

An Analysis of Presuppositions in the Victory Speech of President Joe Biden

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Abstract

"Pragmatics is the study of the meaning of a speaker's utterance," according to Yule (1996:3). At the same time it's the hearer, who deduces the meaning of the utterance from the context of what the speaker wants to convey. Speakers generally make indirect assumptions about the true picture of the situation in everyday status quo, and the meaning or comprehension of what is stated may be altered by the speaker's preconceptions (Haji, and Mohammed, 2019). On this note the notion of presupposition arises. Presupposition is defined as the speaker's implicit but communicated assumption. (Levinson, 1983) As a corollary, the intent of this present descriptive qualitative study is to investigate many types of presuppositions, their triggers and their relevance in Joe Biden's Victory Speech. Additionally, this discourse analysis research investigates what types of presuppositions, and their triggers are used by Biden, as well as it explores in depth the most prominent type of presupposition in the chosen speech. Yule's theory of presupposition classifies presupposition into six categories: existential presupposition, factual presupposition, lexical presupposition, structural presupposition, non-factual presupposition, and counterfactual presupposition. The study's data is comprised of statements that involve presupposition triggers. Levinson's list of lexical and syntactic triggers is adapted to identify presuppositions.

The analysis of Biden's speech has shown that the president heavily depends on lexical level triggers that have ranked first scoring eight hundred ninety-four occurrences, this means that this level triggers have effect on the speech. The topmost sub category trigger is *Noun clauses* that are the most prominent one with 683 occurrences. There were one hundred and eleven syntactic level triggers amongst which thirty-four of them are temporal clauses. It was also determined that, like every other speech, Biden's speech is laden with existential presupposition type (82.28%) and every other type of presuppositions has been identified in the president's speech. The finding of a large number of triggers in this work would aid both linguistic and pedagogical domains.

Keywords: presuppositions, victory speech, President Joe Biden

1. Introduction

Austin, Urmson, and Warnock. (1979) deny utterances are referential and building on the notion that all utterances are performatives, they make it explicit what one is doing is not describing what one is doing or stating that one is doing it. Griffith (2006) also points out "Utterances are interpreted in context as they are tied to a sender and a time. Pragmatics, that analyses functional Linguistics, (Harmani & Puluhalawa, 2019) and that clings to external elements that determine the intended meaning of the utterances in communicating is a study of discourses. Sintamutiani, Fitriani and Inayah (2019) define Pragmatics as the study of meanings intended and expressed by the speaker and deciphered through the addressee.

Critical discourse analysis helps to measure the impact of what was described, interpreted on the audience (Fairclough, 2003). Conversational Maxims, Deixis, implicature, distance, Speech Acts reference, inference, presupposition, etc. help to understand the

pragmatic meanings of discourses. This study investigates on presuppositions. According to Akmajian et al. (2010), a presupposition (PS) is “an insinuation about the universe or preexisting belief connected to a speech whose veracity is assumed in discourse.” They are unspoken ideas that interpret what people mean to say to the listener. Presupposition as defined by Risdianto, Malihah & Guritno (2019) is what the speakers assume. Presupposition is an assumption considered true before it is proven. The speakers have a presumption but the sentence does not contain it (Tambunan, Lubis, Purba, Girsang, & Sembiring, 2019). For instance, the sentence “Anarkali is prettier than her sister.” means: The speaker is well aware that “Anarkali has only one sister” or the speaker assumes the listener is well aware which one of the sisters is compared to. or that the speaker assumes the listener is knowledgeable among which sister is being compared to. Presupposition is an unspoken belief that helps to add meaning to what a person wishes to convey. (Haji and Mohammed, 2019).

According to Yule (2006) and Gençtürk (2018), there are six types of presuppositions: Existential presupposition 2. Factive presupposition 3. lexical presupposition 4. Structural presupposition 5. Non factual presupposition and 6. counterfactual presupposition.

