

Presupposition of Hoax Discourse in *Tilik* and *Gossip* Movie

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ABSTRACT

The form of hoax discourse can be seen in movies entitled *Tilik* and *Gossip*. *Tilik* movie tells how the main character spread hoax information. In *Gossip* movie, the story centers on three main characters who plan to spread hoax information and track how far the public receives the hoax information. This study focused on the expressions used by the main characters in both movies in disseminating hoax information. This study aimed to identify the presuppositions used by the main characters and their use in hoax discourse. The results found that all types of presupposition were used in both movies. The used presuppositions were related to the spread of hoax information as the theme of the story. In *Tilik* movies, the main characters frequently use non-factive and counterfactual presupposition. While in *Gossip* movie, those two types of non-factive and counterfactual presupposition were used infrequently. These differences were caused by how the rumors were spread by the main characters in those two movies. In *Tilik* movie, the rumors have existed before the main characters spread them, but in *Gossip* movie, the rumors were started to be created in the circumstances.

Keywords: Pragmatics, Presupposition, Hoax discourse, Movie.

1. INTRODUCTION

Every normal human being in a particular social group must be able to communicate with a particular purpose, whether it is a good goal or a bad one. In the context of hoax discourse, every individual must also have a style of communicating with their distinctive character. The *Tilik* movie was released in 2018 and is booming in society since the story's theme contains a unique Javanese cultural context. *Tilik* is one of the short movies that passed the special fund curation of the Cultural Service of the Special Region of Yogyakarta in 2018. In *Tilik*'s movie, Mrs. Tedjo, one of the characters gives information and opinions about a villager, which is not necessarily true. In speaking, she tends to use similes and prejudices in a conversational context creating a rumour and gossip. The second movie is titled *Gossip*. This movie is a Hollywood production that tells how a student majoring in Communication Science does a final project by compiling a rumour and tracking the results. In this movie, the students who organize the spread of these rumours use expressions of prejudice against the people around them so that the rumours are believed by the people around them.

This study analyzed conversation based on the realm of pragmatics because pragmatics deals with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader). Pragmatics is the study of the speaker's meaning [1]. Basically, speakers and addressees converse in a context to exchange information or messages. Context always exists in a speech. According to Leech [2], context is the background of understanding possessed by both the speaker and the interlocutor so that the interlocutor can make an interpretation of what the speaker meant when making a particular utterance. In addition to context, the presupposition is essential to understand a message in the utterances spoken by the comedians. According to Wijana [3], a sentence is stated to presuppose another sentence if the untruth of the second sentence (the presupposed sentence) results in the first sentence (the presupposing sentence) cannot be said to be true or false. Presuppositions are what speakers use as a common basis for conversation participants. Through a presupposition, the speaker will be able to make assumptions about what the speaker is saying in a specific context. According to Yule [4], speakers use presuppositions as a common basis for conversation participants. Another opinion is also expressed by

Rahardi [5] an utterance can be said to presuppose another utterance if the untruth of the propositioned utterance results in untruth or truth. A presupposition is an utterance that contains the meaning of truth or untruth according to the speech.

From the presupposition definition, it can be concluded that presupposition is the initial conclusion or assumption of the speaker before making the speech that what will be conveyed is also understood by the speech partner. To clarify this, consider the following example:

(1) A: "I bought Pak Udin's book yesterday."

B: "Get a 30 % discount, right?"

The example conversation above shows that A had the presupposition that B knew what he meant before speaking, namely that a book was being discounted.

Mistakes create presuppositions of effects in human speech. In other words, the appropriate presupposition can enhance the communicative value of an expressed utterance. The more precise the hypothesized presupposition, the higher the communicative value of an utterance expressed. According to Chaika [6], in some cases, discourse can be searched through presuppositions. It refers to a meaning that is not explicitly stated. The examples can be seen as follows.

(2a) "My father came from Surabaya".

(3a) "The drink is finished".

From example (2a), the presuppositions are: (1) I have a father; (2) My father is in Surabaya. In example (3a), the presupposition is please drink. Therefore, the function of presupposition is to help reduce barriers to people's responses to the interpretation of an utterance.

