Presuppositions Used in Benjamin Netanyahu's Speech at The Opening of The U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem

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Speech is a communication tool that occurs between speaker and audience. When delivering speech, a speaker tries to reach the audience through his words. Most of the time, a speaker delivers his speech to gain attention from the audience and persuade them to agree with what the speaker believes. This is the case with Benjamin Netanyahu who is an Israeli Politician and currently the Prime Minister of said country. He delivered his speech at the opening of new United States embassy in Jerusalem, which sparked the outrage of people around the world, as we know that Jerusalem belongs to Palestine but this action showed that the Israel government has already claimed Jerusalem as its capital. From the linguistics' point of view, his speech is an interesting matter to be analyzed. Hence, this study aimed to analyze the types of presupposition used by Benjamin Netanyahu in his opening speech in Jerusalem and the purpose of using them. The fully transcribed speech is gained by downloading it from the internet. The result found that there are two kinds of presupposition used and each with pragmatic function that are emphasis, persuasive and euphemism. These presuppositions had purpose to express speaker's attitude in a polite way and giving information to the audience.

Keywords: Presupposition, Pragmatic Function, Speech

Abstrak
Pidato adalah salah satu bentuk komunikasi antara pembicara dan pendengar. Dalam pidato, pembicara mengungkapkan pernyataanya untuk menjelelaskan maksud lain dalam ucapannya. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis jenis presuposisi yang digunakan Benjamin Netanyahu dalam pidatonya saat pembukaan kedutaan Amerika Serikat di Yerusalem. Hasil penelitian menemukan terdapat dua macam presuposisi yang digunakan dengan fungsi pragmatic yang digunakan adalah penekanan, meyakinkan dan melembutkan. Presuposisi tersebut bertujuan untuk menunjukkan sikap pembicara dengan cara yang sopan dan memberikan informasi kepada para pendengar.

Kata Kunci : Presuposisi, Fungsi Pragmatik, Pidato

Introduction

Language is an access to send messages from a speaker to hearer. It is an important factor to communicate, to get information, and to improve knowledge (Spenader, 2002). Communication used by people to get information and for some people communication could be a factor to persuade people. One type of communication occurs is speech. Speech is an act of delivering a formal spoken communication to an audience. In other way, speech is also aiming to persuade, to get information and also to entertain. Brown and Yule (1983) said that people would likely understand more if speaker uses simple speech. It also means that to avoid kind of unclear speech, it should be delivered in clear, brief, and well-organized form. Thus, the listeners can understand the speaker's goal clearly.

The language of speech mostly has the purpose to persuade audience. It means that the speaker is searching for a support from his audience about the matter that he delivers. Thus, there is possibility for linguistic theory used by the speaker to aim a certain goal. However, there is no guarantee that the whole audience will agree to what the speaker had said. There are times when this kind of speech may backfire due to certain situations such as a speech that contains political related issue.

This is the case with Benjamin Netanyahu. He is a

politician who currently is the Prime Minister of Israel. As we all know, Israel is known for its longtime war with the country Palestine regarding their territory. The recent move from Israel is that their government claims the city Jerusalem to be its capital. With this, they try to move their facilities to Jerusalem. United States, as one of the few countries that support Israel's decision, open a new embassy for Israel in Jerusalem. In this occasion, Netanyahu presented his speech to congratulate the event. His speech aroused negative reactions from people around the world due to its contents.

This study aims to analyze about the presupposition and implied meaning used by Netanyahu in his speech. In this work, author tries to find the presuppositions used in Netanyahu's speech and what meaning it bears. The presuppositions found in his speech can lead to what exactly is Netanyahu trying to convey. It is important to find out the purpose of his speech regardless of what public opinion may say. Hence, this study will provide the results of presuppositions used by Netanyahu in his speech and for what purpose.

There are some previous studies about presupposition. First, presupposition used in interview. Bahar (2020) analyzes presupposition using the interview with Tri Rismaharini as the interviewee. The result found that Tri Rismaharini used four kind of presupposition during the interview, they are: existential presupposition, non-factive presupposition, lexical presupposition, and counter-factual presupposition. While answering the questions, she also presupposed other meaning to give information to listener. To be more accurate, the researcher used advertising language by Ge (2011) to define presupposition used by Rismaharini and the result shows that those presuppositions are classified by the pragmatic function and those are emphasis, persuasive and euphenism pragmatic functions.

