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A STUDY ON PRESUPPOSITION IN ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACKS OF “FROZEN II”

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Abstract

Pragmatics deals with how context affects meaning. One of the topics in pragmatics is presupposition, which describes speakers' assumptions that the listeners understand certain information from their utterances or a situation that must exist for an utterance to be appropriate. This paper analyzes the presupposition phenomena in the original soundtracks from the movie “Frozen II”. The research aims to answer the most frequent type of presupposition used in the original soundtrack of “Frozen II”. This study employed a document analysis and the data analysis techniques included categorizing the presupposition-triggers into the types of presupposition based on their definition in order to find the most frequent type of presupposition. The data came from the songs' lyrics in the original soundtrack of “Frozen II” and there were 8 songs in total that were analyzed. The result shows that the most occurring type is existential presupposition from various presupposition-triggers such as definite description, definite articles, and possessive pronouns. This research shows that pragmatics can be learned through various media, including songs. The media will help English learners in understanding linguistics study.

Keywords: original soundtrack, pragmatics, presupposition, presupposition triggers

Introduction

Pragmatics is a branch in linguistics that deals with how context affects meaning (Fromkin, Rodman, & Hyams, 2011) and is a study of meaning in communication between a speaker and a listener (Yule, 1996). One of the topics in pragmatics is presuppositions. A presupposition is defined as a situation that must exist for an utterance to be appropriate (Fromkin, et al, 2011). Yule (2010) defines presupposition as speakers' assumption that the listeners have known or understood certain information. A presupposition is a common phenomenon that happens in daily life but is often left unnoticed. A presupposition is used in communication, including speeches, conversations, and some entertainment forms such as movies and songs.

This research article aims to analyze the types of presupposition occurring in the original soundtracks of “Frozen II”. The reason why this topic is chosen is that presuppositions are often left unnoticed and people do not realize their utterances or what they say actually contain presupposition, including in forms of entertainment such as songs. A study of presupposition explores the truths that speakers might take for granted while conversing or exchanging information (Stalnaker, 1973). The object of this study is the original soundtrack of “Frozen II”, an animated adventure musical movie produced by Walt Disney Pictures in 2019. The movie was written by Jennifer Lee and directed by Chris Buck (2019). The original soundtrack was produced by Oscar-winning composers Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez (Romano, 2019). The original soundtrack of “Frozen II” is chosen as the object of the study because using the song lyrics can be an easier and more understandable way to show the usage of presupposition as a linguistic phenomenon in entertainment forms which in this article are the song lyrics.

There are a total of 8 songs that were analyzed in this paper. The 8 songs were the songs that were sung during the movie by the casts. The 8 songs are “All Is Found” by Evan Rachel Wood; “Some Things Never Change” by Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel, Josh Gad, and Jonathan Groff; “Into the Unknown” by Idina Menzel and AURORA; “When I Am Older” by Josh Gad; “Reindeer(s) Are Better Than People (Cont.)” by Jonathan Groff; “Lost in the Woods” by Jonathan Groff; “Show Yourself” by Idina Menzel and Evan Rachel Wood” and “The Next Right Thing” by Kristen Bell. This paper does not include three end credits songs by Panic! At The Disco, Kacey Musgraves, and Weezer because the three artists sang “Into the Unknown”, “All Is Found” and “Lost In The Woods” with the exact same lyrics as the casts during the movie.

In order to answer what the most frequent type of presupposition used in the original soundtrack of “Frozen II” is, the researcher uses the theory that states the types of presupposition and presupposition-triggers.

Theoretical framework

According to Yule (1996), there are six types of presupposition namely, existential presuppositions (presupposes the existence of an entity), factive presuppositions (the information is treated as a fact), lexical presuppositions (the use of one form with its asserted meaning is conventionally interpreted with the presupposition that another (non-asserted) meaning is understood), structural presuppositions (part of the sentence is assumed to be true), non-factive presuppositions (what is assumed is not true), and counterfactual presupposition (what is presupposed is the opposite of what is true).