Table 1. Classification of Types of Presuppositions (Adaptation from Yule 1996)

Presupposition Type	Definitions	Example Sentences	*Presuppositions (>>)
Factive Presupposition	Recognized by the existence of the following verbs: 'know,' 'realize,' 'remorse, and be aware.	I regret loving Raj.	>> I loved Raj.
Counter Factual Presupposition	The assumption that what is anticipated is not only false, but also the inverse of what is allegedly true, or contradictory to facts. (if conditional structure)	If you were my daughter I would allow you to drive the car.	>> You are not my daughter >> You are not allowed to drive a car
Non Factive Presupposition	An assumption was something that was not true. Verbs such as "dream, fantasize, conjure, imagine and pretend"	- Saradha dreamed that she got the stroke.	>> Saradha did not get the stroke.
Lexical Presupposition	In using one word, the speaker can act as if another meaning will be understood	Hari stopped dancing.	>> Hari used to dance.
Structural Presupposition	An assumption related to the utilization of specific structures (Wh-questions).	When did Sunitha pass away?	>> Sunitha passed away
Existential Presupposition	All entities(References) in the utterance	The World War II was more destructive than World War I.	>> There was World War I >> There was World War II >> There was destruction during World War I >> There was destruction during World War II

>> This symbol indicates the following is the presupposition of the utterance.

Presupposition triggers are lexical features or linguistic structures that facilitate in the inferencing of presuppositions. (Levinson, 1983; Huang, 2007; Kadmon, 2001). This trigger takes the shape of a projection of the sentence's inferred meaning, encouraging readers to believe in the referent's existence (Grundy, 2000:120). Presupposition triggers are the verbal components that generate the presumption. The term "trigger," according to Levinson (1983:179), refers to a language component that generates presuppositions. This indicates that a linguistic object can refer to something else in some way. The triggers are roughly classified into two types: lexical and syntactic.

Table 2. Presupposition Triggers (Levinson 1983)

Presupposition Triggers	Categories	Sub-Categories	Examples	
Lexical Level	Verbs	Factive Verbs	realize, regret, be glad that..	
		Implicative Verbs	manage, forget, avoid...	
		Iterative Verbs	restore, return, come back...	
		Change of state Verbs	stop, begin, continue...	
		Verbs of Judging	praise, accuse, criticize...	
		Restrictive Expressions	Definite & Indefinite articles	a, an, the
		Iterative Particles	Pronouns	my, our, your, his, her, our, their, its
			Other expressions	another, only...
			Iterative Particles	again, too, either...
		Syntactic Level	Comparison and contrasts	Other particles
Temporal clauses	after, during, whenever, when, as..			
counter-factual conditionals	more than, as much as,			
non-restrictive relative clauses	conditions contrary to facts			
Cleft sentences	who, which, when, where...			
			It is/wasn't...that/who...	

Questions

Yes/no, wh, & rhetorical questions,

Persuasiveness is a part of any political speech. Against this backdrop of the recent election in the USA this research examines the presuppositions in the new president Joe Biden's Victory Speech. This study aims to investigate:

1. Are the Lexical Level Triggers more than Syntactic Level triggers in President Biden's speech?
2. Which is the most dominant category of presupposition trigger in Joe Biden's Speech?
3. Which is the most dominant type of presupposition in Joe Biden's Speech?

