



Presupposition on Barack Obama's Speech at Islamic Society of Baltimore

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Abstract

This research aimed to find out the kinds of presupposition on Barack Obama's speech at Islamic Society of Baltimore. In this research, the researchers used a descriptive qualitative method. The object of this research is the script in the Barack Obama speech. Instrument of this research is observational checklist. It means that the researcher watches the video of Barack Obama's speech at Islamic Society of Baltimore. The video can be function to see context the utterances. The researcher finds the data on the script of Barack Obama's speech. The researcher provides the table of presupposition for analyzing data. Table of potential presupposition is the instrument used by researcher to put the data, to classify and to identify the data. The mostly types of presupposition found in Barack Obama's speech at Islamic society of Baltimore is existential presupposition and the less is lexical presupposition. The existential presupposition was the most dominant on this speech because the speeches contain more define descriptive, real fact and real information to stimulate the audience's attention and emphasize his idea and promises to keep Muslim American feeling safe in minority. Lexical in this research is the lowest number of type's presupposition on speeches of Barack Obama. This means that in the Barack Obama's speech there was no implied expression to confirm his opinion.

Keywords: Presupposition, Speech, Islamic Society of Baltimore

Introduction

A presupposition is something that the speaker believes to be true before making a statement (Yule, 1996:25). The term "presupposition" refers to the assumptions that can be made in conjunction with claims. Many of the speaker's remarks are ambiguous in their interpretation. Presupposition is important means to structure information. It is shown when a speaker states the sentence to the listener and the listener can assume what the meaning is from the sentence whether it is true or not For example:1) Speaker: I bought Mr. Tere Liye's book yesterday.Listener: Get a 30 % discount right?2) Statement: *Mary's dog is cute.*

From the examples above, in first example speaker assumes that the listener has known who Tere Liye is. In second example, the presupposition is Mary exist, Mary cherish a dog. Presupposition is an assumption by a speaker or writers about what is true or already known by the listener or reader. There were some previous study which explored presupposition. Humardiana (2009) in her research "*A Study on Presupposition Used in Weekender Magazine's Advertisement*", she found 51 existentialpresuppositions that often used in the advertisement. Then Marlisa (2008) "*Analysis of Types Presupposition Used in the Editorial Articles of the Jakarta Post Newspaper*", the result of her research is the researcher have found the dominant of presupposition. It is lexical presupposition. Anggi (2018) in her research found counter factual has the highest frequent of presupposition and the lowest is factive presupposition. And then the previous study from Giska (2020) in her research the highest number of presupposition is existential. The dominant of existetial preesupposition because the movie present existence of something.

Although this research also about presupposition based on Yule's theory, the researcher finds similarity and difference between these researches. In contrast to the previous results, other researchers used magazines, films, and advertisements, while the researcher would focus on speech. Speech has an important presupposition. Therefore the audiences or listeners should have good knowledge of presupposition in order to get good interpretation. To be able to derive the meaning from any speech in a more appropriate way, this study needs to use the pragmatic approach of meaning analysis. In this research, the researcher focuses on the Barrack Obama's speech at Islamic Society of Baltimore (2016) based on George Yule's theory.

According to the statement about presupposition above, the researcher will find and classify the utterances of presupposition in *Barrack Obama speech at the Islamic Society of Baltimore* based on George Yule's theory. Barrack Obama's speech at Islamic Society of Baltimore is the object

of this research because Barack Obama has special characteristic rather than others in terms of being a speakers. It is also good media to learn Pragmatics especially presupposition.

Research Methodology

A descriptive qualitative approach was used in this study. Its aim was to explain the different types of presuppositions listed in Barack Obama's speech at the Islamic Society of Baltimore (2016). Qualitative study, according to Mack et al (2005; 1), is particularly successful in collecting culturally specific knowledge about beliefs, attitudes, habits, and social contexts of specific populations. In Barack Obama's speech at the Islamic Society of Baltimore, the researcher centered on the different forms of presuppositions (2016).

