Address Terms in American Soap Operas. A Corpus-based Study.

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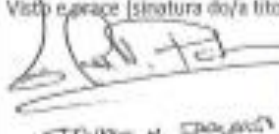
Resumo

The purpose of this project is the study of vocatives, more particularly, familiarisers in the language used by speakers in American soap operas. By the term familiariser as in "Hey, man, what are you doing?", "You are so kind, bro", "I do not know why we lost that match, boy", it is understood a form, separated from the rest of the sentence by commas (or not), to attract other people's attention or to emphasize the person to whom the speaker of the sentence is talking to (Leech 1999). Moreover, familiarisers usually adopt the form of a Noun Phrase (Huddleston 1984: 224) and they contrast with honourifics, such as sir, madam, doctor, etc. For the objective of this work I will make use of a corpus-based methodology analysing different cases extracted from the Corpus of American Soap Operas (BNC's authority). By doing this, I will be able to contrast the different uses of these address forms. Apart from the beforementioned uses, I will also focus on their main syntactic features, position in the clause and pragmatic functions.

As regards the structure of the project, it will be divided into two parts. A first theoretical part, where I will be dealing with the main characteristics of these forms according to the literature; and a practical part that will allow me to see if there is a correlation between grammar theory and the use of these terms in American Soap Operas.

References cited

Huddleston, Rodney. 1984. *Introduction to the Grammar of English*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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INDEX

List of tables

1. Introduction

Vocatives or address terms have been defined as constituents integrated into the utterance (Leech, 1999) that "designate collocutors or refer to them in some other way" (Braun, 1988:9).

> (1) Jamie: **Dude**, I know this look on your face. You're about ready to detonate.
> J.R.: I can deal. (SOAP Corpus/AMC/2004)[1]

Thus in (1) the speaker, through the vocative *dude*, creates solidarity between the collocutors (J.R. and Jamie) by telling him that he knows him well and that he can talk to him at any moment. Check how *dude* is not completely integrated into the clause: this can provoke a change of position, that is, from its initial position in (1) to the final position and maintaining almost the same effect. However, this is not totally accurate as the change of position generally implies a change in meaning.

It is not frequent that address terms in English take different forms, such as articles or determiners (Palacios Martínez, 2018: 2). Notwithstanding the beforementioned information, some vocatives can be preceded by the pronoun *you*, specially *guys* in our thesis.

> (2) Gillian: Oh, **you guys** are so wonderful. Oh, this is truly the happiest day of my life. (SOAP Corpus/AMC/2001)
> (3) J.R.: **You guys** sound so sure that it is going to happen again. (SOAP Corpus/AMC/2001)

As already noted, the position of this vocatives is relevant in the sentence too. Terms of address may take place in initial position:

> (4) J.R.: […] **Bro**, you've been punk'd. I love her. Yes, I love… (SOAP Corpus/AMC/2004)

They may also appear in the middle of the sentence:

> (5) Ben: Wow, **bro**, you really know how to turn on the charm. (SOAP Corpus/ATWT/2001)

Sometimes, they can form an entire shift:

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[1] All examples with were extracted from the Corpus of American Soap Operas (TV).

(6) Man: **Dude**
    Ryan: Let's go.
    Jonathan: Who did it?
    Ryan: Let's go. (SOAP Corpus/AMC/2006)

However, finding address terms or vocatives in final position appears to be the most common event:

(7) Damon: Thanks, **bro**. (SOAP Corpus/AMC/2010)
(8) Man: You got a problem, **bro**? (SOAP Corpus/AMC/2006)

This study sets out to explore how vocatives are encoded in American Soap Operas. More specifically, attention will be centred on how *familiarizers* are expressed by means of three established address terms, namely *dude*, *guys* and *bro*. An empirical analysis will be carried out culling evidence from one corpus: SOAP (*Corpus of American Soap Operas*). The intention is to show whether or not disparities emerge in the use of these three address terms (*dude, guys, bro)* across American soap operas.

The study is structured as follows. Chapter two exposes the different explanations with regard to the notion of vocative or address terms. Information from diverse sources, such as online dictionaries (Merriam-Webster and Cambridge) and grammar books (Biber et al., 1999; Quirk et al., 1985; Huddleston et al., 2002; among others), is provided. However, not only definitions or explanations but also different positions, functions, categories and semantics are provided.

Chapter 3 discusses the results obtained for each address term from the SOAP, regarding their frequency, position and pragmatic function. In addition, Section 3.3 will report on the overall frequencies of these vocatives in the corpus. And, from this section on, the project will be centred on the findings from the corpus, a general together with a general conclusion and the list of references.

2. Vocatives or Address Terms
2.1.   Studies on Vocatives or Address Terms – Explaining the concept

As the title of this section suggests, different definitions and explanations will be provided in order to understand perfectly the notion of vocative or address terms.

