Pragmatics Analysis : Presupposition Analysis of Character Dialogue in The Wednesday Series on Netflix

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ABSTRAK

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mendeskripsikan jenis pra-anggapan dan makna yang terkandung di dalamnya. Peneliti menggunakan teori Yule (1998) untuk menganalisis data. metode penelitian yang digunakan yakni deskriptif kualitatif dan menggunakan dokumen analisis. Objek dari penelitian ini adalah sebuah series yang ditayangkan di Netflix berjudul "*Wednesday*". Hasil penelitian ini menunjukan bahwa terdapat 12 data yang mencakup *2 existential presupposition, 2 factive presupposition, 2 lexical presuppositions, 2 structural presuppositions, 2 counterfactual presuppositions, and 2 non- factive presuppositions*.

Kata kunci: pragmatik, pra-anggapan, series *Wednesday*

ABSTRACT

This study aims at analyzing the types of presupposition and found its meaning. To analyze the data, a theory proposed by Leech (1998) was used. The method of this study is qualitative descriptive with data used is document analysis. The object of this document analysis was a netflix series entitled "Wednesday". The result showed that there were 12 datas obtained including 2 existential presuppositions, 2 factive presuppositions, 2 lexical presuppositions, 2 structural presuppositions, 2 counterfactual presuppositions, and 2 non- factive presuppositions.

Keywords: *Pragmatics, Presupposition, Wednesday Series*

1. INTRODUCTION

Communication is a process of a person creating and using information to connect with the environment and other people. Velentzas & Broni in (Mastorakis et al., n.d.) (2006) stated that the communication process is made of four main components – Encoding (message sent by sender), Transmission medium, Decoding (message received by receiver) and feedback. From this theory it can be said that as a social being, communication is needed with an action in giving, receiving, and sharing information. There are several ways to communicate, one of which is language, language is a means of communication for humans to interact with each other. The use of language can be in the form of spoken, written, signs, and gestures.

Someone will create a message or information that will be received by the recipient. Sometimes for a

communication to be said to be successful if what the speaker conveys can be conveyed properly to the recipient. Apart from that, there is also the means needed to convey it, namelylanguage. Language is also a tool and way of thinking, therefore language always appears in all aspects of everyday life, such as conveying thoughts, for interacting, or for expressing oneself. According to Fromkin (1988:) language is more than just speech. Which means that the language we use every day has a meaning, and the science that studies this is pragmatics as Levinson (1983) says that pragmatics is the study of the relationship between language and context which is fundamental to understanding language (Hillary, n.d., p. 2019) . However, in this study the researchers focused on analyzing one of the sub-pragmatics, namely presupposition.

Presupposition is one of the topics in semantics and pragmatics. According to Yule (1996) Presupposition is something the speaker assumes to be the case prior to making an utterance. From this it can be interpreted how one thinks or analyzes some aspects of meaning that are not visible in order to capture information other than their interpretation. In addition, Yule alsomentions that there are 6 types of presuppositions, namely Existential, factive, lexical, structural, non-factive, and counterfactual. Presuppositions can occur in written or spoken language and often a person makes a statement that is unclear in meaning or does not match the listener's expectations. Therefore, the researcher will focus on analyzing this aspect by using a web series from Netflix entitled "WEDNESDAY". The researcher will analyze severaldialogues from one of the episodes in the series. One example of presupposition found in this series is in a scene where Wednesday is looking at his father's criminal record when he says:

Wednesday: "… what really happened that stormy night 32 years ago?"

When Wednesday says it can be assumed that Wednesday believes something happened earlier 32 years ago during a stormy night that left his father with a criminal record. This is one of thepresuppositions found in the series. From this it can be seen that presuppositions can be foundin any communication media such as everyday conversation, novels, movies, and also dialoguein a video series.

