

دراسة نحوية- تداولية للنداء في روايات انكليزية مختارة

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A Pragma-Syntactic Study of Vocative in Selected English Novels

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المستخلص

تسعى هذه الدراسة الى التحقق من العلاقة النحوية – التداولية فيما يخص استخدام النداء في روايتين إنجليزيّتين، تحديدا رواية أوستن (الكبرياء والتحامل) ورواية همنجواي (ثم تشرق الشمس). تعتمد هذه الدراسة أتمودج ليش (1999) في التحليل. تم اختيار 300 كلمة أو عبارة استخدمت في صيغة النداء (150 كلمة أو عبارة مستخدمة للنداء من كل رواية) بشكل عشوائي كعينة ممثلة للروايتين. حللت هذه العينة وفقا للأتمودج المتبع في هذه الدراسة. أثبتت النتائج فرضيات الدراسة كافة وأمكانية تطبيق أتمودج ليش (1999). وظيفة النداء الأكثر استخداما في كلتا الروايتين هي الوظيفة الاجتماعية والوظيفة الأقل استخداما هي الوظيفة العاطفية. وظيفتا النداء اللتان تم تحقيقهما في آن واحد (بواسطة كلمة أو عبارة نداء واحدة) هما وظيفة جذب الإنتباه مع وظيفة تشخيص (أو تحديد) المنادى أو المخاطب من جهة، ووظيفة تحديد المخاطب مع الوظيفة الاجتماعية من جهة أخرى. بالإضافة الى ذلك، الموقع الإعرابي الذي يحتله النداء في الجملة هو ذو أهمية كونه مرتبطا إرتباطا جليا بتلك الوظائف التداولية. **كلمات مفتاحية:** النداء، الموقع الإعرابي، الوظيفة التداولية، نحوي-تداولي.

Abstract

This paper attempts to investigate the syntactic-pragmatic relationship associated with vocative use in two English novels—namely, Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) and Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises* (1926). Leech (1999) is adopted as a model for the analysis of vocative in the selected novels. Three hundred vocatives are quantitatively analysed according to the model of analysis adopted in this study. These 300 vocatives (150 vocatives from each novel) are randomly selected from all over the novels as a representative sample of them. The results have verified all of the study hypotheses and proved the applicability of Leech's (1999) model. In both novels, the most frequently used function of vocative is the address function whereas the least common one is emotive function. The functions that are most likely to be simultaneously combined (by bifunctional vocatives) are the call and addressee-identifying functions on one hand, and the addressee-identifying and address functions on the other hand. Besides, the syntactic position of vocative in the sentence in which it occurs matters in the sense that it is conspicuously related to its pragmatic functions .

Keywords: vocative, syntactic position, pragmatic function, syntactic-pragmatic.

1. Introduction

Vocative has long been one of the areas that has not been extensively and adequately investigated in linguistics despite its undeniable significance in human communication. Levinson (1983:71) has noted that and referred to vocative as “an interesting grammatical category, again underexplored”. Likewise, Leech (1999: 107) maintains that vocative is “a surprisingly neglected aspect of English grammar”. In addition, vocative in English has been argued to be entirely outside of sentence structure– i.e. it is syntactically (and even semantically) totally unrelated to the sentence in which it occurs, (see Zwicky, 1974: 787; Levinson, 1983: 71; Quirk et al., 1985: 773; see also Sonnenhauser and Hanna, 2013: 11). Moreover, one of the main issues pertaining to the investigation of vocative has been the separation of levels of analysis (e.g. the syntactic and pragmatic levels). In addition, most studies concern themselves with one particular aspect of vocative (e.g. its form or function) and deem this aspect as the essential and defining one. Therefore, vocative is considered solely from a formal or functional perspective. (Sonnenhauser and Hanna, 2013: 17-18: see also Busse, 2006: 8-14).

This paper attempts to address such issues with respect to vocative use in the novels. More specifically, the present paper attempts to investigate the syntactic-pragmatic relationship associated with vocative use in two novels–namely, Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) and Hemingway’s *The Sun Also Rises* (1926). Linguistic research on vocative has focussed principally on spoken language. Moreover, novels –as written data– help the researcher avoid the subjectivity and uncertainty associated with spoken data, e.g. data transcription, identification of vocative or its syntactic position, etc. (cf. Leech, 1999: 108-115).

