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# PRESUPPOSITION ANALYSIS OF MAIN CHARACTER IN *THE DICTATOR* MOVIE

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## Abstract

This study analyzes presupposition in *The Dictator* movie. The purpose of this research is to identify the types of presupposition used by main character and describe the functions of presupposition used by man character in *The Dictator* movie.

This research used descriptive qualitative method. The data source is *The Dictator* movie (2012). The research data are the utterances of the main character in *The Dictator* movie (2012). This study used theory by Yule (1996) to determine the types of presupposition used in *The Dictator* movie. Next, it used theory by Ge (2011) to determine the functions of presupposition used in *The Dictator* movie. The researcher used theory by Spradley (1980) to analyze the data. The instrument is the researcher himself who collected, identified, and described the data.

The result of this research showed that there were six types of presupposition in *The Dictator* namely structural presupposition which is 16 (34%) data, lexical presupposition with total 13 (28%) data, factive presuppositoin with 10 (21%) data existential presupposition with 4 data (9%) and non-factive presupposition with 3 data (6%). And then, the least is counter-factual presuppositon which has only 1 (2%) data. The researcher found five functions, emphasis with 31 data (66%), persuasion with 7 data (15%), 4 data (9%) as enlargement, 3 (6%) data as concisenes, self-protection with only 1 (2%) data.

Keywords: *Presuppositon, Main Character, The Dictator.*

## Introduction

In everyday conversation, the speaker acknowledges accurate information that the listener already knows, even if that information is not expressed directly. The listener must know and understand what the speaker means because it is not easy to understand and grasp the implications of an unintelligible statement, and at the same time understand that the listener must know the context of the statement. In this case, the subjunctive plays a role.

Yule (1996: 25) says that the presupposition is what the speaker assumes to be the case before making an utterance. This assumption must be mutually known or accepted by the speaker and listener in order to understand the context of the utterance. On the other hand, Venneman

(1975: 314) <sup>2</sup> states that context as an assumption helps listeners identify or understand language, themes, and responses in everyday conversation or in movies. Context also helps the listener understand the speaker's intention.

It is important that we are aware of our assumptions when researching this issue. Ramdhani (2020: 15) argues that this presupposition is one of the important topics of linguistics, which focuses on determining meaning based on the speaker's assumptions. This assumption allows us to better understand the meaning and context before making a statement. With presupposition, we will know what we should say and what we should not say.

## Review of Literature

### Pragmatics

<sup>5</sup> Pragmatics is the study of meaning based more on the context and communicative intention of the speaker or on what the speaker means. <sup>3</sup> Pragmatics is concerned with the study of meanings communicated by speakers or writers and interpreted by listeners or readers (Yule, 1996: 3). How we orient ourselves more specifically to the meaning or purpose of communication is determined in a practical way. Pragmatically, the listener does not interpret the meaning according to the meaning of the word but acquires the <sup>1</sup> meaning based on the context based on the same underlying knowledge between the speaker and the listener. It is therefore more concerned with analyzing <sup>1</sup> what people mean by their words than with the meaning of the words or expressions in those words (Yule, 1996: 3)

### Context

Every event must have a condition that creates or disseminates information so that the event or condition can be understood. This is what we can call context. In a broader sense, context can be defined as referring to any relevant feature of the context or dynamic environment in which a unit of language is systematically used. (Huang, 2014: 16).

### <sup>1</sup> Presupposition

According to Yule (1996: 25) Presupposition is what the speaker assumes to be the case before speaking. This means that the presupposition is that knowledge about the speaker already exists or happens to him, knowledge that is shared between speaker and hearer. Presupposition depends on the context <sup>2</sup> so that the meaning or message to be conveyed can be accurately conveyed to the listener.

A presupposition can be understood as a piece of information or proposition that must verify the authenticity of the pronunciation of a sentence (Yan Huang, 2014: 85). A thought

arise because there is some incoming information where the information will become a reference for finding out about an existing truth. Because the information is sometimes out of context, there are thoughts that are out of truth and this can lead to misunderstandings that lead to non-fluency in the relationship between information.