Besides the theory of presupposition types, this research article also uses the theory of presupposition-triggers. Huang (2007) defines presupposition-triggers as linguistic constructions or lexical items that stimulate presuppositions. The presupposition-trigger theories used in this study come from Karttunen (n.d) as seen in Levinson (1983) and from (1979). There are thirteen presupposition-triggers from Karttunen and six presupposition-triggers from Gazdar (1979). Presupposition-triggers that Karttunen had listed are definite descriptions, factive verbs, implicative verbs, change-of-state verbs, iterative, verbs of judging, temporal clauses, cleft sentences, implicit clefts with stressed constituents, comparisons and contrasts, non-restrictive relative clauses, counterfactual conditionals, and

questions. Six presupposition-triggers from Gazdar (1979) are proper names, cleft constructions, aspectual verbs (change-of-state verbs), pseudo-cleft constructions, iterative, and quantifiers. To answer the research question, the presupposition-triggers are categorized into the types of presupposition according to their definitions. By doing that, after labeling certain lyrics, it can also be decided which type of presupposition the lyrics belonged to.

Previous studies

There are three previous studies that the researcher was inspired from. The first study is a research by Liu and Liang (2016) which investigated presupposition triggers in Hilary Clinton's campaign speech. The researchers found that Hilary Clinton uses presupposition-triggers in her speech to communicate her political messages. The second research is a study by Destin (2013) which discusses pragmatics presupposition in countries and states' slogans. From the research, it was concluded that from thirteen presupposition-triggers, there are six most occurring types which are definite descriptions, implicative verbs, change-of-state verbs, factive verbs, comparisons and contrast, and iterative. Finally, the third study was conducted by Paradieta (2014) which analyzed the presupposition in the movie "Pitch Perfect." The result shows that the most occurring type in the movie is existential presupposition which is triggered by definite descriptions and possessive constructions.

Method

This study used a qualitative research method. Qualitative research enables the researcher to conduct an in-depth study on broad topics and explains them in everyday terms. (Yin, 2016). This type of research was chosen because the particular objective of this study is to discover the most occurring type of presupposition in the original soundtracks of "Frozen II." The specific type of qualitative research that was used is document analysis. According to Ary, Jacobs, and Sorensen (2010), content analysis interprets materials in form of textbooks, letters, films, diaries, or other documents. Content or document analysis is also a method used in visual and written materials with the purpose of identifying specified characteristics of the materials or meaning inferred from them (Ary, Jacobs, Irvine, & Walker, 2019). This analysis method was chosen because the song lyrics of the "Frozen II" original soundtracks are in the form of text that was retrieved from genius.com. Genius has the world's biggest collection of song lyrics, founded in 2009 by Tom Lehman, Ilan Zechory, and Mahbod Moghadam (2009). After the data (in this case the song lyrics) were gathered, the next step was to analyze the lyrics according to the theory used. The analysis started from the categorization of the presupposition-triggers to the types of presupposition. After that, the process of identification and analysis was done. The identification stage was where the song lyrics were identified with the proper presupposition-triggers and which type it belonged to. To help this process, a table was used to help in labelling the triggers and type. Table 1 shows the sample of the table used in the analysis.

Table 1. Sample analysis of the song lyrics and the presupposition type

No.	Song lyrics	Presupposition-trigger	Type
All Is Found by Evan Rachel Wood			
1	Where the Northwind meets the sea	Definite description	Existential
	There's a river full of memory	There + be + noun phrase	Existential
		Present tense	Factive
2	Sleep, my darling, safe and sound	Possessive pronoun	Existential
	For in this river all is found	Determiner this	Existential

After the lyrics from eight soundtracks had been analyzed, the amount of presupposition type was counted to get the final result.

Findings and Discussion

The result shows there are a total of 375 occurrences of presupposition-trigger in 8 original soundtracks. One sentence of lyrics can belong to more than one type of presuppositions as the sentence can contain more than one presupposition-trigger. From the total 375, not all six types of presupposition from Yule (1996) appeared. The complete result can be seen in figure 1.