It was already advanced in the Introduction that they are constituents integrated into the utterance (Leech, 1999) that "designate collocutors or refer to them in some other way" (Braun, 1988:9). However, in spite of the fact that this is completely correct, it feels necessary to investigate deeper in the notion of vocative or address terms to provide a wide range of explanations and definitions.

First of all, the Merriam-Webster dictionary[2] provides us with two entries for the word *vocative* (\ˈvɒk.ə.tɪv\). Vocative, as an adjective, owns the following definitions:

a) Of, relating to, or being a grammatical case marking the one addressed (such as Latin *Domine* in *miserere, Domine* "have mercy, O Lord")
b) Of a word or word group: marking the one addressed (such as *mother* in "mother, come here")

However, when the vocative is defined as being a noun, it means:

c) The vocative case of a language.
d) A form in the vocative case.

This dictionary provides a very useful quantity of information about the word *vocative.* It appears that the first known use of this word comes from the fifteenth century. Finally, the word comes from the Middle English *vocative,* from Middle French, from Latin *vocativus*, from *vocatus,* past participle of *vocare* ("voice, speech").

In contrast with the abovementioned dictionary, the online version of the *Cambridge Dictionary*[3] contains less information about the notion in question. It provides, literally, the following explanations:

a) The form of a noun, pronoun, or adjective that is used in some languages when you are talking to someone or something.
b) A word in the vocative case, or a word that is used to address someone.

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[2] <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/vocative>, last access 15/05/2019

[3] <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/es/diccionario/ingles/vocative>, last access 11/06/2019

c) Relating to words used in the vocative case.

Secondly, Biber et al. (1999:140) affirm that vocatives or address terms are considered "noun phrases" and "can be freely added to the clause". They add that they are used to "single out the addressee of a message". Let's consider the following examples below:

(9) Are you singing, **MATE**?
(10) **MUM**, I'm making a sandwich.

Taking into consideration the previous examples, it can be noted that both of them are noun phrases. Both in example (9) as in example (10), the fact that these *vocatives* are addressing someone is quite evident. Indeed, *address terms* or *vocatives* are especially important in imperative clauses because "the addressee in imperative clauses is sometimes specified in the form of a subject or, more commonly, as a vocative" (Biber et al., 1999:219). The next example shows what has just been mentioned:

(11) **Melissa**, take those things away.

Biber et al. (1999:1081) consider *vocatives* or *address terms* as "an additional tag type" and that "it is a retrospective qualification of a message in the sense that it often signals an attitude to the addressee". The examples below reflect firmly the previous quotation:

(12) Hey thanks for the note, Tom. I'll follow up on that.
(13) I just give it all away didn't I Rudy my knitting?

Biber et al. (1999:1108) mention that *address terms* have a huge importance when it comes to define and sustain social relations between collocutors in conversation; in general, "vocatives maintain and reinforce an existing relationship". Related to that, there are different categories and positions that will be explained in further sections.

Turning to other eminences in this field, Quirk et al. (1985:773) define *vocatives* as an "optional element, usually a noun phrase, denoting the one or more persons to whom the sentence is addressed." *Vocatives* may take different forms: names, appellatives (terms for family relationships, titles of respect, markers of status), terms for occupations, epithets expressing an evaluation ((un)favourable), general nouns, personal pronouns (especially "you") and nominal clauses.

Quirk et al. (1985) defend that some *address terms* can be listed in more than one group. This is the case of the word "son" and "father": *son* can be used by a father and also by a superior (not a parent); *father* can be a kinship term and a status marker.

The authors also add that "most vocatives that are realized by unmodified common nouns are syntactically different from the same nouns in other functions in that they do not require a determiner". This means that the term *dear,* for instance, can be used as a vocative (as illustrated in example (14)) but that it is impossible to say *dear* in example (15).

    (14)   Come here, dear.
    (15)   Dear came here.

These situations are also shared with adjectives such as *handsome* or *stupid*. They cannot be used it such contexts either.

Otherwise, it is commonly said that the authors of *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language,* Huddleston et al., tend to differ from other grammarians. That affirmation is quite accurate because they do not contemplate a specific section for *vocatives or address terms.* However, Huddleston et al. (2002:523) said the following:

"the term 'vocative' is standardly used for both a function, as here, and, where relevant, a case (contrasting with nominative, accusative, etc.) used in vocative function. English of course has no vocative case, and hence 'vocative' is used in this grammar exclusively for the function."

Considering the previous quotation, both authors made it clear that *vocatives* or *address terms* are noun phrases in vocative function. *Vocatives* may be used to "call someone, to attract their attention, to single out one person among a group as the addressee, and so on." (Huddleston et al.; 2002: 523)

The authors concede with the others when remarking that vocative terms "convey a considerable amount about the speaker's social relations or emotive attitude towards the addressee, and their primary or sole purpose is often to give expression to this kind of meaning." (Huddleston et al.; 2002: 523)

The fact that Huddleston et al. (2002) do not contemplate a specific section for vocatives is not recent. In fact, Leech (1999: 107) notes that address terms are a "surprisingly neglected" aspect in the English language and, even though researches in relation to terms of address are traditionally entrenched, it is certain that those investigations that use a corpus-based approach to the study of address terms are under-represented.