### **Types of Presupposition**

6 The classification of presupposition on Yule (1996), there are six types of presupposition based on the indicators of potential presupposition. They are *existential presupposition*, *factive presupposition*, *non-factive presupposition*, *lexical presupposition*, *structural presupposition*, and *counter-factual presupposition*.

#### **Existential Presupposition**

10 According to Yule (1996: 27) Existential presupposition is where it represents the existence of something conveyed through a presupposition assumed by the speaker. Information about the existence of something is what makes that thing exist, with this information it will be evidence that something is true and real. In Yan Huang, this type is included in the deterministic descriptive presuppositional triggers. Definite descriptive groups can include proper nouns, possessives, and some wh-phrases (Yan Huang, 2014: 88).

#### **Factive Presupposition**

12 The presupposition that usually follows the verb such as *know*, *realized*, *regret*, and *glad* can be regarded as a fact (Yule, 1996: 27). Presupposition where the information given comes after the verb, due to a fact and truth that has happened and is related to the context. And according to Yan Huang (2014: 88), Factive presupposition is a presupposition that is triggered by the use of a factive verb such as *know*, a Factive adjective such as *happy*, or a Factive NP such as the *fact/knowledge*.

#### **Non-factive Presupposition**

The presupposition is associated with some verbs that are assumed not to be true. Such verbs are *dream*, *imagine*, and *pretend* (Yule, 1996: 29). This presupposition is a presupposition in which shared knowledge is obtained from a verb that does not actually occur, a statement made by the speaker is only a shadow or has not happened at all or maybe will or wants to happen.

#### **Lexical Presupposition**

5 In lexical presupposition, the use of one from with its asserted meaning is conventionally interpreted with the presupposition that another (non-asserted) meaning is understood (Yule, 1996: 28). Its mean the presupposition that that something thought before,

something that has happened before where the assumption that arises is the assumption that someone has done something or something has happened to him.

### **9 Structural Presupposition**

Is an assumption regarding the use of certain words and expressions. In this case, some sentence structure has been analyzed in the usual way and it is often presupposed that part of the structure has been considered correct. <sup>1</sup>Speakers can also use structures to process information as presupposed (taken as true) and thus accepted as true by the listener (Yule, 1996: 29). This hypothesis searches for truth or information by asking questions, the information obtained from these questions will be used as reference to form a hypothesis that will become a fact that is considered true .

### **Counter-factual Presupposition**

Yule (1996: 28) states that the Counter-Factual presupposition <sup>2</sup>is the opposite of what is true or contrary to fact. The information that is obtained from this presupposition when there is a truth which is followed by something that is contradictory about something, can be said to be the opposite of what is said.

### **Function of Presupposition**

As we already know that in every science has its own function, so does presupposition. According to Ge (2011) there are 8 function of presupposition.

- 1) Conciseness function, meaning that the speaker uses concise sentences but these sentences are more interesting, effective and persuasive.
- 2) Interestingness function, meaning that sentences used use interesting language so that the listener becomes interested in listening and paying attention.
- 3) Enlargement function, it means sentences expressed are multiplied, so that more information is obtained, usually this function is used when describing something.
- 4) Emphasis function, it is means sentences that are spoken aim to convince and emphasize the listener about something.
- 5) Euphemism function, meaning that sentences that spoken are polite sentences, which are intended so communication can run smoothly and information can be channeled properly.
- 6) Concealment function, means the sentence used aims to hide the fact of something.
- 7) Persuasion function, it ia means sentences that said used to persuade listener to be interested and listen more to what the speaker is spoken.

- 8) Self-protection, This means the sentence used aims to prevent the listener from becoming a threat or problem to the speaker, usually used a hyperbole sentence.

### ***The Dictator***

The film is directed by Larry Charles, who directed the documentary "Borat and Bruno," which also stars Baron Cohen. In this 2012 film, Baron Cohen plays General Aladeen, the authoritarian leader of the fictional Republic of Wadia. The characters are directly inspired by real-life dictators such as Kim Jong Il, Idi Amin, Muammar Gaddafi, Mobutu Sese Seko and Sapar Murat Niyazov. "The Dictator" tells the story of Admiral Khafaz Aladeen (played by Sacha Baron Cohen) who has led the Republic of Wadia for many years. Aladeen is seen as the leader of a naive, brutal, sexist, anti-Western dictator who is surrounded by female bodyguards. He also supports terrorism, has changed many words in Wadiyan's dictionary to "Aladeen", and is developing nuclear weapons to attack Israel.