Several previous studies have also analyzed this presupposition with different subjects and sources which are also a reference in this study such as a journal entitled "The candidates' beliefs in 2016 U.S presidential election debate through presupposition: A pragmatic discoursestudies" by (Widianingsih, 2021) which using the subject of the debate to analyze what types and what the candidate believes from the transcript of the debate. In addition, another study entitled "AN ANALYSIS OF PRESUPPOSITION FOUND IN THE GUARDIAN NEWS: PRAGMATIC APPROACH" by (Siahaan & Mubarak, 2020) analyzes the types of presupposition and what types of presupposition are used in news. In addition (Kristiawan, n.d., p. 2019) entitled PRESUPPOSITIONS AND HUMOR CREATION IN LOUIS SZEKELY'S CHEWED UP STANDUP COMEDY: A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS" which identifies the form of humor created by the presupposition and functions of the humor. It can be seen that from the three studies above they used different communication media and subjectsas well as different problem formulations. So, what makes this research different from the research that will be examined is that the researcher focuses on analyzing what kinds of presuppositions are found in the character dialogues in the Wednesday video series and also onanalyzing the meaning of presuppositions in the series. This research will use one episode of the Wednesday series, which has a total of 8 episodes. The choice of this series is because theseries on the Netflix platform is being loved by many people, especially

teenagers in Indonesia, therefore researchers are interested in analyzing the presuppositions that exist in this series.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

In this study, the researcher used a qualitative descriptive method which is a method to describe or describe the facts and phenomena being studied in the form of a sentence as said by Monsen (2008: 5) the descriptive research often illustrates a relevant but non quantified topic involving a well-focused research question in (Risdianto et al., n.d., p. 2019). According to (H.M Kasinath, 2016) qualitative methods are used in research that is designed to provide an in-depth description of a specific program, practice , or setting Three of the possible reasons for choosing qualitative methods are explored in this article: (a) the researcher's view of the world, (b) the nature of the research questions, and (c) practical reasons associated with the nature of qualitative methods. Therefore, the researcher chose this method because it is in accordance with the objectives of the research to be carried out

At this stage the researcher will retrieve data from an episode of the Wednesday video series by Miles Millar and Alfred Gough which is on the Netflix platform. The series spans the genres of fantasy, comedy horror, coming-of-age, supernatural, and supernatural. This Wednesday tells the story of a clever, sarcastic, and slightly unfeeling girl named Wednesday Addams who investigates a murder case, and during her investigation Wednesday meets new friends and enemies at Nevermoree Academy. This series has a very interesting story and is one of the most popular series on Netflix at the moment which makes researchers interested in analyzing the presuppositions in this series.

Based on the literature review, this study will examine what types of presuppositions are found and analyze the meaning of the presuppositions contained in the Wednesday series. For the stages according to what Djajasudarma (1993: 2) said in (Hillary, n.d., p. 2019) states that the descriptive method provides a systematic, factual, and accurate explanation of the data and its scientific characteristics. The following stages are as follows: (1) Preparation, at this stage the researcher reads theories related to pragmatics and presupposition in several related journals so that the researcher understands presupposition better. In this stage the researcher also watched the Wednesday series with all the episodes in order to find out which episode was suitable for analysis, after that the researcher had found a suitable episode for analysis, namely episode 8 because the researcher was interested in solving the problem in this episode, then the researcher watched repeatedly in order to get a good understanding of the dialogue and stories in this series. (2) data collection, the next stage the researcher makes a transcript which then identifies what presuppositions I have determined and classifies them into the appropriate types and identifies the meaning of the presuppositions as well. (3) Data analysis, according to Yule's theory regarding presupposition, the researchers analyzed the types and its meaning of presupposition using qualitative descriptive method.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the researcher finds data that are in accordance with Yule's (1998) theory regarding the six types of presuppositions, namely existential, factive, lexical, structural, counterfactual, and non-factive presuppositions. The researcher took data from several dialogues in the conversations of the characters in the Wednesday episode 8 series. There were 12 data found including 2 dialogs of existential type, 2 dialogs of factive type, 2 dialogs of lexical type, 2 dialogs of structural type, 2 dialogs of counter

factual type, and 2 dialogs of non-factive type.