2. Literature Review

2.1 Linguistic and Discourse Studies on Presuppositions

The theoretical researches of Capone, (2017) Duzi and Halov á (2015) and Degen and Tonhauser (2022) chose a type of presuppositions and explored in depth and created a general analytic schema of sentences connected with a presupposition. Capone delineated linguistic and non-linguistic presuppositions and advocated that we be concerned in conversational presuppositions, also known as speaker-meant presuppositions or speaker's presuppositions. Capone (2017) differentiated between actual and hypothetical assumptions. According to him, in some situations, presuppositions might be implicated in discourse and cancellation is feasible, as indicated by ontological considerations. The study established that all actual presuppositions are speaker-meant, that there is a separation between existential and verbal presuppositions, but even ontological presuppositions are prone to semantic under-determination, which must be addressed through pragmatic intrusion. Duzi and Halov á (2015) dealt with the examination of empirical questions that are presupposed. After more explicitly defining a question's presupposition, they investigate yes-No questions, 'wh'-questions, and exclusive-or questions in relation to several types of presupposition triggers. These include, among other things, topic-focus articulation, verbs conveying activity termination, factual verbs, the "whys and how comes," and past or future tense with reference time interval. Transparent Intentional Logic (TIL) with its procedural semantics serves as our foundation theory. TIL is an expressive logic that may be used to analyze questions and presuppositions. Degen and Tonhauser published six experiments aimed at determining if two important aspects of the text of the supplement of clause-embedding predicates, respectively projection and entailment, designate a class of factive predicates. They discovered that factive predicates are more diversified than previously anticipated, and that these tests provide no empirical support for the claimed categorical separation between factive and non-factive predicates. They also highlighted the implications of their findings for formal studies of presuppositions, another area where 'factivity' has been important. They argue that projection is sensitive to finer-grained meaning disparities between clause-embedding predicates than factivity.

Whereas, the studies of Oktoma and Mardiyono, (2015) Khairani (2019) Li and Sun (2018) and Mazid, (2007) and Tu, (2022) are discourse analysis studies. Oktoma and Mardiyono studied presuppositions in the short stories of Silvester Goridus Sukur based on Yule's model. He found as usual this work too dominated with existential presuppositions: 59% and he found around 1.39% of counterfactual type presuppositions. To examine the pre-suppositional triggers Edgar Allen Poe's short story, "The Black cat," the researcher Ali (2015) used Geurts' (1999) theory. This study points out that the scope of presupposition in linguistics depends on a number of distinct triggers. The purpose of Guswita and Widodo's (2019) research is to look at how presupposition triggers can be used in online news from the Washington Post and the Los Angeles Times. This research was carried out in a descriptive way. The Washington Post and Los Angeles Times news on the internet were used as resources for this investigation. The data was examined using Levinson (1983) and Yule's notion of presupposition triggers. (1996) Based on a study of past studies in court interaction, Li, and Sun attempted to limit their discussion to presuppositions in both direct and cross-examination. They investigated the interaction between illocutionary acts, meaning, and intentions in court discourse, which is useful in understanding the interaction between different discourse communities in the judicial system, with the ultimate goal of investigating the balance between narrative and persuasion achieved by patterns of presuppositions initiated by court questioners: prosecutors and lawyers. They revealed in direct examination, presuppositions make evidence more legitimate, witness more plausible and furthermore narrative more coherent, trust-able; in cross-examination, presuppositions are primarily used to challenge the credibility of the potential witness and as such dismantle the narrative of the opposite lawyer. The studies of Mazid, and Tu are on the presuppositions in the speeches of politicians. Mazid offered a critical discourse analysis of presuppositions and strategic functions, as well as brief comments on the use of propaganda devices in George W. Bush's speech delivered nine days after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and other US targets. This method allows you to investigate the conflict between ideology and realism, the battle between 'us' and 'them,' and the various ideologies and power dynamics contained in the speech. Tu (2022) discovers that politics and language are inextricably linked, and politicians excel at employing language strategies and techniques to attain specific political goals. According to him, fake pragmatic presupposition is a subtype of pragmatic presupposition in which non-mutual knowledge is transferred that is disputed, inappropriate, or unknown to one party of the dialogue. His research seeks to give a critical discourse analysis of fake pragmatic presuppositions in Mike Pompeo's speech at the Nixon Library on July 23, 2020.