### **Methodology**

In this study, the author uses qualitative research as the method. The basic concept of qualitative research is that the term qualitative research is research aimed at discovering and understanding the meaning that certain individuals or groups of people attach to social or humanitarian issues (Creswell, 2009: 4). Creswell (2009) further explains that this qualitative research process involves significant efforts, such as asking questions and procedures, collecting data on specific characteristics of participants, analyzing data Whether. inductively from specific themes to general themes, and interpret the meaning of the data.

### **Findings and Discussion**

In this section, the researcher finds all types of presuppositions and their functions in *The Dictator* movie. The researcher provided some data of each kinds type of presupposition and function.

#### **Existential Presupposition**

**Datum D9 : 00.09.10**

*Aladeen : Uncle Tamir!! Do you not remember what my father promise before his dead??*

*It was never to sell Wadiya oil.*

This conversation happens when Aladeen was taking care of his nuclear weapons in the bunker. After a while in the bunker, he finally finished solving the problem, then when he came out of the bunker Aladeen spoke a little about the promise his father had made with uncle Tamir, never to sell Wadiya oil. The underlined utterance becomes an indication of

**existential presupposition** because there is the word uncle Tamir which indicates someone named Tamir exists and he is uncle of Aladeen.

The underline utterances also contain the fourth presupposition function **emphasis** because the word “dot you remember” aims to convince Uncle Tamir about the promise of Aladeen's father before his death.

### **Factive Presupposition**

**Datum D11 : 00.10.00**

*Aladeen : look like we have to find the new double. Because this one...!! You know, i dont know when he gonna get better!!!*

*Tamir : ohh he is not going to recover sir. His dead!!*

This conversation happens inside of Wadiya palace. Aladeen meet his Double who is tasked to protect him from the terrorists by disguising himself as Aladeen on his way back to Wadiya. Double is someone who has same face as Aladeen who aims to be a duplicate. When something bad happens, Aladeen could switch with Double to protect himself when there is an attempt to kill him. When his double out of car, someone who is not known shot Double head and instanly dead in the place. Then, Aladeen meet him in the palace to see Double's condition whether he is okay or not. The utterance “I dont know when he gonna get better!!”, shows that Aladeen does not know that Double was okay or not. This utterance belongs to **factive presupposition** because Aladeen informed and convinced to uncle Tamir that Aladeen did not know if Double okay or not, and ignorance of Aladeen is considered as a fact.

The underlined utterance contains the fourth functions **emphasis** because Aladeen is trying to convince and emphasize to uncle Tamir that Aladeen does not know whether Double condition was okay or not.

### **Non-factive Presupposition**

**Datum D7 : 00.07.36**

*Aladeen : For one second pretended i am an idiot!!*

*Nadal : okay!!! I am understand.*

This conversation happens in the nuclear weapon bunker in Wadiya. Aladeen went to his weapon nuclear bunker because he wanted to see the development of the weapon nuclear. However, when Aladeen arrived in the bunker, he found that the nuclear weapon that he wanted is not the same as he wish and after some debating with Nadal, Aladeen lost the debate. Aladeen uttered “For one second pretended I am an idiot” even actually he is not that idiot. The fact that Aladeen is not an idiot and the word “pretended” uttered by Aladeen

indicates **non-factive presupposition**. Because what Aladeen said was different from what actually happened.

The underlined utterance contains the fourth function **emphasis** because Aladeen is convincing and emphasizes that he is actually not an idiot. convincing and emphasizing is an indication of the fourth function.

### **Lexical Presupposition**

**Datum D1 : 00.02.15**

*Interviewer : do you develop a nuclear weapon?*

*Aladeen : no.. really <sup>15</sup> i can't hear you!!*

*Interviewer : i am going to another question !*

*Aladeen : now, i can hear you!!*

This conversation happens in the Aladeen palace. in a broadcast, Aladeen was interviewed by someone and that person asked about the nuclear arsenal owned by Aladeen. However, Aladeen did not hear the question of the interviewer a several times. The last utterance Aladeen said "Now, i can hear you!!", means he can not hear the interviewer before and that indicate the **lexical presupposition**. A though made because of an event that has occurred before.

