

## Navigating Implicit Meanings: The Pragmatic Function of Presuppositions in Communication

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### Abstract

*The present research delves into the function of presuppositions in communication, emphasizing how social, cultural, and situational elements impact their application and comprehension. The presupposition is a phenomenon in which speakers presume that the audience already knows or accepts particular information before making an utterance. Although earlier studies have looked at the grammatical characteristics of presuppositions, further study is needed to fully grasp how they interact with contextual factors. This research attempts to offer a greater understanding of presuppositions' pragmatic functions by examining how they work in various social and cultural situations. The study uses a qualitative approach that combines a survey of the literature with case study analysis to investigate actual cases of presupposition usage. The results emphasize the significance of cultural sensitivity in communication as cultural origins have a big impact on how presuppositions are interpreted. Furthermore, to clarify how presuppositions in nonliteral language—like metaphor and sarcasm—work to transmit implicit meanings, the study looks at their function. The findings have consequences for fostering better understanding in a variety of social contexts and enhancing cross-cultural communication.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a potent instrument that enables us to convey difficult concepts. Presuppositions, on the other hand, are a layer of implicit presuppositions that exist behind the explicit meaning that is visible. These unseen components have a big influence on communication and are essential in determining how we interpret statements. To shed light on the implicit meanings that enhance human relationships, this pragmatic research explores the intriguing realm of presupposition. As a subfield of pragmatics, which studies language usage in context, presupposition is studied in linguistics (Verschueren & Östman,2022). Before speaking a particular line, a speaker may presume that the audience and speaker are both aware of certain background knowledge (Levinson, 1983, 2012). According to Panther and Thornburg (2017), the claim that "John has stopped smoking" implies that he was a smoker in the past. This

underlying presupposition is implied rather than expressed directly by the word "stopped." The ability to comprehend presuppositions is essential for good communication. It is up to the listeners to decipher what the speaker is trying to say (Carston & Hall, 2012). When a presupposition is contested, it may cause miscommunication or expose hidden differences (Stalnaker, 1974). If someone responds, for instance, "I never smoked" to the above remark about John, they are refuting both the idea that he ever smoked in the first place and the fact that he stopped.

The complex link between presuppositions and diverse language events is explored in recent pragmatics research. For example, Blutner's (2018) research looks at the encoding of presuppositions in various grammatical forms. Similarly, Capone (2017), investigates how presuppositions interact with certain lexical objects, demonstrating the subtle ways in which word choice can affect what is assumed. This work attempts to contribute to a deeper understanding of how language delivers meaning beyond the literal level by exploring the pragmatic elements of presupposition. This work aims to clarify the complex ways in which presuppositions affect human communication and influence our perceptions of spoken and written language by examining real-world examples and utilizing recent developments in the field. This paper aims to examine the nature of presupposition, its types, and its pragmatic implications.

### **1.1. Problem**

Although previous studies have looked at the grammatical encoding of presuppositions and their interactions with particular words, there is still a lack of knowledge on the impact of social and contextual elements on presuppositions. By looking at how situational circumstances, speaker-listener relationships, and cultural background affect how presuppositions are deployed and interpreted, this study can close this gap. Furthermore, a more sophisticated understanding of presuppositions' function in expressing implicit meaning may be obtained by examining how they work in nonliteral language, such as metaphor or sarcasm.

### **1.2. Significance**

This discovery is important because it might fill a fundamental void in our knowledge of presupposition. The impact of context and social dynamics is still little understood, despite research by Dargnat and Jayez (2020) and Capone (2017), providing insight into grammatical encoding and lexical interaction. This research can close this gap by investigating how presuppositions are deployed and understood about situational context, speaker-listener connection, and cultural background (Verschueren & Östman, 2022). Moreover, examining the function of presuppositions in nonliteral languages, such as metaphor or sarcasm, might provide new perspectives on their function in expressing meaning that goes beyond literal interpretation (Carston & Hall, 2012). This research has the potential to greatly advance our knowledge of how presupposition influences communication in a variety of circumstances and social interactions by going further into these areas.

### **1.3. Research Objectives**

1. To look into how social elements, such as speaker-listener dynamics and cultural context, affect how presuppositions are used and interpreted in communication.
2. To investigate how situational dynamics and context influence how presuppositions are understood and used.

- To investigate the role that presuppositions play in nonliteral language forms such as metaphor and sarcasm to better understand how they transmit implicit meaning.

#### 1.4. Research Questions

- How do the listener's and speaker's respective cultural backgrounds influence how presuppositions in utterances are interpreted?
- How does the connection between the speaker and the listener—such as formality and familiarity—affect how presuppositions are used?
- What effects do situational elements (such as the communication's setting and goal) have on how presuppositions are understood and applied?
- How do presuppositions work to give meaning that goes beyond the literal in metaphors and sarcastic statements?