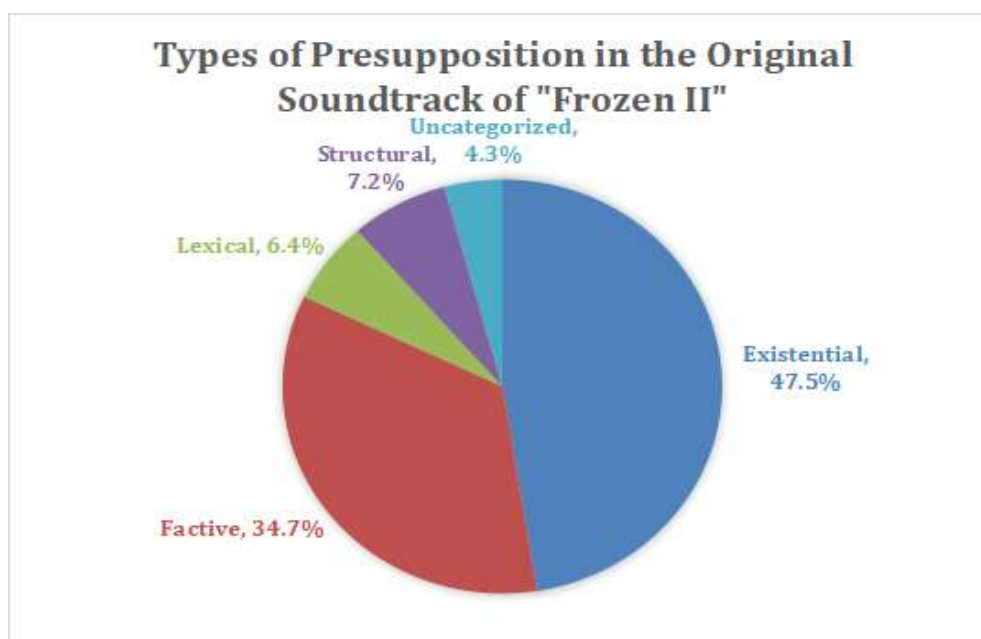


Figure 1. Types of presupposition in original soundtracks of "Frozen II"

Figure 1 shows that in the original soundtrack of "Frozen II", the lyrics are dominated by existential presuppositions (47.5%) and factive presuppositions (34.7%). Existential presuppositions are mainly triggered by definite description, subjective pronoun, definite article, and possessive pronoun. Factive

presuppositions are mainly triggered by the present tense. The present tense is actually not stated in neither theories mentioned. However, as seen from the present tense function in general, present tenses are used to express habitual activities, something that happens in the present, or general facts. Logically, this means what is stated in the present tense can be treated as a fact. With this in mind, the lyrics from the original soundtrack of “Frozen II” are dominated by the use of present tense that states fact in general.

Besides existential presuppositions and factive presuppositions, the lyrics in the original soundtracks of “Frozen II” also contain lexical and structural presuppositions as well. Lexical presuppositions are triggered by change-of-state verbs and are iterative. Structural presuppositions are triggered by yes/no questions and WH questions. Only a small amount of the lyrics cannot be categorized into the presupposition types by Yule (1996), those are mainly discourse markers. The complete and detailed results of this research can be found in Table 2.

Table 2. Presupposition types and the triggers in “Frozen II” original soundtrack

No.	Presupposition types	Triggers	Amount	Percentage
1.	Existential presupposition	Definite description, subjective pronoun, definite article, possessive pronoun, determiner, objective pronoun, deixis, indefinite article, common noun, proper name, quantifier, there + be + noun phrase, cleft construction, pronoun something	178	47.5%
2.	Factive presupposition	Present tense, exclamation (yeah, yes), progressive tense, past tense, factive verb, temporal clause, common knowledge	130	34.7%
3.	Structural presupposition	Yes/no question and WH question	27	7.2%
4.	Lexical presupposition	Change-of-state verb and iterative	24	6.4%
5.	Uncategorized	Discourse marker, idiomatic expression, if clause	16	4.3%
Total			375	100%

Existential presuppositions

Existential presuppositions presuppose the existence of something (Yule, 1996). This existence is known by parties communicating. For the lyrics to make sense and be appropriate, what is said should be known by the listeners. In this research, existential presuppositions are mostly triggered by definite descriptions. The example can be seen in the lyrics from “All Is Found” performed by Evan Rachel Wood, “Where the Northwind meets the sea. There’s a river full of memories.” In these lyrics, the singer gives a definite description of the river.