Ariyanti et al. [7] analyzed the presupposition used by the lecturer to respond to the student's proposal to be the student's supervisor. The results show that 8 students received more than one presupposition type response from the lecturers, while 21 students received one presupposition type only. Aini and Ariyanti [8] aimed to reveal how presupposition and entailment were used in the speech and how they contributed to the context of the speech. The result of their research found out that the most commonly used presupposition is existential presupposition. The function of this existential type is to emphasize, to draw attention and sympathy toward the listeners. It can be concluded that the presuppositions of the speech must be entailed by the global context, which means the global context or common ground knowledge entails that presupposition. In a word, both presupposition and entailment become a strategy to make the audience become more focused in the context of the speech.

This research describes on how presupposition is used based on a different context. The contexts are differentiated through the different themes of the two

movies. The first movie tells a story on how a rumor has existed and is being spread in a certain community. The second movie tells a story on how a rumour is started to be spread. So, the use of presupposition can be seen from the different contexts of how the rumours were first spread. Based on the background of the study, the research problem can be formulated as follows: (1) What is the presupposition used by the main character in the movie *Tilik* and *Gossip*?, and (2) What is the presupposition used in the context of hoax discourse in the movie *Tilik* and *Gossip*? (presuppositional structures and contexts that support each structure).

2. METHODS

This study uses a presupposition research method used by the main characters in the movie *Tilik* and *Gossip* as a form of communication expression in *Gossiping*. The use of this presupposition leads to a hoax discourse in the messages conveyed in the two movies. The story in the *Tilik* movie contains a message of how a speaker expresses rumours or issues that are not necessarily true. Likewise, in the *Gossip* movie, the disclosure of rumours was also deliberately used as a project by students as their final assignment to see how the communication process of hoax information was conveyed in the community. Knowing the form of presupposition in hoax discourse will provide information on how each individual does not easily believe rumors that are not necessarily true.

In this study, the researcher examined the presuppositions used by the main characters in the movie *Tilik* and the movie *Gossip* in conveying information that has no real evidence. In addition, how the hoax discourse is identified in the use of presuppositions.

The 2018 movie *Tilik*, produced by Ravacana Movie, tells the story of a group of women who go by truck to visit their village head who is being treated at the hospital. Meanwhile, *Gossip* is a movie produced in the USA and distributed by Warner Bros. Roadshow Entertainment. This movie is about a group of students who have a final college project to create a rumour and track the results. What this result meant was how the people around them could accept the rumours.

Based on the formulation of the problem, the subject of this research is the main character in the movie *Tilik*, namely Mrs. Tedjo, and in the movie *Gossip*, there are three main characters, namely Derrick, Jones, and Travis. The three people in the *Gossip* movie are students who worked on the final project as students majoring in Communication Studies. As the research object, the presuppositions used by the main characters in spreading rumours to the people around them. The data collection and data analysis were performed by the researcher.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of presupposition in two movies, *Tilik* and *Gossip*, can be seen below.

Table 1. The numbers of presuppositions used by the main character in *Tilik* movie and *Gossip* movie

Tilik		Gossip	
Presupposition	Total	Presupposition	Total
Existential	2	Existential	7
Lexical	1	Lexical	5
Structural	1	Structural	6
Factive	1	Factive	6
Non-factive	6	Non-factive	3
Counterfactual	3	Counterfactual	4

Table 1 presents the numbers of presuppositions used by the main character in those two movies. In the first movie, *Tilik*, non-factive and counterfactual presupposition are used mostly by the main characters. The second movie, *Gossip*, presents the contrary on the non-factive and counterfactual presupposition, which are less used than in the first movie, *Tilik*.

3.1. Presupposition of Spreading Rumour in *Tilik* Movie

3.1.1. Existential Presupposition

“*Terus nang mall karo wong lanang*”

(Then, goes to a mall with a guy).

The word ‘guy’ indicates that the speaker makes ‘a guy’ exists. This utterance presupposes someone goes to a mall with a guy. The truth of that guy has not been proved. However, since the speaker mentions this word, it causes an assumption that a guy has existed in a mall.

3.1.2. Lexical Presupposition

“*Wong wes umurane kok yo ra ndang rabi, wong konco-koncane yo wes podu rabi, iyo ora?*”

(She should have got married in her appropriate age immediately, her friends on that age have married, though, **right?**).

This utterance presupposes that the speaker has the right opinion since the speaker uses the ‘right’ tag question. This is lexical presupposition since the assumed message is based on the meaning of the word used in the utterance.