In this respect, it is hypothesised that in both selected novels:

1. the most frequently used function of vocative is the address function whereas the least common one is emotive function.
2. the functions that are most likely to be combined (via bifunctional vocatives) are the call and addressee-identifying functions on the one hand, and the addressee-identifying and address functions on the other hand.
3. the syntactic position of vocative in the sentence in which it occurs matters in the sense that it is related to its pragmatic functions.

This study relies primarily upon Leech (1999) as a model for the analysis of vocative. Leech (1999) provides the most suitable and effective model whereby this study can adequately address its problems, achieve its objectives and test its hypotheses (see section 3 below).

2. Theoretical Background

In this section, a survey of the definitions of vocative and its main characteristics are provided. Even though vocative has been viewed and studied from different perspectives, a number of scholars and researchers have agreed upon some of its characteristics in their attempts to define it.

2.1. Vocative: Definitions and Characteristics

The word *vocative* is of a Latin origin '*vocare*', literally meaning "to call" (Marcus, 2017: 300). Braun (1988:7) defines vocatives as "words and phrases used for addressing". Moreover, Daniel & Spencer (2009: 627) define vocative as "a form used for calling out and attracting or maintaining the addressee's attention" and further note that the vocative case is found in languages that have morphologically marked vocative forms contained within their "morphology case". Thus, they (ibid.) contend that vocative case applies to languages in which address terms constitute an integral part of "the case paradigm". Accordingly, English does not have a vocative case.

As regards vocative in English, Zwicky (1974:787) distinguishes what he calls referential noun phrases from vocative noun phrases and states that "a vocative in English is set off from the sentence it occurs in by special intonation [...] and doesn't serve as an argument of a verb in this sentence". As exemplified by Zwicky (ibid.) below, '*you*' in the first sentence does not function as an argument and is used vocatively whereas in the second sentence, it is an argument and is used referentially.

[1] *You*, hand me those forceps.

[2] You should hand me those forceps.

For Levinson (1983: 71), "vocatives are noun phrases that refer to the addressee, but are not syntactically or semantically incorporated as the arguments of a predicate; they are rather set apart prosodically from the body of a sentence that may accompany them". Biber et al. (1999:140) point out that vocatives can be freely attached to sentences. Likewise, Quirk et al. (1985:773), define vocative as "an optional element, usually a noun phrase denoting the one or more persons to whom it is addressed.". Quirk et al.(ibid.) describe vocative as an adverbial or more

like a disjunct due to its “optionality and freedom of position”, i.e. it can freely occur initially, medially, or finally in an utterance, as exemplified in the sentences below:

[3] *Sir*, I’m sorry, we’re sold out.

[4] I’m sorry, *Sir*, we’re sold out.

[5] I’m sorry, we’re sold out, *Sir*.

Besides, vocative- according to Quirk et al.(ibid.)- has a distinctive intonation that separates it from the rest of the sentence. Cruttenden (1984:44) also remarks that vocative is distinguished by means of intonation, i.e. via pauses in speaking. In writing, vocative is set off or distinguished via punctuation, especially by commas (see Leech, 1999:115; Sonnenhauser and Hanna, 2013:8). Similarly, Huang (2007:143) defines vocatives as “noun phrases that refer to the addressee, but form no part of the arguments of predicate.

Zago (2015: 185) defines vocative as an address form with three essential properties in the literature. First, vocative characteristically comprises lexical items including most commonly nouns with varying degrees of power/formality/distance or solidarity/intimacy, e.g. *mom, dude, buddy, sir, Mr* etc. as well as adjectives mostly conveying various connotations, such as endearment, teasing and so on– e.g. *dear, precious, stupid, silly*, etc (cf. Leech, 1999). Second, vocative is a peripheral element, which is neither intonationally nor syntactically incorporated into a sentence. Positionally, vocative can occur alone (in which case it is called “stand-alone”, e.g. *Ma’am!*) and can also be found initially in a sentence (e.g. *Jane, would you like to leave?*), medially (e.g. *We regret to inform you, sir, that your admission has been cancelled*) or finally (e.g. *Hurry up, sweetie*). Third, with some exceptions (e.g. *my darling*), vocative is rarely pre-modified (see also Leech, 1999:107). Additionally, Zago (ibid.: 191) elaborates that vocative is also characterized by its extreme “cotextuality” and “contextuality” to the extent that even terms of endearment can– in certain co(n)texts– be used to convey unfavourable connotations, such as insults, as in *Do you understand what I am talking about, honey, or do you need me to slow down?* (cf. Dunkling, 1990).

