of Allah be with you’ and /əssəlām-o-əlāikum wə rəhmətullāhe bərəkātuhu/ ‘May the peace, mercy, and blessings of Allah be with you’.

10. 5 Hug:



Hugging is also one of the popular forms of greetings in the world and is a sign of love and affection. The greeter meets the greetee without any hesitation and expresses his inner feelings through holding the body

of the greetee. It is a quite prevalent form of greetings and unlike some other forms of physical intimacy; it is followed and practiced in real social life situations without stigma around the world.

10. 6 Mistletoe Kiss: Mistletoe is a Christmas tradition, and all too often an opportunity for someone to steal a kiss from a person who would not normally welcome such an action from the kisser.



Kissing can indicate joy or be used as part of a greeting. Kissing involves the touching of one's lips to the lips or other body part, such as the cheek, head, hand, of another person. A man has the privilege of kissing a woman who happens to be standing under a sprig of mistletoe, a plant which is said to symbolize peace and love. Most people associate mistletoe with kissing as it's customary for anyone caught standing under a sprig of this plant (often strategically placed in a doorway) to receive a kiss.

10. 7 Eskimo Kiss:



Eskimos do not really kiss through their noses but they use their nose as a sign of greeting one another. Rubbing their noses is one practical and easy way to show greetings and fondness to anyone they meet simply because of the weather condition where they are in. In order to show respect and appreciation to their fellow Eskimo, they have to rub their noses with each other not as a form of kiss but a greeting instead. Some people who studied the lives of these Eskimos claimed that they use their noses to greet each other in order to smell



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the person they meet because smelling in their culture is a way of paying tribute to one another.

10. 8 Air Kiss:



Air kiss is also one of the forms greetings in many countries of the world. But this is not very popular. Air kisses are used to greet without disturbing one's makeup. The air kiss is the pretense of kissing without touching the other greetee's body.

10. 9 Kowtow:



Kowtow in traditional China, the act of supplication made by an inferior to his superior by kneeling and knocking his head to the floor. This prostration ceremony was most commonly used in religious worship, by commoners who came to make a request of the local district magistrate, and by officials and representatives of foreign powers who came into the presence of the emperor.

Traditionally Chinese, Cantonese, and Vietnamese, the kowtow is known as a deep act of respect, shown by kneeling and bowing so low as to have your head touching the ground.

10. 10 High Five:



High Five is the most popular greeting around the world. The ubiquitous high five is considered to be a celebratory gesture made by two people, each raising one hand to slap the raised hand of the other.

Generally it meant to communicate to extend congratulations from greeter to the greetee.

11. Culture defined and explained:



Sociologists and anthropologists have identified many basic elements that are present in our cultural interactions. These elements interact with each other and result in patterns of behavior that are shared. The culture of a country differs from one country to another country. Understanding culture is critical for educators and scholars because our individual cultural orientation is present in every interaction. Often, culture is thought of as the foods, music, clothing, and holidays a group of people share but it is actually much larger than just those visible traditions. Culture is



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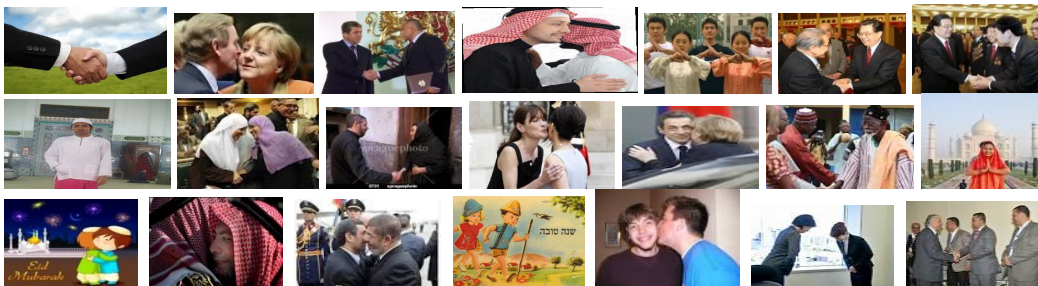
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a combination of thoughts, feelings, attitudes, beliefs, values, and behavior patterns that are shared by racial, ethnic, religious, or social groups of people. Culture refers not only to those that we are born into (racial or ethnic groups), but also those that we choose to belong to, such as religious or social groups. Culture refers to the cumulative deposit of knowledge, experience, beliefs, values, attitudes, meanings, hierarchies, religion, notions of time, roles, spatial relations, concepts of the universe, and material objects and possessions acquired by a group of people in the course of generations through individual and group striving. Culture is the systems of knowledge shared by a relatively large group of people. Culture is communication, communication is culture. Culture in its broadest sense is cultivated behavior; that is the totality of a person's learned, accumulated experience which is socially transmitted, or more briefly, behavior through social learning.