2.2. Positions and functions

As already mentioned in the Introduction section, the different authors collide positively when it comes to the position of the terms of address. *Vocatives* may occupy initial position, medial position or final position. Sometimes they can also form an entire shift.

In Biber et al.'s results (1999: 1111), "vocatives occurring in final position are much more common than those in initial position". It is curious that the position of the address terms has to do with the length of the utterance: the author also shows that "initial vocatives tend to be associated with longer units, whereas final vocatives are associated with shorter units."

The fact that a vocative can sometimes be placed in final position or initial position is an interesting question. It feels necessary to distinguish between three different functions of address terms: (1) getting someone's attention; (2) identifying someone as an addressee; (3) maintaining and reinforcing social relationships. (Biber et al., 1999: 1112-1113).

According to the same author, a vocative placed in initial position can combine two different functions: getting someone's attention and identifying someone as an addressee. However, a vocative placed in final position tends to fuse other two different functions: identifying someone as an addressee and maintaining and reinforcing social relationships.

Finally, Biber et al. (1999) and Leech (1999) affirm that a final vocative is more frequent in American English than in British English. Consequently, reinforcing the relationship is stronger between American English speakers than British English speakers.

Returning once again to Quirk et al. (1985: 773), these authors provided the following examples to demonstrate the positions and functions of vocatives or address terms. Note how, in these examples, a vocative in medial position is added: this is something that Biber et al. did not include. Let's consider the examples below:

(16)   Kevin: **Dude**, you're a lawyer. (SOAP Corpus/YR/2010)
(17)   Dillon: Tom, **dude**, the elevators are shut down! (SOAP Corpus/GH/2004)
(18)   Noah: I'll be back. Hang in there, **bro**. (SOAP Corpus/PASS/2005)

Considering the examples above, vocatives or address terms may be placed in initial, medial, or final position.

Quirk et al. (1985: 773) named the notion of vocative a CALL. By this term, the authors provided the functions of a vocative and they referred to the action of "drawing the attention of the person or persons addressed, singling them out from the other in hearing" as in example (16) "or an Adoress, expressing the speaker's relationship or attitude to the person or persons addressed" as in examples (17) and (18).

Retaking into consideration what has been mentioned in the previous section, Huddleston et al. (2002: 523) did not approach a distinction between positions for vocatives themselves. Indeed, they said that vocatives are best seen as "a kind of interpolation – one that can appear, like certain adjuncts, in front, central, or end position."

However, they conceded with other authors, the ones cited in this thesis, when they treated vocative functions. They noted that address terms can be used:

> "to call someone, to attract their attention, to single out one person among a group as the addressee, and so on. […] Vocative terms generally convey a considerable amount about the speaker's social relations or emotive attitude towards the addressee, and their primary or sole purpose is often to give expression to this kind of meaning, as in *"Yes, sir!"* or *"I agree, my dear, that it's quite a bargain."* (Huddleston et al., 2002: 523).

Other authors such as Luckmann de Lopez (2013: 139) and Clancy (2015: 1), mention that "attracting attention appears to be a prime reason for vocative usage" and that "the predominant function of vocatives […] is as pragmatic markers (PMs) that, amongst other things, allow speakers to mitigate the hierarchical speaker relationship that characterises family discourse" respectively. These quotations show that the functions of 'getting someone's attention' and 'maintaining and reinforcing social relationships' are the most characteristic functions for vocatives.

2.3. Categories

Following the same structure as in the previous sections, Biber et al.'s approach will be treated in first term.

Biber et al. (1999: 1108) provided the following table with the different categories:

Table 1. Biber et al.'s categories on address terms or vocatives

CATEGORIES	TERMS	EXAMPLES
A. Endearments	*Baby, darling, dear, honey, hon, love, sweetie.*	19. Is that you **darling** come here sweetie pie. 20. **Honey**, can I use that ashtray please? 21. Ah, **daddy** what on earth did you let him do that for dear?
B. Family terms	*Mummy, mum, mom, ma, daddy, dad, pop, pa, da, grandma, granddad, grandpa, granny.*	22. Thanks **Mom** -okay- talk to you later – see you soon – bye. 23. I said no, no come on **Grandpa**, I'm not tired. 24. Anyway she's shouting away, **Dad dad dad**. So, I says, what? 25. **Mum**, have you ever seen a duck…
C. Familiarizers	*Guys, bud, man, dude, buddy, mate, folks, bro.*	26. Hey, **man**, I'll make this real short. What's happening, **man**? 27. It's time to light the candles, **guys**. 28. Got a ticket, **mate**? 29. Howdy **folks**! Watcha doing John?
D. Familiarized first names (shortened and/or with the pet suffix -y/-e)	*Marj, Paulie, Jackie, Tom*	30. Hey, **Mike**, grab your dominoes! 31. What I'm gonna do **Jenny** is I'm going to switch to this other printer. 32. Look here **Paulie**, you come and have a look at this. 33. **Chris, Chris**, if you hate the guy…
E. First names in full	*Marjorie, Paul, Jennifer, Thomas*	34. Huh, you get to do this next year, **Jason**. 35. Just come around this way **Muhammad**.
F. Title and surname	*Mrs Johns, Mr Graham, Ms Morrisey*	36. How ya doing **Ms**. <name>? 37. Hello **Dr. Denton**. How do you do? 38. […] Alright, **Mr Jones**? Thanks, bye.
G. Honorifics	*Sir, madam*	39. You're in the same boat as I am **sir**.
H. Others (including nicknames)	*Boy, red log, lazy, everyone, you, Uncle Joe.*	40. Hello lazy! 41. Come on **you reds**, come on **you reds**, come on **you reds** - (during a match)

Another authors, Quirk et al. (1985: 773) provided the following categories on vocatives or address terms.

Table 2. Quirk et al.'s categories on address terms or vocatives

CATEGORIES	VOCATIVES
A. Names: first/last/full name, with or without a title, or a nickname or pet name	*David, Caldwell, Sarah, Peterson, Mrs Johnson, Dr Turner, Ginger*
B. Standard appellatives	a. **Terms for family relationships**: *mother, father, son, uncle, aunt, grandfather, grandmother;* or more familiar forms like *mom(my), mum(my), dad(dy), auntie, granny, grandma, grandpa.* b. **Titles of respect**: *madam, ma'am, sir, my Lord, your Honour, your Excellency, your Majesty, your Ladyship.* c. **Markers of status**: *Mr President, Prime Minister, Father* [for Priest], *Sister* [for a nun], *Bishop, professor, doctor, general, major, vicar.*
C. Terms for occupations	*Waiter, driver, cabbie, barmaid, bartender, attendant, conductor, nurse, officer.*
D. Epithets expressing an evaluation	a. **Favourable:** *(my) darling, dear, dearest, love, honey, friend, handsome, beautiful, sweetie-pie* b. **Unfavourable:** *bastard, coward, fatty, idiot, imbecile, liar, pig, rotter, skinny, slowcoach, slowpoke, stupid, swine.*
E. General nouns (often used in more specialized senses)	*Brother, buddy, girl, guys, lady, ladies and gentlemen; man, mate, partner, son.*
F. The personal pronoun "you".	*you*

In this case, Quirk et al. (1985: 774) presents a new category that had not been included by Biber et al.: nominal clauses. The example provided is the following one:

> (42) Whoever said that, (come out here).
> (43) Whoever you are, what's your name.

Quirk et al. (1985: 774) also mentioned that "items from (a), (d), (e), and (f) may be expanded by the addition of modifiers or appositive elements of various kinds". For instance:

> (a) My dear Mrs Johnson; young David
> (b) My very dearest; my old friend; you silly bastard; you filthy liar
> (c) Old man, young man; old boy; old chap; old fellow; my dear fellow.
> (d) You over there; you with the red hair.

Finally, it had been mentioned in previous sections, Huddleston et al. (2002: 522) do not treat vocatives as a matter of study. Instead, Huddleston et al. explained the different Noun Phrases that can function in Vocative Function. The following table represents what the authors explained:

Table 3. Huddleston et al.'s categories on address terms or vocatives

CATEGORY	VOCATIVES
Personal names	*Mary, Smith, Mary Smith*
Kin terms	*Mum, mom, son*
Status	*Your Majesty, Your Highness*
Occupational terms	*Driver, officer, waiter*
General Terms	*Buddy, mate, gentlemen, guys*
Terms of endearment	*Darling, dear, honey, love, sweetheart*
Derogatory terms	*Fatty, idiot, imbecile, nitwit, slowcoach, swine*
Second person pronoun	*You, you-all, you with the glasses*

It is quite interesting that Huddleston et al. (2002) did not include Quirk et al.'s nominal clauses. Instead, the authors include a category called "compound determinatives": *somebody, anybody, everybody.*

2.4. Vocatives or Address Terms under analysis
2.4.1. Familiarizers

As mentioned in the Introduction section, this thesis is going to be about vocatives, especially those included into the category of Familiarizers.

First of all, why is this category called 'Familiarizers' if they are not fully family terms?

Biber et al. (1999: 1110) mentioned the following:

> "**familiarizers** do not require knowledge of the name of the person, or cognizance of that person as an individual. Unlike most of the other categories, they can be used in addressing strangers (however, familiarizers like *buddy (AmE)* and *mate (BrE)* may not be welcome to the addressee in this case). Familiarizers are the opposite of honorifics, in that they mark the relationship between speaker and addressee as a familiar one (often a friendly relationship between equals) rather than a more distant and respectful one."