'Where the Northwind meets the sea' gives a definite description of where the river is. The singer also uses the noun phrase 'a river full of memory,' which gives a definite description of the river. It is a river full of memory. Therefore, the lyrics presuppose the existence of a river full of memory

Other examples of the existential presupposition that is triggered by definite description can be seen in the lyrics "Some things stay the same. Like how we get along just fine. Like an old stone wall that'll never fall" from "Some Things Never Change" performed by Kristen Bell, Jonathan Groff, Idina Menzel, and Josh Gad. In the song, Kristen Bell sang 'like an old stone wall that'll never fall' which gives a definite description of an old stone wall that will never fall, which presupposes the existence of the said wall. Another example can be seen in Idina Menzel's part from the same song when she sings, "And I promise you the flag of Arendelle will always fly." She describes 'the flag of Arendelle' which presupposes the existence of the flag.

In addition to definite descriptions, existential presupposition can also be triggered by possessive pronouns. The example can be seen in the song "Into the Unknown" performed by Idina Menzel where she sings, "I'm sorry, secret siren, but I'm blocking out your calls." In the lyrics, she uses the possessive pronoun 'your' in 'your calls' which refers to the secret siren's call. The possessive pronoun that is used in the song presupposes the existence of the secret siren's call which is a fact that in the movie, there is this secret siren calling Elsa in the movie. Another example of a possessive pronoun can be found in the song "Some Things Never Change" in Josh Gad's part where he sings, "And my leaf's a little sadder and wiser" while holding on a leaf in the movie. In the lyric, he uses the possessive pronoun 'my leaf' which presupposes the existence of 'my leaf' or Olaf's leaf.

Another trigger that gives existential presupposition is indefinite and definite articles. The examples can be seen in the lyrics from "All Is Found" when the cast sings "In her waters, deep and true. Lie the answers and a path for you." In the lyric, the indefinite article 'a' is used in 'a path for you', and the definite article 'the' is used with 'the answers' which presupposes the existence of the answers and a path for you.

A new finding in this study includes that subjective pronoun, objective pronoun, and deixis can also trigger existential presupposition as long as they have a reference or something they are referring to. An example of a subjective pronoun in the lyric "We'll always live in the kingdom of plenty that stands for the good of the many" in the song "Some Things Never Change" with 'we' referring to the people living in the Arendelle kingdom, including all the casts and the town people. With that reference in mind, the subjective pronoun 'we' presupposes the existence of those who live in the kingdom. The other use of subjective and objective pronouns can be seen in the lyric "The Next Right Thing" performed by Kristen Bell where she sings, "This grief has a gravity. It pulls me down." The subjective pronoun 'it' in the second sentence refers to the grief that has gravity mentioned previously. Therefore, the subjective pronoun 'it' in the second sentence presupposes the existence of grief that has gravity. The second sentence also contains the objective pronoun 'me' that refers to the singer of the song. By using the objective pronoun, the speaker or singer assumes that the listener understands that 'me' refers to the speaker and therefore presupposes the existence of the speaker.

Factive presuppositions

Factive presuppositions mean that what is assumed is treated as a fact (Yule, 1996). In the original soundtracks of "Frozen II", factive presuppositions are triggered mostly by present tense with a total of 108 occurrences from 130 total factive presuppositions occurring throughout the soundtracks. There are only 2 types of trigger that match with the theory used in this research, they are factive verbs and temporal clauses. One of the examples of present tense that presupposes facts is in the lyrics from the song "Some Things Never Change" which also contains an exclamation 'yes' and the use of progressive tense. In the lyrics, Kristen Bell sings, "Yes, the wind blows a little bit colder, and we're all getting older," which presupposes the fact that the wind blows a little bit colder and we are all getting older. The lyrics use present tense and progressive tense, this presupposes facts.

The use of factive verbs can be seen in the lyrics "Now I know you're my true north, 'Cause I am lost in the woods" in "Lost In The Woods" performed by Jonathan Groff. In the lyrics, the verb 'know' is followed by the clause 'you're my true north' which presupposes a fact that you (referring to Anna) is Kristoff's true north. The second use of factive verbs can be seen in the song "When I Am Older" performed by Josh Gad. The lyrics, "I know in a couple years these will seem like childish fears, and so I know this isn't bad, it's good," uses two verbs 'know,' but only the 'know' in the second clause that gives factive presupposition. It is because the first 'know' is followed by a clause with future tense in it, whereas the second 'know' is followed with a present tense instead of future. 'I know this isn't bad, it's good' presupposes the fact that 'this' (refers to the current situation when Josh Gad/Olaf sings the song where the characters are trapped in the Enchanted Forest) is not bad, it is good.