A culture is a way of life of a group of people--the behaviors, beliefs, values, and symbols that they accept, generally without thinking about them, and that are passed along by communication and imitation from one generation to the next. Culture is symbolic communication. Some of its symbols include a group's skills, knowledge, attitudes, values, and motives. The meanings of the symbols are learned and deliberately perpetuated in a society through its institutions.

Culture consists of patterns, explicit and implicit, of and for behavior acquired and transmitted by symbols, constituting the distinctive achievement of human groups, including their embodiments in artifacts; the essential core of culture consists of traditional ideas and especially their attached values; culture systems may, on the one hand, be considered as products of action, on the other hand, as conditioning influences upon further action.

12. Pictographical representation of the Differences in Cultural greetings around the world:





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Increasingly, managers must deal with multiple ethnic groups with very different cultures. Thanks to globalization, you are likely to work with Japanese, French, Chinese, German and all sorts of other nationalities. It is important to recognize that people from different cultures have are different in a variety of ways, including

- different ways of looking at things
- different ways of dressing
- different ways of expressing personality/goodness

These differences can cause problems interpreting what the other person is doing. Some simple examples:

- In the US, a firm, short handshake indicates self-confidence and (heterosexual) masculinity. A limp handshake by a man can be interpreted (usually wrongly) as a sign of homosexuality. But in most parts of Africa, a limp handshake is the correct way to do it. Furthermore, it is common in Africa for the handshake to last several minutes, while in the US a handshake that is even a few seconds too long is interpreted as familiarity, warmth and possibly sexual attraction.
- In Britain, men do not look at women on the streets. The French do. Recently, a French public figure mentioned in a speech that the Brits are all gay -- the evidence was their lack of overt interest in women.

The greetings can be put into three broad categories: (a) Ordinary greetings (b) occasional or topical greetings (c) special greetings associated with ritual or customary situations, e.g. libation. Ordinary greetings are time-related and reflect the



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various times of the day, e.g. morning, noon, afternoon, evening, and night. These include routine greetings within the home. The terms 'occasional' and 'topical' are used to designate those greetings which reflect the occasions, activities and circumstances around which the verbal and non-verbal expressions are built. Such activities and occasions include work, eating, child birth, achievement, misfortune, death and funerals, visits to the sick, chance meetings of friends and relatives, and so on. It is normal for the members of a family to greet one another in the morning. Such exchanges do not normally go beyond enquiries after one another's health.

13. Cultural differences:

Cultures differ in substantial ways. Increasing globalization requires more interaction among people from diverse cultures, beliefs, and backgrounds than ever before. Cultural differences distinguish societies from one another, one culture from another culture. In today's world of globalization, the world is certainly becoming smaller and people of various cultures are able to communicate freely. Nowadays there are different ways to express thoughts, ideas which can span across cultures through different forms of media like the television, the newspapers and the Internet. There are many who would love to disregard the existence of cultural differences due to the advancement in science and technology. All cultures are known to have a set of beliefs that defines the code of conduct and values for that particular culture. People living together in a society share the same culture.

Another important contributor to the cultural difference is the history of a particular region or country. The events of the past certainly shape the moods and opinions of people living in that specific country. When a large group of people observe a set of traditions, social norms and values, it gives rise to culture. One should also spare a thought to the immense important mythology has, in shaping a set of myths which gave rise to cultural differences.

14. Meeting and Greeting among Muslims in brief:

In all Muslim and most Asian cultures, it is considered very rude to present or receive an object with the left hand. The right hand is always the hand of choice. In Islamic culture, the right hand is used for taking food. Washing of both the hands are absolutely required before eating breakfast, lunch and dinner. Among Muslims in general the left hand is used for hygiene and toileting and is considered inherently



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filthy. This is one reason why the right hands of thieves and other criminals are punitively amputated. In case of receiving a gift they usually use their right and left hands together. While all these activities he basically follows the teaching of last Prophet of Islam (P.B.U.H).

15.1 Most common handshaking rituals around the world:

- Handshaking is very common in European countries as well as in Japan but in Japan sometimes a bow is included or substituted.

- The people in Russia always tend to shake hands but in case the Russians will never handshake while wearing gloves. He will take it off before shaking the hands.

A strong handshake and good grip are encouraged and appreciated in South Africa.

- A vigorous, pumping handshake is normal for the Chinese.