Accordingly, vocative is defined in this paper as any linguistic form– including words, phrases, or nominal clauses– that is used as a communicative act whereby addressing is achieved (see Braun, 1988: 7; Leech, 1999: 109; Daniel & Spencer, 2009: 627). As Braun (1988: 7) states, ‘address’ is “a speaker’s linguistic reference to his/her

collocutor(s)”. This definition does not cover those forms that are employed for initiating contact– e.g. greetings, nor does it include forms that occur as part of the predicate (i.e. functioning as arguments), such as those used for talking about others. Accordingly, vocatives are the expressions or linguistic forms that are used for that kind of addressing (ibid.).

2.2. Vocative as a Peripheral Element

Vocative as a syntactically peripheral element has been emphasised by a great number of scholars in the field (see e.g., Zwicky, 1974:787; Levinson 1983:71; Quirk et al., 1985: 773; Braun, 1988; Biber et al.,1999: 136). For Bache and Nielsen (1997: 107), vocative is similar to disjuncts in its peripherality in a sentence. Biber et al. (1999: 136-141) list vocatives among peripheral elements (as opposed to central or major clause elements, e.g. subject, object, etc.), along with detached predicatives, parentheticals, prefaces, tags (including noun phrase tags, question tags and declarative tags) and discourse markers.

In a similar vein, Busse (2006:28) remarks that Modern English cannot be said to have a vocative case because vocative in English is characterised by its “optionality and freedom of position”, as noted by Quirk et al. (1985: 773) who also emphasise the peripherality of vocative and describe it as more like an adverbial or, more precisely, like a disjunct.”

This subsection has discussed vocative as a peripheral element purely from a syntactic perspective. However, stand-alone vocatives can themselves constitute a whole turn in a conversation and thus act as a whole sentence (Leech, 1999:108; McCarthy & O’Keeffe, 2003: 156). Besides, as it is shown in this study, the syntactic position of vocative matters since it shows a relationship with its pragmatic functions (cf. Leech, 1999; McCarthy & O’Keeffe, 2003).

3. Model of Analysis and Methodology

As stated earlier, this study relies primarily upon Leech (1999) as a model for the analysis of vocative. According to Leech (1999:114-115), vocative can occur in four syntactic positions:

1. Initial position: in which vocative occurs at the beginning of the sentence to which it is attached (i.e. in sentence-initial position), as in ‘*Dough*, do you want some more ice-cream?’. Vocatives that occur in this position are referred to as ‘initial vocatives’.

2. Medial position: where vocative occurs in the middle of the sentence it accompanies, as in ‘What have we lost at home, *Paul*, this season?’. Vocatives occurring in this position are called ‘medial vocatives’.
3. Final position: in which vocative occurs at the end of the sentence to which it is attached (i.e. in sentence-final position), as in ‘Come on, *Sam*.’. Vocatives that occur in this position are referred to as ‘final vocatives’.
4. Stand-alone position: in which vocative is not attached to any sentence (i.e. it occurs alone), as in ‘*Mom!*’. Vocatives that occur in this position are called ‘stand-alone vocatives’.

In addition, this study also follows Leech (1999) in its account for the pragmatic functions of vocative. According to Leech: (ibid.: 108), there are three main “different pragmatic functions” of vocative. Thus– for Leech (ibid. 116)– vocative performs the following:

- 1- “Attracting someone’s attention”: this is the function of summoning or calling the addressee’s attention, i.e. drawing someone’s attention to let him/her know that s/he is being addressed–e.g. ‘a. *Mom!* b. What?’.

This function will be referred to as the ‘call function’ and vocatives fulfilling this function will be referred to as ‘call vocatives’ (see also Zwicky, 1974:787).

- 2- “Identifying someone as an addressee”: singling someone out as the intended addressee, i.e. distinguishing him/her from others (or other hearers) who might otherwise regard themselves as the intended addressees–e.g. ‘Hey *Ban*, do you remember the hole puncher I ordered?’