Second is the work by Hikmah (2017). Her work uses advertisement to analyze kinds of presupposition using the theory proposed by Yule (1996). The study analyzes twelve different types of advertisements and found that there are certain types of presuppositions used. Those presuppositions used are eight existential presuppositions, one structural presupposition and three counterfactual presuppositions. The advertisements vary from food advertisement to educational one. Thus, the presupposition used in each advertisement bears different purpose according to the target of the advertisements.

Different from those previous studies, this work focuses on transcribed form of Netanyahu's speech as the main data to analyze. This research uses two research questions, the first research question related to theory by Yule (1996) to define the type of presupposition. By categorizing the types of presuppositions found in Netanyahu's speech, it will lead to

the next move to find the pragmatic function of those presuppositions and their meaning. The second research question was related to the pragmatic function by Ge (2011) in analyzing advertisement. Using Ge's work to analyze the pragmatic function of presuppositions found in Netanyahu's speech will add more understanding to reveal Netanyahu's goal to deliver his speech.

Presupposition

According to Yule (1996), presupposition is information that is implied. It follows in what the speaker utters. The utterances carry someone's real meaning or truth taken by the addressee. Saying something in communication sometimes cannot in direct way. Sentence that is uttered can presuppose another sentence apparently. Therefore, presupposition is relevant to implied meaning. A sentence presupposes another sentence if the second (suppressed) sentence is not necessarily true.

The basic understanding of presupposition's feature is the presence of true expression. So, the presupposition of a statement can be still true even if the sentence is uttered in negative portion. For instance, a) Joaquin has shirt; b) Joaquin's shirt is not new. From those sentences a) and b), it is known that sentence b) is a negative form of sentence a). The presupposition in the sentence a) is Joaquin has shirt but in sentence b), the presupposition does not change even though sentence b) has denial toward sentence a). The same presumption that Joaquin has shirt even it is not the new one.

There are six types of presupposition. Those are *existential*, *factive*, *non-factive*, *lexical*, *structural* and *counterfactual* Yule (1996).

Existential Presupposition

Existential presupposition is a presupposition that is not only seen as a possessive form, but also more generally presents as particular phrase. This type is widely the existence of the subject or object from the speaker to the reader (Yule, 1996). Existential presupposition exposes how things can be delivered through presuppositions as if it really exists. For example: *Croft has bicycle*. The presupposition in the sentence refers to the *possessive form* that Croft has a bicycle. The possessive form of the object from the subject presuppose the existence of the object as the information.

Factive Presupposition

Factive presupposition is the information that follows a verb. It is not only a verb, but also an adjective including *realize*, *regret*, *be glad*, *sorry*, *proud*, and *be aware*. For example: *Maria regrets telling him*. It can be supposed that she told him and the verb *regret* is considered factive.

Lexical Presupposition

Lexical is the basic meaning of a word. Yule (1996) states that lexical presupposition is the use of word form

expressed in another meaning. In another word, this presupposition is a presupposition that interprets meaning by affirmation in speech. The difference between factive and lexical is how the lexical presupposition utters with implied meaning. Thus, the affirmation sentence of the presupposition is obtainable during the deliverance. This presupposition also shows that someone is trying to attempt at something. For example, *Jamal quit from his job*. The implied meaning is a fact that Jamal used to work and now he is not. The presupposition presents in the word *quit*.

Structural Presupposition

Structural presupposition explains how structural sentence assumes the truth. Structural presupposition is the use of wh-questions. Types of question are *who*, *where*, *why*, *what*, *when* and *how*. If sentence contains one of those, the sentence expresses clearness and it is directly understood clearly. For example, *where did John steal the guitar?* It implies that someone who asks knows the truth that John has stolen a guitar.

