

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Background of the Study

Language is commonly used by people to communicate. Not only be able to communicate, but people can share their idea, feeling, opinion on something to themselves or others. Language as an instrument of communication lets the people express their views and opinions toward something in form of spoken or written.

However, media has been grown faster for over years since it formed in printed firstly, like newspaper and magazine until, then, electronic like television and internet. Printed media, such as newspaper, is still used popularly by many people to inform recent news events. Newspaper, which contains news stories, opinion page, and others, carries people to connect one-way communication. As a part of newspaper, editorial gives the readers a lot of information from news writers' comment, view or opinion about the recent issues.

An editorial identically contains opinion which develops wider in a newspaper. Editorial is automatically credited a strong presence in the newspaper as argumentative texts written to influence the opinions of large audiences (Elyazale, 2014: 21). Editorial writers, or editorialists, assume what they believe towards the fact. They combine their view and the fact, and thus it makes the readers also have to believe. Their opinion, which contains various comments to support, to criticize, to blame, to please, or against for the issues, has to be powerful and believable in order to persuade the readers. Even their opinion values positive or negative side towards the issue, the readers are brought out to trust or

taken as granted. Elyzale (2014: 22) adds that these opinions are taken for granted as true regardless of the argument used to support it because it comes from popular belief of a society used in a particular context. Thus this opinion can be related the presence of presupposition.

Presupposition refers as shared assumptions which can be utterances or sentences, has to be understood easily by the addressee. Stalnaker (1999: 48) defines that presupposition is a semantic relation holding between sentences or propositions, which is something like the background beliefs of the speaker – proposition whose truth is taken for granted – in making a statement. Verschueren (1999: 33) argues it contains an implicit meaning that must be understood and taken for granted for an utterance to make sense. Cummings (2005: 29) also states that it is a general constitute assumptions or inferences that are implicit in particular linguistic expressions. Some of linguistic expression can be determined to the presupposition, which is called presupposition triggers. These triggers realize the projection the presupposed meaning in sentence and, thus, it makes the readers ‘take the existence of referent on trust’ (Grundy, 2000:120).

Moreover, there are two concepts to define presupposition, which are semantic and pragmatic. Saeed (1997:93) states that semantic presupposition deals with conventional meaning while pragmatic presupposition deals with aspects of individual usage and context – dependent meaning.

For example:

“The thing is that he needs a lot of loving.”

- a. >> There is a thing. [Semantic Presupposition]
- b. >> There is a thing (and I am going to tell you what it is). [Pragmatic Presupposition]

(taken from Schmid, 2001: 1538-1539)

The projection of presupposition in the sentence above makes these two concepts are different usage in terms of truth value and context. By realizing the use of cleft construction, sentence (a) reveals the meaning that the speaker or the writer needs something, while sentence (b) exposes that the speaker may need something and he will act something then based on the context. Thus, this study concerns to pragmatic area which purposes to examine the implicit meaning of linguistic expressions used to trigger presupposition in editorial text.

However, presupposition triggers relates to the linguistic items that trigger the presupposition. Levinson (1983: 179) calls the term 'trigger' as presupposition-generating linguistic item. This means that any linguistic item that can refer to presuppose a meaning in a sentence is known as presupposition triggers. Those triggers sign the presence of presupposition. Moreover, many linguists express linguistic items that trigger the presupposition, such as Levinson (1983), Yule (1996), Verschueren (1999), Grundy (2000), and others. Khaleel (2010), for example, in her study combines Levinson (1983) and Yule (1996) has analyzed the triggers for presupposition in journalistic text. Definite description, factive verbs, implicative verbs and others are some of particular linguistic items that generate the presupposed meaning in a text.

In other words, the presupposition can convey implicit meaning which means writer's opinion may presuppose something. Since editorials are articles written by the news editors or editorialists, the implied meaning that they presuppose can be easily marked by its triggers. Here are some following examples of presupposition triggers in editorials of *the Jakarta Post*.

