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Introduction

RESEARCH PAPER

A Corpus-based Study of Endearment Terms in Sheraz's Selected Novels

Behzad Anwar

Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Gujrat, Pakistan , Punjab, Pakistan

| *Corresponding Author | behzad.anwar@uog.edu.pk |

ABSTRACT

Based on Wardhaugh and Fuller (2014) and Yang's (2010) ideas in relation to use and function of endearment terms, the present study delves deeply into the use of endearment terms in Qaisra Sheraz's Novels Corpus (QSNC). With an aim to see how endearment terms work to detain gender stereotypes in a literary text the researcher utilizes the theory of benevolent sexism as proposed by Glick and Fiske (2001) and extended by Boasso et al., (2012). The main objective of the study is to examine how the endearment terms like dear, darling, honey and love have been used by Qaisra Sheraz in her selected novels. Following a mix method approach, the researcher has collected the data from QSNC. Close reading and note-taking techniques have been applied in this research and data have been collected following a purposive sampling technique. Data collection was followed by data display and data discussion leading to conclusion drawing. The study has found a total number of 144 endearment terms out of which 69 terms (48%) are used by females for females, 51 terms (35%) are used by male for female characters while only 24 terms (17%) are used to address male characters by female characters. Not a single endearment term is used by any male character to address any male character. The findings indicate that "dear" with a percentage of 65 % occurrences in the corpus is the most frequently used endearment term in the corpus. "Darling" is the second most frequent term used for 30% times while "love" and "honey" appear with 3% and 2% respectively. The choice of these terms is based on the level of intimacy and the domain of love and family is covered by these terms.

| KEYWORDS | Address Terms, Darling, Dear, Endearment Terms, Honey, Love, QSNC |

Introduction

The terms used while addressing each other during an interactive session are called address terms. According to Trudgill (2000), these terms can be words or phrases which are used during correspondence and meetings to address each other. Earlier Fasold (1987), too, elaborated the idea of these terms when he claimed that these terms are those words which are used by the speakers to refer to a person they are speaking to. The concept of these terms was further extended by Esmae'li (2011) who defined these terms in relation to context that how these address terms are used in interactional and face-to-face situations to address the addressee. Mardiha (2012) considers address term as a linguistic expression which is used in a dialogue to grab the attention of any participant of the conversation. These address terms give a few ideas regarding the status, role and relationships of both the addressee and the addresser (Özcan, 2016). But there exists an uncertainty regarding how to address others (Rahmadani & Wahyuni, 2018). The choice of address term depends upon several factors as stated by several sociolinguists. According to Holmes (2013), these are the sex, age, family, social status and occupational or social backgrounds which influence the choice of these terms. The focus of the other researchers was the social factor where they assert that the nature

of occasion, family setup, kinship, transactional status and race determine our choice of address forms.

Different address terms carry different functions and meanings depending upon the nature of contact and situational context. While discussing the functions of address terms, Yang (2010) elaborates three functions of these terms. The first function is to draw the attention of the people which highlights the relationship between the interlocutors. The second function fulfilled by these terms is to show politeness/impoliteness, the level of relationship based on equality/inequality and the level of respect in certain situations. The third function fulfilled by these terms in any communication is related to social information of the addressers and addressees where these hint upon the age, sex, gender and social stratification of the participants.

Certain types of address terms will carry different types of functions. Widiatmaja (2014) states that address terms are often part of greeting. Addressing and greetings can express the same meaning that shows strength and solidarity. The functions of address terms are to show intimacy, difference in strength, and respect. The relationship between the speaker and the listener can be seen from the use of certain types of address terms. Depending on the function and nature of address terms, these terms are divided into different categories. Biber et al. (2021) have divided these terms into different categories namely; endearments, family terms, familiarizers, familiarized first names, first names in full, honorifics and some others. Another division of these terms is given by Huddleston et al. (2005) which includes personal names, kin terms, status, occupational terms, derogatory terms and terms of endearment.

Research Questions

1. To what extent do men/women use terms of endearment and with reference to which gender?
2. How does the novelist use endearment terms like dear, darling, honey and love in her selected novels?