2.2 Linguistic Study on Presidents' Speeches

Numerous studies have been conducted on the pragmatics of the language used. Ayeomoni and Akinkulere (2012) and Abuya (2012) investigated the inauguration addresses of diplomats. Their analyses were based on speech Act Theory developed by Austin (1962) and Searle (1969). Abuya's research of President Goodluck Jonathan's victory speech revealed the dominance of 'Commissive Acts', while Ayeomoni and Akinkulere's investigation of President Musa Yar'adua's winning speech revealed the high frequency of 'Assertives'. In

contrast to Ayeomoni, Akinkulere, and Abuya's (2012) study, Balogun and Murana's (2018) contrastive study focused on parallelism They applied David and Crystal's (1969) style theory to the inaugural addresses of Presidents Goodluck Jonathan and Barrack Obama, determining that both leaders utilized a lot of repetition.

2.3 Linguistic Study on Joe Biden's Speech

The focus of text analysis was on the ideational and textual functions and the macro feature has been identified as the text structure that has been studied the most in prior studies. Irrespective of all those elements, the focus of Darong's (2021) study was on the interpersonal function analysis of political speech text, using Joe Biden's victory speech as an example. The text was subsequently analyzed using Systemic Functional Linguistics theory (SFL). The study was performed out by breaking down the speech text into clauses, which were then examined in compliance with the investigation' purpose. The discourse developed a strong interaction and a deep bond, according to analysis of data.

This analysis of presuppositions on the speech of the American President is similar to the works of Oktoma & Mardiyono (2015). Similar to Darong's (2021) study, this present study also analyzes Joe Biden's victory speech through discourse analysis. However, Darong's study focused on systematic functional analysis, whereas this current study uses a natural language processing approach to analyze presuppositions in the president's speech.

3. Methodology

The theories of Yule (1996) and Levinson (1983) were the base of this descriptive qualitative study, which used the utterances in the President Joe Biden's speech. The data source was the News Telecast of Joe Biden's victory speech on TV and the script was collected from *The Washington Post* <https://WWW.latimes.com/politics/story/2020-11-07/joe-biden-victory-speech-2020-election-transcript1>. First, it listened to and read the speech of the president's speech. 2. Then utterances with triggers were extracted and were tabulated in different categories.3. After that the trigger categories were regrouped to presupposition types. 4.Fourthly, tables, Excel sheets and graphs were used to extract and interpret the data. The study employs Levinson (1983) model of analyzing the text with per-supposition (al) triggers found in the chosen discourse and Yule's theory of types of presupposition to regroup them. 5.Fifthly, percentages were calculated to find the dominant type of presupposition as well as the trigger in the speech. To calculate the percentage of presuppositions in talks, the formula used was:

$$X = \frac{F}{N} * 100\%$$

While X represents the fraction of collected Presupposition phrases, F represents the frequency with which the collected categories of Presuppositions appear. N represents the total number of Presupposition phrases. Identifying the most common type of presupposition in each% The same Analyzing Data methodologies were applied to determine the types of presupposition triggers. Lastly, some utterances of the president are exemplified with their presuppositions.

4. Results

In Biden's victory speech that was 2, 412 words long, there were 1005 triggers comprising of 1,313 words.(54.43%).

4.1 The Predominant Type of Trigger

The number of lexical triggers was eight times more than syntactic triggers. With his word-power, the president could woo and persuade his voters and citizens.

Table 3. Lexical and Syntactic Triggers in Joe Biden's Victory Speech = [Adapted from Levinson (1983)]

Presupposition Triggers	Categories	Sub-Categories	Examples	Biden
		Factive Verbs	realize, regret, be glad that..	21
Lexical Level	Verbs	Implicative Verbs	manage, forget, avoid...	2
		Iterative Verbs	restore, return, come back...	16
		Change of state Verbs	stop, begin, continue...	15
		Verbs of Judging	praise, accuse, criticize...	0
	Restrictive	Definite & Indefinite articles	a, an, the	109
		Noun Phrases	Noun Phrases, Pronouns	683
	Expressions	Possessive Pronouns	my, our, your, his, her, our, their,its	35
		Other expressions	another, only...	13
		TOTAL		894
		Iterative Particles	again, too, either...	9
		Other particles	even, still, just...	8
		Temporal clauses	after, during, whenever, when, as..	34
Syntactic Level		Comparison and contrasts	more than, as much as,	28
		counter-factual conditionals	conditions contrary to facts	8
		non-restrictive relative clauses	who, which, when, where...	9
		Cleft sentences	It is/wasn't...that/who...	9
	Questions		Yes/no, wh, & rhetorical questions,	6
		TOTAL		111

Grand Total	1005
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Table 2 reveals the answer to the first and second research question. It also reveals the following findings.