DATA 1

Wednesday : you opened my eyes and suddenly it all made sense. *Xavier* warned me about you, but I didn't listen.

Tyler : Ironic now, huh?

(00:57 – 01:07)

In data 1 the situation is when Wednesday meets and chats with Tyler. When Wednesday says "Xavier warned me about you, but I didn't listen" it can be said that the presupposition is existential because when Wednesday says that to Tyler it means that a person named "Xavier" exists and the meaning of this presupposition is Xavier warns Wednesday for the heart - be careful of Tyler but Wednesday doesn't obey him.

DATA 2

Wednesday : *Your father* fell in love and married an outcast.

Tyler : fine, *my mom* was an outcast. That doesn't make me a monster.(03:09 –

03:16)

In data 2, the situation is when Wednesday interrogates Tyler in the warehouse and says a statement to Tyler, namely "Your father fell in love and married an outcast." It can be seen that this data is also a type of existential presupposition, which means that the presupposition of the dialogue is Tyler has Besides that, in Tyler's dialogue afterwards it also contains an existential presupposition, namely "my mom was an outcast" and the presupposition is that Tyler has a mother. From this presupposition, it can be seen that the meaning is Wednesday convinced something to Tyler, that is, Tyler has a father who falls in love with his mother, who is an outcast.

DATA 3

Marilyn : I'm so *glad* I caught you. I was weeding my wolfsbane and I just completely lost track of time. This is a parting gift.

Wednesday : White oleander, one of nature's deadliest.(16:15 – 16:25)

If it is in accordance with George Yule's theory, it can be seen in Marilyn's dialogue that says "I'm so glad I caught you" to Wednesday, it is a type of Factive presupposition which is usually marked by using "know", realized", "regret", "be aware", "be odd", and "be glad", then the presupposition is that Wednesday met Marilyn. The meaning of this presupposition is that Marilyn is happy because she still managed to meet Wednesday to give a gift as a parting token.

DATA 4

Eugene : Wednesday!

Wednesday : *Glad* to see you're finally awake. Eugene

: I heard you visited me all the time.(17:00

– 17:06)

Data 4 is also a type of factive presupposition seen from Wednesday's dialogue namely "glad to see you're finally awake" to Eugene which means the presupposition is that before Eugene was unconscious for quite a while. The meaning is that Eugene had woken up from his coma when Wednesday was visiting him in the hospital.

DATA 5

Tyler : Thing gave me your notes. I was surprised you wanted to see me *again*. after you ran out the other night. So, uh is this a date?

Wednesday : it's a surprise

(00:29 – 00:40)

In the situation in data 5, it happened at the beginning when Tyler met Wednesday somewhere and he said "I was surprised you wanted to see me again" from here you can see the word "again" is one of the items

from the Lexical presupposition. The presupposition of the dialogue is that Tyler thinks Wednesday doesn't want to see him again. What this means is that Tyler didn't think Wednesday would want to see him again after she ran away from him the night before.

DATA 6

Wednesday : My mother told me it's for conjuring visions

Goody : It is also a conduit for conjuring spirits. It will allow me to pass through you and heal you. Just know, once I do, you will never see me *again*.

(31:32 – 31:44)

In data 6, when Wednesday's situation was dying, Goody, who was her ancestor, came to Wednesday. In Goody's dialog there is an item of lexical presupposition as well, that is "again", so from here the presupposition of "you will never see me again" is that Wednesday has met Goody several times before. With the word "again", the meaning of this presupposition is that Wednesday will not be able to meet Goody again afterwards.

DATA 7

Eugene : Have you seen Wednesday?

Enid : No, she left this afternoon. Didn't she swing by to see you?

Eugene : Listen, Principal Weems and her went and confronted Ms. Thornhill. But I haven't heard a peep from either of them.

