These two modes of request have been studied from two perspectives, namely,

1) as a means of expressing politeness

and 2) as a means of exercising authority

1.4 Review of Literature

Brown and Gilman (1972), the pioneers in the study of the use of pronouns, have explained the development of pronominal usage in various European languages such as Latin, Italian, French, Spanish, German and English. They have discussed the relationship among social structure, group ideology and the semantics of pronoun. Brown and Gilman have drawn a distinction between symmetry and asymmetry in the interpersonal address forms. According to them, there has been a reciprocal use of tu between equals of lower classes and of vou between the equals of upper classes and non-reciprocal use of tu and vou between the persons of non-equal status.

Brown and Gilman's study on the use of pronouns related to the social structure has lead other scholars to investigate the use of pronouns in various other languages [Fredrich, 1972; Paulson, 1976; Jain, 1973; Misra, 1977; Venkitachalam, 1981; Fang and Heng, 1983; Alrabaa, 1985 Kempf, 1985 and Holes, 1986].