
Presupposition Used by The Characters in *Uncharted* Movie

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Abstract: *This study aims to identify the types of presupposition and reveal the meaning of each presupposition found in the Uncharted movie. The data for this study was taken from the dialogs spoken by the characters in the Uncharted movie. In this study, the qualitative research method was used to analyze the data. This study applied Yule's (1996) presupposition theory and supported by the theory of meaning by Thomas (1995). The results showed that all of the six types of presupposition were found in the characters' utterances from the Uncharted movie. These six types were existential presupposition, factive presupposition, lexical presupposition, structural presupposition, non factive presupposition, and counterfactual presupposition. The analysis also revealed a variety of meanings of all the presuppositions found, where each of the meaning was influenced by the contextual aspects when the utterance is spoken; this made every meaning of the presupposition uttered by the speaker can be understood by the interlocutor by observing the context of the utterance. This study enhances the comprehension of how presupposition is used in conversation and its impact on listeners' interpretation.*

INTRODUCTION

A presupposition is something that is assumed by the speaker to be the case before producing an utterance (Yule, 1996). While according to Louise Cummings (2023) a presupposition can be described as a statement that is accepted as true within a conversation without being explicitly stated in the content of the statement. It is considered a common understanding between the speaker and the listener, part of their shared background knowledge. Therefore, it can be concluded that a presupposition is an implicit assumption made by the speaker about the truth of a statement before it is expressed. It is a shared, unspoken understanding between the speaker and the listener, forming part of their common background knowledge.

Presupposition can be found in everyday life, one of which is in a movie. This is because a movie contains a lot of dialogs from the characters within it and in a movie, dialog is a major aspect. This is in accordance with Pratama et al. (2023) who stated that dialogs often incorporate presuppositions during conversations, which will enhance the storyline and engage the audience. People utilize dialog to convey messages, request services, engage in negotiations, settle disputes,

share jokes, and sometimes even to deceive or mislead (Minker and Bennacef, 2004). Likewise in a movie, where dialog is used by the characters in the movie to interact with other characters. Therefore, it is not uncommon for these dialogs to contain pragmatic elements such as presupposition, because presupposition is generally found in utterances or dialogs. To illustrate this more clearly, see the dialog between Mary and George below:

Data 1

Mary : *What's that guy doing in the parking lot?*

George : *He's looking for his car or something.*

(Yule, 1996 : 32)

The dialog above contains presupposition, specifically in the utterance spoken by Mary, which is the utterance *What's that guy doing in the parking lot?*. Based on the theory of presupposition proposed by Yule (1996), this utterance is a structural presupposition. From this, presupposition is generally found in utterances or dialogs.

Presupposition is important to observe because in communicating in everyday life people usually unconsciously use presupposition to convey the message that they want to convey. According to Umar et al. (2018) the study of presupposition is crucial because it studies the implied meaning typically not explicitly stated in the utterance. Therefore, by observing presupposition, it will provide the ability to recognize it. As a result, it will support both the speaker and the listener in understanding the full message that is being conveyed.

Based on the explanations in the passage above, then the aims of this study are to identify the types of presupposition and reveal the meaning of each presupposition found in the *Uncharted* movie. *Uncharted* is an action movie from 2022 which directed by Ruben Fleischer, the movie tells the story of Nathan Drake who is recruited by experienced treasure hunter Victor Sullivan (Sully) to return the wealth amassed by Ferdinand Magellan. This movie is chosen because there are many dialogs between the characters in the movie that contain presupposition that can be analyzed in this study.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The primary theory related to this study is the theory of presupposition proposed by Yule (1996). The theory of meaning by Thomas (1995) is also used in this study as a supporting theory. These theories are considered relevant to this study because this study examined the types of presupposition and analyze the meaning of each presupposition found in the *Uncharted* movie.

1. Theory of Presupposition

According to Yule (1996) presupposition is something that is assumed by the speaker to be the case before producing an utterance. Those who have presuppositions are speakers, not sentences. Yule divides presupposition into six types, as follows:

a. Existential Presupposition

In existential presupposition the speaker is assumed to be committed to the existence of the entities named. The example can be seen in the following utterance;

Data 1

It was the West Gang who stole my motorbike. (>>The West Gang is existed >>The speaker has a motorbike)

(Cummings, 2023 : 59)

In the example (1) above it is shows that there is an existed entities named The West Gang as a group of people and the speaker has a motorbike.

b. Factive Presupposition

Factive presupposition used certain verb construction such as *know*, *realize*, *regret*, and *glad* to indicate that something is a fact. The example can be seen in the following utterance;