- Men in Arabian cultures encourage a long and limp handshake along with a specific verbal greeting. The People in Panama greet each other with eye contact combined with shaking hands.

- The people in France always shake hands in business meetings but all other greetings involve kissing the cheeks.

- In Kuwait shaking hands is only used for male strangers who meet the first time. Shaking hands with a woman is considered impolite. The people in Indian and Pakistan shake hands by grasping hand in both of their hands and holding hand briefly. The person who is unable to shake hands should always offer an apology and a brief explanation so that the other person does not feel shunned.

Needless to say, every language community in the world possesses its own way of greetings to the people living in the society. The modes of greetings differ from one language community to another language community. The linguistic traits are strongly embedded in the language and culture of that society. The modes of greetings have their own value in the sociology of language. Greeting is not only essential satisfying for the socio-psychological need of the people in a given society but it is also a religious norm. This religious norm is governed by the situations in which the greeter says what is expected by the greeter in one way or other way.

Modes of greetings are used in a society by the individual who wishes to welcome or to say good-bye. Keeping in view the preceding contention, the



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present paper attempts to discuss different types of greeting forms used by the native speakers of Urdu in India. The present research study is fully based on the author's own decades of observations and experiences. It is hoped that this study will highlight certain interesting-linguistic features in the linguistic forms as well as utterances used by the native speakers of Urdu in their day-to-day greetings. First of all we will take up the Verbal and Non-Verbal greetings.

We find that in every greeting situation, two persons come in contact in a particular ethnic situation, which is characterized by means of some paralinguistic features like gestures, statement etc. Goffman (1963: 91) has called it 'ethnography of encounter' with "social occasion" as its structural unit. Every greeting situation involves a "protocol of encounter" which is characterized by an opening move in the form of a statement, a gesture and some paralinguistic features (Mehrotra 1986:81). Looked at from the sociolinguistics perspective, modes of greeting fall within the general purview of what Goffman calls the "ethnography of encounter" (Goffman, 1963:91) with "social occasion" as its structural unit.

The reasonable assumption that every language has a range of forms for use as greetings and farewells is based on the social importance of 'entries' (into pieces of interaction) and 'exits' (Hudson 1980: 132). In the words of Erving Goffman, a greeting is needed to show that the relationship which existed at the end of the last encounter is still unchanged, in spite of the separation, and that a farewell is needed in order to "sum up the effect of encounter upon the relationship and show what the participants may expect of one another when they next meet" (Goffman 1967:41).



were collected by observing natural utterances in various

keeping in consideration of social parameters such as age, achieved status, degree of intimacy etc. The information thus obtained is supplemented by the researcher's own perspective as the native speaker of Urdu speech community. The shared knowledge

The present study attempts to describe and explain the linguistic and social behavior of Urdu speaking community in India, when they greet and take leave from each other in various situations.



The data used in the study actual behavior of the greeter, natural social situations,

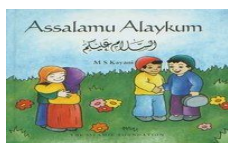


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of appropriate language and social use unifies Urdu speakers as members of single speech community and serves to maintain a distinct among the other language speech communities in India. Generally, we have observed two types of modes of greetings among the Urdu speakers i.e., (1) Verbal and Non-Verbal greeting. Both these types of greeting can either be formal or in formal. Verbal greetings appear in the form of utterance of greetings.



The varied forms of greetings like /əssəlām-ō-ələikūm, sələm-ō-ələikūm/ or /sələmālēkūm/ ‘Allah (God) bless you’ etc. are frequently used by Urdu speakers in everyday communication whereas non-verbal forms by greetings include lifting the right hand up to the forehead, smiling, nodding, hugging, closing of eyes and twinkling of eyes etc. Though there is a difference between these two types of greetings, but both of them are characterized by social setting, context and interpersonal relationships. Mostly, non-verbal greeting gestures and verbal greeting utterances are combined in an actual situation. Both verbal and non-verbal greetings are used in different kinds of formal and informal situations.



In day-to-day life, when an individual meets his elder then he uses formal verbal form like /əssəlām-ō-ələikūm/ ‘Allah bless you’. But between two friends or two persons possessing the equal status, formal verbal forms like:

/sələm-ō-ələikūm/ ‘Allah’

/sələmālēkūm/ ‘bless you’ are used. Both these forms are frequently used in day-to-day social interaction.



Basic greetings in Urdu speaking community are not based on the time of day (e.g., "good afternoon" or good morning). Some educated Muslims use the expression /Khuda hāfiz/ or / šəbbə xət/ at the time of parting/leaving.