3.1.3. Structural Presupposition

“*Ono sing tau ngomong yen gaweane Dian iki melbu metu hotel ngono kui loh, terus ning mall karo wong lanang, gawean opo yo?*”

(Someone said that she often rents a room and goes to the mall with different guys, **what kind of job is that?**).

The question ‘what kind of job?’ indicates that someone has a certain job based on the described words in the utterance. The hearer can have a specific assumption based on the described words from the speaker. This utterance presupposes that the speaker has created structured information when the question word ‘what’ is used.

3.1.4. Factive Presupposition

“*Aku iki dadi kelingan toh, aku ngonangi Dian muntah-muntah pas wayah mbengi.*”

(I just **remembered**. I once caught Dian throwing up at night).

The factive presupposition occurs due to the factive verb ‘remembered.’ It presupposes that the event Mrs. Tedjo saw Dian threw up one night ago truly happened.

3.1.5. Non-factive Presupposition

“*Kok onok seng ngomong nek Dian ki gawenane ra genah ngunu kui lo.*”

(I **heard that** she does an inappropriate job).

In this utterance, Mrs Tedjo spreads the rumour that Dian does an inappropriate job by proposing a false assumption, which is seen in the use of the non-factive verb ‘**heard.**’ Mrs Tedjo claims that she heard Dian does an inappropriate job. However, the evidence underlying that whether or not the fact is true is not clearly stated. Thus, it lacks objectivity.

3.1.6. Counterfactual Presupposition

“*Kui iki nek ra mergo muntah meteng opo kok ndadak nginggati aku coba?*”

(**If** it was not morning sickness, why would she run away from me?).

In this utterance, Mrs Tedjo spreads the rumour that Dian is pregnant. She expresses a conditional statement as seen from the use of counterfactual grammatical word ‘If.’ Mrs Tedjo points out a scenario arguing that if it were not morning sickness, then Dian would not have run away as she encountered her. Therefore, her argument suggests that Dian is pregnant.

The presupposition in *Tilik* movie has resulted mainly on non-factive presupposition and counterfactual

presupposition. Based on table 1, it can be seen that the main character (Mrs Tedjo) uses non-factive and counterfactual presupposition more than the other four types. These two mainly used presupposition are the expression that provides assumption based on ‘not-true’ information. The ‘not-true’ information is expressed in the words like ‘heard’ and ‘if’. The word ‘heard’ itself means that the speaker receives information from other people, which he/she might not gain the information him/herself. This information can be considered a continuing rumour that existed before Mrs Tedjo spread in the community. It also means that Mrs Tedjo tries to convince the hearers to believe that the information is true and not a rumour.

The way Mrs Tedjo spreads the rumour is quite typical. She uses non-factive and counterfactual presupposition. In non-factive presupposition, Mrs Tedjo tells something untrue, hoax, and doubtful. It can be seen that the utterance “*kok jare onok sing ngomong*” or “I heard somebody said” presuppose that Mrs Tedjo herself does not know whether the rumour is true or not, but she remains to spread the gossip. Then, in counterfactual presupposition, Mrs Tedjo often uses conditional sentences to gain people’s attention by asking them for considering her words as truth. For instance, the utterance “*kuwi nek gak mergo muntah meteng, ngopo kok dadak nginggati aku?*” or “If it were not morning sickness, why would she run away from me?” successfully attract Mrs Tedjo’s neighbours to believe that rumour to be true. It is because the way Mrs Tedjo’s conditional sentence is well-constructed.

3.2. Presupposition of Spreading Rumour in Gossip Movie

3.2.1. Existential Presupposition

“So, are you gonna tell me? **You and Goodwin?**”

The utterance is categorized as an existential presupposition since the existence of an entity is assumed to be present in the noun phrase. The use of “*You and Goodwin?*” presupposes that ‘Jones’ and ‘Goodwin’ do exist, implying that they had something going on between them (affair).

3.2.2. Lexical Presupposition

“Beau, you like him huh? It’s like *deja vu* for me, because **you liked me too, you loved me.**” (Derrick’s expression)

It contains the assumption within using a word that the speaker can act as there is another meaning that will be inferred. In this expression, we can presuppose that Naomi does not like or even love Derrick anymore.

3.2.3. Structural Presupposition

“Who told you this?” (Jones’ expression)

The utterance “*Who told you this?*” is categorized as a structural presupposition because it uses the word ‘*who*’, which indicates that Jones believes presupposed information is accepted to be true. Further, it presupposes that somebody has told Sheila that Jones had sex with Goodwin in the hotel.

