

# Presupposition in Kevin Hart's Stand up Show Titled "Let Me Explain" in 2013: A Pragmatic Study

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## Abstract

The purpose of this paper lead to analyze and describe the type of presupposition and its meaning regarding the data taken from Kevin Hart's stand-up show entitled "Let Me Explain" in 2013. This paper used qualitative and descriptive methods based on theories from Sugiono (2009). In analyzing data, presuppositions by their type and meaning. The theories are withdrawn from Yule (1996) and Pateda (2010), both discussing presuppositions and their meaning. The data are taken from the stand-up show's subtitle, and the data consist of 30 data. The data are divided into three main sections of presuppositions; existential, factual, and lexical. The meaning that will be interpreted in the utterances of Kevin Hart's stand-up comedy show is the denotative and connotative meanings. The meaning that can be understood in the lexical presupposition contained in the utterance is the grammatical meaning of which the composition of the utterance. Based on the analysis, existential presuppositions were found in 15 data, factual presuppositions are 7 data and lexical presuppositions are 8 data. Based on these findings, it could be inferred that the stand-up show by Kevin Hart contains existential presuppositions; which means that the assumption of the existence of the entities named by the speaker commonly appears within the show.

**Keywords:** Presuppositions, Stand-up Show, Utterances, Meaning, Pragmatics.

## INTRODUCTION

Language is commonly used as a connecting tool for life between humans so that they can be connected with one human being and another human being, by using language people can show emotions, desires, and ideas, and is used as a medium to interact with each other, to fulfill their daily needs. Language is a symbol system in the form of sound, arbitrary, used by a speech community to cooperate, communicate, and self-identification described (Chaer, 2016). Language is a sign system or symbol system, as a means of communication, and used by human groups or communities. According to this opinion, it can be concluded that language is a sound produced by the speech apparatus in the form of form and meaning, a sign system or symbol system, as a means of communication, and is used by human groups or society to identify themselves in terms related to use of the language contained in the spoken word (Sibarani, 2015). The function of language is the goal we achieve with language, for example stating, asking, responding, greeting, saying goodbye, and so on. The function of course can't fill without the forms of language: morphemes, words, rules, grammar, discourse, and other organizational competencies. Communication can be achieved if the messages of the speaker and listener can be understood by each other. It means that the speaker can convey his or her

thought and the listener can understand the message of the speaker's utterance. In this case, people have to know the study about this concept (Simatupang & Fathonah, 2020).

Communicative competence does not only an acquisition of syntactic and semantic knowledge of a language but also cross-cultural pragmatic understanding. Everyone has their way to convey intentions or purposes. It very much depends on a variety of social factors or dimensions, context, and speech situation as well (Hendar & Anshari, 2021). English which is designated as an international language is the most widely spoken language in the world, today many people use English as a means of communication with foreigners from different countries as the communication tool they use. That means most people want to learn about English because it will be the key for us if we want to go explore a career internationally and almost every country in the world has English as a second language in their country. Indonesia as a developing country has also set its educational curriculum to include English as a foreign language that is learned from elementary school to university level, many people want to learn about English as published on the online media page on Kompas.com according to Wall Street Indonesia per August 2012 they already have 20,000 students studying English of which 40 percent are workers, 35 percent are students and students and it is estimated that in the next 5 years there will be 50,000 interested people to study English on Wall Street Indonesia (Supriadi, 2020). Through these data, it can be concluded that the interest in learning English is very high from year to year. In studying language, you will find knowledge about linguistics and in linguistics, there is a branch of science, namely pragmatics, the topic of pragmatics discussed here is presuppositions. Yule (1996: 25) states "*a presupposition is something a speaker assumes to be the case before making an utterance*". Presuppositions are divided into two theoretical approaches, namely semantic presuppositions, and pragmatic presuppositions (Yule, 1996). The semantic approach tends to view sentences as external objects and logical theories. The pragmatic approach views sentences as individual utterances in which assumptions depend on the context. This research focuses on presuppositions where assumptions are based on the meaning that will help the speaker and listener understand each other (Rahardi, 2003). The author believes that with presuppositions each speaker does not need to convey what they mean directly. In making a presupposition or presupposition there must be a meaning to support what is said by the speaker. As language users, people will always need meaning and that will affect the meaning in presuppositions (Rahardi, 2003).

