

Types of Presupposition

- ▶ Presuppositions are associated with the use of a large number of **words, phrases and structures**.
- ▶ These linguistic forms are considered as indicators of **potential presupposition**, which can only become actual presupposition in contexts with speakers.

Types of Presupposition

- 1. Existential Presupposition
- 2. Factive Presupposition
- 3. Non Factive Presupposition
- 4. Lexical Presupposition
- 5. Structural Presupposition
- 6. Counterfactual Presupposition

Existential Presupposition

- ▶ Entities named by the speaker are assumed to be present.
- ▶ It is the assumption of the existence of the entities named by the speaker.

1. Noun phrase.

2. Possessive constructions.

Examples (Noun Phrase)

- ▶ **“The Cold War has ended”**

Presupposes that the existence of the entities it refers to, in this case the “Cold War”.

- ▶ **“The Car was broken”**

Presupposes that the existence of the entities it refers to, in this case the “Car”.

Examples (Possessive constructions)

- ▶ **"Tom's car is new"**

We can presuppose that Tom exists and that he has a car.

- ▶ **"Your Book is new"**

We can presuppose that You exist and that you have a book.

Factive Presupposition

- It is the assumption that something is true due to the presence of some verbs such as "know", "realize" and "glad" etc.

Examples

- ▶ **She didn't realize he was ill.**
(>> He was ill)
- ▶ **We regret telling him.**
(>> We told him)
- ▶ **I wasn't aware that she was married.**
(>> She was married)
- ▶ **It isn't odd that he left early.**
(>> He left early)
- ▶ **I'm glad that it's over.**
(>> It's over)

Non Factive Presupposition

- ▶ It is an assumption referred to something that is not true.
- ▶ For example, verbs like **"dream"**, **"imagine"** and **"pretend"** are used with the *presupposition* that what follows is not true.

Examples

- ▶ *I dreamed that I was rich.*
(>> I was not rich)
- ▶ *We imagined that we were in London.*
(>> We were not in London)
- ▶ He pretends to be ill
(>> He is not ill)

Lexical Presupposition

- *It is the assumption that, in using one word, the speaker can act as the another meaning (word) will be understood.*

Examples

- ▶ **Mary stopped *running*.**
(>>She used to run.)
- ▶ **You are *late again*.**
(>> You were late before.)
- ▶ **Are you *still such a bad driver*?**
(>> You were a bad driver)
- ▶ **"stop", "again" "still" are taken to presuppose another (Unstated) concept.**

Structural Presupposition

- ▶ It is the assumption associated with the use of certain structures.
- ❖ **Wh-question constructions.**
- ▶ The listener perceives that the information presented is necessarily true, or intended as true by the speaker..

Examples

- **When did she travel to the USA?**
(>> she travelled)
- **Where did you buy the book?**
(>> you bought the book)
- **When did he leave?**
(>> he left)
- **Where did you buy the bike?**
(>> You bought the bike)

Counterfactual Presupposition

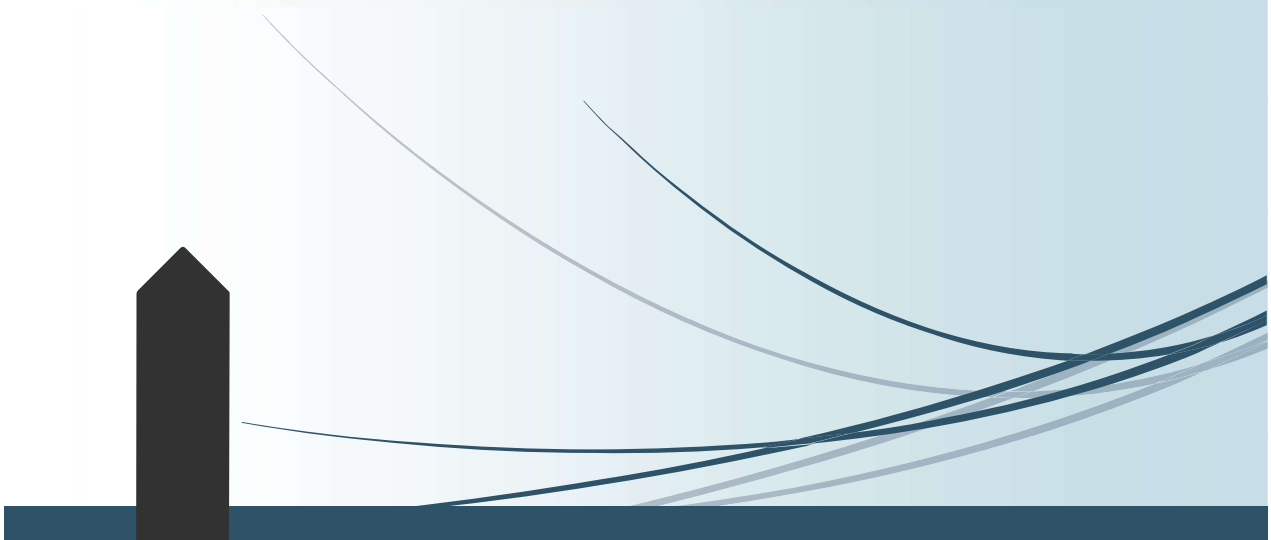
- ▶ It is the assumption that what is presupposed is not only untrue, but is the opposite of what is true, or contrary to facts.
- ▶ For instance, some conditional structures, generally called counterfactual conditionals, presuppose that the information, in the if- clauses, is not true at the time of utterance.

Examples

- ▶ If you were my daughter, I would not allow you to do this.
(>> You are not my daughter)
- ▶ If I were rich I would buy a Ferrari.
(>> I'm not rich)
- ▶ If he hadn't made such a terrible mistake, we would be very happy now.
(>> He made a terrible mistake)
- ▶ They wish they could go on vacation now.
(>> They cannot go on vacation now)
- ▶ I wish I had studied medicine.
(<< I did not study medicine.)

Some common Presupposition triggers

Presupposition triggers	Examples
Definite descriptions	my son, the boss, Mike
Factive predicates	count, make sense, matter, know, regret, realise, resent, find out, discover, see, notice, be aware that, be proud that,...
Counter-factual conditionals	If, unless, without,...



Change of state verbs	begin, start, stop, finish, cease, continue, carry on, cease, take, leave, enter, come, go, arrive
Temporal clauses	before, while, since, after, during, whenever..
Cleft sentences	It is/was which/ whom/ that...
Questions	Who, what, when, ...