

# The Analysis of Presupposition in George Orwell's Novella Animal Farm

## **Faizal Risdianto**

Institut Agama Islam Negeri Salatiga, Jl. Lingkar Salatiga Km. 2 Pulutan, Sidorejo, Kota Salatiga, Jawa Tengah 50716,, Indonesia

Email : faizrisd@gmail.com

## **Noor Malihah**

Institut Agama Islam Negeri Salatiga, Jl. Lingkar Salatiga Km. 2 Pulutan, Sidorejo, Kota Salatiga, Jawa Tengah 50716,, Indonesia

Email : noormalihah\_itah@yahoo.com

## **Agung Guritno**

Institut Agama Islam Negeri Salatiga, Jl. Lingkar Salatiga Km. 2 Pulutan, Sidorejo, Kota Salatiga, Jawa Tengah 50716,, Indonesia

Email : agung.guritno@iainsalatiga.ac.id

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Corresponding

Author:

Faizal Risdianto

E-mail:

faizrisd@gmail.com

## **ABSTRACT**

*This research attempts to investigate the pragmatics presupposition in George Orwell's Novella Animal Farm. Specifically, it tries to identify and classify the presupposition used in conversation in Orwell's novella. The identification is based on the presupposition triggers and classification based on six type of presupposition. The research also attempts to analyze the function in the use of presupposition in conversation. The data in this research are in form of utterances containing presupposition. Based on the classification of six presupposition types according to Yule's theory (1996), 180 presuppositions are found: 69 (38,3%) existential triggered by definite description and possessive construction, 35 (19,4%) lexical triggered by change of state verb; implicative predicate; iterative, 53 (29,4%) structural triggered by WH-question, 4 (2,2%) factive triggered by factive verb/predicate aware & glad and 19 (10,6%) non-factive triggered by the verb dream & imagine. Based on the six language function by Jakobson (1960), there are 5 functions of presupposition in the novella which are, 57 (47, 9%) referential, 33(27,7%) emotive, 25(21,1%) conative, 3(2,5%) poetic and 1 (0,8%) phatic. In this research, the practice of referential function in applying presupposition is considered as the most*

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frequent.

**Keywords:** *Presupposition, presupposition triggers, Novella, George Orwell*

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## INTRODUCTION

In the effort of expressing thought and feeling, human being cannot communicate each other without the use of language. It makes everything surrounding us seems meaningful. The use of language in the perspective of what actually a speaker says to the hearer will have particular meaning if both parties know which utterance that is suitable in the context of the information emerges from the utterance and gets the understanding and influence of the context in which they are performed and it can be fully comprehended by the hearer. Language and context are supposed to be a basic to account speaker and hearer language understanding that refer to the utterances and speech events.

By this, the range of expression in the form of utterances from word, phrases, clauses to the full sentence construction and the use of it cannot be separated from the understanding of the context. Sometimes a speaker having an assumption that certain information had already known by the listener, even though the information are not appear directly in the speaker's sentence. It is not simple ways of catching and comprehending the given information. A Listener needs to highlight on the actual word's meaning and what the speaker's mean in the same context. In order to avoid the misinterpretation in meaning it will be greatly dealing with presupposition.

Presupposition is a thing that is presupposed, while presupposes means to assume something true before it is proved. Presupposition can occur in verbal and written language, in daily conversation or in the use of conversation in a novella. Novella is one of the genres of prose works which attract many readers. The uses of presupposition by the characters in novella should be appropriate so that the readers will understand it.

Based on the explanation above, the writer analysed the presupposition in George Orwell's Novella Animal Farm. There are two reasons why this study is worthwhile to be investigated. First, speaker need to understand about presupposition to help him produces utterances that easy to understand by listener. Speakers should produce the sentence that its presupposition understandable by the listener to avoid information gap and misinterpretation between speaker and listener. Second,, when the speaker delivers his message to the listener in unstated sentence, the listener cannot know and infer the meaning of speaker's utterance from the sentence itself, so it must be added with presuppositions in true context. Beside that the listener also needs to have adequate knowledge about presupposition to help him to catch the speaker's message. The use of presupposition is not only in daily life but also in literary works like novella.