In the analysis of how speakers' assumptions are usually expressed, presuppositions have been associated with the use of a large number of words, phrases, and structures. These linguistic forms are considered here as indicators of potential presuppositions or presuppositions, which can only be actual presuppositions in context with the speaker. According to Muhammad Sheroy (2016), the types of presuppositions are existential presupposition, factual presupposition, lexical presupposition, structural presupposition, non-factual presupposition, and counterfactual presupposition (Sheroy, 2016). The research that will be discussed here is the utterance by Kevin Hart when doing a stand-up comedy show in 2013, where the stand-up comedy show was made to achieve certain goals. Speech analysis through the use of presuppositions or presuppositions used in Kevin Hart's stand-up comedy show entitled *Let Me Explain* to find meaning and goals that can be achieved through a linguistic perspective. There are four presuppositions used in Kevin Hart's stand-up comedy

show entitled *Let me explain* in 2013, namely existential presupposition, factual presupposition, counterfactual presupposition, and structural presupposition (Sheroz, 2016).

The use of presuppositions or presuppositions in Kevin Hart's stand-up comedy show entitled *Let Me Explain* in 2013 made the writer interested in analyzing research entitled presupposition in Kevin Hart's stand-up comedy show entitled *Let Me Explain*. Based on the explanation that has been explained by the author in the background section and the title of this research is "Presupposition in Kevin Hart's stand-up comedy show entitled Let me explain in 2013: Pragmatic Studies", the authors identify the problem as follows:

1. What kind of presupposition was used in Kevin Hart's stand-up comedy show *Let Me Explain* in 2013?
2. What is the meaning of the presupposition used in Kevin Hart's stand-up comedy show entitled *Let Me Explain* in 2013?

The author's focus in this study is to analyze presuppositions based on the types and meanings contained in the utterances contained in Kevin Hart's stand-up comedy entitled *Let Me Explain* in 2013. In pragmatics, we will find the attachment of presuppositions and entailment, but the author only wants to focus on presuppositions due to limited time and knowledge, so the focus is on the formulation of the problem, namely the types of presuppositions, and then it will be explained what the meaning is in the utterances in Kevin Hart's stand-up comedy show entitled *Let me explain* in 2013.

The purposes of this research are as follows:

- a. Provide a brief explanation and analysis of the types of presuppositions found in the utterances in Kevin Hart's stand-up comedy show entitled *Let Me Explain* in 2013.
- b. Explain what meaning is contained in the use of presuppositions contained in the utterances in Kevin Hart's stand-up comedy show entitled *Let Me Explain* in 2013.

The theoretical and practical benefits are also expected to be conveyed by the author and are grouped into two, theoretical and practical. This research can increase theoretical knowledge about presuppositions through the relationship between speech and its meaning. It has benefits as a reference in the field of presuppositions or presuppositions that discuss utterances and meanings. Authors and readers are expected to use this research as an insight into presupposition utterances and explanations of their meanings, this research will also be a reference for students in the field of language who wish to conduct further research on presuppositions or presuppositions.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review contains an explanation of the basic theory used which is also related to the topic being studied. The theory described in this chapter forms the basis for the analysis of research on pragmatics, presuppositions, and meaning. Through the theory attached to this research, it is hoped that it can become a strong and accurate foundation in its use as a basis for data analysis.

Pragmatics is a branch of science that can be found in the field of linguistics, specializing in the study of the relationship between language and the context of speech. Pragmatics has limitations and rules in its use which can be understood if the speaker's intent, context, and circumstances are known. Mey (in Rahardi, 2003:12) argues that pragmatics is the study of the conditions of human language uses as there is determined by the context of society. Context is

very inherent in determining meaning in a speech in pragmatics. Understanding a language can be understood as the fact that to be able to understand the meaning in speech requires knowledge beyond the meaning in the word as well as the grammar used, but the meaning in speech can be understood by knowing the relationship context of its use. According to Tarigan (1985:34), pragmatics is a general study of how context affects the way a person interprets a sentence. To be able to achieve an understandable meaning in an utterance context is the main influence to achieving an understandable meaning.