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1. History of Presupposition in Linguistic Theory

Presuppositionalism has a long history that is entwined with the development of linguistic and philosophical ideas. The notion behind this was conceived much earlier, even though it was just recently formalized within the field of linguistics. This section explores the historical roots of presupposition, following its evolution via the writings of early linguists and philosophers. Even if the word "presupposition" may not have been used directly, the idea behind it is present in the writings of classical thinkers. In his work on interpretation, for example, Aristotle discussed the idea of implicit meaning and proposed that certain statements have significance in addition to what is said explicitly (Kripke, 1972). In a similar vein, Locke examined the concept of "common ground" in his "Essay Concerning Human Understanding" (1998), which refers to shared information that promotes communication between speaker and listener (Levinson, 2023). The later, more explicit consideration of presupposition was made possible by the foundation created by these early philosophical conversations.

### 2.2. Theories of Presupposition

Within the discipline of linguistics, presupposition became formalized in the 20th century. The groundwork for this advancement is frequently acknowledged to have been laid by the groundbreaking logician and philosopher of language, Gottlob Frege. The distinction between what a sentence affirms and what it assumes was brought to light by Frege's work on quantifiers and negation (Stalnaker, 1974). This difference opened up new avenues for the decades that followed for the study of presupposition. Philosophers like Bertrand Russell (2013) and Austin (1975) explored the idea of presupposition in further detail, focusing on its function in speech acts and the connection between truth and presupposition. These authors took their cue from Frege. Scholars such as Carnap (2014) and Strawson (1950) investigated the logical and semantic features of presupposition within the field of linguistics (Panther & Thornburg, 2017). Presupposition saw a boom in popularity in the latter part of the 20th century, with linguists such as Grice (1975) and Stalnaker (1975) emphasizing the pragmatics of presupposition. This change in emphasis highlighted how context and speaker purpose affect how presuppositions are interpreted. The field has continued to improve in recent years. Research by Dargnat and Jayez (2020) examines how presuppositions are encoded grammatically, and Capone (2017), looks at how presuppositions interact with certain lexical components. These continuing studies highlight the continued interest in presupposition and how it influences communication in people.

### **2.3. Conceptual Structures for Presupposition Analysis**

Presupposition analysis makes use of many pragmatics' theoretical frameworks. According to Austin's Speech Act Theory (1975), language is an action. Presuppositions are viewed as a component of an utterance's intended consequence, or "illocutionary force". Saying "I forgive you" for instance assumes that the person receiving the forgiveness has done something wrong (Manurung & Dumaris, 2020; Levinson, 2016). The importance of the listener in deriving meaning is highlighted by Relevance Theory (Grice, 1975). A speaker's presuppositions are the things they believe the listener needs to know for them to successfully communicate. When a speaker deviates from a presupposition (e.g., "The unicorn is back in the stable"), listeners may interpret it as an attempt at comedy or explanation (Carston & Hall, 2012). Building on Grice's work, Gricean Pragmatics emphasizes conversational maxims and cooperative ideals. According to the quality maxim of speaking what one thinks to be true, presuppositions are defined as knowledge a speaker offers as mutually known (Verschueren & Östman, 2022).

The foundation for seeing presuppositions as essential to the "illocutionary force"—the speaker's intentional impact beyond the literal meaning—was established by Speech Act Theory (Austin, 1975). As an example of how presuppositions influence the meaning of words, the statement "I forgive you" implies that there has been wrongdoing (Bach, 1999). The listener becomes the main focus of Relevance Theory (Grice, 1975). According to Carston (2006), presuppositions are the facts a speaker assumes the audience will be aware of for communication to be successful. This viewpoint clarifies why speakers might modify their speech in response to a refutation of a presupposition. Lastly, speaker-listener collaboration is emphasized in Gricean Pragmatics (Verschueren & Östman, 2022). According to the quality maxim, presuppositions are seen as facts that a speaker portrays as universally known (Grice, 1975). Through presuppositions, this paradigm emphasizes how crucial common information is to successful communication. Our understanding of presuppositions as dynamic components that impact the intended meaning, as well as the listener's perception within a cooperative communication framework has been molded by these combined forces.