This function will be called the ‘addressee-identifying function’ or simply the ‘identification function’ and vocatives fulfilling this function will be called ‘identificational vocatives’ (see also Biber et al., 1999: 1112).

- 3- ‘Maintaining or reinforcing social relationships’: The third function of vocative, according to Leech (ibid.: 108), is to “establish or maintain a social relationship” between the addresser and addressee(s), as in ‘Oh yeah, *dude*, totally’. This function will be called the ‘address function’ and vocatives achieving this function will be referred to as ‘address vocatives’ (see also Zwicky, 1974:787; Quirk et al., 1985:773)

Notwithstanding, Leech (ibid.: 108-109) states that vocative may also serve another (less common) communicative function: “a more

directly emotive function”– e.g. when a father shouts his child’s name, as in *Ergon!* to express his anger and protest at something the child is doing. Thus– in addition to the abovementioned three main pragmatic functions, the fourth function of vocative, according to this study, is the emotive function (cf. Bache and Nielsen, 1997: 106).

In actuality, it is not always the case that a given vocative fulfils only one (single) function all the time. This study follows Leech’s (ibid.: 108-116) view that a vocative may fulfil more than one function at the same time (Shiina, 2007:30; Zago, 2015: 188-189). For example, a child may use a vocative like ‘*Mom!*’ to perform two vocative functions simultaneously, i.e. to get his/her mother’s attention and simultaneously identify her as the intended addressee. Vocatives that achieve two functions at the same time will be referred to as ‘bifunctional vocatives’ (cf. Zago, 2015: 188-189).

As mentioned previously, the data of the study are taken from two novels: Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* (henceforth P&P) and Ernest Hemingway’s *The Sun Also Rises* (henceforth SAR). 300 vocatives are linguistically analysed according to the model of analysis adopted in this study. These 300 vocatives (150 vocatives from each novel) are randomly selected from all over the novels as a representative sample of the novels under scrutiny. In addition to accounting for the frequency of use, the percentage equation is also employed as a main statistical tool. It should be noted that the present study is limited to the pragma-syntactic analysis of vocative in selected English novels. More specifically, it focusses mainly upon the interrelationship between these aspects (viz. the relationship between the syntactic position of vocative and the functions that are simultaneously combined by that vocative) in the light of the adopted model of analysis. As stated earlier, vocative is defined in this study as any linguistic form used as a communicative act whereby addressing others is achieved (see 2.1. above). Accordingly, the genre that is selected for analysis is ‘conversation’. That is to say, the analysis includes only those vocatives that are used in dialogue (between two or more interlocutors)– i.e. vocatives used for addressing (a) second person(s) to perform any of the pragmatic functions presented above (cf. Leech, 1999: 109; Daniel & Spencer, 2009: 627).

4. Data Analysis, Results and Discussion

In this section, the results obtained from the quantitative linguistic analysis of 300 vocatives (150 from each novel) are presented and discussed.

4.1. The Pragmatic Functions of Vocative in P&P and SAR

It is apparent from Table 1 that the address function is the most frequently used function of vocative in both P&P and SAR (186 uses, with a percentage of occurrence of 53.60%). Furthermore, the second most used function of vocative in both novels is the addressee-identifying function, accounting for a total percentage of 28.53%, followed by the call function (12.10%). By contrast, the least utilised function of vocative in both P&P and SAR is the emotive function (5.76%).

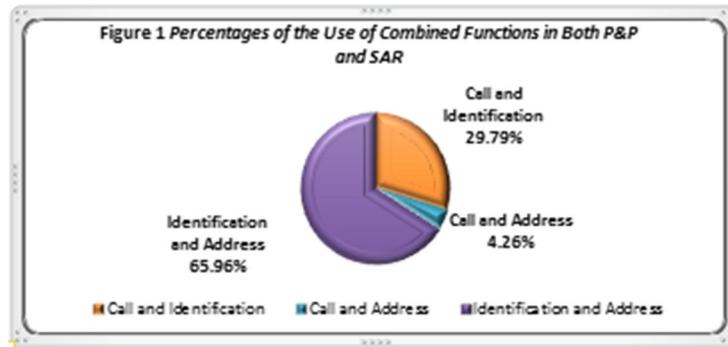
Table 1 Frequency of Pragmatic Functions of Vocative in P&P and SAR