Literature Review

Endearment terms are one of the types of address terms which are discussed and defined by different linguists and sociolinguists (Afful & Nartey, 2018; Al-majali & Al-- haq, 2021; Khalil & Larina, 2022; Widiatmaja, 2014). The endearment terms are defined as the words or phrases which are used to address those persons during communication for which one can have strong feelings of love or affection. Such terms where one's emotions are involved may carry a romantic tone where nick names or pet names can also be used to address (Salihu, 2014). Hence, these terms may be some sweet words showing an affection through the use of soft and sweet pet names (Grząśko, 2015). Endearment terms can be equal to the pet names. These pet names or nick names hint upon the degree of intimacy between the interlocutors as well. These terms show the degree of closeness between the speakers. Hence, the higher level of intimacy allows the use of these address terms. This idea goes with Khalil and Larina (2022) who assert that endearment terms show intimacy.

Words like honey, love, sweetheart, dear, darling, mate, buddy and sweetie are the endearment terms. These words are used to address the persons for whom the addresser feels love or affection (Afful & Nartey, 2018). Crystal as cited in Khalil and Larina (2022) considers words such as love, honey, mate as endearment terms when these are used to show intimate relation. Later, honey and sweetheart were included in the list of endearment terms.

The choice of these endearment terms depends upon several factors where the degree of intimacy is the most prominent one. These terms are used between the people who are highly intimate like lovers or between the people who are having strong emotional attachment like parents and children. Hence, context and the role of the addresser and addressee determine the choice of endearment terms (Khalil & Larina, 2022). Other than these emotional contexts, endearment terms can also be used depending upon the gender and social status of the participants. For example, the term "dear" is commonly used between strangers when they are meeting for the first time in a particular situation. These terms are mostly used in informal situations where the level of intimacy is higher (Nalendra et al., 2018). For example, Wardhaugh and Fuller (2014) give an example of the situation where parents like to address their children with these terms to show their love and affection for them. Other than this parent to children pattern, these terms are also used in adult-child interaction (Baumgarten, 2021). In such a situation the speakers either use the existing terms or coin their own terms from existing norms and routine practices. These endearment terms are also used by the lovers when they are to show their love and passion for each other.

Afful and Nartey (2018) have classified these terms into different categories depending upon the themes like epithet, flora terms, royalty terms and coinages from personal names. Another classification comes from Grząśko (2015) who gives Foodsemy, Zoosemy, Plantosemy, Royal terms, Sky terms and terms related to child category. The findings of Al-Majali and Al- Haq (2021) go a step further and add the terms related to physical appearance, religious and regional and cultural beliefs of the addressee, his or her occupational status and kinship relationships as well. Other than these categories, endearment terms have been analyzed and studied from different perspectives in different contexts to see their function. For example, it is maintained that these terms show intimacy, closeness, playfulness and sociability of the students (Afful & Nartey, 2018). These terms have also been analyzed in familial domain. The study of the interaction among inter generation in Italian and Swedish family has shown that these terms are used to maintain and show intimacy, and these are the parents who use more endearment terms instead of their children (Pauletto et al., 2017). Other than parental context, the spouses' use of address terms has shown that young couples use more endearment terms as compared to the aged ones (Al-Majali & Al-Haq, 2021). However, in public talk these are the men who use more endearment terms, and this is the result of their power and status that they possess in a society.

Research Methodology

Following a mixed method approach, the present study carries out data collection and data analysis process by taking insight from several theories related to the use of endearment terms. The ideas of Wardhaugh and Fuller (2014) and Yang's (2010) in relation to endearment terms are given consideration where focus has been on linguistic sexism with an underpinning of benevolent sexism (Boasso et al., 2012; Glick & Fiske, 2001). Corpus methodology has been used to collect data. The data are collected form Qaisra Sheraz's three novels namely *The Holy Woman* (2001), *Typhoon* (2003) *and Revolt* (2013). The researcher compiled a corpus with total number of 40940 tokens. To compile a corpus, these three novels were collected in an electronic form where the pdf form of these texts was converted into txt form. The corpus of these texts was searched for set search terms. Based on purposive sampling the researcher in the first step decided upon the search terms to be searched for in the corpus utilizing AntConc (3.2.1) cluster and concordances programs. The search words belonging to endearment terms categories set for this study are; "dear", "darling", "honey" and "love". The total occurrences of these terms were noted and then concordances program was utilized for two reasons. Firstly, it helped the researcher to determine the number of cases in which each of these terms was used as an endearment term and secondly, it helped the researcher in reading the concordance lines for each of these occurrences. These readings then

were analyzed in relation to the sexists or nonsexist use of these terms in the text. Hence, the study follows a three-step approach; data reduction, date presentation and the conclusion drawn based on the findings. The data are displayed in the form of tables where findings are given in frequencies. The data have been discussed qualitatively with the help of these frequencies and the use of endearment terms in different contexts. Examples are given from the text where necessary to support the point of discussion.