Data 2

She didn't realize he was ill. (>>He was ill)

(Yule, 1996 : 28)

In the example (2) above it is shows that a person who just know about new factual information namely the other person (he) is ill.

c. Lexical Presupposition

Lexical presupposition using one form with the meaning that being asserted but another meaning is being understood. The example can be seen in the following utterance;

Data 3

He stopped smoking. (>>He used to smoke)

(Yule, 1996 : 28)

In the example (3) above it is shows that the used of word *stopped* indicate the first meaning that he stopped smoking but also indicate the second meaning that he used to smoke.

d. Structural Presupposition

In structural presupposition specific sentence constructions have been examined as consistently and conventionally implying that part of the structure is already assumed to be true. The example can be seen in the following utterance;

Data 4

When did he leave? (>>He left)

(Yule, 1996 : 29)

The example (4) above can lead listeners to believe that the information presented is necessarily true, rather than just the presupposition of the person asking the question. In other word, the listeners can presuppose that the other person (he) left.

e. Non Factive Presupposition

Non factive presupposition is an assumption that something is not true. This type of presupposition uses verbs like *dream*, *imagine*, *hope*, *wish*, and *pretend* with the presupposition that what follows is not true. The example can be seen in the following utterance;

Data 5

I dreamed that I was rich. (>>I was not rich)

(Yule, 1996 : 29)

The example (5) above presupposes that the statement after the verb *dreamed* is not true and the speaker is not rich.

f. Counterfactual Presupposition

Counterfactual presupposition is an assumption that what is presupposed is not only not true, but is the opposite of what is true, or contrary to fact. The example can be seen in the following utterance;

Data 6

If you were my friend, you would have helped me. (>>You are not my friend)

(Yule, 1996 : 30)

The example (6) above implies that what is presupposed is not true, and the contrary is true. In other word, the other person (you) is not the speaker's friend, and the other person (you) didn't help the speaker.

2. Theory of Meaning

Meaning is not an embedded property of words, speakers, or listeners. Constructing meaning is a dynamic process that involves the collaborative negotiation of meaning between speaker and listener, the utterance context (which includes physical, social, and linguistic aspects), and the potential meaning embedded in the utterance (Thomas, 1995). In other words, each utterance does not have a single correct meaning, as each utterance is interpreted differently by individuals, depending on the context. The example can be seen in the following utterance;

Data 7

How are things, Scott?

(Thomas, 1995 : 22)

From example (7) above due to the variation in the meaning of the utterance above, asking Scott with the question *How are things, Scott?* would probably be interpreted by Scott as a purely phatic greeting. However, in a certain context such as an examiners' meeting, asking the same question may be interpreted by Scott as a question regarding with how he enjoys his new job, an anxiety expression over a certain student, etc. Thus, the meaning of the utterance *How are things, Scott?* is interpreted differently by Scott, depending on the context.

RESEARCH METHOD

The data source of this study was the *Uncharted* movie. It was obtained from an internet website called www.catchplay.com. The choice of using the movie as the data source was driven by the research's intent to analyze the presupposition in the characters' dialogs. Additionally, the movie was considered as a more suitable medium for illustrating the contextual elements of the situations. The data for this study was taken from the dialogs spoken by the characters in the *Uncharted* movie. The data collection methods employed in this study were documentation and observation methods proposed by Creswell (2014). The data collection process involved a series of steps. First, the documentation method was used to gather the data source from the internet website. Afterwards, the observation method was used to observe all utterances from the dialogs of the characters in the data source. Subsequently, the observed utterances were aligned with Yule's (1996) theory of presupposition to identify utterances containing presupposition and to classify the utterances that contain presupposition into one of the presupposition types. Finally, the identified presuppositions within the utterances from the dialogs of the characters were noted down, and later were used as the data for the analysis.

In this study, the qualitative research method was used to analyze the data. Qualitative research method is a research approach that depends on text and image data, involve unique steps in data analysis, and utilize a variety of designs (Creswell, 2014). The data analysis involved a series of steps as follows; first, the contextual aspects within the data, including details like the setting of the scene and the characters participating in it, were explained. Afterwards, the presupposition found in the data was analyzed by aligning it with the distinctive features of each type of presupposition. Finally, the meaning of the presupposition data that has been classified was analyzed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section contains the analysis of the *Uncharted* movie based on the theories that have been discussed in the preceding section. The analysis aims to determine the type of presupposition contained in the characters' utterances and reveal the meaning of each presupposition found. The analysis includes the explanation of the contextual factors that give rise to the presupposition,

followed by the presupposition found in the dialog of the movie, then classifying it into presupposition types based on the theory, and finally followed by the explanation of the meaning of the presupposition. In this section only several sample of the analyzed data are discussed, the rest of the analyzed data is published open access on *figshare*: <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.25771479> (Putra, 2024).