### **2.4. Austin's Theory of Speech Acts and its Relevance to Presupposition**

The study of presupposition was completely transformed by "Austin's Speech Act Theory" (1975), which moved the emphasis from phrase meaning to the acts carried out during speech (Searle, 1969). The term "illocutionary force" was used by him to describe the intentional meaning of a statement that goes beyond its literal interpretation. Premises turned become essential components of this power. Saying "I apologize" for example assumes that the listener has been harmed by the speaker (Levinson, 2023). Austin's study illustrated how presuppositions influence the effect of utterances and support effective communication by drawing attention to this link. The groundwork for future research on presupposition as an essential element of speech actions and their intended outcomes in conversation was established by this approach.

### **2.5. Grice's Cooperative Principle and Presupposition and its Pragmatic Implications**

In 1975, Grice published a fundamental study in which he introduced the Cooperative Principle, a paradigm for collaborative communication between listeners and presenters.

According to this idea, participants should strive to be genuine, relevant, instructive, and clear (Carston, 2006). Grice provided four conversational maxims to help accomplish this:

- Quantity: Don't talk too much or too little, just inform.
- Quality: Tell the truth and just say what you think is true.
- Relation: Keep your attention on the topic of discussion.
- Manner: Express yourself with clarity and precision.

Strong tools for examining presupposition and its practical consequences are provided by Grice's framework. Presuppositions become pertinent to the quality maxim since they are presuppositions about the listener's underlying ideas that a speaker believes they share (Levinson, 2023). Speaking against this rule by stating something they know to be untrue might be interpreted as purposefully ignoring an assumption. For example, stating "The unicorn is back in the stable" technically breaks Grice's framework, but the audience understands that the speaker is either making a joke or using a metaphor (Carston, 2006). This research demonstrates how the strategic use of presupposition violations may communicate meaning that goes beyond the literal words employed.

## **2.6.Types of Presupposition**

Presuppositions can take many different shapes, and each one has a certain function in communication. According to Capone (2017), declarative presuppositions communicate what the speaker thinks to be true. "John has stopped smoking" implies that John was a smoker at one point. Words have innate lexical presuppositions (Blutner, 2018). "Cease" implies a continuous activity, but "regain" presumes a prior loss. Existential presuppositions pertain to the existence of entities specified (Panther & Thornburg, 2017). "The king of France is bald" assumes the existence of a French king, which is currently incorrect. According to Carston (2006), non-factive presuppositions communicate the speaker's opinion as likely rather than necessarily true. "When deer fly" assumes that deer aren't typically able to fly.

## **2.7.Previous Studies on Presuppositions**

By differentiating between linguistic and non-linguistic presuppositions and introducing the idea of conversational presuppositions, Capone's (2017) study considerably advances our knowledge of presupposition. He also talks about presuppositions, both real and hypothetical, pointing out that in some circumstances, presuppositions may be concerned and erased in spoken discourse. Capone's work sheds light on the intricacies of presupposition by addressing ontological issues and suggesting pragmatic interference as a way to explain difficult circumstances. His method is consistent with contextualism and semantic invariantism, offering a sophisticated viewpoint on the role presuppositions play in communication and how they might be motivated by pragmatic considerations yet remain difficult to negate.

In their exploration of the subject, Mazzarella et al. (2018) show how commitment impacts both the cost suffered if a message is deemed untrustworthy and the likelihood that it would be accepted. They suggest that specific meaning-relations that function as pragmatic cues for speaker commitment include stating, presupposing, and implying. They show through empirical research that speakers suffer varying reputational costs following the discovery of a misleading message, contingent upon whether the statement was expressed directly, implied, or implicated. Interestingly, speakers who infer the incorrect message are more likely to be

trusted than those who proclaim or presume it. These results highlight the strategic benefits of implicit communication and imply that various meaning-relationships have an impact on commitment. The intricate interactions between speaker commitment, linguistic clues, and the dynamics of trust in communication are highlighted by this study.

Sbisà's (2021) work improves our comprehension of implicit meaning's communication roles by providing insightful information on explicitation techniques related to it. Sbisà offers a sophisticated framework for examining many forms of implicit meaning by differentiating between implicature and presupposition according to their functional characteristics and modalities of explicitation. The study refines the variance between presupposition and implicature by examining empirical presupposition, enhances, Gricean conventional implicature, and conversational implicature as described by connection using instances from media sources. This study emphasizes the value of explicitation techniques in understanding implicit meaning in real-world situations, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of using them to improve communication abilities.

Imam Ali's translated sayings are pragmatically explored by Khanaifsawy (2022) to show how translators are influenced by their common culture and previous knowledge. With an emphasis on a few translated passages from "Nahjul Balagha," the study looks at how presupposition is translated from Arabic to English. Using Yule's Model for analysis, the study puts forth two theories on the influence of culture and the linguistic coherence of presuppositions. The results support the theories and demonstrate how important culture and prior knowledge are in interpreting presuppositions. By providing insights into the complexity of cross-cultural communication through translation, this research advances the areas of pragmatics and translation.