Results and Discussion

The study was delimited to find out the use of selected endearment terms in QSNC. The four terms selected for analysis are; "dear", "darling", "honey" and "love". Table 1 gives an overview of a total number with a division of these terms category-wise. A total number of 144 terms were selected as data for this study. It has been found that Sheraz used the endearment term "dear" in most of the cases where it is used for 94 times in the corpus. The second most frequent term is "darling" which is used for 43 times in the texts. "Honey" appears as the third most frequent term with a total number of 3 occurrences while the least used term is "love" which is used for 4 times in QSNC.

Table 1
Use of Dear, Darling, Honey and love as Endearment Terms in QSNC

Endearment Terms	Total	M to F	M to M	F to M	F to F
Dear	94	38	0	11	45
Darling	43	10	0	11	22
Honey	3	3	0	0	0
Love	4	0	0	2	2
Total	144	51	0	24	69

Use of Endearment Term "Dear" in QSNC

The most frequent endearment term used in the corpus is the term "dear" which has been used for 94 times in the selected texts. From benevolent sexism point of view, it is noted that it has been used in a few patterns based on the gender of the addressee and the addresser. The traditional view that this term is used to show affection and love for the females and is mostly used by the males is reversed in this text. It is noted that this term is used by the females to address the females (45), by males to address females (38) and by female to address males (11) as well.

First considering F to F pattern of "dear", it is noted that this term is used in familial and friendship contexts mostly. The functioning for this term depends upon the context and gender roles of the participants as well. For example, the use of "dear" to address daughter by the mother shows the parental love for their children as given in examples 1- 9. These examples show the care and affection of a mother for her daughter which she expresses her love by using the term "dear" for her daughter.

1. *We have got some good news for you,* ***my dear.***

2. *Daniela, you can't be serious,* ***my dear.***

3. *It frightened your father****, my dear.***

4. *Please tell me what's wrong,* ***my dear.***

5. ***My dear,*** *your husband loves you. How can you doubt that****?***

6. ***My dear?*** *You are doing a great injustice to both your husband and to yourself.*

7. *You have still not learnt the lesson, **my dear daughter.***

8. *Forget the past and this moment, **my dear.** Start afresh **my daughter.***

9. *What's on your mind, **my dear?***

Another context in which "dear" is used to show affection and love is the context where sisters are involved in an interaction. Examples 10-21 show the use of this term dear with pre modifier "my" and the post modifier "sister" or "sisters" to show intimacy and strong bonding of the sisters. Hence, the term "dear" is not specific to the domain of love only.

10. *I know you will, **my dear sister.***

11. *Goodbye, **my dear.***

12. *Kaniz, **my dear sister.***

13. *Love is what you are fighting here, **my dear sister.***

14. *We have got some good news for you, **my dear.***

15. *It's all right, **my dear sisters.***

16. ***My dear***, *are you all right.*

17. *There is only one thing you can do, **my dear sister.***

18. *No, **my dear sister,** she hasn't.*

19. *Inside, **my dear sister,** I am a fragile, tottering, wreck.*

20. *Hush, **my dear.** I will stay with you as long as you like.*

21. *Long enough**, my dear sister,** to make me so proud of you.*

The third pattern found with the use of "dear" is where it is used to address a daughter-in-law by her mother-in-law as given in the examples 22-25.

22. *How was your journey, **my dear?***

23. *Welcome to your new home, **my dear.***

24. *Celebrate it as a blessing, **my dear.***

25. *Place it on that table, **my dear.***

Other than this familial domain, "dear" is also used in friendship circle by the females to address their female friends as given in examples 26-30. This endearment term shows informality and relationship of intimacy between the speakers.