In Urdu speaking community greetings like lifting of the right hand up to the forehead and hand shake are very common in use but other gestures like bowing, touching of feet, kissing on the forehead are not at all found. It is due to the religious norms of the people.



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Islam does not allow the hands shake with a woman so Urdu speakers do not shake hands with the women in general. At the time of Hajj pilgrimage or Umrah I have observed that some women hold the hands of their

male relatives while parting and utter some 'dua' (verses from the Quran). Among Muslims, in certain formal situation greeter and greetee utter the linguistic form 'əssəlām-ō-ələikūm' and then shake with each other with both the hands. This way of greeting is not found among all the Muslims. The shaking of hands with two hands and also with one hand has been observed. These two ways of shaking hands is clearly demarcated on the basis of different sects in Muslim community. A Sunni sect called 'Jamat-e-Ahlehadeth', one of the religious sects of Muslim who claims to strictly follow the 'Hadeeth' 'sayings of Prophet Mohammad' (P.B.U.H.) shakes hand only with the one hand. The shaking of hand has been a bone of contention among the Islamic scholars as well as theologians of various sects of Muslim. These religious sects have strong Islamic arguments over the issue of hands shake. Every sect claims his own way of greeting as correct or Islamic. There is a another Sunni sect in Muslim called 'Barelvi', they use both their hands in hands shaking which is named as 'mosafa' in Urdu but after that they put their hands on their chest and read some short 'dua' (Quranic verse) slowly. Jamat-e Ahl-e-Hadeeth strongly denounce the putting of hands on the chest and termed it as a 'Bidat' (anything followed and practiced by Muslim but not found in Quran and Hadeeth or practiced by the companions of Prophet Mohammad, P.B.U.H.) After finishing this initial task then they enter into real communication business. Sometimes in Muslim community, the two friends of equal status greet each other by verbal greeting forms as well as by non-verbal gestures like hands shake and putting and patting on the back. It is to be pointed out here that when there is an intimacy between the two persons (greeter and greetee). The age factor does not come as a barrier in such situations.



In every culture, greetings are related with etiquettes. A greeting has no value unless a person has proper etiquette. For instance



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refusal to extend one's hand for hands shake and turning one's face away from the greeter will amount to bad etiquette in a greeting situation and in the verbal greeting making silence in response to the greeter's verbal form like *səlām-ō-əlāikum* give a bad signal to the greeter. Even though the greeter understands the meanings of the greetee's silence which signals to a bad etiquette in a greeting situation. Generally in a



formal situation a greeter slightly bends down while shaking hands with the greetee.

Here the greeter uses both the hands in greeting.

This gesture of the greeter shows extra politeness and respect.

This phenomenon of bending down is very common in a situation when a person meets a reputed Maulana/Matauaa (a theologian-a bearded man). When a Muslim meets such kind of person he gives more respect. He creates in between more affection and attachments.

Assalamualaikum



It is imperative to point out here those any kind of verbal greetings like */əssəlām-ō-əlāikum/* is intentionally avoided while taking lunch, dinner, etc. It is prohibited by religious norms. In this kind of situation instead of uttering any verbal greeting the greetee normally utters form like */āiye khāna khāiye/* 'come and take food' (a polite utterance) and in response to this

the greeter (an educated Urdu speaker) normally says/ *bārəkəllāh/*.



In Urdu speaking community, any kind of verbal greetings are avoided and moreover prohibited during prayers because it involves disturbance to

other. It is also due to religious norms. Physical distance and intensity of emotions between two persons also prevent the use of verbal greetings. In such kind of situation, non-verbal greetings like facial gestures, smiling, nodding of head, lifting and waving of hands are commonly used. One peculiar feature regarding greeting in Urdu community is that anybody who meets a person will utter at least 'əssəlām-ō-əlāikum'. This is the first hand requirement in most situations before starting a conversation.



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In Urdu community like verbal greetings, non-verbal greetings are also used in formal as well as in informal situations appropriate to contexts. We notice the two types of greetings

in this community. These are:

1. Fixed greetings and
2. Alternative greetings.

Fixed greetings: In fixed greetings, most of the response can be predicted whereas in alternative greetings responses may vary from person to person and according to situation.



Among the fixed greetings forms between two persons /əssəlām-ō-ələikūm/ and /səlāmōələikūm/ are frequently used.

But the form əssəlām-ō-ələikūm is more frequently used in formal situations whereas the form /səlāmōələikūm/ is often used in informal situations. This form is used generally among friends, colleagues, acquaintances or anybody else more or less of the equal status.