The study by Harmash et al. (2020) promotes the use of the linguistic theory of presuppositions in literary text analysis, citing it as a viable method for revealing latent layers of meaning. They suggest that this method may be used to evaluate communication dynamics between characters, narrators, and readers at different levels. The writers examine various presuppositions in the larger cultural framework of literary works by using discourse analysis. They take into account phrases in the context of the complete literary work by fusing linguistic techniques with philological and intertextual approaches. Through the identification of presuppositions and their interplay, they seek to unveil Pelevin's story's artistic vision as a postmodern writing code. This research explains the ideological constants that affect the semantic field of understanding and makes sense of the architectonics of postmodern literary writings. Study terms such as "cosmology," "religion," "society," "science," and "art" are highlighted, placing Pelevin's work in the context of the debate between modernism and postmodernism.

### **3. METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Method**

The impact of presuppositions on human communication is examined in this study using a qualitative methodology. To make conclusions and include their own perspectives in the investigation, qualitative researchers frequently categorized this data by searching for trends (Saldaña, 2013; Stanley & Robertson, 2024). The study looks at real-world instances by combining a survey of the literature with case study analysis. The approach comprises a

thorough analysis of the nature of presupposition, a classification of its many forms, and a study of its practical implications.

### 3.2. Procedure

To develop a theoretical framework for presuppositions, a thorough literature evaluation is a necessary part of the research technique. Case studies are composed of real-world examples drawn from a variety of sources, including literature, media, and conversations. The various presuppositions and their pragmatic impacts on communication are then identified through analysis of these situations. The investigation culminates in results that emphasize the effects of presuppositions on the structure of communication and language perception.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1. Results

#### 4.1.1. Case Study (Media)

##### *“Remarks by the President on Education Reform at the National Urban League Centennial Conference” (summary)*

“.... . He highlighted the progress made in the economy since taking office and discussed the impact of the financial crisis on minority communities. He emphasized the importance of education as an economic issue and detailed efforts to improve education, including initiatives like Race to the Top. He addressed concerns about this program, emphasizing the need for accountability and higher standards. The President also stressed the importance of parental involvement in education and shared a letter from a young girl highlighting the need to see all children as the future. He ended by pledging to continue fighting for a better future for all Americans .... ” (Remarks by the President on Education Reform at the National Urban, 2013)

The above case study identifies several presuppositions and their practical implications for communication:

*Presuppositions:* The economy has improved under the President's leadership since taking office. The financial crisis affected minority populations. Additionally, education has an economic component. Moreover, initiatives like Race to the Top seek to improve teaching standards. But the Race to the Top program is being questioned. Parental involvement in education is seen to be very important. In the end, all children own the future.

*Pragmatic Effects:* It is assumed in the conversation that the audience is aware of the President's term and the state of the economy before he took office. Additionally, it assumes that readers are aware of the financial crisis and how it has affected minority groups in particular. It also assumes that the listener believes the assertion that there is a direct link between economic problems and education. It also presumes that viewers are aware of Race to the Top and concurs that it represents an effort toward advancement. Furthermore, it assumes that the audience is aware of these concerns and acknowledges them as real. It also presumes that other viewers would concur that parental involvement is essential. Finally, it assumes that the audience concurs with the assertion that kids are vital to the future.

These presuppositions assume certain prior information and beliefs from the listener, which shapes the message.

#### **4.1.2. Literature**

##### ***The Silent Bridge: Echoes of the Unspoken Past***

*"As Sarah entered the old house, a sense of déjà vu washed over her. The musty smell of old books mixed with the faint scent of lavender brought back memories of her childhood. She ran her fingers along the dusty bookshelves, feeling a strange mixture of nostalgia and apprehension.*

*"Sarah, is that you?" a voice called out from the shadows.*

*Sarah froze. She hadn't heard that voice in years, not since the day she left home to pursue her dreams. Slowly, she turned to face the person who had once meant everything to her.*

*"Dad?" she whispered, tears welling up in her eyes.*

*Her father stepped into the dim light, his face lined with age but still carrying the same warmth that had always comforted her. Without a word, he opened his arms, and Sarah rushed into them, the years melting away as she buried her face in his chest.*

*"I never thought I'd see you again," he murmured, holding her tight." (Wick, 2023)*

The selected extract from Wick's "The Silent Bridge: Echoes of the Unspoken Past" (2023) identifies several presuppositions and their practical implications for communication.