Pragmatic Functions	P&P		SAR		Total	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
Call Function	27	15.34%	15	8.77%	42	12.10%
Identification Function	53	30.11%	46	26.90%	99	28.53%
Address Function	87	49.43%	99	57.89%	186	53.60%
Emotive Function	9	5.11%	11	6.43%	20	5.76%
Total	176	100%	171	100%	347	100%

It can be noticed that the total number of functions of vocatives (in each novel or sample) exceeds the total number of vocatives (by 26 in P&P and 21 in SAR, as detailed in Table 2). This is due to the fact that there are vocatives that perform two functions at the same time (i.e. bifunctional vocatives, which combine two functions simultaneously), and both of these simultaneous functions are taken into account (resulting in a total of 47 combined functions; 26 in P&P and 21 in SAR). Table 2 shows which functions are simultaneously combined (via bifunctional vocatives) and the number of their occurrences. Their percentages of use are illustrated in Figure 1.

Table 2 No. of Occurrences of Combined Functions of Vocative in P&P and SAR

Combined Functions	P&P	SAR	Total
Call and Identification	10	4	14
Call and Address	1	1	2
Identification and Address	15	16	31
Total	26	21	47



Noticeably, the functions that are most likely to be simultaneously combined in both P&P and SAR are the identification and address functions (31 occurrences, 65.96%). The call and identification functions come in second, with a total of 14 occurrences (29.79%), but they are less than half as frequent as the identification and address functions. The least simultaneously combined functions in both novels are the call and address functions (amounting only to 4.26% of use).

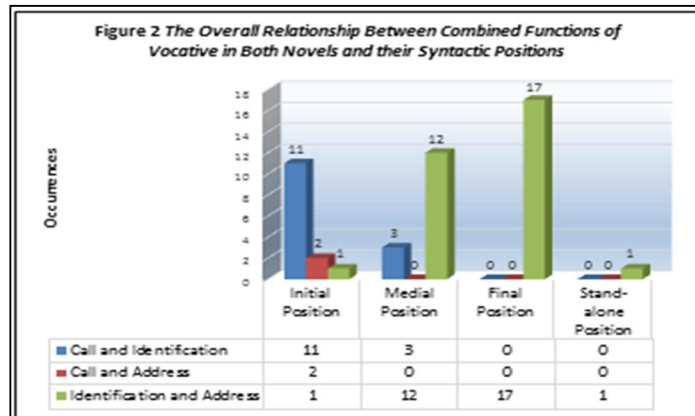
4.2. The Syntactic Positions Associated with Simultaneously Combined Functions in P&P and SAR

In order to uncover the syntactic-pragmatic relationship associated with vocative use in the novels under investigation, the syntactic positions in which functions are most likely to be combined are accounted for. Accordingly, Table 3 shows in detail the syntactic positions in which simultaneously combined functions occur (i.e. the syntactic positions of the bifunctional vocatives that perform these combined functions).

Table 3 *The Syntactic Positions Associated with Simultaneously Combined Functions in P&P and SAR*

Combined Functions	Initial Position		Medial Position		Final Position		Stand-alone Position	
	P&P	SAR	P&P	SAR	P&P	SAR	P&P	SAR
Call and Identification	8	3	2	1	0	0	0	0
Call and Address	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Identification and Address	0	1	9	3	6	11	0	1
Total No.	9	5	11	4	6	11	0	1
Total Percentage	34.62 %	23.81 %	42.31 %	19.05 %	23.08 %	52.38 %	0%	4.76%

As clearly indicated in Table 3 and Figure 2, the call and identification functions– in both P&P and SAR– are most likely to be combined by initial (bifunctional) vocatives –i.e. 8 out of 9 initial vocatives in P&P and 3 out of 5 initial vocatives in SAR combine the call and identification functions. The identification and address functions, however, are more likely to be combined by vocatives in medial and final sentence positions: 9 out of 11 and 3 out 4 medial vocatives, in P&P and SAR respectively, combine the identification and address functions and so do all final bifunctional vocatives in both novels (6 out of 6 and 11 out of 11 final vocatives in P&P and SAR respectively). Figure 2 further illustrates the overall connection between all the combined functions (of bifunctional vocatives) and their corresponding syntactic positions in both novels.