1. PT Freeport Indonesia, a subsidiary of US-based mining giant Freeport-McMoRan Inc., deserves a strong rebuke from the government and the House of Representatives for its utter lack of commitment to developing a copper smelter to comply with the 2009 Mining Law. (The Jakarta Post: February 4th, 2015, '*Freeport's lack of commitment*')
2. The recovery operation for 162 victims of the AirAsia crash is slated to end later this week. (The Jakarta Post: February 2nd, 2015, '*For safer air transportation*')
3. The government and the House of Representatives are again mulling over the bold yet politically sensitive initiative of granting tax amnesty (The Jakarta Post: February 6th, 2015, '*Tax amnesty revisited*')
4. It would be much more productive if the ministers were to take more time to listen to than to brief the participants. (The Jakarta Post: February 3rd, 2015, '*Down-to-earth diplomacy*')
5. This means there are no surveys from several years ago to compare today with; it was only in 2013 that the first nationwide index was released. (The Jakarta Post: February 7th, 2015, '*A happy city*')

Based on the examples above, the underlined words, phrase, and clauses show the use of presupposition triggers in editorials. Sentence (1) presupposes that there is PT Freeport Indonesia as a subsidiary of Freeport-McMoran Inc., in US by displaying the definite description to trigger the existence of the company. Sentence (2) presents the word *slated* which presupposes the process of recovery operation for victims of AirAsia crash has to end next week. This verb refers to the factive verb. Other word, such as *again*, which related to iterative item presupposes that the government and the house of Representative have been mulled over the bold. Not only found in words, clause construction can be triggered presupposition. Sentence (4) and (5) show the use of counter-factual conditional and *It*-cleft construction presupposes available background information. Sentence (4) presupposes that the minister did not take more time to listen to than to brief the

participants, while sentence (5) presupposes the first nationwide index was released in 2013. Those example shows that the presupposition triggers can be formed in words, phrases, or clause construction.

Meanwhile, the other trigger can be found in editorials, such as the quantifier *all of* and parenthetical structure, in the examples below.

6. Basarnas is indeed honed by our frequent, various disasters — not all of them natural, as we have learned.
7. As for safety, even those who are not victims of robbery — reaching over 900 incidents last year, according to the City Police — do not feel very safe crossing the roads, driving or merely walking on narrow pavements with a pothole or two. (The Jakarta Post: February 7th, 2015, 'A happy city')

Those examples above show the underlined clause and word that trigger the presupposition. Verschueren (1999: 28) mentions that the notion *all of* are some kinds of linguistic construction that carries presupposition which can be explained in sentence (6) and (7). Phrase *not all of them* in sentence (6) presupposes that those various disasters are some natural, while other trigger in sentence (7) can be seen in form of parenthetical structure. The underlined clause presupposes that the victims reach over 900 incidents. This example shows that the writers use the mark hyphen (—) to 'give additional information which is related to, but not part of, the main of the clause' (Biber, Johansson, Leech, Conrad, & Finegan, 1999: 137). Those triggers above prove that there are other more linguistic constructions used in newspaper editorials which contain presupposition. Thus it means the editorials provide more factual information which is poured in their opinion. It makes the additional of the presupposition triggers in editorial text can be observed wider, especially in Indonesian newspaper written in English. Overall there exist several

linguistic expressions can derive the presupposition and hence they are known as presupposition triggers. Thus it is believed that each trigger has different function and meaning whenever the newspaper editors use them.

On the other side, editorials play an important role in newspaper. Since presupposition implies the background information asserted in sentence, editorials, as part of newspaper in opinion column, present explicitly the writers' point of view on the recent issue or news. Opinions in editorials have implicit information in sentences, since they are published 'explicit and dominant' (Van Dijk, 1988: 124). In other word, it might be that there are less information shared them.

Moreover, opinion in editorials also formulates the proposition which contains numerous judgments. Barus (2010: 143) states that editorial always brings out a same level, which is 'critical'. The editorialist takes a stand regarding a current affairs issue. The judgments can consist of proposition which can bring various tone of editorialist's comments such as to evaluate, to direct, to suggest, to recommend, to patronize, to preach, to attack, to reprove, to blame, to inform, to support, etc.