According to Muhammad Sheroz (2016), the types of presuppositions are existential presupposition, factual presupposition, lexical presupposition, structural presupposition, non-factual presupposition, and counterfactual presupposition (Sheroz, 2016). In pragmatics, a presupposition or presupposition is an understanding that the speaker and speech partner have with a background of knowledge so that meaning can be achieved in the context of speech. The similarity of presuppositions will facilitate communication, while differences in presuppositions will hinder communication.

Shadia Y. Banjar. (2009) said, "*Existential presupposition is the assumption of the existence of the entities named by the speaker*" an extensible presupposition that can be encountered in many speakers, in conversation, in statements, and artistic performance (Febrian & Ardi, 2012). The aforementioned characteristics of broad prejudice can be understood by example when someone says:

*My brother has a new phone.*

The sentence above can be called a broad presupposition because when the sentence is said then one can already assume that the speaker has a brother, and also his brother has a new phone. According to Yule (1996), the factual presupposition is the assumption that something is true due to the presence of some verbs such as "know" and "realize" and of phrases involving glad, for example:

*We regret telling him.*

*She did not realize he was ill.*

In both examples it is explained that the statement can be assumed that the statement is true, that saying it is something to be regretted, then it has been notified. Also when he says he is sick, one can assume someone is sick and that is true.

Some forms can be treated as sources of lexical presuppositions, such as manage, stop, and start. In this type, the use of one form with an affirmed meaning is conventionally interpreted with the assumption that another (un-affirmed) meaning is understood. When someone says that someone succeeded in doing something, the implied meaning is that that person succeeded in some way. But when someone says that someone is not successful, the implied meaning is that the person is not successful. However, there is an unequivocal assumption that the person is trying to do something. So, managed is conventionally interpreted as stating success and presupposes trying, for example:

*Kenny wins the game again.*

In this example, it can be understood that Kenny won the match and the word again there explains that Kenny had previously won a match, so we understand that there is another meaning in the example above which is understood as a lexical presupposition.

The concept of meaning has attracted the attention of various disciplines and one of them is linguistics in the linguistic sense meaning can be understood as what we mean or what we mean when we use language when communicating. Language is a system of arbitrary sound symbols used by the community for communication purposes (Sudaryat, 2009). In everyday life language will be used as a means of human communication, the forms of language used are a long series of words and sentences spoken by humans in communication. If someone thinks about the meaning of someone's words as well as references or vice versa, meaning will be born. So the meaning is a combination of meaning and words. This meaning can be different from the word alias is not always equal. According to Dajasudarma (1999:5) meaning is the link between the elements of the language itself. While Pateda (2010: 86) stated that meaning can be discussed from two approaches, namely the analytical approach and the operational approach (Pateda, 2010). The analytical approach wants to find meaning by breaking it down into main segments. The operational approach wants to learn the word in its use. The operational approach is more emphasized on how words are operated in everyday speech acts. There are three things that philosophers and linguists explain in terms of trying to explain the term meaning. These three things are: (1) explaining meaning naturally, (2) describing sentences naturally, (3) explaining the meaning in the communication process (Prayudha, 2021). Therefore, the term meaning is actually a term that has many meanings. Based on Sudaryat (2009) divided the types of meaning into two major parts, namely lexical meaning and structural meaning (Sudaryat, 2009).

This lexical meaning is further divided into direct meaning and figurative meaning. This direct meaning includes the general and specific meaning, while the figurative meaning includes connotative, affective, stylistic, reflective, collocative, and idiomatic meanings. Furthermore, regarding the second part, the structural meaning consists of grammatical meaning and thematic meaning. Tarigan divides meaning into two parts, namely linguistic meaning and social meaning. Furthermore, Tarigan also divided linguistic meaning into two, lexical meaning and structural meaning (Tarigan, 2015).