**Presuppositions:** Sarah has a strong emotional connection to the old house since it reminds her of her youth and has a musty fragrance of old books mixed with a light lavender perfume. Sarah and her father, who still resides in the old house, have a history of close emotional ties. She left her family to pursue her dreams, never thinking she would see her father again. Their touching reunion shows that even after all these years, her father is still able to physically support and soothe Sarah.

**Pragmatic Effects:** The extract suggests that viewers are aware of Sarah's emotional attachment to the property. It's assumed that viewers are aware of her father and their strong relationship before, especially how he made her feel comfortable and cosy. The sequence assumes that viewers are aware of her father's history and current residence. It also presumes that viewers are aware of Sarah's earlier choice to uproot her family to follow her aspirations. The story also assumes that readers would be able to relate to Sarah's emotional breakdown and surprise upon seeing her father again. Finally, it assumes that viewers understand Sarah's acceptance of her father's embrace and how much she craves it.

These suppositions take the viewer into Sarah's world and prior experiences, resulting in a complex and emotionally engaging moment. They enhance the novel's overall storyline by giving the characters and their interactions more nuance.

### 4.1.3. Conversation (shared understanding)

Consider the following conversation between two friends who recollect particular movie moments and details:

*Darcy: Hey, did you see that movie we watched last night? What did you think?*

*Bingley: Yeah, I thought it was pretty good, actually. The acting was solid, and the storyline kept me engaged.*

*Darcy: I agree; the acting was really impressive. Especially that one scene where the main character confronts his past. I felt like it really added depth to his character.*

*Bingley: Oh yeah, that scene was intense. It really made me think about how our past experiences shape who we are.*

*Darcy: Definitely. And the way the director used flashbacks to reveal more about the characters was really effective. It helped me understand their motivations better.*

*Bingley: For sure. Overall, I think it was a great movie. I'd definitely recommend it to others.*

*Darcy: Me too. It's one of those films that stays with you long after you've watched it.*

*Bingley: Absolutely. I'm looking forward to our next movie night!*

Several presuppositions and their pragmatic implications on communication may be recognized in the dialogue between Darcy and Bingley.

*Presuppositions:* Bingley and Darcy sat down to talk about the movie they had seen the night before. They both thought the film had a compelling plot and excellent acting. As they reminisced about the movie, Darcy brought up a scene that stood out to them both: the protagonist confronts his history. This sparked a longer discussion about how one's identity is shaped by their prior experiences, a topic they thought the film did a good job of portraying. They also talked about how the filmmaker improved their comprehension of the movie by revealing additional character details through flashbacks. Both of them thought the film was excellent overall and deserving of a recommendation. Their frequent movie nights consisted of them watching movies together and then having a talk about their ideas and comments afterward.

*Pragmatic Effects:* It is assumed in the dialogue between Darcy and Bingley that they both enjoyed the movie they saw together. They both remember some things, which suggests a common experience and viewpoint, such as the main character facing his history in a scene and the excellent performance. Their conversation explores how prior events affect character development, indicating a shared understanding of this idea. Furthermore, they both agree to notice and applaud the director's use of flashbacks, suggesting a common perception and

understanding. Overall, their discussion points to a mutually favorable assessment of the film and recommends that they view movies together frequently.

These presuppositions aid in creating a common framework for Darcy and Bingley, facilitating a more organic and interesting discussion about their shared movie-watching experience.

#### **4.1.4. Social Media**

Consider the following Twitter thread about a recent scientific finding, including followers who are somewhat familiar with the fundamental scientific principles:

*Tweet 1:*

*Exciting developments in science! There's a new discovery that might completely change how we think about the cosmos. Science Discovery: Unexpected Developments*

*Tweet 2:*

*The global scientific team's discovery provides fresh insight into the beginnings of galaxies and stars. Astrophysics: Space Travel*

*Tweet 3:*

*By observing the early phases of galaxy formation using cutting-edge telescopes and imaging methods, astronomers were able to gain important insights into the universe's development. Cosmology of Galaxy Formation*

*Tweet 4:*

*This revolutionary finding casts doubt on accepted wisdom and creates new directions for astrophysics study. New Horizons: Pioneering Research*

*Tweet 5:*

*As scientists work to solve the universe's riddles, stay tuned for additional updates! Science Space Discovery on Twitter*

Several presuppositions can be seen in the Twitter thread, along with how they practically affect communication.

*Presuppositions:* An intriguing story about a new scientific discovery that might alter our understanding of the universe is told through a sequence of tweets. According to the tweets, a multinational group of scientists has produced a significant finding that provides new information on the beginnings of galaxies and stars. This revelation represents a major advancement in our knowledge of the cosmos and defies conventional astrophysics thinking.

The tweets give the impression that researchers are actively working to solve the universe's riddles and allude to more fascinating discoveries to come.