Related to the phenomena above, there are many possible research problems that needs investigation, such as the types, uses and function of presupposition. Yule (2006: 116) stated a definition of presupposition that is what a speaker assumes is true or known by a listener.

In addition, presupposition plays an important role in the production and comprehension of speech act. It is defined from different points of view, each of which is similar to each other in some way or another. Hudson (2000: 321) states that "a presupposition" is something assumed (presupposed) to be true in a sentence which asserts other information".

In the following example, sentence (a) presupposes sentence (b).

1. a. The child sneezed again.
  - b. The child had sneezed before.

The first sentence presupposes the information in the second, and this is apparent in the fact that if the first sentence is negated, the truth of the second remains unchanged:

1. c. The child did not sneeze again.

Thus, the negation of the sentence can be considered as one of the tests used to check for the presupposition underlying the sentence, as in:

2. a. Mary's hat is red.
  - b. Mary's hat is not red.

Although these two sentences have opposite meanings, the underlying presupposition, 'Mary has a hat', remains true (the same). This case is called by linguists as "constancy under negation", which is one of the properties used in pragmatics for testing presuppositions.

Yule (2000: 27) sees that presupposition has been associated with the use of a large number of words, phrases, and structures. These linguistic forms are considered to be indicators of potential presupposition, which can only become actual presupposition in context with speakers. Thus, he states six types of presupposition which are: existential, factive, non-factive, lexical, structural and counterfactual. These six types of presupposition can be brought together under the heading of potential presupposition which represents the whole.

The existential presupposition is assumed to be present either in possessive constructions (such as: your car presupposes (») you have a car) or in any definite noun phrase as in using expressions like: the King of Sweden, the cat, etc. in which the speaker presupposes the existence of the entities or objects.

The second type of presupposition is called factive presupposition since some words are used in the sentences to denote facts, such as know, realize, regret, glad, odd and aware. For example, everybody knows that John is ill presupposes that John is ill.

The third type of presupposition is called non-factive presupposition, which is assumed not to be true. Verbs like dream, imagine and pretend are used with the presupposition that what follows is not true. e.g. John dreamed that he was rich presupposes that John was not rich. Moreover, Palmer (1976: 67) uses the word likely to refer to non-factive presupposition, as in It is likely that John came early, which presupposes that John might or might not come early.

There are forms which may be treated as the source of lexical presupposition, such as manage, stop, and start. In this type, the use of one form with its asserted meaning is conventionally interpreted with the presupposition that another (non-asserted) meaning is understood. When one says that someone managed to do something, the asserted meaning is that the person tried and succeeded in some way. But when one says that someone did not manage, the asserted meaning is that the person did not succeed. In both cases, however, there is a presupposition (non-asserted) that the person tried to do that something. So, managed is conventionally interpreted as asserting 'succeeded' and presupposing 'tried'.

In addition to the presuppositions that are associated with the use of certain words and phrases, there are also structural presuppositions. In this case, certain sentence structures have been analyzed as conventionally and regularly presupposing that part of the structure is assumed to be true (Yule,2000: 29). One might say that speakers can use such structures to treat information as presupposed (assumed to be true) and hence to be accepted as true by the listeners. For instance, the WH forms (i.e. when, where, etc.) can be used in this type, as in When did John leave? It presupposes that John left. Acadian et al. (1997: 384) state that "the pragmatic presupposition of a sentence is the set of conditions that have to be satisfied in order for the intended speech act to be appropriate in the circumstances or to be felicitous".

The last type is called a counter-factual presupposition, in which what is presupposed is not only true, but is the opposite of what is true, or contrary to facts. For example, the sentence: If you were his friend you would have helped him presupposes that you are not his friend. A conditional structure of this sentence presupposes that the information in the if-clause is not true of the time of utterance. One can conclude that presuppositions are considered to be a matter of pragmatics not of semantics because they are not stable and having context independent aspects of meaning as it is shown in the case of defeasibility.

Pertaining to the functions of language, Roman Jakobson (1960) defined six function of language (or communicative functions), according to which an effective act of verbal communication can be described. Each of the function has associated factor. They are: the referential, the poetic, the emotive/expressive, the conative/directive, the phatic and the metalingual function.