On the other hand, Quirk et al. (1985: 774) had used another name for the familarizers: general nouns. By a brief explanation, the authors noted that those some address terms such as *son* can be used by a parent although it could be used too by a superior who is not a parent: this is what Biber et al. (1999: 1110) mentioned in the previous quotation, "they do not require knowledge of the name of the person or cognizance of that person as an individual."

Finally, Huddleston et al. (2002) took Quirk et al. (1985) as a reference for their classification. The authors did not include familiarizers and, instead of this, they used Quirk et al.'s denomination: general nouns. Huddleston et al. explained briefly that "general human nouns are often accompanied by such dependents as *my, old, young*; *my boy/girl, old chap* (BrE), *young man.*

From now on, the vocatives under analysis -and if we may say so again- will be described.

2.4.1.1.   *Guys*

The word "guy"[4] (/ɡaɪ/) or its plural form "guys" can be nouns (with two entries) and a verb (with other two entries) in the Merriam-Webster dictionary. This dictionary provides, literally, the following definitions:

As a noun (1):

a)

A. Man, fellow.
Person – Used in plural to refer to the members of a group regardless of sex.
b) Individual, creature
c) *often capitalized:* a grotesque effigy of Guy Fawkes traditionally displayed and burned in England on Guy Fawkes Day.
d) *Chiefly British:* a person of grotesque appearance.

As a noun (2): a rope, chain, rod, or wire attached to something as a brace or guide.
As a verb (1): it's a transitive verb and it means "to steady or reinforce with a guy" and (2) "to make fun of".

The first known use of the Noun "guy" is dated from disparate dates. As a noun, the word is known for having appeared in the year 1623 and 1806; as a verb, in the year 1712 and 1854. It is thought to have come from Dutch *gei*[5] 'brail' and German *Geitaue* 'brails'.

The online edition of the *Cambridge Dictionary*[6] also considers "guy" as a noun and provides different definitions for it. This dictionary defines it simply as "a man" and concedes with the abovementioned dictionary in the fact that it is used to "address a group of people of either sex". It also provides the same definition of a "rope that at one end is connected to a tent or pole and at the other end is fastened to the ground by a peg…"

In addition to this important information about the word itself, it has been mentioned beforehand in other sections that "guys", acting as a vocative, belongs to the category of familiarisers (Biber et al., 1999) or general nouns (Quirk et al. 1985; Huddleston et al., 2002).

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[4] <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/guys>, last access 25/06/2019

[5] <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/guy>, last access 25/06/2019

[6] <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/es/diccionario/ingles/guy?q=guys>, last access 25/06/2019

2.4.1.2.   Dude

Starting first with the definitions provided by the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the word "dude" (/du:d/) may be a noun and/or a verb. As a noun, it is literally defined as follows:

    a. A man extremely fastidious in dress and manner.
    b. A city dweller unfamiliar with life on the range.
    c. Fellow, guy. Sometimes used as a term of address.

As a verb, it is transitive and it means "dress up".

Its first known use as a noun is dated from the year 1877; as a verb, it is dated from the year 1899.

This dictionary does not provide enough information for its origin. However, it is mentioned in Wiktionary[7] that although its origin is uncertain, it is thought to derive from *doodle*. It is also stated that it can come from the words *dudes* and *dudesman*.

The online version of the *Cambridge Dictionary*[8] stated only that it means "man" and "any man, or one who comes from a city and dresses in a stylish way".

In addition to this useful information, this noun and vocative are also included in the category of familiarisers.

Following Kiesling (2004: 288), it can be confirmed "that dude is an address term that is used mostly by young men to address other young men […] Dude is developing into a discourse marker that need not identify an addressee, and more generally encodes the speaker's stance to his or her current addressee(s)."

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[7] <https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/dude#Etymology>, last access 25/06/19

[8] <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/es/diccionario/ingles/dude>, last access 25/06/19

2.4.1.3.   Bro

Bro /bɹoʊ/ is an abbreviation for 'brother'.

The *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*[9] states that in the US slang it refers to "a male friend" and that it is "used as a friendly way of addressing a man or boy". It is also mentioned that it is "a young male who is part of a group of similar male friends stereotypically characterized as hearty, athletic, self-confident, party-loving, etc." It is also used preceding other nouns.

It is suggested that its first known use of this abbreviation comes from circa 1530. In order to study its origin, we have to take into account that it is an abbreviation from *brother*. Consequently, according to Wiktionary[10], *brother* comes from Middle English *brother*, from Old English *brōþor,* from Proto-Germanic **brōþēr,* and from Proto-Indo-European **bʰréh₂tēr.*

Moreover, the online version of the *Cambridge Dictionary*[11] simply states that it is an abbreviation for *brother* and it is also used when talking to a male friend.