R.Q.1: Lexical triggers outnumber syntactic triggers in Biden's discourse. There were 894 lexical and 111 syntactic triggers recorded.

R.Q.2: Noun phrases are the most dominant trigger category with the frequency of 683 triggers. Precisely, 67.96% of the total triggers fall in this category.

4.2 The Most Dominant Type of Presupposition

This study identified 1005 of presuppositions.

Table 4. Types of Presuppositions in Biden’s Speech

Types of presupposition	Frequencies
Existential Presupposition	827
Structural Presupposition	86
Lexical Presupposition	61
Factual Presupposition	21
Counter factual Presupposition	8
Non Factual Presupposition	2
Total Types	1005

R. Q. 3: Existential type of presupposition (Articles + possessive Pronouns+ Noun Phrases) occupies the dominant state in Biden’s speech. There are 827 existential type triggers in a speech of 2,412 words. Astonishingly almost 82.3% of frequencies of triggers belong to this type.

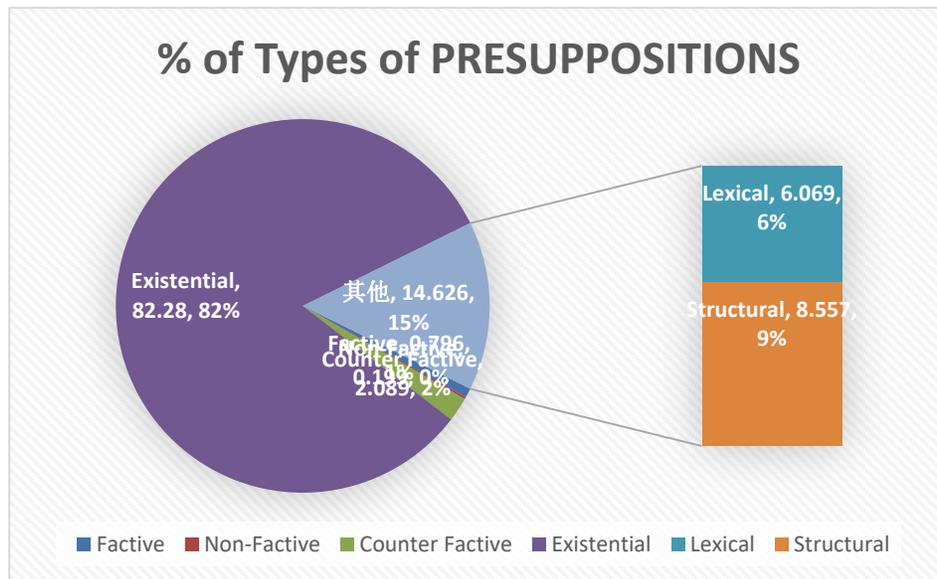


Figure 1. Type-wise Triggers in Biden’s speech.(Yule 2006)

Figure 1 shows that Existential Presupposition has the highest rank (82.28%) in terms of trigger type, which means that it affects the speech present in possessive constructions, as well as any name or definite noun phrase, i.e. definite description, in which the audience is assumed to be committed to the existence of the entities named. Structural is ranked second (8.56%), and lexical is ranked third (6%). Factual and counter factual triggers occur in very meagre percentages with 0.79% and 2.08% of occurrences. The least occurrences of presuppositions are in Nonfactual Type with a meager percentage of 0.19%.