The referential function corresponds to the factor of context and describes a situation, object or mental state. The poetic function focuses on "the message for its own sake" (the code itself, and how it is used) and is the operative function in poetry as well as slogans. The emotive function relates to the addresser (sender) and is best exemplified by interjections and other sound changes that do not alter the denotative meaning of an utterance but do add information

about the addresser's/speaker's internal state, e.g. "Wow, what a view!" The conative function engages the addressee/receiver directly and is best illustrated by vocatives and imperatives, e.g. "Tom! Come inside and eat!". The phatic function is language for the sake of interaction and is therefore associated with the contact/channel factor. The phatic function can be observed in greetings and casual discussions of the weather, particularly with strangers. It also provides the keys to open, maintain, verify or close the communication channel: "Hello?", "Ok", "Hummmmm", "Bye". The meta-lingual function is the use of language (what Jakobson calls "code") to discuss or describe itself.

From the description of the types of language functions based on Roman Jakobson's theory above, the researcher searched the language function of all utterances in George Orwell's Novella Animal Farm.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This research had been conducted by using descriptive method because it described and it was suitable with the purpose of the study. According to Monsen (2008: 5) the descriptive research often illustrates a relevant but non quantified topic involving a well-focused research question. It generates narrative data that describe words instead of numbers. Its primary purpose to explore the phenomenon of interest as a prelude to the theory development. Moreover, the analysis was used in written document because the source of the data was taken from George Orwell's Novella Animal Farm and these data were from all of the utterances of the main and minor characters in George Orwell's Novella Animal Farm.

The source of the data in this research is George Orwell's Novella Animal Farm. and the data are taken from the utterances expressed by all character in the novella. Moreover, the data which have found in George Orwell's Novella Animal Farm was analyzed to classify them into types of presupposition and language function and the limited data were all main and minor character's utterances in the novella.

## **DISCUSSION**

There were 180 utterances used as source of data in this research. The data in this movie are categorized based on the types of presupposition then, the analysed of language function is done after categorizing its type of presupposition. To analyse types of language functions of each types of presupposition, the writer analyses the language functions by using Roman Jacobson's (1960) theory.

Datum 1

Comrades," he said, "I trust that every animal here appreciates the sacrifice that Comrade Napoleon has made in taking this extra labor upon himself. Do not imagine, comrades, that leadership is a pleasure! On the contrary, it is a deep and heavy responsibility. (Chapter 5)

Context:

The utterance above happened in the animal farm where all animal gathered except Napoleon, their leader. The above utterance was said by Squealer, the spokesman of Napoleon. Squealer was a brilliant talker, and when he was arguing some difficult point he had a way of skipping from side to side and whisking his tail which was somehow very persuasive. At this moment he tries tooth and nail or as hard as he can to persuade people to accept Napoleon's idea and hegemony. From Squealer's utterance it can be presupposed that there was Napoleon and he had made the extra labour upon himself, in this case was talking about the existence and the self-sacrifice of Napoleon as a leader of the community.

Analysis:

It can be categorized from the utterance that contains two proposition p and q and it is using a symbol  $\gg$  that means 'presuppose', and then we can analyse the relationship by using this propositions.

- a. I trust that every animal here appreciates the sacrifice that Comrade Napoleon has made in taking this extra labour upon himself. (= p)
- b. I trust that every animal here appreciates the sacrifice that Comrade Napoleon has not made in taking this extra labour upon himself. (= Not p)
- c. There was Napoleon (= q)
- d.  $p \gg q$ , NOT  $p \gg q$

It can be seen that the presupposition above is generally described as constancy under negation. It means that the presupposition of an utterance will remain constant (still true) even when that utterance is negated. The presupposition used in Squealer's utterance is existential presupposition because it conveys the existence of Napoleon.

From Squealer's utterance dealing with the Excellency of Napoleon, it can be analyzed that Napoleon is the best leader among them who had made self-sacrifice by doing extra labor upon himself. He has made self-sacrifice for the betterment of the prosperity and welfare of the community.