*Pragmatic Effects:* The Twitter discussion thread regarding recent astrophysics research findings assumes that its readers are open to accepting novel concepts about the universe in addition to being interested in scientific developments. It is assumed that readers are familiar with the basic concepts of contemporary astrophysical theories and are open to revising their opinions in light of fresh information. The thread also assumes that readers understand the collaborative nature of science and are curious about the origins of stars and galaxies. It also implies that readers are enthralled with the secrets of the cosmos and can't wait for new scientific discoveries. Together, these presuppositions hope to enthrall and interest readers, inspiring them to remain knowledgeable and enthused about recent advancements in the subject of astrophysics.

#### 4.1.5. Advertising

Consider the following advertisement for a new smartphone that makes the assumption that consumers are aware of the features of earlier versions and have used the brand's products in the past:

*..... Presenting the newest advancement in mobile technology: the STAR Smartphone. Taking innovation to the next level, the STAR Smartphone builds on the popularity of our earlier models. With its sophisticated camera features, improved performance, and stylish appearance, the STAR Smartphone is made to cater to the demands of today's tech-savvy customers. Experience the mobile communication of the future by upgrading to the STAR Smartphone. Now available at a few select stores.....*

There are several presuppositions in the STAR Smartphone advertising, along with their practical implications for communication.

*Presuppositions:* The STAR Smartphone advertising assumes that its target audience is already aware of and probably even devoted to the brand's earlier models. It also suggests a progressive and tech-savvy audience by assuming that they appreciate innovation and are interested in new developments in technology. Furthermore, by showcasing the STAR Smartphone's advanced camera functions, enhanced performance, and fashionable design, the commercial suggests that the target audience is looking to update their smartphone. Furthermore, the fact that the smartphone is currently accessible at certain retailers indicates that the target demographic is actively looking for the newest developments in mobile communication and is prepared to make a purchase. Together, these suppositions aim to reach a demographic that actively seeks out new mobile device upgrades in addition to being interested in cutting-edge technology.

*Pragmatic Effects:* The STAR Smartphone advertising assumes that its target audience is familiar with the brand's prior smartphone models and their characteristics, suggesting that they are probably interested in and early adopters of new technical developments. It also presumes that the audience values features like enhanced performance, advanced camera capabilities, and highly fashionable design and believes they are essential to a positive user experience. It also assumes that the target audience is tech-savvy and actively looks for cutting-edge items to meet their demands. Additionally, the commercial implies that the target population is in the

market for a new smartphone right now and is willing to think about upgrading to the STAR Smartphone. Lastly, it assumes that the target market is ready to buy and that they can visit the few outlets that sell the smartphone. All of these presuppositions work together to convince the audience that the STAR Smartphone is the best option for anyone looking for the newest mobile technology that suits their needs and tastes.

These suppositions are meant to convince the audience that the STAR Smartphone is the best option for anyone looking for the newest mobile technology, meeting their needs in terms of performance, innovation, and style.

#### **4.1.6. Conversation (Cultural Backgrounds)**

Consider the following conversation during a discussion about how presuppositions enable cultural backgrounds:

*Aram: Hello, are you aware of the recently opened restaurant in the downtown area?*

*Mourad: Yes, I am aware of it. Have you already visited there?*

*Aram: Not yet, but I've heard they provide delicious food from many culinary traditions.*

*Mourad: I've also heard that. However, I've also heard that their costs are very exorbitant.*

*Aram: Really? That's intriguing. I wonder if it's simply because it's a new, trendy place or if the cuisine is really that good.*

*Mourad: It may be both. I think our perceptions of the worth of food and dining events are greatly influenced by our cultural origins. For instance, it's customary in my culture to treat yourself to new, pricey restaurants on exceptional occasions.*

*Aram: That makes sense. Because we are more frugal with our money in my culture, we could be more likely to reconsider before dining at a posh restaurant. In circumstances such as these, our cultural origins undoubtedly influence our expectations and impressions.*

*Mourad: Unquestionably. It's amazing how our cultural upbringing shapes*

*not just how we understand assumptions made by others, but also how we approach many facets of life, such as choosing a meal.*

*Aram: Unquestionably. It only serves to highlight how crucial it is to take*

*cultural differences and viewpoints into account while communicating to promote respect and understanding between parties.*

Aram and Mourad's chat exposes several presuppositions and how they affect communication.