The researchers among the fixed greeting forms has observed the linguistic expression /ādāb ərz/ uttered by the Urdu speakers /ādāb ərz/ in addressing the member of the other religious group and in response, the greetee utters the same form. This phrase can be commonly heard in business circle when two people from different religious groups greet each other. But when an Urdu speaker utters the form /əssəlām-ō-ələikūm/, the greetee normally says or utters in response to this /wālēkūm əssəlām/ 'Allah blesses you too'.

It has been observed that Urdu speakers rarely address a non Muslim by the form /nəməste/ or /nəməškār/. Sometimes Urdu speakers instead of using the forms /əssəlām-ō-ələikūm/, use the expressions /nəməste/ or /nəməškār/. They use the linguistic forms like /əha əha/ and /ōho ōh/. These two forms are used by Urdu speakers as greeting forms.

16. Alternative Greetings

Alternative greetings are of two types. These are:

1. Formal alternative greetings
2. Non-formal alternative greetings



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The expressions that are used for alternative greetings may enquire about general well being of the addressee, indicate respect towards the addressee, indicate affection, good wishes or blessing from elders for young ones. The illustrative examples of formal and non-formal alternative greetings expressions have been selected from the data list and are given below:

17. 1 Formal Alternative Greetings

Greeter

Greetee

1. kya hāl cāl hē ? or keya hāl cāl hē ?
What condition is
How are you? 1. ṭhīk hē right is 'All right'
- 1b. āpki dūa hē
your blessing is
'your blessing is with me'
- 1c. āpki dūē hé
your blessings are
'your blessings are with me'
- 1d. āp buzorgō ki dūaē hé
your elders blessings are
'the blessings of you people (elders) are with me'
- 1e. āpki mehārbāni hē
your kindness is
'your kindness is with me'
- 1f. āpki dūāō se ṭhik hū
your blessings right am
'I am fine with your blessings'
- 1g. əlhəmdōhilla(h)
'Thanks Allah'
- 1h. əllāh(h) ka šukr hē
Allah of thanks is
'Thanks Allah'
- 1i. allā(h) ke fəzlo kərəm se ṭhik hū
Allah of grace from fine am



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‘I am fine with the grace of Allah

- 1j. əllā(h) ka kərəm hē
Allah of kindness is
‘It is a kindness of Allah’
- 1k. əllā(h) ki mehəhərbāni hē
Allah of kindness is
‘It is a kindness of Allah’
- 1l. mē ʃhik se hū əpni sunāiye
I fine from am you yourself
‘I am fine, you tell me about yourself’
2. kəsi guzər rəhi hē
How passing is
‘How is life passing?’ 2. əllāh ka kərəm hē
Allah of kindness is
‘It is the kindness of Allah’
3. kəsi kəʃ rəhi hē
How passing is
‘How is life going?’ 3. āpki dūa se thik hi kə kəʃ rəhi hē
your blessing fine is passing is
‘It is going on well with your blessing’

17. 2 Informal Alternative Greetings

In Urdu community, we observe the Informal alternative greetings forms most commonly among friends.

4. keya hā cāl hē
What condition is
How are you? 4a. mē to ʃhik hū əpni sūnāo
I fine am your tell
‘I am fine, (you) tell about yourself’
- 4b. tumhāri dūa se ʃhik hū
your blessing will fine am
‘I am fine with your blessing’
- 4c. əllā(h) ka ʃukr hē



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Allah of thanks is

‘Thanks Allah’

4d. əllā(h) ka kəram hɛ

Allah of grace is

‘Allah’s grace’ etc.

5. suna hɛ, məze mār rəhe ho

listened very enjoying are

‘I have come to know that you are enjoying’ 5a. əre ɛsi koi bāt nəhi hɛ

o’ so any matter not is

‘o’, this is not so’

6. əor sūnāo kɛsa cəl rəha hɛ

and tell how going is

‘And, how things are going on?’ 6a. tumhāri dūa se ʃhīk cəl rəha hɛ

your blessing fine going is

‘Things are going on with your blessing’.