The grammatical meaning is the meaning that will be found in the arrangement of words that make up a sentence so that the sentence gives rise to its function, which is to become a meaning. In addition, Simatupang (2020:6) stated meaning can be has different meanings based on the context. Grammatical meaning is also called meaning that arises because of grammatical events (Hardiyanto, 2008). Grammatical meaning exists if grammatical processes occur such as affixation, reduplication and composition. For example, the word money has a lexical meaning, namely a legal medium of exchange or measurement of value. However, when the word money is spoken in a sentence, such as "*if the business is to run smoothly, there must be a facilitation fee*" the word money no longer has the meaning as a medium of exchange but shifts its meaning and shows that affairs will be made easier if bribes are made. Referential meaning is a meaning that is directly related to the reference mandated by the lexeme. Referential meaning implies to us the meaning that takes place referring to something, whether objects, symptoms, events, processes, characteristics, properties, etc. (Pateda, 2010). So, if we say, sulking is 'angry' then what is referred to is a symptom, for example, a frowning face or

using high-pitched speech. Denotative meaning is the basic meaning of a word or language unit that is free from sense value. Connotative meaning is the meaning of words or lingual units which are additional meanings in the form of taste values (Hardiyanto, 2008). Connotative meaning has a sense of value that is negative and positive. The meaning in the words maneh 'you' and anjeun 'you' both words show the word you, but the word maneh 'you' is harsher than the word anjeun 'you' which is more subtle and respectful. Other examples include the word pour 'eat' and lolodok 'eat'. The denotative meaning of the two words is eating together or putting something in the mouth. while the connotative meaning is that the word pour 'eat' has a positive or subtle connotation, while lolodok 'eat' has a rough connotation because lolodok 'eat' is the term for feeding animals.

The meaning of collocation is the meaning associated with the use of several lexemes in the same environment (Hardiyanto, 2008). For example, when talking about the words book, pencil, eraser, ballpoint, ruler, etc., the lexeme relates to the environment of the study desk or school tools. Another example is mentioning that ténggok, tompo, tumbu, added, grated, steamed, leksem have a lot to do with the environment in traditional household appliances. Lexical meaning is the meaning of a lexicon or lexeme or word that stands alone, not in context, or apart from context. Some interpret that the lexical meaning is the meaning contained in the dictionary. This is not always true based on the following considerations. 1) The dictionary does not only contain lexical meaning. Several possible meanings are presented in context so that they are not lexical meanings. 2) If a dictionary is defined as a text containing words and their meanings, the definition does not apply to languages that do not have a dictionary. In fact, lexical meaning always exists in a language even though the language does not yet have a dictionary (Hardiyanto, 2008). Lexical meaning is the meaning of a lexeme when the lexeme stands alone in its basic form or derived lexeme and its meaning as we see in the dictionary (Pateda, 2010). A lexeme that stands alone because the meaning of a lexeme can change if the lexeme is in a sentence. According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, lexical meaning is the meaning of language elements as symbols of objects and events. Lexical meaning is the meaning of linguistic symbols that are still basic, that is, they have not experienced grammatical connotations and relationships with other words (Aminuddin, 1988). Various lexical meanings have been put forward by various opinions in the field of linguistics so that it can be concluded that the lexical meaning is the actual meaning, the meaning according to the results of our senses, the meaning as it is, or the meaning by what is in the dictionary.

## RESEARCH METHODS

The object of this research can be understood through the title of this research, presupposition in Kevin Hart's stand-up comedy show. Through the utterances that can be found in Kevin Hart's stand-up comedy, it can be understood that the object of this research is the speech in stand-up comedy shows. The show titled let me explain which was held in 2013 took place at Madison Square Garden which is located in New York City; Kevin Hart did a stand-up comedy show or a solo comedy. The show explores Kevin Hart's personal life as well as the unrest that occurred around him in 2013.

In this study, the method used by the author is the descriptive analysis method. The understanding of the descriptive analysis method according to Sugiono (2009: 29) is, the descriptive method is a method that serves to describe or provide an overview of the object

under study through data or samples that have been collected as they are without analyzing and making conclusions that apply to general (Sugiyono, 2013).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, it consists of 3 data containing existential presuppositions, factual presuppositions, and lexical presuppositions, which are in Kevin Hart's stand-up comedy show entitled Let Me Explain in 2013. The data are classified based on the type of presupposition and the meaning in each utterance. Each data will begin with a brief explanation of the presupposition and then be classified by type, then explain what the speaker means in the utterance containing the presupposition.

