

The Underlying Presupposition of Investigation

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A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS: THE UNDERLYING PRESUPPOSITION OF INVESTIGATION IN *THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN* COMIC STRIPS

By: Lisetyo Ariyanti
State University of Surabaya
lisetyo_a@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

Language has many functions that human can use to reach their goals. They use the language to express their feelings. Sometimes they use a language to express their ideas or feelings directly or indirectly. In some cases, people may use a form of language that probably is not their feelings or ideas representative. Perhaps they use other pattern to avoid misunderstanding or to find out what other people thinks about. So, every people has their own way of how to find out other people ideas. Since every people has their own prejudice about something, then this paper is related to the study of what people think about variable interpretation among listeners, and that interpretation is called as Presupposition. (Brown, 1995:16). One function of the underlying presupposition of one's utterance is to investigate. People may give a conclusion or a statement to do questioning by throwing a data as the clue into the conversation. And how the words of presupposition work can be seen in the comics of *Tin Tin*. This comics provides stories of investigation done by a detective called Tin Tin. So, the analysis of this data is done by comprehending some presupposition of the investigation.

Keywords: preesupposition, underlying meaning, variable interpretation, investigation.



The Adventures of Tintin (Les Aventures de Tintin) is a series of comic strips created by the Belgian artist Georges Rémi (1907–1983), who wrote under the pen name of Hergé. The series first appeared in French in *Le Petit Vingtième*, a children's supplement to the Belgian newspaper *Le XXe Siècle* on 10 January 1929. The success of the series saw the serialised strips collected into a series of twenty-four albums, spun into a successful magazine and adapted for film, radio, television and theatre. The series is one of the most popular

European comics of the 20th century, with translations published in more than 50 languages and more than 200 million copies of the books sold to date. Its popularity around the world has been attributed to its "universal appeal" and its ability to transcend "time, language and culture."

Set during a largely realistic 20th century, the hero of the series is Tintin, a young Belgian reporter. He is aided in his adventures from the beginning by his faithful fox terrier dog Snowy (*Milou* in French). Later, popular additions to the cast included the brash, cynical and grumpy Captain Haddock, the highly intelligent but hearing-impaired Professor Calculus (*Professeur Tournesol*) and other supporting characters such as the incompetent detectives Thomson and Thompson (*Dupont et Dupond*). Hergé himself features in several of the comics as a background character, as do his assistants in some instances.

The comic strip series has long been admired for its clean, expressive drawings in Hergé's signature *ligne claire* style. Its "engaging", well-researched plots straddle a variety of genres: swashbuckling adventures with elements of fantasy, mysteries, political thrillers, and science fiction. The stories within the Tintin series always feature slapstick humour, accompanied in later albums by satire, and political and cultural commentary.

Comic strips are considered as discourse analysis since comic strips are written text that contain story that happens in the conversation by conveying pictures. That is why Yule (1996:124) states that Discourse Analysis is the process of a reader/a listener to understand what is the meaning of the jumbled/incoherent well-constructed text. The word 'discourse' is usually defined as 'language beyond the sentence'. The analysis of discourse is typically concerned with the study of language in text and conversation. Discourse analysis itself contains some devices like: speech events, conversation analysis, cooperative principle, hedges, implicature, and background knowledge. Those devices are used to analyze presupposition of investigation by understanding the speech events, the conversation analysis that conveying cooperative principle, implicature, and background knowledge. Presupposition itself is one of pragmatics devices. In pragmatics, we were, in effect, asking how it is that language-users successfully interpret what other language-users intend to convey.

Since these comics are about the story of fantasy, mysteries, political thrillers, and science fiction, the conflicts are around investigation of the cases that are handled by Tintin. From his investigations towards the suspects, he sometimes has to presuppose the clue. For example, when Tintin asks a question like this: *Okay, Mr. Smith, how fast were you going when you run the red light?*, he has the presupposition that Mr. Smith did in fact run the red

light. *Question like this, with built-in presuppositions, are very useful devices for interrogators or trial lawyers.* (Yule, 2007:117).