7. əor kɛse ho

And How are

‘And How are you’ 7a. səb ʃhīk hɛ

All right is

‘everything is all right’

7b. mɛ to ʃhīk hū, əpni sunāo

I right am your tell

‘I am fine you tell about you’

In Urdu speech community, we find that welcome forms combined with terms for good wishes are also used as modes of greetings. The illustrative examples are given below:

8. āiye təʃrīf rəkhiye

Come be seated

‘Come and be seated’

9. həzrət, təʃrīf fərmāē

Sir be seated

(Very respective word)



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‘Sir, please be seated’

10. prinsipāl sāhāb tāšrīf rākhīye

Principal Sir be seated

‘Principal Sir, please be seated’

11. āiye, tāšrīf lāiye

Come sit down

‘Come and sit down’

12. mōlvi sāhāb tāšrīf rākhiye

m ölvi sāhāb (Theologian) be seated molvi sahab (Theologian) – one who teaches theology in Madarsa (Islamic Institution) ‘Please be seated here’

13. āiye māšṭar sāhāb, ājkəl āpka pəta nəhi čal rəha hə

Come teacher sir nowadays your known not is

‘Teacher Sir, where are you nowadays?’

The phrases (expressions) of greetings regarding enquiring one’s health are invariably used in Urdu speech community (Muslim Community) particularly by educated Urdu speakers. Let us consider the expressions that have been observed:

14. əbbu jān āpki təbiyət kəsi hə

Father now your health how is

‘Father, how is your health now?’

15. əmmi jān āpki təbiyət kəsi hə

Mother your health how is

‘Mother, how is your health?’

16. kya hāl hə, beṭi

What condition is daughter

‘How are you, daughter?’

17. beṭi, kya hāl hə

Daughter how condition is

‘Daughter, how are you?’

18. əmmi jān āp kəsi hə

Mother you how are

‘Mother, how are you?’



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Apart from the above, some modes of greetings are frequently used by Urdu speakers which are not found in other language community in India. The following types of greetings are used by near and dear ones when they meet each other after a long time.

19. māšaəlla(h) āpto xūb ləg rəhe hé
Grace Allah you good looking are
'You are looking very good due to the grace of Allah '
20. əhhəmdōlilla(h) āpto bilkul bədəl gəe
Thanks Allah you completely changed
'Thanks Allah you have completely changed'
21. əhhəmdōlilla(h) āp to pəhle se bəhot sehət mənd ləg rəhe hé
Thanks Allah you before very healthy looking are
'Thanks Allah you are looking very healthy comparatively before'
22. āp pəhle se itna bədəl gəe ki mē āpko pəhčān nə səka
You before so changed that I you recognize could not
'You have changed so now that I could not recognize you'

It is a very common phenomenon that in Urdu community while addressing a religious gathering or an audience or a congregation, such types of greetings are used in which the glory of Allah is highly praised. In this community blessings in the name of Allah are also used as modes of greetings. For example:

23. əllā(h) həm səb ki hifāzət fərmāye
Allah all of us protect
'May Allah protects all of us'
24. əllā(h) āpke nək irādō ko qubūl fərmāye
Allah your good determinations accept
'May Allah accept your good determinations' ?
25. əllā(h) āpki mūrādōko pūra kəre
Allah your wishes complete
'May Allah fulfil your wishes' !
26. əllā(h) āpko nək sāleh əolād de
Allah you good pious son/daughter give
'May Allah give you good (holy) character son/daughter' !



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27. ەللآ(h) آپکو جەزآە خەر دە
Allah you reward
'May Allah gives you reward'
28. ەللآ(h) آپکی نەک تەمەننآؤ کو پۇرا کەرە
Allah you good wishes fulfil
'May Allah fulfill your good (holy) wishes'?
29. ەللآ(h) آپکو کآمیآب کەرە
Allah you success
'May Allah make you success'!
30. ەللآ(h) آپکو کآمیآبی دە
Allah you success give
'May Allah give you health and life'!
31. ەللآ(h) آپکو کآمیآبی دە
Allah you success give
'May Allah give you success'!
32. ەللآ(h) آپکو خۇش رەککھە
Allah you happy keep
'May Allah keep you happy?'
33. ەللآ(h) آپکی ھیفآزەت فەرمآیە
Allah your protect
'May Allah (God) protect you?'
34. ەللآ(h) آپکا بھەلا کەرە
Allah your benefit
'May Allah benefit you'!
35. ەللآ(h) ھەم سەب کە ىس مەجلیس مە بەئھنە کو قۇبۇل فەرمآیە
Allah all of us this gathering in sitting of accept
'May Allah accept the sitting of all of us in this gathering'!
36. ەللآھ ھەم سەب کە بەئھنە کو قۇبۇل فەرمآە
Allah all of us sitting of accept
'May Allah accept the sitting of all of us'?

In India the two communities live together since time immemorial and have adopted and are influenced by each other's culture. In Hindi speech community, when the



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younger people bow down to touch the feet of the elder ones, in response to this, the elders give their blessings with reference to the greeter's health, prosperity and longevity. The following utterances (expressions) are used by the native speakers for this purpose.