To identify the type of presuppositions, lines are scrutinized and identified the triggers. The triggers are listed on a table. A sample of the analysis of the first seven utterances is provided with in Table 5.

Table 5. Sample of Utterances and listing of triggers

S.No	Biden's Utterances	Triggers	Total	Noun phrases without articles and possessive pronouns
1	"Today, on this January day, my whole soul is in this: Bringing America together.	"Today, this January day, my whole soul , this: America	5	4
2	Uniting our people. And uniting our nation,"	our people. our nation,"	2	0
3	Chief Justice Roberts, Vice President Harris, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Vice President Pence, distinguished guests, and my fellow Americans.	Chief Justice Roberts, Vice President Harris, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Vice President Pence, distinguished guests, my fellow Americans.	8	8
4	This is America's day.	This, America', day.	3	3
5	This is democracy's day.	This, democracy, day.	3	3
6	A day of history and hope.	A day, history, hope.	3	2
7	Of renewal and resolve.	Renewal, resolve.	2	2

Then, the triggers are identified, listed, and then classified according to the type of presupposition. A sample of the president's utterances type-wise is furnished in Table.6.

Types	Triggers	Biden's Utterances	Number of Triggers
Factive	Verbs such as 1.Know,	we know we can be and we must be.	8
	2.realized,	We have learned again that democracy is precious.	1
	3. learn		0
	4.regret	I understand that many Americans view the future	2
Non Factive	6.understand,		
	1.Dream,	The dream of justice for all will be deferred no long	2
	2.pretend,		0
Counter Factual	3.As if		0
	20.presumed		
	1.If,		
Existential	2.unless,	For without unity, there is no peace, only bitternes	8
	3.without,		
Structural	1.Possesives		35
	The Names		109
Lexical	triggered by ' wh' question	What will our children say?	6
	That News is about to be published		
Lexical	1.Think,		
	8. restore,		2
	repair		2
	reolve		3

Table 6. Sample of Grouping of Triggers

4.3 Data Analysis

The study identified

4.3.1 Type 1. Existential Presuppositions

It is the presumption that the entities named by the speaker exist. For instance, Biden says:

'It's taken as many lives in one year as America lost in all of World War II.'

There are five presuppositions in this sentence.

>> There were many lives.

- >> America exists.
- >> Corona Virus existed in that one year.
- >> There was World War II
- >> America lost lives in World War II

Table 7. Existential Presuppositions

Triggers	Frequencies
Definite & Indefinite articles	109
Noun Phrases Noun Phrases, Pronouns	683
Possessive Pronouns	35
Total	827

As the Table.7 lists with 85 personal pronouns and 35 possessive pronouns, which total up to 1/8th of existential presuppositions Joe Biden tries to build a rapport with the citizens. Using existential presuppositions, he pleads for unity. He assumes that the current concentration is of a different kind, and he urges that it be concentrated on the nation: (We) set our sights on the nation we know we can and must be. And we can see him in that as Darong (2021) asserts that Biden's usage of the term "we" exclusively helped him develop Americans' trust in the government in power.

4.3.2 Counter factual Presuppositions

It's the presumption that what's assumed isn't just wrong, but also the polar opposite of what's true, or contradicts facts. Darong quoting Gusthini et al., (2018) and Risberg & Lymer, (2020) says that Biden is delighted in educating the public on what America should always be and ought to be. It is urgent and obvious for the speaker to provide information and demand services as a dilly with any political mission. On the one hand, Biden anticipates conveying to the audience particular messages that reflect his political viewpoint and assumption. On the other hand, he is attempting to compel and arouse the audience, as listeners, to act in response to his locutionary force. That is the reason he uses eight counter factual presuppositions.

Example: *'If we're willing to stand in the other person's shoes just for a moment.'*

- >> His opponents are averse to understand the situation of others.

Example: *'if we are this way, our country will be stronger, more prosperous, more ready for the future'*

- >> 'America is strong, prosperous, but still miles to go' is Biden's wish and presupposition.