That is why we need to know about investigation. An investigation is an inquiry into circumstances surrounding an allegation or incident. Loss/fraud investigations are allegations of impropriety resulting in a loss. These investigations are conducted to determine the extent of the fraud, the amount of loss, what control weaknesses existed and will recommend any corrective action. There is the difference understanding of a police investigation, a private investigation, and criminal investigation. Perhaps, the investigation in the story of Tintin comic strips may convey those kind of investigations (<http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-a-criminal-investigation.htm>):

- A police investigation is conducted by sworn law enforcement officers and is done within the constraints of Constitutional laws. The investigation is conducted to determine if a crime has been committed, to determine who committed the crime, and to gather enough evidence to present to a prosecutor for a trial.
- A private investigation is conducted by a professional investigator who is in all other aspects, a private citizen. Being a private investigator, several of the constraints of the Constitution do not apply (such as a Miranda warning before giving a statement). Private investigators are not restricted to criminal investigations. PIs work for clients who may request any manner of work, including infidelity investigations, background investigations, asset location investigations, or fraudulent insurance claims. PIs may uncover criminal violations, but are not bound by law to report them to law enforcement. PIs work at the behest of their clients.
- A criminal investigation is an official effort to uncover information about a crime. There are generally three ways that a person can be brought to justice for a criminal act. First, and probably the least likely, the individual will be driven by his conscience to immediately confess. Second, an officer of the law can catch him in the act. Third, and most common, a criminal investigation can identify him as suspect, after which he may confess or be convicted by trial.
- In most cases, when a crime is committed, officials have two primary concerns. They want to know who committed the crime, and what the motive was. The reason why a person breaks a law is called the motive.

It has been mentioned that the investigation may convey presuppositions. People who get involved in a certain crime and does not aware that he is being interrogated, he must have

lost the underlying meaning of presupposition. Sometimes when we use the words like she, he, or Shakespeare, we assume that our listeners can recognize which referent is intended. In a more general way, we design our linguistic message on the basis of a large-scale assumptions about what our listeners already know. Some of these assumptions may be mistaken, of course, but mostly they are appropriate. So, Yule states that (2007:117) *what a speaker (or writer) assumes is true or known by a listener (or reader) can be described as presupposition.*

The study of presupposition is always related to its impact which is called as entailment. *Presupposition* is what the speaker assumes to be the case prior to making an utterance. *Entailment*, which is not a pragmatic concept, is what logically follows from what is asserted in the utterance. Speakers have presuppositions while sentences, not speakers, have entailments. Take a look at the example below:

Jane's brother bought two apartments.

This sentence presupposes that Jane exists and that she has a brother. The speaker may also hold the more specific *presupposition* that she has only a brother and her brother has a lot of money. All these *presuppositions* are held by the speaker and all of them can be wrong. In pragmatics *entailment* is the relationship between two sentences where the truth of one (A) requires the truth of the other (B). For example, the sentence (A) *The president was assassinated.* entails (B) *The president is dead.*

This paper is going to find out what are the underlying meaning of the presuppositions use in the comic strips of The Adventures of Tintin, and the purpose of presupposition use in those comic strips.

Types of Presupposition

In the analysis of how speakers' assumptions are typically expressed, presupposition has been associated with the use of a large number of words, phrases and structures. These linguistic forms are considered here as indicators of potential presupposition, which can only become actual presupposition in contexts with speakers. The types of presupposition are:

1. *Existential presupposition:* it is the assumption of the existence of the entities named by the speaker.

For example, when a speaker says "Tom's car is new", we can presuppose that Tom exists and that he has a car.

2. *Factive presupposition:* it 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. Thus, when a speaker says that she didn't realize someone was ill, we can presuppose that someone is ill. Also, when she says "I'm glad it's over", we can presuppose that it's over.