37. jug jug jio mēre lāl
Long live my son
'May you live long, my son?'
38. bhəgwān tumhe sukhi rəkhe
Allah you happy keep
'May God keep you happy'!
39. sūkhi rəho beṭa
Happy be son
'Be happy son'! etc.



But in Urdu speaking community when a person verbally greets another person by the form 'əssəlām-ō-ələikūm' or 'səlāmōələikūm' it includes every good thing for the greetee like good health, prosperity and longevity. This form has a very wide range of meanings so Urdu speakers do not feel to say anything more apart from this. In response to the greeter's form /əssəlām-ō-ələikūm/, the greetee says /wālē kum əssəlām/. Here both the greeter and greetee are exchanging their feelings equally. There is no difference in the meanings of feelings. Due to this reason we normally do not observe more expressions between the two persons.

18. Urdu speech community: Correlation between Modes of Greetings and Modes of Address



In Urdu speech community, the modes of greetings are deeply correlated with the modes of address. The modes of greetings are used before a conversation is started and before parting. The



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greetings forms are mostly used first by the youngsters for elders or by juniors to seniors. The greetee then reciprocates by the use of appropriate modes of greetings. The modes of address can be commenced by any participant irrespective of his age, status, etc. Generally, modes of address are used along with the modes of greetings. The forms of address may either precede or follow the greeting forms:

1.

Modes of Address	+	Verbal Greetings
əmmi jān/əbbū jān		
‘mother/father’	+	əssəlāmōələikūm/səlāmōələikūm
mənējər sāb	+	səlāmōələikūm
əsləmbhāi		
‘Aslam, brother’	+	səlāmōələikūm
vəkīl sāb	+	səlāmōələikūm/əssəlāmōələikūm
bəšīr mīyān	+	səlāmōələikūm
‘Bashir’ (a muslim)	+	səlāmōələikūm
bhābi		
‘brother’s wife’	+	əssəlāmōələikūm/səlāmōələikūm
āpa		
‘sister’ +		əssəlāmōələikūm, səlāmōələikūm
xāla		
‘mother’s siter’	+	əssəlāmōələikūm, səlāmōələikūm
nāni/məməni		
‘mother’s mother/mother’s brother’s wife’	+	əssəlāmōələikūm/səlāmōələikūm

2.

Verbal Greeting	+	Modes of address
əssəlāmōələikūm	+	bhāi jān
‘brother’		
əssəlāmōələikūm	+	əbba jān/əmma jān, əbbujān/əmmijān, əbba ji/əmma ji
‘father/mother’		
əssəlām oələikūm	+	m ölvī sāb
‘One who teaches theology in a Madarsa (Islamic Institution)		
əssəlāmōələikūm	+	vakīl sāb



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‘Advocate Sir’

əssəlāmōələikum + mənəjər sāb

‘Manager Sir’

əssəlāmōələikum + dākṭər sāb

‘Doctor Sir’

ādābərz + gupta ji ‘a Hindu name, caste title’

mišra ji ‘a Hindu name, caste title’

pandit ji ‘a Hindu name, caste title’

Note: It is to be pointed out here that the greeting form <əssəlāmōələikum> is not static in its use. Another varied linguistic form <səlāmōələikum> is also used frequently by the Urdu speaker in all kinds of situations. These two greeting forms are mutually exclusive. But it is to be noted here that in a very formal gathering like jālsa ‘gala’, religious ceremony and at other formal occasions, the expression <əssəlāmōələikum> is generally used by the Urdu speaker.

Concluding Remarks:

This study has shown that the Urdu speakers in India tend to use some socio-religious greeting terms more than any other greetings. They also advice their near and dear ones including their children to use the socio-religious greeting expression /əssəlām-ō-ələikum/. ‘Peace be upon you’ while other greeting expressions are acquired in a later stage of life.

The modes of greeting in Urdu speech community in India reflect the psychological states of a greeter. He or she may find himself/herself tending to express pleasure and happiness in numerous times in day today social interactions. Therefore, ‘greeting’ is one of the expressive acts mostly used in our daily life. The present research has arrived at the following main concluding remarks:

1. Verbal or non verbal modes of ‘greeting’ in Urdu Speech Community are an expressive acts performed simply for expressing pleasure at meeting and at the time of parting.
2. The greetings in Urdu speech community are more governed by the religious norms.



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3. The 'greeting' as a speech act has its pragmatic meanings; such meanings are affected by cultural perspectives. Consequently, it is a useful tool for comparing between cultures.