3.2.4. Factive Presupposition

“Beau Edson. Last guy on campus who thinks she puts out. Everybody **knows** she doesn’t.”

(The girl Derrick met at the party’s expression)

The utterance is categorized as a factive presupposition because it contains a factual verb ‘*knows*’, which indicates the assumption of something true. Further, it presupposes that everybody knows Naomi is not willing to engage in sexual activity.

3.2.5. Non-factive Presupposition

“I mean I **thought** the line on her was, like, no sex.”

The utterance is categorized as non-factive presupposition because it uses the verb ‘*thought*’, indicating a false assumption. Further, it presupposes that Naomi was not how Sheila expected her to be. It was common knowledge that Naomi was saving her virginity for marriage, but it turns out that she was not.

3.2.6. Counterfactual Presupposition

“**If** we start the rumour three times and wait for it to come back, we could trace the line and see which rumour moved the fastest.” (Travis’ expression)

The utterance is categorized as a counterfactual presupposition since it uses the conjunction ‘*If*’, which indicates that Travis’ real situation is opposed to what is said. Further, it presupposes that Travis and his friends have not yet commenced the rumour and are still planning to get on their way in spreading it.

Based on Table 1, *Gossip* movie has a contrary number of presuppositions mostly used by the main characters. Non-factive and counterfactual presuppositions are not the most number used by the main characters. These two presupposition types are infrequently used. The main characters use presupposition mostly on existential, structural, and factive presupposition. The types of mostly used presupposition may be influenced by the theme of the story in this movie. The theme in the story is related into the title, which is called as *Gossip*. Where they use their

word by word to spread the rumours around society, people will believe in them. From what the main characters think, some people still love finding the old *Gossip* to be talked. Their conversations include and are supported by presupposition expression where some of them are showing the rumour and untruth matter. The story's theme has a profound interpretation as it accentuates the rumour and even *Gossip* in a broader perspective related to its impact. In this movie, it can be seen how a shed of rumour and hoax can ruin someone else's life. For instance, bring someone who is actually guilt-free to jail and cause other people to be trapped in affliction and have an unpeaceful life. It has been supported by those presupposition expressions above how nasty mass people are reacting to the rumours or gossip. Who knows, made up rumour as "They had sex in the party" can cause such frustration and an intoxicating storyline in this movie, titled *Gossip*.

4. CONCLUSION

In both movies, all of the types of presupposition were used by the main characters. The used presuppositions are related to the spread of hoax information as the story's theme in both movies. What made it a difference was, in *Tilik* movie, the main characters used non-factive and counterfactual more often than the other presupposition types. While in *Gossip* movie, those two types (non-factive and counterfactual) were used less than (infrequently) than the other presupposition types. These differences may be caused by the way on how the rumours were spread by the main characters in those two movies. In the first movie (*Tilik*), the rumours have existed before the main characters spread them, but in the second movie (*Gossip*), the rumour has just started to be created in the circumstances. It can be seen in the picture below:

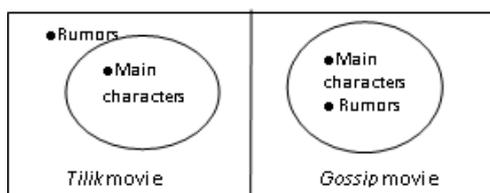


Figure 1 The contextual rumours spreading in the *Tilik* and *Gossip* movie

Since non-factive presupposition is an assumption referred to something that is not true, the data presented that the non-factive presupposition expressed by Mrs Tedjo is quite convincing. As a result, some passengers are convinced by this assumption even though it is not true and just a plain rumour. Nonetheless, once we look at how Mrs Tedjo convinces almost all the passengers in the truck, we can see that this non-factive presupposition might be inferred as a truth by the passengers who plainly trust Mrs Tedjo's statement.

Presuppositions are used to convey assumptions or predictions through the utterances spoken by the characters in the movie. They are able to reveal the information that relates to the theme. Many presupposition expressions are found that contain some words talking about the movie's theme like 'the rumour', 'the gossip', and how the main characters spread it to their college friends. Especially from the existential presuppositions, such as 'rumour' and 'gossip', made the audience assume that those things exist in the movie. Therefore, the presupposition is helpful to understand the context in the speaker's utterances.

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