3. *Lexical presupposition*: it is the assumption that, in using one word, the speaker can act as if another meaning (word) will be understood. For instance:

Andrew stopped running. (>>He used to run.)

You are late again. (>> You were late before.)

In this case, the use of the expressions "stop" and "again" are taken to presuppose another (unstated) concept.

4. *Structural presupposition*: it is the assumption associated with the use of certain words and phrases. For example, wh-question in English are conventionally interpreted with the presupposition that the information after the wh-form (e.g. when and where) is already known to be the case.

When did she travel to the USA? (>> she traveled)

Where did you buy the book? (>> you bought the book)

The listener perceives that the information presented is necessarily true rather than just the presupposition of the person asking the question.

5. *Non-factive presupposition*: it is an assumption that something is not true. For example, verbs like "dream", "imagine" and "pretend" are used with the *presupposition* that what follows is not true.

I dreamed that I was rich. (>> I am not rich)

We imagined that we were in London. (>> We are not in London)

6. *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.

If you were my daughter, I would not allow you to do this. (> you are not my daughter)

Some of those presuppositions that can be seen in Tintin comic strips are in the following examples:

TIN TIN IN THE LAND OF SOVIET

1. Where are your fellow-passengers? What have you done with them? Where is the rest of the railway carriage? Where are the seats? Why did the alarm go off? No lies now! To the police station!



(Page 5)

- There is a presupposition that Tintin is suspect that he charges with misappropriating ten coaches and causing the disappearance of 218 people. From the sentence, “No lies now! To the police station!” there is a presupposition that Tintin is under arrest. This is the structural presupposition since the interrogator uses phrases that uses “WH” words whereas the information come after those words

2. Come here..Scoundrel! See what this says? Can't you read?

“Bathing strictly prohibited”

(Page 49-50)



- There is a presupposition that Tintin did in fact bathing in the river. This is factual presupposition in which the interrogator questions Tintin by putting the verb “prohibited”, it means that word shows that Tintin breaks the rule of that place.

3. Aha! You thought you had me! Now, let’s fight it out, Borschtisov!

There you are my friend; Tintin isn’t exactly a push-over! Now, you work for the ogpu, don’t you?

(Page 135)



- There is a presupposition that Tintin know the men who want to kill Tintin with chloroform is work for the ogpu. Tintin uses the word “work” to that something is true due to the presence of that verb. Thus, when a speaker says that he didn’t realize someone work, we can presuppose that someone works, so Tintin uses **factive presupposition**.. This is also the **existential presupposition** because Tintin tries to create the existence of “ogpu” which the man works for.

TINTIN IN CONGO

**1. Tintin : “We’ll have a little interrogation.”
“That will bring him round.”**

Men : “Tintin?”

Tintin : “Yes, Tintin himself, ordering you to tell him who is “AC”, and what is his game?”

Men : ” AC is Al Capone, scarface, king of the Chicago gangsters. Once he’d....”

Tintin : “Where are your accomplices?”

Men : “We’re meeting this evening. Al’s three lieutenants, in the last house in village.”

Tintin : “Now, to the police station and no tricks!”

(Page 92)



- There is a presupposition that Tintin want to know who is “AC” and Tintin want to catch the man’s accomplices. Tintin performs the word “accomplish” that means Tintin is giving the assumption that there is something true due to the presence of that verb, that is why it is called as the factive presupposition

TINTIN IN AMERICA

1. **Tintin : You kidnapped me! Come on...why?**
Taxi driver : they promised me five hundred bucks, they told me if I got you into the taxi..Dropped the steel shutters...and delivered you to the place they fixed.
Tintin : What place?
Taxi driver : The rendezvous..Where I was to drive you?..Ok, just to show I’m not really a crook, I’ll spill the beans...