*Presuppositions:* Aram and Mourad discuss a new restaurant that is launching in the downtown area, revealing their common presuppositions and opinions. Aram believes Mourad is local and follows local events, such as the launch of a new restaurant. Mourad and Aram are aware that restaurants are establishments that offer food and are meant to be places to dine. They also agree that price should be taken into account while selecting a restaurant. Furthermore, Aram and Mourad concur that cultural background influences how individuals perceive dining experiences and pricing. Their conversation demonstrates how much they both value polite communication that takes cultural backgrounds into account. Overall, their conversation demonstrates how their viewpoints and relationships are influenced by common presuppositions and cultural ideas.

*Pragmatic Effects:* The speaker sets the stage for future discourse by bringing up the topic of a new restaurant at the outset of the conversation. They discuss the restaurant's reputation for offering a variety of cuisines. By providing information on the restaurant's prices, the listener advances the discussion by putting value and affordability front and center. This brings up the topic of cultural backgrounds, and the listener raises the possibility that their various cultural upbringings have an impact on how they view the restaurant's menu and prices. This presents the idea of cultural relativism and explains how their disparate cultural upbringings might lead to differences in viewpoints. Positively, the discussion concludes by highlighting how crucial it is to comprehend these cultural differences to communicate effectively and treat one another with respect.

#### 4.1.7. Conversation (Metaphors and Sarcasms)

Consider the following conversation during a discussion about how presuppositions enable metaphors and sarcastic comments to have significance beyond the literal meaning:

Lizzy: *I could eat a horse right now I'm that hungry.*  
 Aarav: *Really? I assumed you had finished dinner.*  
 Lizzy: *Hey, Aarav, come on! It's only a rhetorical device. In fact, I will not eat a horse.*

The comment "I could eat a horse" by Lizzy in this instance is a metaphor for her extreme hunger, implying that she is not planning to eat a horse. The metaphor's underlying assumption highlights the depth of her need and gives the sentence significance beyond its literal reading. Similarly, presuppositions are essential to understanding sarcastic comments. For example:

Lizzy: *Whoa, I appreciate that you took the final slice of cake. That was considerate of you.*  
 Aarav: *You're welcome, of course. I believe that you were already well satisfied.*

Lizzy's snarky reply implies that Aarav's conduct was not contemplative, which goes against the literal interpretation of his words. The sarcastic statement's premise adds a level of significance that expresses Lizzy's dissatisfaction with Aarav's conduct. Presuppositions enhance communication beyond the literal understanding of words employed by contributing to the indirect or inferred meanings in both situations.

## **4.2. Discussion**

### **4.2.1. Social Elements and Cultural Backgrounds**

Preconceptions are influenced by prior information and shared experiences, as demonstrated by the scientific findings in the Twitter thread and the movie discussion between Darcy and Bingley. In both situations, communication is facilitated by the assumption of a shared comprehension of the scientific ideas or the movie. The target audience for the advertisement (STAR Smartphone) is assumed to be aware of the brand and is curious about innovations that may be unique to a particular area or culture. The STAR Smartphone advertisement serves as an illustration of how cultural presuppositions regarding a target audience's interest in new technology might vary.

The conversation between Mourad and Aram is a perfect example of how the cultural backgrounds of both the speaker and the listener affect how presuppositions in utterances are understood. Mourad and Aram both believe that the new eatery offers meals (presupposition 2) and that Aram is informed about events in the area (presupposition 1). This preliminary consensus points to a shared cultural perception of eateries and the consumption of local news. Although both take cost into account (presupposition 3), Mourad presents the concept of "exorbitant" pricing. This might point to a cultural disparity in their estimation of the worth of restaurants. Cost may be viewed more binary by Aram (affordable vs. not inexpensive), but Mourad's culture may have a larger range of acceptable prices. This is the main area in which cultural backgrounds are relevant. Mourad makes it clear that people's perceptions of restaurant costs are influenced by their cultural background (presupposition 4). This responds to the research question directly. If this assumption weren't made, the discussion wouldn't delve into the possibility that their judgments were influenced by their culture. Presupposition 5: The necessity of recognizing cultural variations for effective communication is acknowledged as the conversation comes to a close. This emphasizes how cultural presuppositions may lead to misunderstandings. The conversation shows how cultural context may affect seemingly innocuous statements. Initial comprehension is made possible by shared presuppositions (e.g., the restaurant provides food, and the cost is a concern). But presuppositions that allude to cultural norms (such as the sense of pricing) leave room for misunderstandings. The success of the discourse rests in identifying this possibility and emphasizing how crucial cultural sensitivity is to clear communication.

### **4.2.2. Formality and Familiarity and Situational Dynamics**

A greater understanding of the film's topics is made possible by the conversation between Darcy and Bingley in the movie discussion. In comparison, the Twitter thread "scientific discovery" assumes a wide interest in science and utilizes impersonal language. In line with the commercial context, the advertising example (STAR Smartphone) assumes that the target demographic is actively shopping for new phones. The ancient house setting established by Wick's extract (Sarah and her father) evokes presuppositions about memories and emotional ties.