26. ***My dear,*** *I will not let you appear in a burqa at the party.*

27. ***Oh my dear***, *you look wonderful.*

28. *Take a rest, **my dear.***

29. *Allah hafiz, **my dear friend.***

30. *Are you all right, **my dear?***

Another pattern though less examples are found for it is the pattern where a mistress addresses her helper when she allows her helper to go and take rest as given in example 31. Likewise in example 32, the mistress asks about the worried condition of her servant. Such a use of "dear" hints upon how endearment terms are used in some case to appear more polite in a particular context based on upper and lower status of the participants.

31. *Of course, **my dear,** go and lie down. Jennat Bibi affectionately ushered her out of the kitchen.*

32. *Are you all right, **my dear?***

Other than this F-to-F use of "dear", M to F pattern of "dear" is also noted in QSNC where this term is used for 38 times in this way. The contexts show how a male addresses a female using "dear" as an address form. And again, in this pattern these are the familial domains that show a use of this term by a male for a female. For example, in the conversation taking place between a father and daughter, the father addresses his daughter by addressing her either "my dear" (examples 33-37) or by "my dear daughter" (examples 38-40) or by "my dear + name" pattern (example 41). All these examples show the affectionate and caring nature of the father towards his daughter.

33. *Gulbahar, whatever you wish will happen, **my dear.***

34. *Is that the truth**, my dear**, Habib interrupted?*

35. *Laila, **my dear**, please take your husband upstairs.*

36. *Who had you thrown out, **my dear?***

37. *Kaniz, **my dear**, what are you doing here sitting in the middle of the path?*

38. *I haven't been able to talk to you or to comfort you, **my dear daughter.***

39. *Are you all right, **my dear daughter?***

40. ***My dear daughter,** I would give anything to have the old Zarri Bano back again.*

41. ***My dear Kaniz,** don't get carried away now.*

Likewise in example 42, a male relative is consoling his female relative by using the endearment term "dear" which reflects the love and care of the male towards a female.

42. *Do you think we would have let all of this happen to you, **my dear?***

The situational context where a husband addresses his wife also shows the use of this term "dear" as an endearment term. Following examples taken from QSNC show such a usage where this term "dear" is used with different patterning. In examples 43-45 the wife is addressed as "my dear" while in examples 46-48, the addresser ads his life partner's role as a wife by adding "wife" with "my dear" as a post modifier.

43. *As parents of a daughter, we are not culturally meant to feel happy, **my dear.***

44. *It is all right, **my dear.***

45. *You are a good wife, **my dear.***

46. *You'll make a great advocate in Saher's court, **my dear wife.***

47. *Oh Ruby! **My dear wife!** he wept, closing his eyes tightly.*

48. *Thank you, Zulaikha, **my dear wife.***

49. *But **Zulaikha my dear, dear wife,** I would at this moment give anything to swap my role with any other man.*

50. *Naghmana, Naghmana, **my dear,** what are you saying?*

51. *Oh, **my dear Zarri Bano**, I am sorry that you feel that way.*

The interesting pattern of husband wife address form is where the husband adds the name of his wife either before the endearment term "dear" (examples 49 & 50) or after the term "dear" (see example 51). Example 49 is important to analyze as it hints upon the use of the repetition of the same endearment term to address the addressee to show the intensity of feelings for one's wife.

Other than father-daughter and husband-wife patterns, the endearment term "dear" is used by father-in-law for his daughter-in-law as well which shows the strong family traditions of the Muslims based upon the love and respect for the women. Examples 52 and 53 show the use of this term with premodifier "my" while example 54 in which the term dear is used as "dearest" in a repetition shows the love and regard of the man towards his daughter-in-law.

52. *Go home, **my dear**, I will deal with this ugly matter.*

53. *Shahzada, **my dear**, could you please take the children outside?*

54. *Shahzada, **my dearest, dearest** of daughter-in-laws.*

Analyzing third pattern where a female addresses a male by using endearment term "dear" reveals that a mother uses "dear" to address his son to show her love for him (examples 55-57). Likewise in examples 58-62, the woman addresses her husband by calling him "my dear" or by "my dear husband" to show her obedience and love towards her husband.