Finally, following the classifications proposed by the different authors that have been mentioned in this thesis, the abbreviation and vocative *bro* belongs to the category of familiarizers.

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[9] <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/bro>, last access 25/06/19

[10] <https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/brother#Etymology>, last access 25/06/19

[11] <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/es/diccionario/ingles/bro>, last access 25/06/19

2.5. General summary

After an arduous investigation on vocatives or address terms, this first part can conclude with some clear conclusions.

First of all, different definitions have been provided according to numerous resources, from dictionaries to grammarians. In order to sum up with the most accurate definition for the term *vocative*, it would probably be a term or terms used to address someone in a conversation.

Secondly, regarding their position, vocatives can occupy initial, middle or final position. A final vocative tends to occur in shorter utterances while longer utterances tend to use the vocative in initial position. An address term can occupy a place in the middle of the sentence, too.

Thirdly, as regards position and meaning, vocatives may occur in different functions. As already mentioned in section 2.2, we can conclude three pragmatic functions (Biber et al., 1999: 1112-1113):

(1) getting someone's attention;

(2) identifying someone as an addressee;

(3) maintaining and reinforcing social relationships;

Finally, the terms of address under analysis are: *guys, dude* and *bro.* These three terms belong to the category of familiarisers. They are used in spontaneous conversations and it does not matter whether or not the addressee is known by the speaker. Both are mainly nouns, although *guys* and *dude* can be also verbs.

3. Pilot study

3.1.   Purpose

The objective of this project is the analysis of the three selected vocatives: *guys, dude* and *bro.*

For their analysis the Corpus of American Soap Operas (SOAP Corpus) will be used.

But, why these three vocatives and not others? The answer for this is quite simple: popularity and frequency. However, this has to do with personal context: the exposure to certain shows makes it easier to be in contact with the vocatives under study. In addition, and subjectively, these vocatives are more familiar and natural than others.

3.2.   Data and Methodology

As already advanced in the Introduction section, the corpus used in this investigation is SOAP (Corpus of American Soap Operas). It contains 100 million words of data from 22,000 transcripts from American soap operas from the early 2000s, and it serves as a great resource to look at very informal language[12].

SOAP was chosen because of the increasing audience rate of TV soap operas, realities, sitcoms, and so on.

Even though the frequency of the different vocatives can vary, this thesis examines only 100 cases for each of the different address terms (*dude, guys, bro).*

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[12] https://www.english-corpora.org/soap/

3.3. Findings

If this corpus contains **100 million** words, it means that our vocatives correspond to a **4,93%** (49.346 samples) of the total number of words.

Table 4. Frequencies of the vocatives under analysis. SOAP

VOCATIVES	ABSOLUTE FREQUENCY	NORMALISED FREQUENCY
Guys	**44,429**	**0.44429**
Dude	**3,596**	**0.03596**
Bro	**1,321**	**0.01321**
TOTAL	**49,346**	**0.49346**

Table 4 shows that *guys (*44,429 samples, 0.44429 nfphtw[13]) is the most frequent vocative, followed by *dude* (3,596 samples, 0.03596 nfphtw) and *bro* (1,321 samples, 0.01321 nfphtw). Consequently, the vocatives under analysis amount to 49,346 and 0.49346 nfphtw.

Nevertheless, it should be noted that, given the considerable size of SOAP Corpus and in order to abide by the limitations of this project, it was necessary to reduce the sample to make the analysis feasible. Consequently, I first performed a random search for these vocatives reducing their number to 100 samples, weeding out instances that did not serve as vocatives.

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[13] Nfphtw: normalised frequency per a hundred thousand words

3.3.1. Guys
3.3.1.1. Frequency

As shown in previous Table 4, *Guys* appear in the corpus 44.429 times and that corresponds to a **0,44429 %** of the total.

However, for the purpose of this study only a hundred cases will be randomly extracted from the corpus for their analysis.

It is important to take into consideration that out of the 44.429 samples of the corpus, some of the examples do not correspond to a vocative. However, knowing the number of the no-vocative *guys* is hardly impossible and it needs further research. *Guys* will not be always a vocative and, in some cases, it will be reinforced with the pronoun *you.*

Out of the one hundred examples, thirteen of them are vocatives. In the remaining samples (eighty-seven), *guys* does not act as a vocative: it performs other functions within the clause such as subject. The examples below show these two results: vocative and no vocative (subject in this sample), respectively:

> (44) Philip: Have fun, **guys**. (SOAP Corpus/DAYS/2003)

> (45) Mason: **You guys** saved my evening. (SOAP Corpus/ATWT/2009)

3.3.1.2. Position

When it concerns position, we have to take into consideration that only those samples where *guys* is a vocative can be analysed. When the noun is preceded by a determiner such as "the", or sometimes a possessive such as "my", it is not a vocative.

