

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents research background, statement of problems, research objectives, research significances, and definition of key terms. They will be explained below:

1.1. Research Background

Implied meaning is commonly found in human conversation. People often tell something without telling the thing but another or telling a part out of the whole message supposed to be conveyed. However, the untold messages are still understandable for the interlocutor. It is because shared knowledge between them or adjustment in which is performed by the speaker. He will not explicitly express something, that he believes, the interlocutor has already known. It is what is called as presupposition.

According to Levinson (1983), a presupposition of an utterance is something the speaker takes for granted by virtue of saying the utterance; it is something the speaker proposes as being mutually known or at least not seriously in doubt between the speaker and the listener. It is in line with what Yule (1996, p. 25) asserted that “presupposition is the speaker assumes to be the case prior”. So, it is able to define presupposition as speaker’s assumption about shared knowledge or common ground with the hearer.

Presupposition is utilized in a conversation to shorten what is said as it is a treated as known information by the interlocutor in which unnecessary to be said (Miller, 1969). Consequently, as some presuppositions exist in a statement, when the speakers say something, there is a tendency to remove some information from what is supposed to be conveyed. At the end of the day, the presupposition will make some impacts to the use of cooperative principle in the statement.

Grice (1975, p. 45) asserted that “Make your conversational contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged.” It is what is labelled as cooperative principle which, then, is specified in conversational maxims (Grice, 1975). Given the definition, it can be comprehended that conversational maxims are a set of principles in which is required by the participants in order to make the conversation goes cooperatively.

One form of conversation commonly occurs in human life is interview. It is interested to study about presupposition and cooperative principle in an interview since it consists of conversations between an interviewer and source persons, it involves statements which are said. The speakers of the statements are influenced by what is believed by them as known information or a fact. When it is considered as something true, it might bring some effects of how conversational maxims are observed by the speaker. For instance, while the speaker tells something and it is believed as truth, implicitly the utterance observes the maxim of quality. Moreover, when the speaker considers the interlocutor has known about a certain that is presupposed, the speaker will no longer think that it is necessary to tell it, therefore the utterance will not be more than is required. Besides, it may make an impact to the interlocutor to give a relevant respond as the utterance by the speaker has been adjusted to the interlocutor’s knowledge. Other than that, when the speaker believe that what is said as a fact, he might feel confidence of it and deliver it as clear as possible.

The example of conversation in interview is the interview between Elon Musk as a source person and Andrew Ross Sorkin as an interviewer. It is broadcasted online on New York Times Events YouTube channel. There are a lot of talks and discussions about Elon’s controversial statements and the progress of his companies. Elon Musk is a famous entrepreneur known for co-founding companies like Tesla, SpaceX, Neuralink, and more. Besides, he is distinguished as a controversial person since a lot

of polemical statements were made by him in his social media and any other platforms influencing people and making debates among netizens. For that reason, he often got invited to many interviews to talk about him and his thoughts. Meanwhile, in the interview preparation, commonly, an interviewer may perform some research to get more understanding about the source person. In the other hand, the source person perhaps prepares some research before get the interview to predict potential questions from the interviewer to be able to give the right answer and not to make some blunders. Those preparation establish many presuppositions of the speaker which presuppose a lot of information of the interlocutor.

Previously, there were several research which had been carried out in the topic of both presupposition and cooperative principle. The first was written by Steven Frisson and Gregory L. Murphy (2020) entitled “*Maxim of Quantity and Presupposition in Understanding Object Labels*” which studies relation between presupposition and maxim of quantity. The study was performed by conducting two experiments looked into whether hearers mandatorily follow the Gricean maxim of quantity. It resulted those different determiners were used to modify the assumptions. When the basic-level name was used in the context of two related items, responses were slower and less accurate, indicating that listeners still prefer more distinct names even in cases where the referent is obvious. Excessively detailed names were free of charge. Modifying determiners didn't really change anything.

Second study is examined by Bahar and Ariyanti (2020) in an article entitled “*Presupposition in Satu Indonesia Television Program Interview*” which analyze the types of presupposition conveyed by the source person, Tri Rismaharini in “*Satu Indonesia*” television program and also examine the presupposition function that is conducted. The study results a conduction that there are four types of presupposition found which meet the function of emphasis, persuasive, and euphemism in the pragmatic function.