Based on Jakobson's theory of six language function (1960:353), this can be categorized that the function of Squealer's utterance is Referential or Representatives function. The referential function corresponds to the factor of context and describes a situation, object or mental state. The descriptive statements of the referential function can consist of both definite descriptions and deictic words. In this utterance it can be seen that cleverly Squealer persuade the citizen of animal farm to hail and glorify Napoleon by using definite descriptions and deictic words which elaborates the quality of Napoleon as the highest leader of the community. In other moment Squaler explains Napoleon as The Father of All Animals, Terror of Mankind,

Protector of the Sheep-fold, Duckling's friend and the like. All of these "bombastic" address terms describe Napoleon.

In this research, the researcher found 180 utterances of Novella's main character's utterance that can be categorized to the types of presuppositions based on Yule's theory. It was classified into existential presupposition 69 utterances (38,3%), lexical 35 utterances (19,4%), structural 53 utterances (19,4%), Factive 4 utterances (2,2%) and non-factive 19 utterance (10,6%). The occurrence of types of presupposition of all of the utterances performed into this following table.

**Table 1.** (the occurrences of Types of Presupposition used in George Orwell's Novella Animal Farm's utterances)

Types of Presupposition	Frequency	Percentage	Description
Existential	69	38,3%	triggered by definite description and possessive construction
Structural	53	29,4%	triggered by WH-question
Lexical	35	19,4%	triggered by change of state verb stop & start ; implicative predicate (the word manage); iterative (the word again)
Non-factive	19	10,6%	triggered by the verb dream & imagine
Factive	4	2,2%	triggered by factive verb/predicate aware & glad
Total	180	100%	

From the five (5) types of presupposition which used in George Orwell's Novella Animal Farm main character's utterances, Existential presupposition is the most dominant among all types of presupposition (69 data /38, 3%). This type shows definite noun phrase. One of the interesting findings is that the word "Comrade Napoleon" was repeated 25 times on the novella. It shows the superiority of Napoleon as the leader of the community as the result of Squealer's propaganda in influencing other citizen of Animal Farm to give honor toward

Napoleon. Another fact of existential type are the abundant data using the phrases “our farm, our family, our land, our friends, our children” showing possessive construction.

The second finding is The structural presupposition having 53 data/ 29,4% which were triggered by WH-question like the word “what, who, where, when” which help the readers to fully understand the story of the novella. By the use of this type the reader will conventionally and regularly presupposing that part of the structure is already assumed to be true. It can be said that speakers can use such structures to treat information as presupposed (i.e. assumed to be true) and hence to be accepted as true or already known to be the case by the listener. These are the data taken from the novella:

“Now, comrades, what is the nature of this life of ours? Let us face it: our lives are miserable, laborious, and short. We are born, we are given just so much food as will keep the breath in our bodies, and those of us who are capable of it are forced to work to the last atom of our strength; and the very instant that our usefulness has come to an end we are slaughtered with hideous cruelty. No animal in England knows the meaning of happiness or leisure after he is a year old. No animal in England is free. The life of an animal is misery and slavery: that is the plain truth. (Chapter 1)

“.....And you hens, how many eggs have you laid in this last year, and how many of those eggs ever hatched into chickens? The rest have all gone to market to bring in money for Jones and his men. And you, Clover, where are those four foals you bore, who should have been the support and pleasure of your old age? Each was sold at a year old — you will never see one of them again. In return for your four confinements and all your labor in the fields, what have you ever had except your bare rations and a stall? (Chapter 1)

The third finding is the lexical presupposition having 35 data or 19.4% of the total amount of data. This type was triggered by change of state verb *stop & start*; implicative predicate (the word *manage*); iterative (the word *again*). These are the data taken from the novella:

Once again this argument was unanswerable. Certainly the animals did not want Jones back; if the holding of debates on Sunday mornings was liable to bring him back, then the debates must stop. (Chapter 1)

When they had once got it by heart, the sheep developed a great liking for this maxim, and often as they lay in the field they would all start bleating “Four legs good, two legs bad! Four legs good, two legs bad!” and keep it up for hours on end, never growing tired of it. (Chapter 3)