The object of this research is the script in the Barack Obama speech at Islamic Society of Baltimore (2016). The script was obtained on the internet and taken from American Rhetoric (<https://www.americanrhetoric.com>), a trusted web that has captured all speeches of Barack Obama both in a text-speech and video.

Instrument of this research is observational checklist. It means that the researcher watches the video of Barack Obama's speech at Islamic Society of Baltimore. The video can be function to see context the utterances. The researcher finds the data on the script of Barack Obama's speech. The researcher provides the table of presupposition for analyzing data. Table of potential presupposition is the instrument used by researcher to put the data, to classify and to identify the data. the researcher included these following steps for formulated problem.

The researchers categorized the data. The researcher classified the utterance based on forms of presupposition whether existential presupposition, factive presupposition, lexical presupposition, non-factive presupposition, structural presupposition, and counter-factual presupposition. The researcher analyzed and described phrase of presupposition in script of Barack Obama's speech by using theory of Yule's (1996) about presupposition.

Result and Discussion,

Result

Kinds of presupposition

In the script of speech Barack Obama's, the writers found many kinds of presupposition utterances presented as well in the table above as the data result. It could be seen that there are 44 utterances of presupposition

which are divided into six categories, they are 28 utterances of existential presupposition, 6 utterances of factive presupposition, 3 utterances of lexical presupposition, 2 utterances of non factive presupposition, 4 utterances of structural presupposition, and 5 utterance of counter-factual presupposition.

A. Existential Presupposition

No	Utterance	Presumption	Context	Classification
1.	<u>Sabah</u> , thank you for the wonderful introduction.	Sabah had wonderful introduction.	Sabah give the motivation about devotion of her faith and education.	Existential Presupposition.
2.	And I suspect, Sabah, <u>your parents</u> are here because they wanted to see you so	Sabah people's parents were in the room and exist.	Sabah become a fantastic doctor.	Existential Presupposition.
3.	I want to recognize Congressman <u>John Sarbanes</u> , who is here.	Congressman John Sarbanes was in the room and exist.	Obama mention the name.	Existential Presupposition.

B. Factive Presupposition.

No.	Utterances	Presumption	Context	Classification
1.	So the first thing I want to <u>say</u> is two words that Muslim Americans don't hear often enough and that is, thank you.	That audiences in fact didn't knew what two word itself is.	Obama used his gesture by actuating his hand.	Factive Presupposition.

No.	Utterances	Presumption	Context	Classification
2.	I <u>know</u> that in Muslim communities across our country, this time of concern and frankly, a time of some fear.	That Muslim community felt fear.	Obama used his gesture by actuating his hand.	Factive Presupposition.

C. Non-factive Presupposition.

No	Utterance	Presumption	Context	Classification
1.	And I <u>believe it</u> has to begin with a common understanding of some basic facts.	That audience knew some basic fact itself.	Obama mention and explain the fact.	Non-factive Presupposition.
2.	For Christian like myself, I'm <u>assuming</u> that sounds familiar.	That audience familiar with that sounds.	The standard greeting Islam is Assalamuala ikum, peace be upon you.	Non-factive Presupposition.

D. Lexical Presupposition.

No	Utterance	Presumption	Context	Classification
1.	To everyone here at the Islamic Society of Baltimore, <u>thank you</u> for <u>welcoming me</u>	Obama assumed that most audience have	Obama gave smile to the	Lexical Presupposition.

No	Utterance	Presumption	Context	Classification
	<u>here today.</u>	good respect.	audience.	
2.	So let's <u>start</u> with this fact: for more than a thousand years, people have been drawn to Islam's message of peace.	That audience knew about the fact.	The word Islam comes from salaam it mean peace.	Lexical Presupposition.