Third, a study in which discusses both presupposition and cooperative principle is also examined by Seth (2021) in an article entitled *“The Role of Cooperative Principles and Presupposition as Comic Generators in a Ghanaian English Comedy: A Case Study of Nurse Awuni’s Youtube Video”* which examine the frequency of the employed, flouted, and violated maxims in the Nurse Awuni’s comedy and the role of conversational implicature and presupposition as comic generators in the Nurse Awuni’s comedy. The result shows that conversational implicature is more frequently used than presupposition in the Nurse Awuni’s comedy and the use of presupposition and conversational implicature in the comedy show is for conveying humor, sarcasm, irony, and insult meaning.

Fourth, another previous study is performed by Ghassani and Daffa Nadhila (2018) in their thesis entitled *“Presupposition in The Utterances of Elon Musk in Tedtalk Conference”* which analyzed the presupposition of Elon Musk utterances in TEDTalk Conference in order to find the types of presupposition used and the meaning behind the presupposition. This study found there are 35 data that contains presupposition trigger out of 41 utterances. Besides, existential presupposition was the most used by Elon Musk in his utterances.

Even though there are several studies which have already discussed each of presupposition and conversational maxims for various object, the study in which investigates both presupposition and conversational maxims in an interview all at one has not been performed yet. Most of study with interview as its object, only examine one of both. That emptiness on this research topic in pragmatic field is considered as the research gap so the study is meant to fill that gap. By filling that gap, the researcher thinks that the study which is going to be examined is interesting and important. In examining the study, the researcher attempts to find out presupposition and its relation to observing conversational maxims in Andrew Ross Sorkin and Elon Musk interview. Moreover, in that interview, the topic is about politics and businesses which are really sensitive since people have different opinions on those and often contrary to each other.

Therefore, in bringing up such topics, the participants have to be aware and careful by constructing appropriate presuppositions that they hence are able to avoid misunderstanding. Based on that reason, the research is considered to be interesting.

1.2. Statement of Problems

Based on the research background, the research is formulated to answer the questions as follow:

1. What types of presupposition are found in Andrew Ross Sorkin and Elon Musk interview?
2. How is the presupposition related to the conversational maxims in Andrew Ross Sorkin and Elon Musk interview?

1.3. Research Objectives

Based on the statement of problems above, the researcher intends to perform some purposes as follow:

1. To find out the types of presupposition contained in Andrew Ross Sorkin and Elon Musk interview.
2. To examine the relation between presupposition and observing conversational maxims in Andrew Ross Sorkin and Elon Musk interview.

1.4. Research Significances

The writer hopes that the outcome of this research will provide the theoretically and practically benefits that are expected to be obtained from this analysis.

1. Theoretical Significances

Theoretically, this research is able to make some contributions to the development of linguistic study and to deepen our understanding of language in presupposition and observing conversational maxims area, specifically observed conversational maxims.

Moreover, examining presupposition of politician and business utterance provides valuable insights about how language is used to shape and convey messages.

2. Practical Significances

The research on the presupposition and its relation to the observing conversational maxims in Andrew Ross Sorkin and Elon Musk interview holds significant for further academic studies. It is able to bring some inspirations to future researchers in exploring different aspects of presupposition and their relation to observing conversational maxims or, moreover, another wider study in various specific contexts.

1.5. Definition of Key Terms

There some key terms in this research. The purpose of writing definition of key terms is the writer wants to explain the meaning some terms to avoid misunderstanding. Some key terms are defined as listed below:

1. Pragmatics is able to be defined as the study of language in use (Huang, 2014).
2. Presupposition is a proposition which has truth is taken for granted by the speaker of something and it has to be known by the interpreter (Cruse, 2006)
3. Cooperative principle is a set of conversation principals in which brings the communication runs cooperatively and smoothly by keeping the statement as required and truthful, also telling something relevant to the conversation topic and not to be ambiguous (Cutting & Fordyce, 2020).
4. Conversational maxims are a set of rule consists of maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of relation, and maxim of manner to be compliance with in order to make a conversation cooperatively (Grice, 1975).
5. Interview is a formal conversation between two or more people where one person, the interviewer, asks questions and the other person, the interviewee, answers them.

6. Presupposition trigger is list of the constructions which have been identified by linguists as sources of presupposition (Levinson, 1983).