However, these stories were never fully believed. Rumors of a wonderful farm, where the human beings had been turned out and the animals managed their own affairs, continued to circulate in vague and distorted forms, and throughout that year a wave of rebelliousness ran through the countryside (Chapter 4)

Once again the animals were conscious of a vague uneasiness. Never to have any dealings with human beings, never to engage in trade, never to make use of money — had not these been among the earliest resolutions passed at that first triumphant Meeting after Jones was expelled? All the animals remembered passing such resolutions: or at least they thought that they remembered it. (Chapter 6)

The fourth finding is the non-factive presupposition having 19 data or 10.6% from all data. It was triggered by the verb dream & imagine. These are the data taken from the novella:

“Comrades, you have heard already about the strange dream that I had last night. But I will come to the dream later. I have something else to say first. I do not think, comrades, that I shall be with you for many months longer, and before I die, I feel it my duty to pass on to you such wisdom as I have acquired. I have had a long life, I have had much time for thought as I lay alone in my stall, and I think I may say that I understand the nature of life on this earth as well as any animal now living. It is about this that I wish to speak to you. (Chapter 1)

Silent and terrified, the animals crept back into the barn. In a moment the dogs came bounding back. At first no one had been able to imagine where these creatures came from, but the problem was soon solved: they were the puppies whom Napoleon had taken away from their mothers and reared privately (chapter 5)

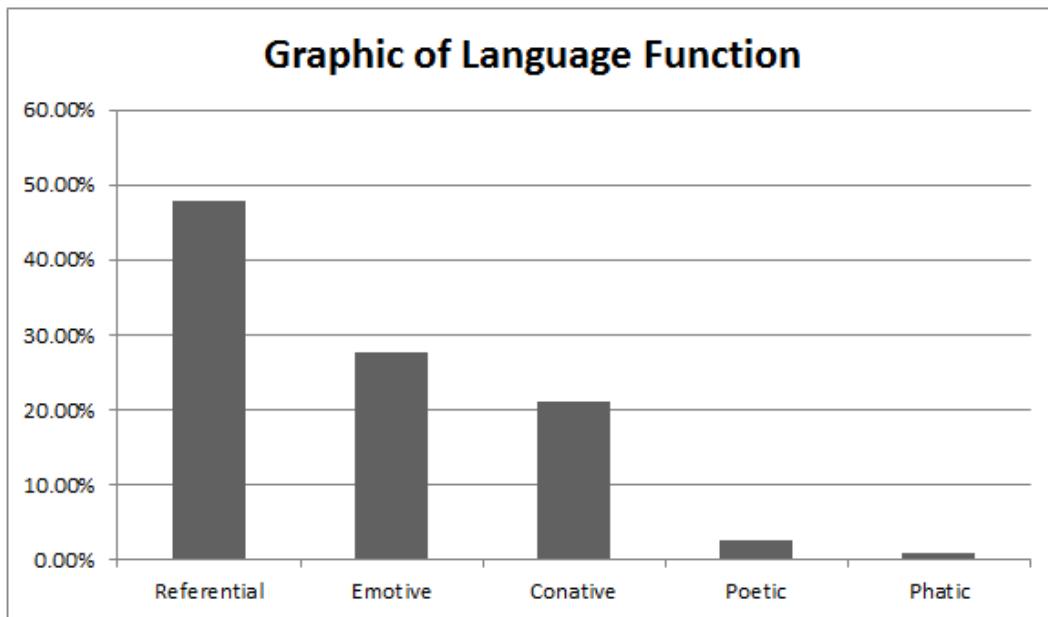
The last finding is factive presupposition having 4 data which is the only 2,2% from all data and it is triggered by factive verb/predicate like aware & glad. Factive is the assumption that something is true due to the presence of some verbs such as “aware” and “glad”. These are the data taken from the novella:

All that year the animals worked like slaves. But they were happy in their work; they grudged no effort or sacrifice, well aware that everything that they did was for the benefit of themselves and those of their kind who would come after them, and not for a pack of idle, thieving human beings. (Chapter 6)

The animals believed every word of it. Truth to tell, Jones and all he stood for had almost faded out of their memories. They knew that life nowadays was harsh and bare, that they were often hungry and often cold, and that they were usually working when they were not asleep. But doubtless it had been worse in the old days. They were glad to believe so. Besides, in those days they had been slaves and now they were free, and that made all the difference, as Squealer did not fail to point out. (Chapter 9)

In this research, the researcher also analyzes the language function used in George Orwell's novella Animal Farm main character's utterances. From each type of presuppositions, the researcher also analyzes which language function is mostly used in the Novella's main character utterance.