Non-Factive Presupposition

Non-factive presupposition refers to something which is negative or at least, contradictory. Non-factive refers to nonfactual, not real, or not true. It means that, something is not suit from the reality. Something that is spoken has no truth. Non-facive presupposition refers to a presupposition that is seen to be wrong or incorrect because the use of ambiguous verbs. For example, *Thomas dreamed that she had a good life*. The presumption has a meaning she had a bad life. This sentence also can lead to ambiguity because it has no confirmation to the reality, whether she really used to have a good life or a bad life.

Counterfactual Presupposition

Counterfactual presupposition refers to presupposition that is not only untrue, but the opposite is also true. Just call it contrary to reality. This presupposition is a presupposition which results in a contrary view of its statements. For example: *if I were handsome, I would have sexy girlfriend*. It is clearly known that the presupposition shows that *I* is ugly. The presupposition comes from the contradiction, *I would have sexy girlfriend* which shows untrue expectation (the fact is he is still single). The use *if* creates a contradictory presumption.

Methods

Qualitative data are a source of well-grounded, rich descriptions and explanations of human processes (Miles, Huberman, 2014). This works uses qualitative methods by drawing explanations from the findings. The main problem to be discussed is about the phenomenon of Netanyahu's speech which seems to have tendency to carry on the claim of judging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. On the other hand,

the approach that is used in this research is pragmatic approach.

The source of the data is Netanyahu's speech at the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem. This speech is transcripted by Toi Staff. The speech was spoken on 14 May 2018, at 8:52 P.M and has 860 words. It starts from the greeting with the words "Dear friends" to the closing using Hebrew language, *Baruch atah A-donai Elokeinu melekh ha'olam shehecheyanu vekiymanu vehigi'anu lazman hazeh* (Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has granted us life, sustained us and enabled us to reach this occasion). The data collection technique used in this study is retrieving the trancribed speech from *www.timesofisrael.com*, which is an official newspaper site by the Israel government. Thus, it explains its validity. The instruments for studying the discussed problem are the device used to watch the speech (computer that has internet connection) and the note to take some important matters.

Author uses 3 steps of data analysis technique as proposed by Miles et al (2014). First is data condensation. After retrieving the transcribed form of Netanyahu's speech, author writes analytic memos to each sentence. It makes it easier to categorize them into the same type. Next is displaying the data. By dividing them in the same category, author puts the finding into a more detailed classification. The analysis is done by matching the theory and the finding. The last step is drawing conclusion. Conclusion is drawn after all the data has been analyzed and look if there is a new finding within the discussion.

Result and Discussion
1. Existential Presupposition.

(1) *We are in Jerusalem and we are here to stay.*

Meaning:

"We" in above example refers to him and his peoples. It shows the existence that they are in Jerusalem and they are not going anyway.

Benjamin stated that they are have right to stay in Jerusalem and they plan to stay there. His statement shows that even though there are pressure from other country about the moving of embassy he and his people still believe that they have the right thing to claim Jerusalem as their capital city. Pragmatic function a euphemism was used in this utterance. Euphemism deal with politeness strategy which could deliver message about the right of claim. He expressed the utterance without forcing the listener to have same point of view.

(2) *We are here in Jerusalem protected by the brave soldiers of the army of Israel, led by our Chief of Staff Gadi*

Eizenkot, and our brave soldiers, our brave soldiers are protecting the borders of Israel as we speak today.

Meaning:

They are protected

They protected by the brave soldier army of Israel Gadi Eizenkot as Chief of Staff army of Israel

Existential presuppositions showed that the existence of something. He presupposed the existence of soldier army of Israel who made the fell save, and he also mention Gadi Eizenkot as Chief of Staff army of Israel. From his statement he suggested they are part of the safety of their country.

In relation of pragmatic function, this presupposition has emphasis function. Emphasis had function to give new information to the listeners. Give information that was known by many people that army of Israel who lead by Gadi Eizenkot protect them from outside threat. However, by mention the existence of army and their leader Gadi Eizenkot, new information was given.

2. Lexical Presupposition

(3) *So, for me this spot brings back personal memories, but for our people, it evokes profound collectives' memories of the greatest moments we have known on this city on a hill.*

Meaning:

The different perception of memories between Benjamin Netanyahu and his people.

Benjamin told that he has different memories with his people and for his people it could evokes good collective memories than what he got in the past. Pragmatic function was used in this utterance is persuasive. He explains the situation that the situation right now is much better than before.