Enid : *Why* would they confront Ms. Thornhill? (22:18 –

22:30)

From data 7 it can be seen in Enid's dialogue, namely "Why would they confront Ms. Thornhill?" is a type of structural presupposition which is a presupposition expressed through utterances. Certain sentence structures have been identified as generally and frequently assumed that a particular aspect of the structure is true. Here Enid has the presupposition that something has happened to Wednesday and Principal Weems. The meaning of this presupposition is Ms. Thornhill had done something that made Wednesday and Principal Weems meet him.

DATA 8

Bianca : So, *what's* the deal with Thornhill being a psycho?

Ajax : She murdered Weems and then took Wednesday to Crackstone's crypt. Enid :

We have to get everyone in the school to safety before it's too late. (30:22 – 30:32)

From this data on Bianca's dialogue "what's the deal with Thornhill being a psycho?" is a type of structural presupposition as well because one very clear feature of this presupposition is the use of wh-questions. The presupposition of this dialogue is Ms. Thornhill has been referred to as Psycho. The meaning is that there is something that Ms. Thornhill did what got him called Psycho.

DATA 9

Wednesday : This prophecy cannot come true if I'm not here. But it kills me to leave when Tyler is still walking around free.

Enid : *If* he tries anything, we have a school full of gorgons, vampires, and werewolves, ready and waiting. We've got this, Wednesday. I promise.

(14:47 – 15:05)

Data 9 is a counterfactual presupposition which is a presupposition that is not only false but also the complete opposite of what is true or contradictory to the facts known as a counterfactual presupposition. Usually there are if-clauses. Here there are if-clauses in Enid's dialogue "If he tries anything" presuppose Tyler which is "he has not done anything yet". The meaning of this presupposition is that Tyler could have done something to Wednesday.

DATA 10

Marilyn : The outcasts made you a monster.

Wednesday : *If* you only hate outcasts, why is he killing norms as well? Marilyn :

They're just pawns in a bigger game. Just like you, Wednesday.(20:12 – 20:26)

In the dialogue in data 10 there are if-clauses which are one of the characteristics of the counterfactual presupposition, namely in the Wednesday dialogue "If you only hate outcasts, why is he killing norms as well? whose presupposition is that he doesn't just hate outcasts. It can be seen that the meaning is that he does not only hate outcasts but also norms, which can be seen in the next sentence, namely "why he killed norms as well". he also considers the normies as pawns in a game.

DATA 11

Enid   : I've learned so much from you. Part of it is admittedly criminal behavior, but... most people spend their entire lives *pretending* to give zero effs, and you literally never had aneff to give. (14:27 – 14:40)

In data 11, Enid's dialogue contains the word "pretending" which is one of the verbs used in non-factive presupposition, which means that this dialogue is non-factive presupposition. Thepresupposition of "most people spend their entire lives pretending to give zero effs" is that they are not really ignorant (give zero effs). Which means they are not really ignorant they are justpretending.

DATA 12

Wednesday   : My very first stalker. Maybe this forced vacation will be more interesting thanI *imagined*. Unlike my novel, not every thread has been tied up. (47:33 – 47:43)

In data 12 there is also the verb "imagined" which is one of the items from the non-factive presupposition. The presupposition of Wednesday's dialogue "Maybe this forced vacation will be more interesting than I imagined" is that Wednesday thinks his vacation will be boring. What this means is that Wednesday turns out to have something that makes her vacation as interesting as she thought.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results that have been researched, it can be seen that the dialogues contained in episode 8 of the Wednesday series have all types of presuppositions, namely with a total of 12 data obtained including 2 existential presuppositions, 2 factive presuppositions, 2 lexical presuppositions, 2 structural presuppositions, 2 counterfactual presuppositions, and 2 non- factive presuppositions. So from this, the two research problems have been answered, namelyto analyze the types of presuppositions found and to analyze their meaning. From this study it can be seen that presuppositions can be found in any communication media including video series such as the 'Wednesday' series. With this research, it is hoped that it can help future researchers in examining pragmatics elements, especially presuppositions.

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