4. Modes of greeting have a set of syntactic, semantic and pragmatic structures that distinguish its usage in day today social interactions. Therefore, it is not a speech act of 'welcoming' or 'saluting'. These latter acts have their distinctive uses, structures and functions which are different from the greeting. The refusal of Muslim men and women to shake hands with members of the opposite sex is a contentious issue for many people in and around the world because it contradicts the social norms that are prevalent within Western society today. In some cases, this refusal to shake hands is taken as a personal insult, embarrassing both the greeter as well as the greetee. The main reason which can be given is that the greetings among Urdu speakers (Muslims) in India are more governed by the religious norms.

Islam religion teaches that physical touching of the opposite gender in whatever form, is prohibited as a sign of modesty, humility and chastity. In addition, it is a form of respect towards the other person by acknowledging no one has the right to touch them except for their nearest and dearest. Simple differences in social and religious customs should not be a cause of enmity towards others, and Urdu speakers do not seek to offend anyone by not shaking hands or refraining from other forms of physical touching.

Among all the religions of the world, Islam is one the religions which has a clear standpoint on intermingling with the opposite gender and other things that lead to a breakdown of inhibitions between two people. Islam has stated that any form of intimate relationship, or anything that could lead to the development of such a relationship, should be under virtuous conditions (i.e., those of marriage).

The study conducted here is not an exhaustive study. There are still various ramifications of the subject that need to be handled with sharper and more sophisticated tools. Nevertheless, this sociolinguistic study may give some insight into the nature of the socio- psychological organization of our community, its rights and obligations, duties and privileges, attitude and beliefs. Last but not least, greeting provides a bridge between individuals, societies, cultures and civilizations around the world which is the need of the hour.



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Symbols:

/ā/: low central unrounded vowel as in the word / ām/ ‘mango’. /dām/ ‘price’.

/ã/: low central unrounded nasalized vowel as in / bādhnā/ ‘to tie’, /ãdhī/ ‘hurricane’.

/ə/: lower-mid central unrounded vowel as in /həsna/ ‘to laugh’. In linguistics, it is called ‘schwa’.

/ī/: / high front unrounded long vowel as in /sīkh/ ‘learn’, /mīl/ ‘miles’.

/i/: lower high front unrounded short vowel as in /imla/ ‘dictation.

/ĩ/: high front unrounded nasalized vowel as in /nəhĩ/ ‘no’, /kəhĩ/ ‘Anywhere’.

/ū/: lower high back rounded and long vowel as in /dhūp/ ‘sun light’

/u/: lower high back rounded and short vowel as in /ujla/ ‘bright’.

/ũ/: lower high back rounded and nasalized vowel as in /khũ/ ‘blood’, /jũ/ ‘As’.

/ō/: mid back rounded long vowel as in /cōr/ ‘a thief’, /mōr, ‘peacock.’

/õ/: mid back rounded nasalized vowel as in /ghõsla / ‘nest’.

/ŋ/: velar nasal as in / pətəŋ/ ‘kite’, /əŋgūr/ ‘grape’.

/ɛ/: mid-low front unrounded vowel as in /tərna/ ‘to swim’, /pəsa/ ‘paisa’.

/ē/: mid front unrounded long vowel as in /dēr/ ‘late’, /tēl/ ‘oil’.

/e/ mid front unrounded short vowel as in /behtər/ ‘better’, /cehrā/ ‘face’.

/ẽ/: mid front unrounded nasalized vowel as in /sẽkna/ to warm’

/c/: voiceless unaspirated palato-alveolar affricate as in /cərhna/ ‘to climb’

/ʈ/ or /ɽ/: / retroflex as in / pēr/ ‘tree’, /kəpṛā/ ‘cloth’.

/ġ/: ġ voiced velar fricative as in /ġəm/ ‘sad’, /ġībət/ ‘backbiting’.

/š/: ش voiceless palato- alveolar fricative as in / šru/ ‘begin’ / šru/ ‘begin’, /šēr/ ‘lion’

/q/: ق unaspirated uvular plosive as in / qələm/ ‘pen’, /qəmər/ ‘moon.’

/z/: ز voiced palato-alveolar fricative as in / zāla/ ‘hail’.

/ʔ/: ع as in /ittelāʔ/ ‘information’, /māʔsūm/ ‘innocent’.

/ɟ/: voiceless unaspirated retroflex stop as in /ɟōpī/ ‘cap’, /ɟukṛā/ ‘a piece of cloth’

/x/ خ Arabic language glottal sound in the word/ /səbāh əl-xər/

Abbreviation and Notational Conventions

< > orthographic representation

[] phonetic representation

/ / phonological (i.e. underlying) representation

=====