5. Discussion of Results

The results have revealed that the most frequently used function of vocative in both P&P and SAR is the address function (there are 87 address vocatives in P&P and 99 ones in SAR, with a total percentage of use of 53.60%; see table 1). This finding indicates that vocative function of establishing, maintaining or reinforcing social relations is noticeably more significant than its other functions (see Leech, 1999: 117). Likewise, previous studies have emphasised the importance/prominence of the address function of vocative (see Zwicky, 1974: 791; Sonnenhauser and Hanna, 2013: 13,17). Conversely, the emotive function of vocative is not prominent in the novels under scrutiny—i.e. it is the least utilised function of vocative in both P&P and SAR, accounting for a total percentage of 5.76% (see also Leech, 1999: 108-109). Furthermore, it has been argued that call vocatives occur typically in initial position due to their attention-getting function. In other words, they act as attention-getters, drawing the addressee's attention to let him/her know that s/he is being addressed. Hence, vocatives occurring in sentence final-positions are no longer needed for calling the addressee's attention —i.e. the addressee is already paying attention (Leech, 1999: 117; Shiina, 2007: 19). Final vocatives are typically used to achieve the function of establishing, maintaining or regulating relationships, in which case the intended addressee is already paying attention (see also Leech, 1999: 117; Shiina, 2007: 19). Hence, there are no final vocatives in both P&P and SAR that achieve the call function or combine it with any other function (see Table 3).

Thus, Leech (1999: 116) posits that vocative pragmatic functions play a key role in answering the question why an initial position is selected in some cases whereas a final position in others (cf. McCarthy & O'Keeffe, 2003: 165-168; see also Sonnenhauser and Hanna, 2013: 12-13). In this respect, Leech (ibid.) suggests that initial vocatives combine the call function with the addressee-identifying one and final vocatives are more likely to combine the addressee-identifying function with the address function. Similarly, it has been found in this study (see Table 2 and Figure 1) that the functions that are most likely to be simultaneously combined (via bifunctional vocatives) in both P&P and SAR are the identification and address functions in addition to the call and identification functions. Typically, the call and identification functions—in both P&P and SAR—are combined by initial vocatives whereas the identification and address functions are combined by vocatives in both

medial and final positions (see Table 3 and Figure 2). Such interrelationships or connections point to the significance of vocative syntactic position and hence can be deemed as evidence against the view that vocative is entirely outside of sentence structure– i.e. total syntactic unrelatedness of vocative to the sentence in which it occurs (see also Sonnenhauser and Hanna, 2013: 11).

6. Conclusions

The present study has arrived at the following conclusions:

- * The first hypothesis is verified. The address function of vocative prevails in both P&P and SAR. In other words, vocative function of establishing, maintaining or reinforcing social relationships is conspicuously more significant than its other functions. The second most used function of vocative in both novels is the addressee-identifying function, followed by the call function. Conversely, the emotive function of vocative is not prominent in the novels under scrutiny (i.e. it is the least common function of vocative in both P&P and SAR).
- * The second hypothesis is verified. In both novels under study, the functions that are most likely to be combined (by bifunctional vocatives) are the call and addressee-identifying functions on one hand, and the addressee-identifying and address functions on the other hand. The call and address functions are rarely combined whereas the addressee-identifying and address functions are the most frequently combined functions of all.
- * The third hypothesis is verified. Even though vocative in both P&P and SAR is syntactically non-integrated or unbound in the sense that it does not function as an argument and can, therefore, be removed from the sentence without affecting its grammaticality, there is a clear connection or relationship between the syntactic position of vocative and its pragmatic functions. In both novels, initial (bifunctional) vocatives are most likely to simultaneously combine the call and addressee-identifying functions whereas final vocatives typically combine the addressee-identifying function with the address function. In addition, the present study has further found that medial vocatives in both P&P and SAR also combine (but not as frequently as the final ones) the addressee-identifying and address functions (i.e. 9 out of 11 and 3 out of 4 medial vocatives, in P&P and SAR respectively, combine the identification and address functions and so do all final bifunctional vocatives– 6 out of 6 and 11 out of 11 final vocatives in P&P and SAR respectively combine these functions).

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