E. Structural Presupposition

No	Utterance	Presumption	Context	Classification
1.	<u>Where</u> are Sabah parents? There you go.	Obama has known that Sabah parents were in the room.	Obama smiled and gave applause to Sabah parents.	Structural Presupposition.
2.	<u>Why</u> do people treat us like that?	The audience knew they were being treated differently.	Obama looked sad and he was silent for a moment.	Structural Presupposition.

F. Counter-factual Presupposition

No	Utterance	Presumption	Context	Classification
1.	And so <u>if we are</u>	The audience had	Many of	Counter-

No	Utterance	Presumption	Context	Classification
	<u>serious</u> about freedom of religion and I'm speaking now to my fellow Christians who remain the majority in this country.	the same intention about freedom of religion.	people have been attacked only by religion.	factual Presupposition.

Discussion

The writers addressed the results of data analysis contained in Barack Obama's speech at the Islamic Society of Baltimore in this section. Based on Yule's theory, the writers described the different types of presuppositions when reading the script of Barack Obama's speech (1996). Based on the characteristics of each type of presupposition, the writers has identified six types of presupposition used in Barack Obama's speech at the Islamic Society of Baltimore: 28 existential presupposition, 6 factive presupposition, 3 lexical presupposition, 2 non factive presupposition, 4 structural presupposition, and 5 counter-factual presupposition. Existential presupposition is the most common form of presupposition found in Barack Obama's speech at the Islamic Society of Baltimore, whereas lexical presupposition is the least common. Since the speeches contain more defined descriptive, real reality and real facts to stimulate the audience's attention and emphasize his idea and promises to keep Muslim Americans feeling secure in the minority, the existential presupposition was the most dominant on this speech. Lexical in this research is the lowest number of type's presupposition on speeches of Barack Obama. This means that in the Barack Obama's speech there was no implied expression to confirm his opinion.

This research findings support by the previous study, the writers finds another researcher which studied presupposition, such as: Humardhiana (2009) entitled "A Study on Presupposition Used in Weekender Magazine's Advertisement". Her thesis and this thesis share the same principle, and the most common form of presupposition is existential presupposition, but her thesis differs from this thesis in that it uses advertisement rather than speech. The similarities between this thesis and Liang Liu's previous study, "An Analysis of Presupposition Triggers in Hillary Clinton's First Campaign Voice," are that

both use speech as the object, but the difference is that Liang Liu's theory combines Levinson's and Yule's theories. Firdaus's previous thesis, titled "A Study of Presupposition in the Opening Part of Barack Obama's Speech at University of Indonesia," was published in 2017. His thesis and this thesis have the same theory, but his thesis differs from this thesis due to the results of the analysis. On his analysis, lexical presupposition has the most presuppositions, while existential presupposition has the most presuppositions in this study. In the Firdaus's research, he was found lexical presupposition as the highest number because in the opening of Obama's speech he conveyed many implied meanings to attract the attention of the audience, while in this research the highest number is existential presupposition because in this research Obama's speech conveyed many facts and mentioned many names that do exist.

Conclusion

The conclusion is that Barack Obama's speech contained several presuppositions. there are 44 utterances of presupposition which are divided into six categories, they are 28 utterances of existential presupposition, 6 utterances of factive presupposition, 3 utterances of lexical presupposition, 2 utterances of non factive presupposition, 4 utterances of structural presupposition, and 5 utterance of counter-factual presupposition. Then, every presupposition was produce it has meaning that want to send by speaker to hearer, every presupposition it can depends on the condition or situation when the speaker said a presupposition. When the speaker produces a presupposition we should consider about the situation that convey the presupposition itself.

Suggestion

The authors hope that the reader can gain a better understanding of presupposition as a result of this research. This may also be a good resource for readers who are researching presuppositions. It is also hoped that after reading this study, readers would realize that every utterance made by people often has an implied sense that is intended to be communicated to the listener, allowing the reader to interact effectively with others. For more details, go to This research may be used as a guideline for other researchers researching presuppositions, and the author hopes that in the future, other researchers will pursue the same subject to complete this research, but in a different area.

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