55. You must, **my dear**. Your mother loves you dearly.

56. I am not at all offended by your suggestion, **my dear son.**

57. Of course, **my dear,** please do.

58. How grand of you, **my dear husband?**

59. I have faith in you, **my dear husband.**

60. Be fair**, my dear husband.**

61. I cannot win, can I, **my dear husband**?

62. Are they though, **my dear Habib?**

Another familial relationship addressed through endearment term "dear" is that of a brother where a sister addresses her brother as "my dear brother" (example 63) or by adding his name with this phrase "my dear brother" as given in example 64. Likewise, an aunt, woman, while addressing her nephew adds "dear" as a premodifier to the term "nephew" to show her emotional attachment to her blood relation.

63. They are not pearls, **my dear brother.**

64. Our paths, though they have crossed yet again, are never destined to merge, **my dear Brother Sikander**.

65. Kaniz was sitting in the other room. Well, **my dear nephew**, you are very quiet.

Use of Endearment Term "Darling" in QSNC

The second search term "darling" is an endearment term that is defined by the OED as "a person who is very dear to another; the object of a person's love; one dearly loved." (OED, 2012). "Darling" as an endearment term is used 43 times in QSNC. The division of this term according to the gender of characters reveals that this term is mostly used by the females to address other female characters with 22 examples used in the text. The second most frequent pattern identified is that of female to male where female characters address male characters by addressing "darling" (11 examples). And the male characters address female characters for only 10 times in QSNC by calling them "darling". This goes with the findings of Martinger (2013) who claims that darling is used mostly by women addressing men It is interesting to note that no male character addresses other male character through this endearment term. The following discussion presents an analysis of these patterns with relevant examples from the text highlighting the gender roles of these characters in relevant situations.

First considering mother daughter relationship, the text has provided the examples where mother addresses her daughter either as "my darling" (examples 66-73) or "my darling daughter" (examples 75 &76). The only example where the name of the daughter is used with this endearment term is "my darling Ruby" as given in example 74. The context of these examples where mother calls her daughter her darling shows a deep emotional attachment of the mother and daughter. The mother through this endearment term "darling" shares her emotions either those of love (66, 67 & 68), care (69), anger (71) or trust bonding (72, 73) or those of providing moral support (76) to her daughter.

66. *I am making a welcoming flower garland, **my darling.***

67. *For a very special person, **my darling**, she whispered.*

68. *Just a nice lady, **my darling.***

69. *At first for your sake, **my darling**, I was afraid that perhaps the other husband might reject you.*

70. *Ruby, you too must go, **my darling.***

71. *I have lost my appetite, **my darling**. I am just so angry.*

72. *Hush, **my darling.** Cry, if that's what you want to do. You can trust me with your feelings.*

73. *I understand how you are feeling, **my darling,** but you will change.*

74. *Ruby, **my darling Ruby**, listen to me.*

75. *You must be imagining it, **my darling daughter.***

76. *Hush, hush, **my darling daughter.** It is going to be all right. Your mother is here to take care of you.*

Other than mother and daughter relationship, the use of endearment term "darling" to address a sister is also noted. Examples 77-81 exhibit the use of this term in relation to sister as described in phrases "my darling sister". Examples 82 and 83 show how "darling" is used to address a sister where her name is also given. These examples show a strong bonding and relationship of companionship between sisters.

77. *I'm so sorry that this has happened to you, too, **my darling sister.***

78. *My **darling sister**, you cannot die.*

79. *No, **my darling sister**, why should he be angry with you.*

80. *You must rethink, **my darling sister**. You need a male companion.*

81. *Yes I am, **my darling sister**, because I love you so much and I care about you.*

82. *Mehreen, **my darling**, spoilt sister.*

83. *Let's celebrate. Laila, **my darling**, come and join me.*

84. *Get dressed, **my darling.** I'll get breakfast ready for my lovely, favorite girl. Turning and smiling at her niece.*

Likewise, an aunt also addresses her niece by calling her "my darling" as given in example 84. Such a usage of this term "darling" shows that this term is not always there to be exchanged between lovers, but it can be used to address familial relations to show love and affection for them.

The second pattern where "darling" appears an address form is when a female addresses a male to show her love. The first pattern is that of a parental love where the elder females address the male child by calling him "my darling" as given in examples 85-89. In these examples the *khala*, a child's aunt, is consoling her nephew by calling him "my darling" after the death of his mother. Such a description shows her sheer love, care and concern for the child.