The underlined utterance indicates the first function of conciseness because the utterance of Aladeen is concise and persuasive. He said that he did not hear the interviewer before, and could hear it again after a few times.

### **Structural Presupposition**

**Datum D15 : 00.12.55**

*Megan : it is my jet ready?*

*Aladeen : yes !! **But do you want stay a night??** I really want to do some hug!!!*

*Megan : no!! your time is up. I have to be with italian prime minister tomorrow.*

This conversation between Aladeen and Megan and it happens in Aladeen bedroom at Wadiya palace. One night, Aladeen was having an intimate relationship with one of the prostitutes named Megan. After he finished the relationship, Megan wanted to leave immediately because her schedule was very busy. The utterance "yess!!But do you want to stay a night?? i really want to do some hug" , belongs to **structural presupposition** because question Aladeen asked, there was information could be obtained. First, Aladeen wanted Megan to stay with him for one more night, but Megan have to go because her schedule. information obtained from what was questioned by Aladeen.





From the table above, total result data come up *The Dictator* is 47 data. It can be seen from data in componential analysis above that the most dominant type of presupposition is structural presupposition uttered by Aladeen in *The Dictator*, which has 16 (34%) data. The second dominant type of presupposition is lexical presupposition with total 13 (28%) data. The third dominant of presupposition in *The Dictator* uttered by Aladeen is factive presupposition with 10 (21%) data, followed existential presupposition with 4 data (9%) and non-factive presupposition with 3 data (6%). And then, the least presupposition is counter-factual presupposition which has only 1 (2%) data.

The result of analysis showed that the most dominant function is emphasis with 31 data (66%). followed by persuasion with 7 data (15%), 4 data (9%) as enlargement function, and 3 (6%) data as conciseness function. The least is self-protection function with only 1 (2%) data.

## Discussion

Structural presupposition is the most dominant type that found in *The Dictator* movie with total 16 (34%) data and has 10 (21%) data as emphasis. 4 (9%) data as persuasion function. Then, there is only 2 (4%) data as enlargement function. Structural presupposition became the most dominant type in *The Dictator* movie, because Aladeen who had been dethroned from his throne, was trying to take back his power. Aladeen tried to find information by asking as much as possible to be able to find a way to take back his power become king of Wadiya, *The Dictator*.

Counter-factual presupposition is the least data, which has only 1 (2%) data uttered by Aladeen in *The Dictator*. Counter-factual presupposition became the least type uttered by Aladeen in *The Dictator* because for Aladeen asking is easier to get information. This is much easier than looking for implicit meaning of what other people said.

Emphasis became the most dominant function because to reach his power back Aladeen often tries to convince and emphasize that he is the real Aladeen and the current one is fake. Aladeen lost his power since he was betrayed by his own uncle, where he kidnapped and his position was replaced by a fake Aladeen. Then, self-protection function becomes the least function because Aladeen did not need any kind of protection, he can protect himself. When someone already has power, no one dare disturb him. Aladeen king of Wadiya and he is a Dictator and everyone shall kneel and obeys him.

## Conclusion and Suggestion

The researcher also concluded that humans as social beings would not be far from communicating. This is because by communicating someone can get the information needed. Then, when we get a speech from other people, we will respond to what they said or just guess about what they mean from what they said. When we think or have a guess before said something from what people said, it is become presupposition.

However, it is easier for people getting information from communicating each other, and important to have a good response when people have utterance something, so communication continues smoothly and the information provided can be received properly.

The researcher suggests for the future researchers who want to conduct a research in the same field should learn deeply about pragmatics especially presupposition and the whole of it. It is important to studying presupposition, because when having a conversation with other people, we will have a good response so that communication continues to run well. However, with good communication all the information needed will be channeled properly.

Due to the limitations of the research object, the results of this research are still not optimal, because in a movie there is not necessarily abundant data to support research. The researcher suggests to future researchers to use different objects such as subjects such as advertisements, TV shows, newspapers and many others.

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