Findings

1. Existential Presupposition

The participants of the following conversation excerpt (Data 1) are Nathan and Sullivan. The conversation occurred at Sullivan's house. Sullivan takes a book and places it on a table, then he points out a picture in the book. Sullivan then explained why he refuted Nathan's statement.

Data 1 (00:13:53 – 00:14:15)

Nathan : I know the legend that his voyage wasn't about exploration, it was about finding that gold. But it's just a story.

Sullivan : No. I beg to differ. These trips were hugely expensive back then. **The King of Spain couldn't afford it.** There wasn't gonna be any trip until a private financier stepped in.

Sullivan's boldface utterance above is regarded as existential presupposition because the speaker is assumed to be committed to the existence of the entity named. Through the boldface utterance above the listener can presuppose that there is an existed entity named the king of Spain.

The meaning contained within the presupposition above is about the speaker giving information to the listener. In this scenario, Sullivan is the speaker and the listener is Nathan. After Nathan said that the legend of Magellan's voyage to find gold was just a story. Sullivan refuted this and then gives information that at that time the trip was very expensive and the king of Spain could not afford it until a private financier stepped in.

2. Factive Presupposition

The following conversation excerpt (Data 2) involves Nathan and Sullivan as participants. The conversation occurred at Sullivan's house. While standing in front of a world map, Nathan explains the story of Magellan's voyage was not about exploration but about finding gold. However, he emphasized that it was just a story.

Data 2 (00:13:42 – 00:14:01)

(Nathan is standing in front of a world map and explaining the story of Magellan's voyage)

Nathan: Only he wasn't first guy to do it. Magellan died in the Philippines on a random beach somewhere. It was his captain, Juan Sebastián Elcano, who finished the trip with 17 others. Also known as the Infamous 18. **I know the legend that his voyage wasn't about exploration, it was about finding that gold.** But it's just a story.

Nathan's boldface utterance above is regarded as factive presupposition because the speaker encourages the listener to believe the information from the utterance as a fact. The presupposition can be seen from the use of verb *know* which can indicate that what is said is a fact. The reason is when the speaker used the verb *know* the speaker has known, seen or heard the thing personally or the speaker has understood the whole situation as a fact. The fact is the legend of Magellan's voyage was not about exploration, but about finding gold.

The meaning contained within the presupposition above is about the speaker's understanding towards the topic of conversation. In this scenario, Nathan is the speaker and the topic of conversation is about the legend of Magellan's voyage. Nathan has knowledge about the history of Magellan's voyage. This is because since he was a child, he and his brother always researched

about the gold sought by Magellan and looked for clues related to where the gold was located. Therefore, it is not surprising that Nathan knows the legend of Magellan's voyage and knows the factual information that the voyage was not for exploration but to find the gold.

3. Lexical Presupposition

The participants of the following conversation excerpt (Data 3) are Sullivan and Nathan. The conversation occurred at Sullivan's house. After retrieving the bracelet that he is looking for and also taking a valuable item, Nathan intends to leave Sullivan's house. But when he wants to go out, Sullivan then asks the reason why Nathan previously stopped in front of a world map that is there, then Nathan stops for a moment and tells the reason.

Data 3 (00:13:26 – 00:13:32)

Sullivan : Why the map? **Of everything in here, that stopped you.**

Nathan : Because it looks like it might be authentic.

Sullivan : Oh, not might be. It is.

Sullivan's boldface utterance above is regarded as lexical presupposition because it is the assumption that, the listener can presuppose another meaning from the utterance of the speaker. The presupposition can be seen from the use of word *stopped* which indicates the first meaning that Nathan stopped, but also indicates the second meaning that Nathan previously walked around in the Sullivan house.

The meaning contained within the presupposition above is about the speaker telling the listener that there is a thing that stops the listener. In this scenario, Sullivan is the speaker and the listener is Nathan. The thing that stops Nathan is a map. Where previously when Nathan walked around in Sullivan's house while seeing the items there, there was not a single item that stopped him, until finally he saw a map.

4. Structural Presupposition

The following conversation excerpt (Data 4) involves Sullivan and Chloe as participants. The conversation occurred at a public place in Barcelona, Spain. Sullivan, Chloe and Nathan gathered in a public place. There Sullivan and Chloe argued about why Chloe asked to meet in a public place. After that, Chloe asks why Nathan is there.