Another new finding in this research is that the construction of a past tense and perfect tense can also presuppose facts. Logically, when something happened in the past, it becomes a fact in the present. One example of past tense that presupposes fact can be found in the lyrics "I have always been so different. Normal rules don't apply" from "Show Yourself" performed by Idina Menzel. In the lyrics, Idina sings 'I have always been so different' meaning she was and still is different at the time of the singing. The sentence is then followed with her saying 'Normal rules did not apply' which refers to the event in the previous movie, "Frozen," where normal rules did not apply for Elsa. The sentences use perfect tense and past tense that presupposes facts.

Progressive tenses can also presuppose fact since it states something that is currently going on or on progress. The example can be seen in the lyrics, "Every inch of me is trembling but not from the cold" from "Show Yourself" performed by Idina Menzel. In the lyrics, she uses the progressive 'is trembling' which presupposes the fact that every inch of her is indeed trembling at the moment she sings the lyrics.

Structural presuppositions

Structural presuppositions mean that part of an utterance of a sentence is assumed to be true (Yule, 1996). In the original soundtracks, structural presuppositions are triggered by WH questions and yes/no questions. This example

comes from the song “Into the Unknown” performed by Idina Menzel. The lyrics, “Where are you going?” what Idina sings presupposes that the ‘you’ is going somewhere. Part of the question that is assumed to be true is that ‘you’ is going somewhere. For context, the lyrics are sung when Elsa is chasing some kind of a light that seems going away from her. Besides the WH questions, yes/no questions also give structural presuppositions as the answer to this kind of question is only either yes or no. In the song “Show Yourself”, Idina Menzel sings “But I'm here for a reason. Could it be the reason I was born?” The yes/no question presupposes that it could be nor could not be the reason Elsa was born.

Lexical presuppositions

Lexical presuppositions describing the use of one form with its asserted meaning is conventionally interpreted with the presupposition that another (non-asserted) meaning is understood (Yule, 1996). In the soundtracks, lexical presuppositions are triggered by change-of-state verbs and are iterative. The example of a change-of-state verb can be seen in the lyrics “I can't freeze this moment. But I can still go out and seize this day” from “Some Things Never Change” in Idina Menzel’s part. By saying ‘I can still go out’ presupposes that the speaker is not out yet, meaning the speaker is still inside and is planning to go out. The example of iterative can be found in the lyrics, “Again, you're gone off on a different path than mine” from “Lost in The Woods” performed by Jonathan Groff. By using the word ‘again’, the lyrics presuppose that ‘you’ had once gone off on a different path than the speaker’s.

Uncategorized lyrics

Uncategorized lyrics mean they contain constructions that do not give any presuppositions. In the original soundtracks, uncategorized lyrics consist of discourse markers, idiomatic expressions, and an if-clause. If-clause is supposed to give counterfactual presuppositions, but only the second and the third type as they express something untrue in the present. In the soundtracks, the if-clause that is found is an if-clause type one. This type of if-clause gives an idea of a foreseeable prediction. The example of discourse markers in the original soundtracks can be spotted in some songs, including “Into the Unknown” and “When I Am Older”. The discourse markers in those songs are expressions “Ah!” and “Oooh” in the lyrics. Those discourse markers do not belong to any presupposition type. The idiomatic expression that is used in the soundtracks is found in the song “When I Am Older” when Josh Gad sings “Excuse me” which does not belong to any category as well. The if-clause happens in “Some Things Never Change” in Jonathan Groff’s or Kristoff’s part where he sings “But if I commit and I go for it I'll know what to say and do, right?” which does not presuppose counterfactual presupposition since he has not done it, he just gives an idea of a future possibility.

Conclusion

Existential presuppositions and factive presuppositions are the types of presuppositions that are mostly used in the original soundtrack of “Frozen II.” Although the object of this research is the lyrics from an original soundtrack, it still reflects how people mostly use existential and factive presuppositions in daily life and conversations because what we talk about is something that really does exist or

things and events that are true or can be treated as facts. People do not realize that they are making or using presuppositions in their daily life since presuppositions have blended in our life. We often take them for granted. The second conclusion is that linguistics phenomena can be and learned through media such as movies and songs, which opens to more research that uses movies or songs as an object of research in order to help English language learners understand linguistics and its branch better.

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