(4)" You *can only build peace on truth, and the truth is that Jerusalem has been and will always be the capital of the Jewish people, the capital of Jewish state."*

Meaning:

"truth" could create peace, also the "truth" here also shown the legitimate Jewish people and the capital Jewish state or Israel.

First, Benjamin Netanyahu starts the phrase with "you can only build peace on truth". The "truth" strongly became supportive word about situation where Jerusalem is for Israel. Pragmatic function as emphasis was used in this presupposition to change information focus. In the beginning of his statement he stated that many people had to accept it. The peace can be built by the truth. However, he changes focus of information with strongly used "truth" as a tendency

for claim Jerusalem as capital of Israel.

(5) "*May the opening of this embassy in this city spread the truth far and wide, and may truth advance a lasting peace between Israel and all our neighbors."*

Meaning:

In this sentence Benjamin Netanyahu as prime minister of Israel and as represent Jewish people hoping the opening of embassy can spread the "truth". The truth her also represent hoping of peace between Israel and their neighbors. As we know mostly the neighbor of Israel against USA policy to move their embassy to Jerusalem. Pragmatic function that used in this utterance is euphemism. In this euphemism pragmatic function politeness strategy was used by Benjamin Netanyahu with his hope for opening the embassy can deliver the truth that the right Jerusalem as capital city of Israel and could deliver hopes that can raise the good relationship with another country. He expressed the utterance without forcing the listener to have same point of view.

Discussion

The existential presupposition was used by Benjamin to give some information. For the example number **(1)**. He stated that he is not going anywhere where he belongs to. He would stay no matter what in Jerusalem. Indirectly, he sends information to the listeners that he would defend his territory to keep capital city stay in Jerusalem. Pragmatic function that used in this utterance is euphemism. This kind of pragmatic function Benjamin Netanyahu showed his politeness strategy to show right of claim without forcing the listeners have same idea. The second example Benjamin implied that they would save to live under soldier who lead by Gadi Eizenkot. He also mentions that the one who protect them is the soldier and he also mention that that soldier is led by Chief of Staff Gadi Eizenkot. He presupposed the existence of those people for giving new information. Emphasis pragmatic function was used in example **(2)** to show some information. For example, their safety is under army of Israel who is lead by Gadi Eizenkot.

Lexical presupposition was found in this speech. This presupposition has goal to presupposed the meaning behind what was stated. For the example number **(3)** he stated that he has different memories with the speakers about Jerusalem because of the borders. He implied the situation right now is much better than his era. Pragmatic function was used in example **(3)** is persuasive. Persuasive used for create another assumption to persuade listeners, and in this utterance, it could change point of view the listeners. For the example number **(4)** Benjamin Netanyahu stated that peace can be built on truth. The word "truth" here also used by Benjamin Netanyahu as right claim that Jerusalem is capital of Jewish people and Jewish state. Emphasis was used as pragmatic function in this utterance. Benjamin Netanyahu change focus of

the meaning by the word "truth" to show that what he did could bring peace with claim Jerusalem as Capital of Israel. Next is example **(5)** showed hope of Benjamin Netanyahu as Prime Minister of Israel that. The changing USA embassy to Jerusalem could bring peace between Israel and another country who still disagree with its policy. Euphemism was used as pragmatic function in this utterance. It showed the politeness strategy of Benjamin Netanyahu for giving hope in this utterance. He expressed this utterance without forcing listeners have same point of view.

Conclusion

From the collected data, the researcher found there are 5 presuppositions in Netanyahu's speech, those are 2 existential presupposition and 3 lexical presuppositions. He presupposed other meaning in his speech to give information to the listeners. Furthermore, those presupposition had emphasis, persuasive, and euphemism pragmatic function. However, there were three pragmatic function advertising that used this speech. First, emphasis function, the use of this pragmatic function is to give some new information to listeners. And indirectly could give another interpretation to listeners. Second was persuasive pragmatic function. Persuasive used as break listener's presumption. It could persuade listener's point of view. The last is euphemism, this kind pragmatic function was used as politeness strategy to show his point of view. In other way this pragmatic function used positive way to share his idea without forcing the listeners to have same idea.

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