Then, after knowing the beforementioned information, the positions of this vocative may be stated in the following table:

Table 5. Guys – Position. SOAP

Initial	Middle	Final	Entire Shift
2	3	7	1

Even though the one hundred random examples that were extracted from the corpus, only thirteen correspond to *guys* as a vocative. The following examples belong to initial, middle, final position and entire shift, respectively.

(46)   Jen: **Guys**, please stop it! Riley, don't! Stop it! Please! (SOAP Corpus/OLTL/2005)

(47) Will: Listen, **guys**, can you do me a favour and not mention to Alison? (SOAP Corpus/ATWT/2005)

(48)   Carly: There's more? Well, what is it? Come on, **guys**. (SOAP Corpus/ATWT/2009)

(49)   Chad: **Guys**! (SOAP Corpus/PASS/2002)

Those samples that do not correspond to a vocative are something like the example below:

(50) Clark: I thought **you guys** were broken up. (SOAP Corpus/ATWT/2003)

As can be observed in (50) above, that "you guys" is only a form to refer to a group of people of both sexes and it does not act as a vocative but as part of a pronoun.

3.3.1.3.   Functions

The following table shows the results for *guys*.

Table 6. Guys – Functions. SOAP

Getting someone's attention	Identifying someone as an addressee	Maintaining and reinforcing social relationships
7	1	5

Table 6 shows that, out of the thirteen cases of *guys* as vocative, seven of them perform the first function (getting someone's attention). The second function (identifying someone as an addressee) appears only once. Finally, the third and last function (maintaining and reinforcing social relationships) appears five times.

The examples below follow the previous classification respectively:

(51) Sam: Listen, **guys**, just cool it, all right? (SOAP Corpus/PASS/2004)

(52) Cyrus: Hey, **guys**. Hey, Harley. Everything all right? (SOAP Corpus/GL/2007)

(53) Jack: Uh, sorry, **Guys**. (SOAP Corpus/ATWT/2007)

Example (51) draws the attention of the others while example (52) can be a fusion of drawing attention and identifying someone as an addressee. The second function is exemplified in (52): Cyrus, the speaker, is establishing a difference and therefore identifying someone as an addressee by making the differentiation of "hey, guys" vs. "Hey, Harley". However, example (53) just reinforces social relationships: if you apologise for something you have done wrong, you reinforce that relationship.

As shown in previous Table 4, *dude* appears in the corpus 3596 times and that corresponds to a **0,03596%** of the total.

However, only a hundred cases will be randomly extracted from the corpus for their analysis.

It is important to take into consideration that out of the 3596 samples of the corpus, some of the examples do not correspond to a vocative. However, knowing the number of the no-vocative *dude* is an arduous labour that needs further research.

3.3.2.2. Position

Then, after knowing the beforementioned information, the positions of this vocative may be presented as follows:

Table 7. Dude – Position. SOAP

Initial	Middle	Final	Entire Shift
31	8	24	2

Previous Table 7 shows that thirty-one cases extracted from the corpus correspond to initial position, eight to middle position, twenty-four to final position and two to entire shift.

Witness the following examples:

(54) Kevin: **Dude**, you're a lawyer. You have to go by the books. (SOAP Corpus/YR/2010)

(55) Oliver: Cris, **dude**, I'm gay, not stupid, okay? I've seen the way. (SOAP Corpus/OLTL/2009)

(56) Nick: Looking pretty good out there, **dude**. (SOAP Corpus/YR/2006)

(57) Veteran: **Dude.** (SOAP Corpus/AMC/2008)

3.3.2.3. Functions

Table 8. Dude – Functions. SOAP

Getting someone's attention	Identifying someone as an addressee	Maintaining and reinforcing social relationships
22	15	28

Out of the one hundred samples of vocatives extracted from the corpus, only sixty-five correspond to vocatives. Twenty-two correspond to the first function in the previous Table 8, fifteen to the second function and twenty-eight to the third and last function.

The examples listed below correspond to the previous classification respectively:

(58) Man #2: Hey, thanks. Thank you. Oh, my god, **dude**. Look at how hot she is. Check it. (SOAP Corpus/DAYS/2003)

(59) Dillon: Tom, **dude**, the elevators are shut down! Even if you found an open stairwell… (SOAP Corpus/GH/2004)

(60) Steve: **Dude**, you could flash on the winning lotto number and split the money with me. (SOAP Corpus/DAYS/2009)

Example (58) is clearly drawing the attention of the addressee. The man tries to draw the attention of the other "dude" because a lady is hot. On the other hand, example (59) shows that the vocative is identifying an addressee: the fact that the vocative is preceded by a proper name means that the speaker is identifying that person ("Tom, dude…"). Finally, in example (60) the ironic tone of Steve indicates that the vocative is reinforcing or maintaining the social relationship between them.

As shown in previous Table 4, *Bro* appear in the corpus 1321 times and that corresponds to a **0.01321%** of the total.