Data 4 (00:32:48 – 00:33:01)

Sullivan : And what's with the spy games? Why couldn't we meet at the house?

Chloe : I was making sure you weren't followed.

Sullivan : Come on, you don't think I can spot a tail?

Chloe : Mate, I've been on you since the airport.

Sullivan : Really? All the way from the airport?

Chloe : Look, it doesn't matter. **Why is he here?**

Chloe's boldface utterance above is regarded as structural presupposition because the speaker's utterance leads the listener to believe that the information implied by a particular part of the sentence structure is necessarily true, not just the presupposition of the person asking the question. The part of the sentence structure that is being referred to is the word *here*. Through this word the listeners, which are Sullivan and Nathan, can presuppose that Nathan is there.

The meaning contained within the presupposition above is about the speaker being curious about the presence of someone. In this scenario, Chloe is the speaker and the listeners are Sullivan and Nathan. Chloe is curious about the presence of Nathan there, which means that Sullivan did not tell Chloe before that he is with Nathan.

5. Non Factive Presupposition

The participants of the following conversation excerpt (Data 5) are Nathan and Chloe. The

conversation occurred in a room of a resort. They both sit on a couch and try to figure out the clues that Sam might left in his postcard.

Data 5 (01:20:21 – 01:20:40)

Nathan : Let's start with the images. Do blue. There's a lot of blue.

Chloe : Colors. Okay.

Nathan : There's one card where he spells everything wrong. Where is that?

Chloe : T-H-A-R... Hills.

Nathan : Hills?

Chloe : Hills.

Nathan : So, try writing this out: **“Wish you were here, bro.”** (*Sam's utterance in the postcard*)

Nathan's boldface utterance above is regarded as non factive presupposition because it is an assumption that something is not true. What is not true is that Nathan is there with Sam, because Nathan is not there with Sam. The presupposition can be seen from the use of word *wish*. The reason for this is that when the word *wish* is used by the speaker, the speaker is referring to either something that has not yet occurred or something that is hoped by the speaker to occur in the future.

The meaning contained within the presupposition above is about the speaker hoping for the presence of someone. In this scenario, the speaker is Sam (through a postcard) and what Sam hopes is that Nathan is there with him but it is not, because they have been separated since childhood and never meet again.

6. Counterfactual Presupposition

The following conversation excerpt (Data 6) involves Sullivan and Nathan as participants. The conversation occurred at Sullivan's house. While putting a tie-on Nathan, Sullivan tells Nathan the reason why he was kicked out of the navy.

Data 6 (00:20:27 – 00:20:45)

Sullivan : I flew helicopters. I was preserving some artifacts from a museum in Baghdad. I was over the max load weight, crashed pretty hard. They got all upset, kicked me out. Bit of an overreaction, but what are you gonna do?

Nathan : You say “preserving”... but you mean looting, right?

Sullivan : Well, **if I didn't take them, somebody else would have.**

Sullivan's boldface utterance above is regarded as counterfactual presupposition because it is an assumption that what is presupposed is not only not true, but is the opposite of what is true, or contrary to fact. The presupposition can be seen from the use of the conjunction *if* which indicates that what is presupposed is not true and the contrary is true. In other word, Sullivan did take some artifacts and somebody else did not take anything.

The meaning contained within the presupposition above is about the speaker saying what would happen if the situation is different. In this scenario, Sullivan is the speaker, and the imagined situation is that Sullivan didn't take some artifacts then what would happen is that somebody else would take them.

CONCLUSION

In this concluding section, conclusion can be drawn from the previous analysis regarding the types and meaning of presuppositions found in the characters' utterances from the *Uncharted* movie. Based on the data analysis, all the six types of presupposition were found in the characters' utterances from the *Uncharted* movie. These six types were existential presupposition, factive presupposition, lexical presupposition, structural presupposition, non factive presupposition, and

counterfactual presupposition.

The analysis also revealed a variety of meanings of all the presuppositions found, where each of the meaning was influenced by the contextual aspects when the utterance is spoken. Which made every meaning of the presupposition uttered by the speaker can be understood by the listener by observing the context of the utterance.

Based on the analysis results of this study, it is suggested to the readers, especially to those who are interested in doing research in the field of pragmatics, to do deeper research on presupposition to obtain a better understanding about presupposition. Because having a clear understanding about presupposition can help in reducing the possibility of misinterpretation when communicating, thus it can lead to an effective communication. The research could include examining other movies with different genres, examining other media such as poetry, novels, or vlogs of daily life that are often found on social media.

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