### **4.2.3. Situational Elements and Nonliteral Language**

The examples given demonstrate how presuppositions are customized to the communication context and objective. To forward a certain agenda, the political case study

(presidential address) assumes that the audience is knowledgeable of economic concerns. In keeping with the purpose of the commercial, the advertisement example (STAR Smartphone) assumes that the viewer is prepared to make a purchase. While it avoids going into nonliteral language, Wick's case study of Sarah and her father illustrates how assumptions about shared experiences may have an emotional impact.

#### 4.2.4. Metaphor and Sarcasm

Presuppositions are what enable metaphors and caustic remarks to have significance that goes beyond the literal meaning, as seen by the conversation between Lizzy and Aarav. By rejecting the literal meaning and enabling the metaphorical interpretation to emerge, the assumption serves as a filter. Though Lizzy's statement is illogical in its strict sense, the premise makes the absurdity clear and helps the reader comprehend her extreme desire. The assumption and Aarav's actual words disagree. Lizzy exposes the irony by contesting the underlying presupposition of consideration. Beyond the literal meaning of Aarav's statements, a pragmatic meaning is created by the assumption. Presuppositions establish a context that affects how spoken words are understood in both metaphor and sarcasm. If the intended meaning deviates from the literal interpretation, they serve as common presuppositions that enable us to comprehend it. Metaphors and sarcasm offer indirect or implied meanings that enhance communication and add levels of expression beyond the literal meaning of words by questioning or refuting presuppositions.

The present study of several situations shows how presuppositions have a major impact on communication in a variety of social and situational circumstances. Similar cultural upbringings, such as that of Aram and Mourad, can establish a basis for understanding one another's speech. But misconceptions might also result from cultural variations in presuppositions, especially when it comes to cost in their situation. Similar to this, the intent of the speaker and the formality of the environment affect how presuppositions are employed. These underlying presuppositions greatly influence how we interpret the information being sent, whether in metaphors (where they lead us beyond the literal meaning) or sarcasm (where they reveal the speaker's genuine intent). Understanding how social factors, situational dynamics, and presuppositions interact helps improve communication and promote understanding between parties.

#### 4.3. Pragmatic Implications

This study emphasizes how crucial it is to take the speaker's background and social context into account when understanding presuppositions. We may enhance communication by looking at how presuppositions are influenced by situational factors (commercial vs. conversation), formality (movie discussion vs. science tweet), and cultural variations (Aram and Mourad). Presuppositions are also essential for deciphering nonliteral language, such as sarcasm (Aarav's statement) and metaphors (Lizzy's hunger). Understanding these relationships can help us improve communication across social and cultural barriers and prevent misconceptions.

#### 4.4. Challenges of Presupposition in Cross-cultural Communication

Because presuppositions rely on common cultural norms and assumptions, they provide serious obstacles to cross-cultural communication. Cultural differences might cause misconceptions and incorrect interpretations of presumptive knowledge. For example, as seen by the conversation between Mourad and Aram, cultural perspectives on what qualifies as an "exorbitant" restaurant dinner pricing might differ significantly. Furthermore, the understanding and use of presuppositions can be influenced by situational dynamics, formality, and familiarity levels. Accurate interpretation of nonliteral language, such as metaphors and sarcasm, is especially difficult for people from diverse cultural backgrounds since it significantly depends on context and common cultural knowledge. People need to be conscious of their own cultural prejudices and flexible in their communication style to fit other people's cultural standards to overcome these obstacles.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

This study looked at how important presuppositions are in influencing communication in various social and environmental circumstances. It has been observed that mutual cultural origins, such as those of Aram and Mourad, might promote comprehension by establishing a shared framework for interpreting speech. However, cultural differences in assumptions, especially about price, might also result in miscommunication. Similarly, the usage of presuppositions is influenced by formality and the speaker's intention. Furthermore, in nonliteral language, presuppositions are crucial. They serve as a basis for understanding sarcasm (Aarav's remark) and metaphors (Lizzy's hunger). Understanding these relationships is essential to preventing miscommunication and promoting improved communication across social and cultural barriers. The study also emphasizes the difficulties that presuppositions bring when communicating across cultural boundaries. Misunderstandings may result from cultural disparities in presuppositions. Effective cross-cultural communication requires an understanding of this complexity and how presuppositions interact with situational elements, social signals, and nonliteral language. We may overcome these barriers and come to a deeper understanding by being aware of our cultural prejudices and changing the way we communicate.

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