PRESUPPOSITION IN LINGUISTIC COMMUNICATION: A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS

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Abstract: This paper explores presupposition as a key element of linguistic communication from a pragmatic perspective. It analyzes how presuppositions function in everyday discourse and how they influence meaning, interpretation, and interaction. Through examples from English and Uzbek, the study highlights types of presuppositions and their communicative effects.

Key words: Presupposition, pragmatics, implicit meaning, presupposition triggers, linguistic communication, factive presupposition, existential presupposition, cross-cultural pragmatics, uzbek-english comparison, discourse analysis.

Аннотация: В этой статье рассматривается пресуппозиция как ключевой элемент языковой коммуникации с прагматической точки зрения. В ней анализируется, как пресуппозиции функционируют в повседневном дискурсе и как они влияют на значение, интерпретацию и взаимодействие. На примерах из английского и узбекского языков в исследовании рассматриваются типы пре субпозиций и их коммуникативные эффекты.

Ключевые слова: пресуппозиция, прагматика, неявное значение, триггеры пресуппозиции, языковая коммуникация, фактическая пресуппозиция, экзистенциальная пресуппозиция, кросс-культурная прагматика, узбекско-английское сравнение, дискурсивный анализ

Introduction.

Language is not only a tool for expressing information but also for implying meanings. One of the core elements of implicit meaning in communication is *presupposition.*Presuppositions are assumptions or background beliefs that speakers assume listeners share. Pragmatics, the study of language in context, pays close attention to such implied meanings.

Presuppositions allow speakers to communicate efficiently by skipping over commonly accepted facts.

For example: *John stopped smoking.*

→ This sentence presupposes that *John used to smoke*.

Presuppositions are found in both spoken and written discourse. They shape how messages are constructed and understood. This article aims to analyze presupposition types, their triggers, and their roles in pragmatic communication, using data from English and Uzbek.

Methodology:

This study follows a qualitative descriptivemethodology based on:

- Analysis of naturally occurring conversations in English and Uzbek.

- Examination of presupposition triggers based on Levinson's (1983) classification.
- Comparative examples illustrating pragmatic use in real contexts.

Data were gathered from:
- English and Uzbek textbooks.
- Transcripts from interviews, news, and everyday conversations.
- Online forums and written discourse (blogs, articles).

The collected data were analyzed by identifying the presupposition triggers, their functions, and whether they were *projective*(surviving in different contexts) or *cancellable*(can be denied or rejected).

Results:

The study identified several types of presuppositions, summarized below with examples:

. Existential presupposition

These presuppose the existence of entities.
- *Mary's dog is cute.*→ There exists a dog that belongs to Mary.

Uzbek example:
- *Akasi maktabga bordi.* → "His older brother went to school."
 → Presupposes that he has an older brother.

.Factive presupposition/ These presuppose the truth of the clause that follows.
- *I regret telling her the truth.*→ Presupposes that I told her the truth.
  Uzbek example:
- *U aytganidan afsusda.*→ Presupposes that u (he/she) said something.

Lexical presupposition: Certain verbs or words carry presuppositions.
- *She managed to pass the exam.*→ Presupposes that she attempted the exam.

  Structural presupposition: These are triggered by certain grammatical structures.
- *When did you arrive?*→ Presupposes that you arrived.

Uzbek example:
- *Qachon kelding?*→ Presupposes that you came.

Counterfactual presupposition:

These involve hypothetical or unreal conditions.
- *If I had studied, I would have passed.*→ Presupposes that I did not study.

  Table: Summary of types and triggers.

Type	Trigger example	Presupposition
Existential	Mary's brother	Mary has a brother
Factive	I know he lied	He lied
Lexical	She stopped running	She used to run
Structural	Where did you go?	You went somewhere
Counterfactual	If I had known	I did not know

Discussion

The analysis shows that presupposition is essential in understanding the speaker's intent and contextual meaning. In real communication, presuppositions:

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- Facilitate *efficient interaction* by assuming shared knowledge.
- Can be *manipulative,* especially in political or media discourse.
- Are often *not directly questioned*, making them powerful rhetorical tools.
  For example, a politician saying:
- *Even John understood the policy.*
  → Presupposes that John is usually not smart.

In Uzbek culture, presuppositions often rely on social norms and politeness. For instance:

- *Siz yana kelibsiz!* ("You came again!")
  → Presupposes that the person has been there before.

Moreover, presuppositions are important in *teaching English* as a foreign language. Learners often fail to grasp hidden meanings due to unfamiliarity with pragmatic usage. Teachers should raise students' awareness of presupposition to improve comprehension and production.

Conclusion:

Presupposition plays a vital role in pragmatic communication. It helps speakers convey complex meanings with minimal expression. Through presuppositions, speakers manage context, politeness, and implication. By analyzing both English and Uzbek data, this study confirms that presuppositions are cross-linguistically significant, though they may differ in frequency and function based on culture. Understanding presupposition enhances communication skills, critical thinking, and interpretation in both native and foreign language contexts.

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