### Existential Presupposition

*I'm about to be the first comedian with some fucking fire.*

Looking at the utterances taken in Kevin Hart's stand-up comedy show in data above, it can be found that existential presuppositions are contained in these utterances. Kevin Hart's utterance contains existential presuppositions which refer to the utterance I'm about to be the first comedian and also to the utterance with some fucking fire, it can be understood that I'm about to be the first comedian spoken by Kevin Hart in the show makes us understand that the comedian is real and that it is aimed at Kevin Hart himself as the comedian who appeared that night. Some fucking fire shows that the existence of fire in Kevin Hart's show is true and he is the first comedian to perform a show using fire as a tool in his show that can be interpreted as festivity or as a sign of a luxurious and successful show.

The meaning that will be interpreted in the utterances of Kevin Hart's stand-up comedy show is the denotative and connotative meanings found in I'm about to be the first comedian with some fucking fire Kevin Hart clearly states that he is the first comedian to use fire in performances which are generally fire is only used in other performing arts. The denotative and connotative meanings can be understood through the first comedian's utterances in which Kevin Hart clearly stated that he was the first comedian so that the first utterances conveyed the meaning that no one had ever done it before and what Kevin Hart did was something special as a comedian or comedian.

### Factual Presupposition

*I want to explain why I'm happy. First of all, my divorce is final.*

It can be seen from the understanding of factual presuppositions which explains that in the statement there is an utterance that says that something is true, Kevin wants to explain his happy state which is conveyed in the utterance I want to explain why I'm happy in that utterance we can find factual presuppositions conveyed by Kevin Hart that it is true that she is in a happy state and the reason for her happiness can be found through the words of, first of all, my divorce is final, it is understood that the divorce is over. That is how factual presuppositions explain when it occurs in phrases involving awareness.

In factual presuppositions found in Kevin Hart's utterances, I want to explain why I'm happy. First of all, my divorce is final. The meaning that can be understood is the referential meaning, that is, the meaning has a scope depending on the symptoms or events. The words I'm happy, it can be understood as happiness as a symptom felt by Kevin Hart and in the words my divorce is final it can also be interpreted that divorce is a thing that is commonly known by many people as an event and that is the explanation of Kevin Hart's happiness which can be interpreted as true.

### **Lexical Presupposition**

*She's happy, she's moved on. I'm happy, I've moved on.*

In the utterances in data 3, it can be assumed that the woman in question and Kevin Hart have moved, which shows that the utterance is a lexical presupposition, which is explained as a presupposition based on one main word. In the words of *She's happy, she's moved on. I'm happy, I've moved on* it can be understood that the main word is moved which explains that Kevin Hart and the woman he is referring to have moved from one position to a new position that made them happy.

The meaning that can be understood in the lexical presupposition contained in the utterance is the grammatical meaning in which the composition of the utterance explains the meaning that Kevin Hart's ex-wife has moved on and is not dependent on him anymore as well as Kevin Hart himself, the word move or moved there can be understood as the grammatical meaning that is meant is that they have moved from living together and at this time choose to live their own lives and are not together anymore.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of data analysis research can be concluded that, (1) existential presuppositions in the form of a presupposition marked by a noun, nominal phrase, adverb place, and adverb of time, (2) The factual presupposition is found in the form of a presupposition marked by a verb, verbal phrases, adjectives, and phrases adjectives, (3) lexical presupposition that found in the form of a presupposition marked by a special lexical expression that gives rise to a presupposition with another statement that is conceptually not stated directly in speech. Dominant presupposition is an existential presupposition because many markers were found to indicate the emergence of presupposition existential in the speech (stand-up shows) by Kevin Hart. The meaning that will be interpreted in the utterances of Kevin Hart's stand-up comedy show is the denotative and connotative meanings. Researchers put forward some suggestions, (1) context is needed in determining presuppositions, and (2) this study is a part of pragmatics; it is necessary to do research by further researchers on the different objects.

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