**Table 2** Graphic of Language Function used in the Novella's main character's utterances in general:



Explanation:

- First chart, Referential 57 utterances/ (47, 9%)
- Second chart, Emotive 33 utterances (27, 7%)
- Third chart, Conative 25 utterances (21, 1%)
- Fourth chart, Poetic 3 utterances (2, 5%)
- Fifth chart, Phatic 1 utterance (0, 8%)

This finding in George Orwell's novella Animal Farm is different from the previous studies that also analyzed about presupposition. Compared with Li (2005) from Wuhan University, studied Presupposition in Advertising Language. By qualitative analysis, Li tries to explore the functions of each type of presuppositions in advertising texts by Yule's theory. From 100 selected advertising utterances, Li found out that 85% contains presupposition and existential presupposition accounts for the largest percentage (65 %).

Meanwhile, this research found out that factive presupposition as the most type used in George Orwell's Novella Animal Farm utterances. Compared with Li, which is analyzed the presupposition in advertising; this research analyzed the utterances used in George Orwell's Novella Animal Farm. The purpose of utterances in advertising and novella should be different, because advertising used language to attract and persuade people, while in novella the utterances used as the part of conversation and emotional expression.

Wang Ying Fang (2007) also analyzed about Presupposition and its Function in advertisement based on Yule's theory. He categorized that presupposition is an adopted for language technique in advertisements. Different with Li and this research, he is emphasis his research is placed on pragmatics functions of advertising language from three angles: presupposition and advertisement, presupposition psychology and market strategies of advertisement.

Abbot (1999), in her journal's article entitled "Presupposition as Non-Assertions assumed that the assertion or presupposition distinction maps fairly directly onto the distinction between new and old information. In contrary with this research which is analyzed the presupposition used in George Orwell's novella Animal Farm. Among with the previous study, this research quite similar with Li's that analyze the presupposition in advertising language.

This research used descriptive method and George Yule's theory. The researcher found that existential presupposition accounts for the largest percentage (38,9%). There are 69 data of utterances of the main characters in the George Orwell's novella Animal Farm that can be categorized to the existential presupposition.

After classifying the types of presupposition, the writer analyzes what the information being intended in the presupposition by considering the context that influences the conversation. Therefore, the writer finds out that the context really influences the message that is delivered by the speaker. The writer can analyze the meaning of pragmatic presupposition through the context. The speakers share information and express their feeling through presupposition, it's because they need to deliver information that the speakers believe the listener already known the intended meaning.

## **CONCLUSION**

In speaking, speaker assumes information is already known by their listener. In fact, the information isn't stated directly in speaker's utterance. To understand what the intention of speaker meaning, the listener need to make some assumptions about the speaker's utterance. Listener needs to look for word's meaning and what the speaker's mean in the same context. To avoid the misinterpretation in meaning, it will be dealt with presuppositions.

Presupposition can be defined as assumption that shared by the speaker to the listener. Presupposition can be applied in daily conversation in literary works. As the explanation above, presupposition can be applied in George Orwell's novella Animal Farm. The novella used five types of presuppositions. As found in Orwell's Novella Animal Farm mostly the utterance of the main characters contain presuppositions.

Pragmatics approach is one of the approaches that is used in conducting this analysis. Analyzing the presupposition in George Orwell's novella Animal Farm based on the theory of Presupposition by George Yule and the Language function by Roman Jakobson, meanwhile presupposition and language function can be analyzed not only from these theories but also from other theories. Beside that there are several objects in novella which can be analyzed by

future researcher who is interested in presupposition on this legendary classic literary work. They are politeness strategy, language style, and grammar.

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