85. *It is all right, **my darling.***

86. *Yes, I am, **my darling.** I am crying for your mummy.*

87. *Why are you crying, **my darling?***

88. *But you have to go home, **my darling.***

89. *No, my darling, it was just a dog in the street.*

The other contexts in which this term is used to address a male by the female are those of a brother sister relation or those of the lovers. In examples 90 and 91 a sister addresses her dead brother by calling him "my darling" and "my darling brother" to show her intensity of love and grief at the same time. Likewise, in examples 92 and 93 the care and concern of a mother is highlighted when she addresses her son as "my darling" to show her love for him.

90. *Wake up, Jafar, **my darling**! It is past the afternoon! Wake up, Jafar!*

91. *No! No! No! **My darling brother!** Her mouth trembling, she let out a piercing scream.*

92. *Remember one thing, when you grow up, never hurt your parents, **my darling.***

93. *I promise. Just check into a hotel, **my darling.***

The female, too, addresses her male lover by using endearment term "darling" as given in examples 94 and 95.

94. *I miss you so much, **my darling Arslan**. I can't wait to see you.*

95. *I want to go on kissing you, **my darling.***

The third pattern of the use of "darling" is the one where a male addresses a female by using this endearment term. The two contextual situations are identified in this pattern. Firstly, this term is used by a husband to address his wife as given in examples 96-100 where a husband shows his kindness towards his wife in the form of gifts or allowing her to take rest. In examples 99 and 100 the term "my darling" is preceded by wife's name to reflect his love and intensity of his feelings for his wife.

96. *You can sleep all day, **my darling.***

97. *They are all yours, so open the boxes and look inside, **my darling!***

98. *These are all for you, **my darling**. But how are we going to take them.*

99. *Ruby! Ruby! **My darling.***

100.   *Oh, Naghmana, I am so, so sorry! Forgive me for placing you in this mess **my***

     ***darling**, he begged dully.*

Other than used by husband, the term "darling" is also used by a male lover to address his female beloved. The passionate lover either thanks his beloved (101) or requests her to get happy (102) or suggests something to her (104 & 105). All these uses show how darling can be used as an endearment term to show the love and passion of a lover for his beloved.

101.   *Thank you, **my darling**, for this immediate graduation into manhood.*

102.   *I know, **my darling**. Cheer up now and smile.*

103.   *Quite a greedy girl, aren't you, **my darling.***

104.   *I think after our kissing and for your reputation's sake, **my darling,** it's best that I*

     don't sleep under the same roof.

105.   *Make space for me there, please, even a tiny one will do,* ***my darling.***

Use of Endearment Term "Honey" in QSNC

In comparison to endearment terms "dear" (section 4.1) and "darling" (section 4.2), the endearment term "honey" is used only three times in the text. Though used less in number, it is important to note the context and gender of the addresser and addressee for this term as appearing in QSNC. This term is noted for only one pattern where it is used by the male to address a female. Examples 106-108 show the use of this term by a male addresser. The analysis of the context retrieved through concordances for each example has shown that this term "honey" is used by a man for his female beloved. For example, the male character leans against the female and touching her cheeks asks about her by addressing her "honey" (example 106). Likewise, in example 107 while assuring the female of her help, the man says her goodbye by addressing her "honey". Even in telephonic chat, the male acknowledges the message sent to him by the lady by writing "Ok, honey" (example 108). Such a term used to address the females in particular contexts show the passionate love of the man for his woman.

106.   *Leaning over, he brushed his mouth across her cheek. How are you,* ***honey?***

107.   *I know and remember I'm here for you! Bye,* ***honey.***

108.   *His mobile phone bleeped a text message: 'Outside', he read. His fingers quickly*

      tapped a reply: 'OK, ***honey'.***

The positioning of "honey" at the end of each sentence strengthens Martinger's (2013) claim that terms of endearment like "honey" are used at the end of a sentence in most cases.

Use of Endearment Term "Love" in QSNC

The search for endearment term "love" in QSNC has given four examples appearing in two patterns. The first pattern is where a female addresses a female by addressing her as "my love". Examples 109 and 110 show the use of this term where the mother, a female, addresses her daughter, again another female by calling her "my love". The use of "my love" in this as shows a mother's affection for her daughter.

109.   *You must,* ***my love.*** *You must get married quickly.*

110.   *He could never have coped with that,* ***my love.***

The second pattern identified in the corpus QSNC for "love" is the female to male address form where a female is addressing her lover by "my love" as in example 111. Likewise, in example 112, the female addresses her love and reminds her to go to a meeting while he is in a flirtish mood.

