The foregoing study carried out in the sociolinguistic framework has the goal to unveil the use of pronominals and address terms in Kashmiri language. The social variables taken into account for the study of pronominal usage comprise age, gender, education and settlement of the subjects. The variation in the use of pronominals has been explored across all these variables. The goal of studying the address terms has been limited to exploring the inventory of address terms in Kashmiri, classifying them into different categories and then explaining the usage of these address terms in different social contexts. The research questions proposed for the present study have been:

3. How pronominal usage in Kashmiri is based on extralinguistic variables?

4. How is the usage of address terms in Kashmiri influenced by the social variables of gender, age, education, settlement and occupation along with the variable relationship of the addresser and the addressee?

Using observation and questionnaire as the main research tools, instances of usage of address terms were collected from the Kashmiri speakers.

The findings of the present study are summed up as under.

The findings uncover that the social variables considered for the present study play an important role in choosing the pronouns out of the pronominal inventory of Kashmiri language. Similarly, social distance between the addresser and the addressee and context of the communicative situation seem equally important parameters that influence the use of pronouns. One finds socially governed principles that determine the use of pronouns in Kashmiri language and deviation from set principles results in social disorder.

Starting with the variable age of the speaker, the results suggest that age as a social variable has varying effects on the pronominal usage in different
social domains like family, workplace etc. For example, age as a factor in the family domain has less effect on the pronominal choice than in the non-kinship domain across all the groups considered for the study. In other words, the variation of pronominal usage in the family domain is less as compared to the variation of pronominal usage in the public domain. There is an overwhelming reciprocal use of the informal pronoun *tsI* in the family domain irrespective of the age of family inmates. Hence, emotional intimacy overrides age in the family domain. As we move from the consanguineal kinship domain to the affinal kinship domain, age becomes a strong factor of conditioning variation. In contrast to the reciprocal use of the non-deferential pronoun in the consanguineal kinship domain, there is a non-reciprocal use of the pronominals in the affinal kinship domain among the participants of different age groups. Hence, an adolescent uses the deferential form *toh* to address an old affinal kin and in return gets *tsI*. It is therefore evident that age is a significant variable that conditions the variation in the pronominal usage in the affinal kinship domain. With respect to the pronominal usage in social dyadic relations, age as a factor has is stronger in certain dyads than others. The use of pronominals with professionals of high prestige is conditioned more by the status than the age. Thus, irrespective of the age of the professionals like doctor, engineer and teacher, there is predominant use of the deferential form of the pronoun to address them while as the received form of the pronouns from these professional depend on the age. It indicates that status conditions the use of the pronoun while addressing the professionals of high prestige therefore rendering the age as a less important factor. While addressing strangers, pronominal usage, to a great deal, is affected by the age of the addresser and the addressee. There is higher usage of the deferential pronoun with the elderly strangers than with the youngsters.

The overall results with respect to age reveal that there is a variation in the pronominal usage across the three age groups that have been taken into
account for the present study. The age group 1 uses the non-deferential forms of the pronouns more than that of the age group 2. The use of the deferential forms of the pronominals decreases on moving from age group 2 to age group 3. In other words, the use of the deferential forms of the pronouns is highest in the age group 2. The findings are in consonance with Labov (1966). The explanation for the high use of the deferential forms by the age group 2 is their conformist attitude. The social pressures in the form of prestige, dignity and honour are high in the age group 2 than in the age groups 1 and 3. The other possible explanations of the higher use of non-deferential forms of pronouns by the age groups 1 and 3 are:

3. In the case of age group 1, the social pressures are the lowest which gets reflected in their non-conformist attitude and hence in the higher use of the non deferential forms of pronouns.

4. In the case of age group 3, higher use of non-deferential forms of the pronouns can be attributed to the higher degree of familiarity of the people of this age group with other people.

Another variable playing a significant role in the pronominal choice is gender.

In the backdrop of the findings of the present study, keeping all variables other than gender as constant, it is reported that males of all age groups use tsi more than females. The findings are in consonance with most of the prior studies including Labov (1966). The more frequent use of toh by females indicates their prestige conscious nature along with displaying reserved nature and less public interaction leading to the formality of their language. Similar results were found in the case of reference pronominal.

Comparing the results of the pronominal usage among the rural and the urban people, it is observed that the use of the informal pronominal tsi is more frequently used by the rural people whereas the urban people use toh, yim and
tim more frequently. The use of the informal forms of the address pronominal and the reference pronominal may be attributed to the close-knitted structure of the rural communities. The close-knitted nature of the rural communities results in fostering familiarity among the members of the community which gets reflected in the more frequent use of the informal/ familiar form of the pronoun.

The social variable of education is also considered to produce a patterned variation in the pronominal usage. The results of this study show that education as a factor has a huge impact on the pronominal usage. The educated people use the deferential forms of the address pronominal and reference pronominals more frequently than the uneducated people.

Regarding the addresser-addresssee relationship, it has been observed that the pronominal usage varies to a great deal because of the nature of the relationship. The nature of relationship determines the social and emotional distance along with familiarity and intimacy. On the basis of the nature of addresser-addresssee relationship, it has been observed that in the family domain the use of the tsI is predominant. Within the kinship domain itself, the usage with the consanguineal kins is predominantly that of tsI where as tohj is used more frequently with the affines. As we move away from the family domain, the only relationships where tsI is used overwhelmingly is the friends and classmates. With all other interlocutors, the deferential forms of the pronominals are used more frequently. The higher use of the non-deferential form of pronoun with consanguineal kins, friends and class mates is because of the higher intimacy and familiarity. The higher use of the deferential forms of the pronouns with strangers can be attributed to the greater social distance.

The present study has discussed the set of address terms occurring in Kashmiri language with social significance embedded with each address term. On the basis of the linguistic form of each address term associated with social norms in its usage, the findings are summed up as under.
Categorization of the address terms into thirteen categories does not imply that all the categories are equal in terms of their importance, frequency and utility. Each of the categories has its special usage for particular interlocutors and under certain conditions.

Honorification appended in the use of address terms forms the nucleus of communication strategies in Kashmiri language. The huge range of honorifics and the frequency of their usage in all social domains, reveal the importance of politeness ingredient in Kashmiri language. It implies that courteous and respectful interaction is an important feature of Kashmiri address system.

Another important feature of Kashmiri is the use of kinship address terms. Kashmiri is found to be relying very much on the family relations and this is noticed in the usage of kinship terms for non-kins.

Restricted use of the personal names and singular address pronominal on the one hand and the use general and professional titles, honorifics and terms of formality show that the sense of formality is also another significant feature of Kashmiri society depicted in the terms of address.

Borrowing new terms of address and refraining the use of some others over time which is one of the characteristic features of dynamic languages shows that Kashmiri language is dynamic enough to comply with the socio-cultural changes in its speech community.

For addressing one another, Kashmiri interlocutors can adopt many different strategies and techniques. This flexible feature of address system provides the Kashmiri speakers with a huge range of terms to address the addressees. Usage of an appropriate address term is influenced by variables as age, gender, status, family relationship, the degree of respect, familiarity, formality and intimacy between the interlocutors.
The existence of loanwords from other languages indirectly accounts for the long history of Kashmiri language and its interaction with other cultures. As a result, Kashmiri speakers use terms from other relevant oriental languages like Arabic, Sanskrit, and Persian in their expression.

The overall study of the address terms in the present study makes it evident that Kashmiri address terms are, relatively formal, gender sensitive and socially loaded. Moreover, the thrust on using honorifics, kinship terms in their special usage and the coinage of religion oriented terms stand for socio-cultural function of the address terms in Kashmiri.