4.3.3 Factive Presupposition

Because some verbs, such as "know," are present, it is assumed that something is true. Verbs such as realize, regret, be glad that help to assume. In Biden's speech there were 21 Factive verbs.

Example: *'I understand that many Americans view the future with some fear and trepidation.'*

This sentence presupposes the following:

- >> many Americans view the future with some fear and trepidation.

4.3.4 Syntactic Presupposition

Syntactic presupposition triggers, similar to lexical presupposition triggers, are critical to the effectiveness of unpartisan speech. In most cases, similarities and differences are employed to underline key points and create a lasting impact on the audience. In campaign speeches, inquiries are commonly used to get the public to understand the issues and arouse their interest. The speaker will be able to reach the public more proactively and successfully in this manner. (Liang & Liu 2016)

Khairani Ade Guswita's (2019) in his research on the distinction between the Los Angeles Times and the Washington Post found the restrictive clauses are much more in the LA Times than in the Washington Post. He ascertains that it shows that L.A. Times journalists use relative clauses to present the reader with a wealth of supplementary information.

4.3.4.1 Questions

According to Levinson, questions usually share the premise of their assertive equivalents and use interrogative modes to incorporate additional presuppositions. He asserted that "yes or no" questions typically carry pointless presuppositions. Hence, this study limits its query to wh- questions only.

For example, Ben Leiden asks:

'What are the common objects we love that define us as Americans?'

- >> There are some common things loved especially by Americans.

What will our children say?

- >> Our children will say something.

4.3.4.2 Temporal Presuppositions

Example: ‘*And here we stand, just days after a riotous mob thought they could use violence to silence the will of the people.*’

In the above utterance it is assumed:

>> The riot was defeated.

4.3.4.3 Iterative Particles

There were nine triggers like (again, too, either...)

Example 1: ‘*We have learned **again** that democracy is precious.*’

The assumption is:

>> There was a threat to democracy.

Example 2: “*We can make America, once again, the leading force for good in the world.*”

Biden presupposes:

>> America, at present, (due to the previous government) is not the leading force for good in the world.

4.3.4.4 Other particles

There were eight triggers in this category.

even, still, just...

Example: ‘*And if you **still** disagree, so be it.*’- In this utterance Biden assumes:

>> some of Trump’s supporters might have got convinced and He also assumes that some of them may not have convinced, since the aftermath of election results portrayed the strength, will power, inimical attitude of Trump’s fans.

4.3.4.5 Cleft sentences

There were nine occurrences. It is/wasn’t...that/who...

Example: ‘*It requires that most elusive of things in a democracy: Unity*’

The presupposition is:

>> Unity is the most elusive of things in a democratic nation.

4.3.4.6 Comparative Constructions with as...as

Comparisons and contrasts are generally marked with emphasis and words like more than as...as, the best, better than, and a variety of comparative expressions (Levinson). There are numerous presumption triggers in the utterances of the leader.

Biden, for example, argues

Example: ‘I will fight as hard for those who did not support me as for those who did.’

What he presupposes is:

>>There were people who did not want him to be the president.

Comparison with the Superlative.

Example: ‘The right to dissent peaceably, within the guardrails of our Republic, is perhaps our nation’s greatest strength.’ This utterance presupposes

>>America has many other strengths besides being a Republic nation.

4.3.5 Lexical Presupposition

Certain types of verbs or lexical items, such as implicative verbs, Iterative verbs, State verbs and verbs of judging trigger the presupposition.

Implicative Presupposition:

Verbs such as manage, forget, avoid are the triggers. Two triggers could be traced in Biden’s Speech.

Example: ‘*That did not happen.*’

>> It was expected to happen.

Iterative Verbs Presupposition:

Verbs such as restore, return, come back trigger presuppositions. There were 16 of them in the President’s speech. These triggers presuppose the existence of a previous state of affairs.