111.   *I bartered you,* ***my love,*** *and womanhood for duty to my parents.*

112.   *Come on,* ***my love.*** *Remember, you have an important Examination Board meeting.*

Conclusion

Based on data analysis it can be concluded that the selected endearment terms are used in QSNC but with a different frequency and for different patterns. Table 2 presents a summary of all these identified terms in relation to the percentages for each pattern. The results clearly show that the term "dear" is the most frequently occurring term in the QSNC

corpus when it is used by the females to address the females (48%). This term is used by males to address females in 40% cases while only in 12 % cases females use this term to address males. Likewise, the endearment term "darling" is mostly used by females to address females (51%). Darling is used by females to address males in 26% cases while men use this term to address women in 23 % cases only. The term "love" is used only by women where they use this term to address either men (50%) or women (50%). The only term used by men to address women and not vice versa is "honey" which occurs with male to female pattern in 100% occurrences.

Table 2
Use of Endearment Terms by Women and Men in QSNC

Sr.#	Identifies Patterns of Addresser /Addressee Gender wise	Endearment Terms			
		Dear	Darling	Honey	Love
1.	Male to Female	40%	23%	100%	0%
2.	Male to Male	0%	O%	0%	0%
3.	Female to Male	12%	26%	0%	50%
4.	Female to Female	48%	51%	0%	50%

Conclusion

It can be concluded that these endearment terms are context bound and the most dominating factor which determines the use of endearment terms is the intimacy level. The domains where these terms are used in QSNC are the familial domain and the domain of love mostly. Another important finding is that these terms are not only used to address lovers or life partners but are also used to maintain solidarity, familiarity and affection and trust between different relations like mother, daughter, sisters and brothers as well. Hence, the most dominant function of these terms is to show and maintain intimacy and love between the addressers and the addresses. It is also important to note that these are the females who use these terms in most of the cases either to address other females or to address the males in some cases. Figure 1 shows a clear picture of how each of these terms is distributed according to the gender of the characters in QSNC corpus.
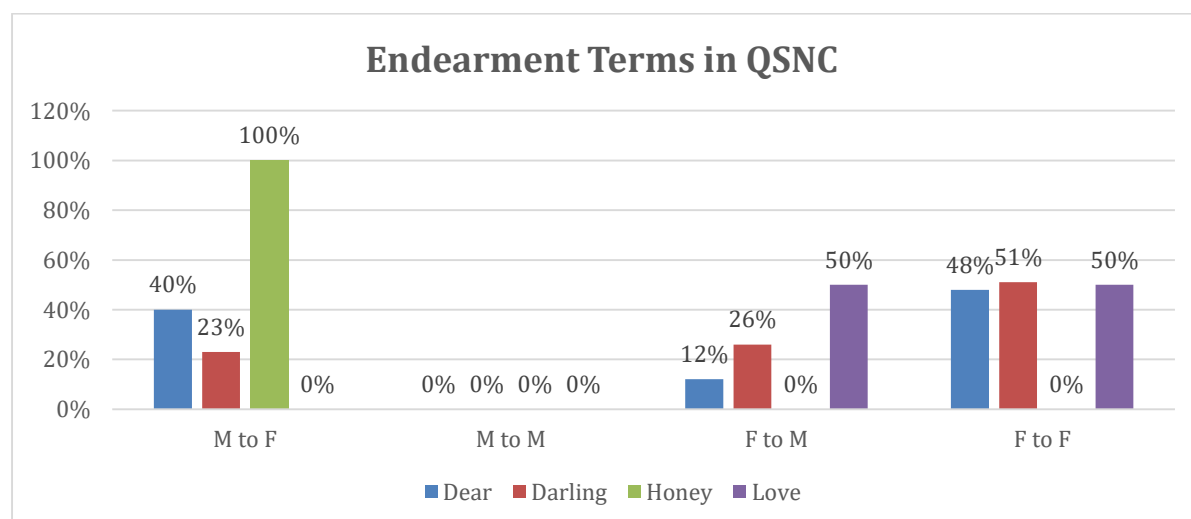

Figure 1: Gender wise Division of Endearment terms in QSNC

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