(Page 4)



- There is a presupposition that Tintin want to know why the taxi driver kidnapped him because Tintin feels that he does not make any mistakes to the man. He directly questions the taxi driver by mentioning the verb “kidnapped” which means Tintin performs the assumption that something is true due to the presence of that verb, that is why it is called as the factive presupposition.

2. **Hey you! Don't you know fancy dress is forbidden in town?...and keep out of the way of the traffic! Where'd you think you are, anyway? The Wild West or something?**

(Page 30)



- There is a presupposition that Tintin is using a fancy dress in town, but he didn't know that he does not know that using a fancy dress is forbidden in that town. The verb “forbidden” is performed by the policeman to show that there is the assumption that something is true due to the presence of that verb. This is called as factive presupposition.

3. **Police : Ok, buddy..You're under arrest.**

Tintin : but why? I protest!

Police : You protest, huh? ... What about the Old West Bank? And the manager? ..and the loot?

(Page 36)



- There is a presupposition that the police are under arresting Tintin but Tintin is protest because he does not make any mistake. He does not steal money in the Old West Bank. The police suspect that Tintin is the robber because the real robber using the same shoes with Tintin's. The police do not know that the real robber has already changed his shoes with Tintin's shoes. But this is the policemen's way to the assumption associated with the use of certain words and phrases, that is why it is called as structural presupposition.

TINTIN IN TIBET

1. **“Would it be indiscreet to ask the reason, why you wish to go up there.”**



- Presupposition : telling the truth to Tintin and the captain about how dangerous and risky the place is. This presupposition has a way to the assumption associated with the use of certain words and phrases, that is why it is called as structural presupposition.

2. **“Hey Tintin, what's up with the dog of yours? Look at him”**



- Presupposition : captain wants Tintin notice that something danger had walked through. This is also called as structural presupposition because it has the assumption associated with the use of certain words and phrases. For example, wh-question in English are conventionally interpreted with the presupposition that the information after the wh-form (e.g. when and where) is already known to be the case.

3. **“Yes, it seems that you men from other lands have a strange to climb the highest mountains at all cost, even the risk of your lives. Why is this?”**



- Presupposition : Tintin did climbed the mountains and took any risks. It has the assumption that something is true due to the presence of some verbs such as "climb" and of phrases involving "climb", for example. Thus, when a speaker says that she didn't realize someone has climbed, we can presuppose that someone has climbed. This is called **factive presupposition**.

TINTIN AND THE KING OTTOKARS SCEPTRE

1. "You said, "without a word" . In that case how do you know that this was the man who telephoned ?



- Presupposition : The detective is trying to make tintin admit about what he's done at the moment. This is called as **factive presupposition** because it has the assumption that something is true due to the presence of the verb "know" and "telephoned". Directly, the detective put those verbs to lead that the Tintin did the action of the verb.

2. “First , may I ask you a question ? I read in a brochure about syldavia , that if your king loses his sceptre , he will be forced to abdicate . is it true ?



- Presupposition : Tintin is trying to tell the truth to the guard about certain people will try to steal king’s sceptre . This is called as *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.

Conclusion

From the analysis it has been known that the presupposition that have been used to interrogate are factive presupposition, structural presupposition, existential presupposition, and counterfactual presupposition. When the interrogator uses factive presupposition in interrogating, he aims to use certain verbs to pointing out that the suspect has done action of that verb. For example, the verb “steal”, the interrogator utters that verb to question someone who may have not been known as a thief or not, the impact is the suspect will be directly accused that he has stolen something. The other expression is structural presupposition, the interrogator tries to find the information after the “WH” words. The next presupposition is existential presupposition, people creating the thing to be existed in the questioning sentence so that the suspect will be get involved into the topic that has been come up. The last presupposition that is used is counterfactual presupposition, in this case the interrogator put a conditional case in which it will give a description of the event that perhaps involves the suspect in it. And its purpose is to get the response from the suspect whether he/she will get into the conditional trap made by the interrogator.

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