Example: ‘*We have learned again that democracy is precious.*’

This sentence presupposes the following:

>> democracy is precious is already known and forgotten for a while.

Change of state Verbs:

The existing condition is considered presupposed knowledge with these presupposition triggers.

Verbs such as stop, begin, continue trigger the presuppositions. There were 15 of them.

Example: *'We can join forces, stop the shouting, and lower the temperature.'*

This sentence presupposes the following:

>> Not all the people are with the forces.

>> Some people are protesting against the new government.

Verbs of Judging:

Praise, accuse, criticize are the verbs that trigger presuppositions. This research could not identify any presupposition type of this category.

Other Expressions:

Another and only are the two triggers that fall in this category. There are 13 of them in Biden's speech. Example of each trigger is provided with below:

'In another January in Washington, on New Year's Day 1863, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.'

'...only exhausting outrage. No nation, only a state of chaos.'

The first example presupposes Lincoln signed the proclamation in January and the second example presupposes there are chaos and outrages among people.

4.3.6 Non-Factual Presuppositions

The president presupposes with the word 'dream.' twice. They are:

'The dream of justice for all will be deferred no longer'

'Here we stand looking out to the great Mall where Dr. King spoke of his dream.'

The first sentence presupposes that justice is being deferred now and the second presupposes Dr. King had a vision for America.

5. Discussion

According to Balogun and Murana (2018), Trump's in his address to the nation assumes the unique nature of the disaster, America's fiscal instability, and the urgency and severity of the need to restore with 15 triggers of presupposition. This study, unlike Balogun and Murana' and Guswita, & Widodo's (2019) study, identified a massive number of 1005 triggers. Guswita and Widodo identified that presuppositions are more often used in the Los Angeles Times, (145 occurrences) than in the Washington Post. (112 occurrences) They concluded that using presuppositions can help in attracting more readers. The same is applicable to politicians. Joe Biden's speech, which is replete with assumptions has the potential to increase his fan base. Based on the research of presupposition triggers, it might be argued that victory speeches help effectively express political messages and capture audiences. Presupposition triggers, such as lexical and syntactic ones, play an important role in reinforcing important information, making language more economical and vivid, motivating audience interaction, and drawing a closer relationship between the speaker and listener, all of which help the speaker achieve his or her true political goals.

6. Conclusion

In Biden's victory speech that was 2, 412 words long, there were 1005 triggers comprising of 1,313 words. (54.43%). The findings of the study of presuppositions in Biden's speech further revealed that the president relies extensively on lexical level triggers that rank top with 894 occurrences, indicating that this level triggers have had an effect on the speech. Noun clauses are the most common subcategory trigger, accounting for 683 occurrences. There were 111 syntactic level triggers, with 34 of them being temporal sentences. It was also discovered that Biden's speech, like all others, is packed with existential presupposition (82%) followed by structural presuppositions (8.56%). Surprisingly all the types of presuppositions proposed by Yule's theory were prevalent in the president's speech. Both the results: the presence of all the types of presupposition as proposed by Yule and the discovery of a substantial number of triggers in most of the categories proposed by Levinson (1983) might be beneficial both to the linguistic and educational realms.

Presidential speeches are a mode of discourse that gains a foothold by sovereign leaders to make promises and provide pledges of efficient government with effective communication. In the researched speech, Biden utters a variety of assumptions to demonstrate his solid knowledge of Americans and the current political and social situation in the United States of America. The presumptions serve as a baseline for their proposed reforms. They also show why he chooses structurally simple phrases to build on the collective understanding of his American audience while avoiding boring minutiae. He used all the six presupposition types to woo his supporters as well as the other American Citizens, who failed not to reveal their distaste in his coming to power. Based on the analysis the research concludes that presuppositions are important in political discourses, which are always persuasive in nature and provides a new material for linguistic classes.

7. Recommendations

The author recommends that future researchers can investigate other linguistic features that use pragmatic study such as speech acts, conversational maxims and verbal Irony with various talk shows of politicians and actors.

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