It can be summed that, not only presenting their argumentation and giving critics, there are more ways to encourage the editorialist to attract the readers' attention looking into editorials, especially through what linguistic expression will be used by the editorials. In addition, the presupposition triggers could become the way how the opinion exposes the background assumption shared by the newspaper editors.

Besides, the use of presupposition has been examined by some researchers. These researchers have analyzed presupposition in written text. Firstly, Hofler (2013) in his study discusses about presuppositions in legislative text. He has found in his findings that presupposition can be used as a useful stylistic means to keep legislative text free from unnecessary clutter that merely elaborates on the obvious (2013: 16). Some triggers such as adverbials have been examined to express expansive function.

Furthermore, presupposition is also examined by two researchers, Ge (2011) and Pius (2014) in advertisement. Both researchers seek the same objective, in term to employ the triggers which will come out and the pragmatic function of presupposition in advertisement. In findings, Pius (2014: 22) concludes that presupposition plays a crucial role in the success or failure of advertisements by linking the expressed content of the message with relevant aspects of background information. Ge (2011: 157) also adds that it can be a useful way to create the largest contextual effect in recipients with a minimum processing effort to achieve maximum of function of advertisement. This means presupposition aims to success the way to promote goods or services to consumers through triggers that asserts implicit or explicit meaning in sentences or phrases in advertisement.

Not only in legislative and advertisement, but another researcher also examined presupposition in other media. Khaleel (2010) has analyzed the use of presupposition in newspaper which concentrates in news stories. By looking out the use of triggers in journalistic text, she concludes that existential presupposition is the most trigger used in texts which aims to expose of the existence of event or

subject. Unfortunately she does not present how presupposition uses in term of function semantically or pragmatically.

Based on explanation above, it carries the background of the problems. First is whether the realization of certain presupposition triggers can be found in editorial text by using by Levinson's (1983) theory. Thus it can determine other triggers that contain presupposed meaning in editorial text. Second is to present the reason of the usage of presupposition triggers in editorial texts based on its linguistics expressions. This study is conducted whether it is interesting to recognize what kind of linguistic expressions that trigger the presupposition and denote the presence of background assumption shared by the newspaper editors in different news topics. Additionally, it is believed that editorialist may argue the different tone of opinion or point of view towards the recent news events.

Therefore, this present study examines the presupposition triggers in editorials of *The Jakarta Post*. The Jakarta post is chosen as a national daily newspaper written in English by Indonesian journalists or news writers. Editorial is also taken to be analyzed since it includes opinion on news events written by journalists or editorial writers.

1.2. The Problems of the Study

In line with the background of the study, the problems of the study are formulated as the following:

1. How are the presupposition triggers realized in editorials text?
2. Why are those triggers realized in editorials the way they do?

1.3. The Objectives of the Study

The overall objectives of the study can be described as the following:

1. To find out the realization of the presupposition triggers used in editorials of The Jakarta Post.
2. To look for the reason of the realization of presupposition triggers used in editorials of The Jakarta Post.

1.4. The Scope of the Study

With reference to previous explanation, presupposition triggers is the way to recognize how the proposition take place in form of opinion, not only in utterance but also in written. So the limitation of this study is to investigate the realization of the presupposition triggers and the reason of their usage in editorials of *The Jakarta Post*.

1.5. The Significance of the Study

The findings of the study are expected to be useful and relevant theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the results of this study are useful for:

1. The enrichment of linguistic knowledge in the field of pragmatics especially in presupposition.
2. Development studies on presupposition in discourse and pragmatic, especially editorial text.

Practically, the results of this study are useful for:

1. Other researchers who are interested in conducting researches as a reference for studies in pragmatics area especially presupposition.
2. The education practitioners, such as teachers or students, who can conduct it, could use it as a suitable material in teaching learning English in the classroom.
3. Journalists to build better understanding on assumption in editorial text through the presupposition triggers.