However, only a hundred cases will be randomly extracted from the corpus for their analysis.

Out of these hundred samples, only eighty-seven act as vocatives.

It is important to take into consideration that out of the 1,321 samples of the corpus, most of the examples correspond to a vocative. The fact that *bro* is an abbreviation for *brother* implies a growth in its use as vocative: if the research was focused on *brother* rather than on *bro,* the obtention of samples performing a no-vocative function will rise.

3.3.3.2. Position

Then, after knowing the beforementioned information, the positions of this vocative may be stated as follows:

Table 9. Bro – Positions. SOAP.

Initial	Middle	Final	Entire Shift
8	9	67	3

Out of the eighty-seven cases of *bro* as vocative, eight of them occupy initial position; nine, middle position; sixty-seven, final position; and three, an entire shift.

The next examples correspond to the different samples extracted from the corpus. The extracts below follow the structure: initial, middle, final and entire shift.

(61) Benjamin: **Bro**, it wasn't even like that, yo! (SOAP Corpus/OLTL/2011)

(62) Rafe 2: Yeah, well, the problem is, **bro**, I can't come back. Not now. (SOAP Corpus/DAYS/2011)

(63) Shaun: Hey. Did you spill something, **bro**? (SOAP Corpus/OLTL/2009)

(64) Jamal: **Bro**? (SOAP Corpus/PC/2003)

3.3.3.3. Functions

After knowing the beforementioned information, the next table shows the results obtained.

Table 10. Bro – Functions. SOAP

Getting someone's attention	Identifying someone as an addressee	Maintaining and reinforcing social relationships
22	44	21

Out of the eighty-seven cases of *bro* as vocative, twenty-two of them correspond to the first function, forty-four correspond to the second function and twenty-one correspond to the third and last function.

The examples listed below follow the same structure as the previous Table 10.

(65) Frank: Look, **bro**, you know what I figured out right before I walked away from Olivia?

(66) Michael: Johnny? Is that really you in there? Is that really you, **bro**?

(67) Greg: Hey, you did your best, **bro**.

As it can be observed, example (65) is drawing the addressee's attention. The use of "look" before "bro" reinforces the idea of getting attention. In the case of example (66), the fact that the speaker is using the final vocative and asking the collocutor about his identity, means that he is identifying him as an addressee. Finally, in example (67), the fact that the speaker is congratulating the addressee ("you did your best") implies that he is maintaining or reinforcing social relationships with the collocutor.

4. Conclusions of the second part and further research

In order to conclude this thesis, we have to take into account the most relevant results extracted from the SOAP Corpus.

First of all, concerning frequencies, the vocative *guys* occupies first position with a high frequency of 44.429 (0.44429%) samples in the corpus. Then, *dude* is quite inferior with a frequency of 3.596 (0,03596%) samples in the corpus. Finally, *bro* only appears 1321 times (0,01321%).

Out of all these samples, only one hundred random examples of each vocative were extracted to perform a more feasible study. In the case of *guys*, only thirteen cases acting as vocatives could be analysed; the remaining random samples of this vocative perform other functions such as subject or object. In the case of *dude*, a similar situation takes place: sixty-five samples correspond to a vocative, while the remaining thirty-five examples perform different functions. Finally, *bro* is the one that performs mostly as a vocative with eighty-seven cases.

Secondly, concerning positions, the vocative *guys* appears twice in initial position, three times in the middle, seven times in final position and once constituting an entire shift. The vocative *dude* appears thirty-one times in initial position, eight times in the middle, twenty-four times in final position and twice constituting an entire shift. Finally, the vocative *bro* stands out from the rest: eight cases correspond to initial position, nine cases in the middle, sixty-seven cases in final position and three cases constituting an entire shift. appears more in final position. It is quite clear that those vocatives occupying an entire shift are the least used.

Finally, concerning pragmatic functions, these are subject to personal interpretations. In samples containing *guys*, the most used function with seven cases is getting someone's attention, closely followed by the function of maintaining and reinforcing social relationships with five samples. The function of identifying someone as an addressee is the least used, appearing only once. In the case of *dude,* maintaining and reinforcing social relationships is the most common function, with twenty-eight cases, closely followed by the function of getting someone's attention with twenty-two cases. Again, the function of identifying someone as an addressee is the least used with fifteen examples. Finally, the vocative *bro* reverses the current situation: identifying someone as an addressee is the most used function, with forty-four cases. The other functions, getting someone's attention and maintaining and reinforcing social relationships, maintain almost a balance with twenty-two and twenty-one cases respectively.

However, further research is needed in order to obtain more specific results on the vocatives under analysis. The fact that some of them are not used as vocatives implies that our research is not accurate enough.

Perhaps a more exhaustive investigation (one thousand samples instead of one hundred) will approach more exact results. In addition, it would be an interesting matter for investigation the study of linguistic change between soap operas throughout time.

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