

PRESUPPOSITIONS IN JOSEPHINE'S UTTERANCES IN LOUISA MAY ALCOTT'S *LITTLE WOMEN*

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Abstract

This research explores the use of presuppositions by Josephine March, the main character in *Little Women*, a novel written by Louisa May Alcott. The objectives of this study are to describe the types of presuppositions employed by Josephine and to interpret the implied meanings within her utterances throughout the novel. This study adopts a descriptive qualitative method and applies George Yule's classification of presuppositions, which includes six types: existential, factive, lexical, structural, non-factive, and counterfactual. The data were collected from selected dialogues spoken by Josephine in the novel. All six types of presuppositions were identified, with the following distribution: existential (29%), factive (23%), lexical (14%), structural (17%), non-factive (8.5%), and counterfactual (8.5%). The findings indicate that existential and factive presuppositions are the most frequently used, reflecting Josephine's dynamic environment, strong personality, emotional depth, and complex relationships with others. Her language reveals her values, inner conflicts, and character development. This study demonstrates that presuppositions play a vital role in literary character portrayal and deepen the reader's understanding of the narrative. The implied meanings within Josephine's utterances are interpreted through contextual analysis, as context is a crucial element in pragmatic studies. The conversational context in *Little Women* is analyzed based on four key factors: (1) participants, (2) setting or social context, (3) topic of conversation, and (4) function of the interaction.

Keywords: *implied meaning; Josephine March; little women; pragmatics; presupposition*

1. Introduction

Language is how humans share thoughts, feelings, and information with each other using words, signs, or symbols. It is the main vehicle of human communication, so language is important. Yule (1991, p.48) says that by using language, people can produce some utterances with related acts. Beside expressing their minds, their actions are aimed to cause effect on the hearers or readers. Therefore, as a main part of communication, language is unavoidable. Communication is the process of sending and receiving messages between people to share information, thoughts, or feelings. To understand what the speaker and writer means to the hearer and reader, it is necessary to

learn more about presuppositions. When speaking, people will engage in a discussion that includes presuppositions about the context or understanding between the speaker and the hearer. A context in a speech including presuppositions will assist the hearer in understanding the information delivered by the speaker. It is a type of information for a premise or assumption sent through exchanges in ordinary life or from one person to another. In pragmatics, a presupposition is an implicit assumption about the world or an underlying belief associated to an utterance, the veracity of which is presumed in discourse. As a result, the field of pragmatics is commonly used to analyse the meaning of their phrases, particularly through Presuppositional Theory.

The presupposition is an essential component of pragmatic reasoning. First, presuppositions can aid in the interpretation of communication between speakers and listeners during the information delivery process. Second, in a conversation engagement, the speaker and listener not only transmit knowledge, but also assumptions and expectations in the form of interpretations of speeches that will have an impact. In contrast, Venneman (1975, p.314), Brown (1995), and Astuti (2015, p.11) define context as a presupposition that assists listeners in determining or understanding the language, themes, and responses in a daily or novel discourse.

The phenomena of presupposition can also be found in novel since novel is portrayal of society. One of the novels that uses a lot of presupposition in the conversation or dialogue between the characters is entitled *Little Women*. The novel is written by Louisa May Alcott and published in October 1868. In this research, *Little Women*, especially the utterances of the main character will be analysed by the researchers to find out the phenomena of presupposition. In studying language, the researcher uses pragmatic approach to know the relation between the forms of utterances in the novel. Previous researches on presupposition have been undertaken, including one by Siagian, Pangaribuan, and Toruan (2015). This article identifies four sorts of presuppositions in the magazine. They are existential, factiva, lexical, and structural presuppositions, with the exception of non-factive and counterfactual. The existential presupposition is the most common form of assumption discovered in this study.

Some other researches as previous studies related to the topic of presupposition, such as Briant Nino Aditya's (2014) thesis, *A Pragmatic Analysis of Presupposition in Genndy Tartakovsky's Hotel Transylvania*, in which he seeks to identify the most prevalent type of presupposition and the inferred meaning of the characters' statements in the film. Yuni Lestari's thesis, "Presupposition of Anna and Declan's Utterances in Anand Tucker's *Leap*," (2015) focuses on the forms of presuppositions and the aim of the characters' utterances in the film. Both use the descriptive qualitative method to conduct their research. The difference between this research and previous studies is from the object of research, this research uses novel but previous studies use movie or film.

The aims of this research are to identify the types of presupposition used in the novel of *Little Women* and to analyze how various types of meanings of presupposition proposed by Yule (1996) are found in the novel. In this chapter, Yule's theory of presupposition is reviewed relatively in detail and some other related theories are also included. Some research works related to the subject matter of this research conducted earlier are also reviewed as to emphasize how the present research is different from those research.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Pragmatics

Pragmatics is the study of speaker meaning. It is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker and interpreted by a listener. It is the branch of linguistics dealing with language in use and the contexts in which it is used, including such matters as deixis, the taking of turns in conversation, text organization, presupposition, and implicature. Mey (1993, p.42) defines pragmatics as the study of the conditions of human language uses as these are determined by the society context. Here, Mey clearly states that context of society holds an important role in the uses of human language. It means that different context will determine different types of language use. On the other hands, Levinson (1983, p.5) states that pragmatics is the study of language use, that is, the study of the relation between language and context that are basic to an account of language understanding.

Pragmatics has several key subfields, one of which is presupposition. As a branch of pragmatic study, presupposition focuses on the implicit assumptions shared by speakers and listeners that make communication meaningful. Through presupposition, pragmatics examines how background knowledge and context shape the interpretation of utterances (Yule, 1996, p.4).

2.2 Presupposition

A presupposition is derived from the word pre-suppose, which means to suspect a prior or suspected temporary. It means that before speakers get in the talk of something, speakers already had a previous guess about would the speakers talking. To better understand the presupposition. Here are some of the definitions of the presupposition by experts: Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams (1988, p.174) state that presuppositions are situations that are usually assumed to exist before an utterance can be appropriate. Grundy (2008, p.63) adds that a presupposition is the meaning a speaker assumes alongside a speech act. Tambunan (2019, p.18) explains that presupposition refers to the assumption that the listener can clearly identify the person or object being discussed, allowing communication to proceed smoothly. In short, listeners can understand presupposition because of the information implied by the speaker (Wang, 2007; Levinson, 1983, p.168; Yuniardi, 2015, p.11).

2.3 Types of Presupposition

Yule (1996, p.27) states that presuppositions have been associated with the use of a large number of words, phrases, and structures. This linguistic form is regarded as an indicator of a potential presupposition, which can only be an actual presuppose in context with the speakers. Thus, Yule's states that six types of presuppositions are: the existential presupposition, the factive presupposition, the lexical presupposition, the structural presupposition, non-factive presupposition and counter-factual presupposition.

1. Existential Presupposition

The existential presupposition is not only assumed to be present in possessive construction but more generally in any definite noun phrase. Speaker is committed to the existence of the entities named any definite noun phrase an assumption that someone or something exists, based on the Yule's, (1996, p.27).

Also, the definite noun has any form such as definite article, determiner and proper name that use to specifying something that have in known by listeners. Then, form the definite article and the determiner like that, this, these, and those. As well as possessive pronoun like Tina, my, yours. To refer in word exist. El-Gamal, (2001, p.42) says that definite expressions are closely linked to existence and reference which express indefiniteness with indefinite articles that always precede the noun.

Definite expressions include proper nouns, personal pronouns, and noun phrases. A semantic categorization of noun phrases divides them in three subclasses definite descriptions, indefinite noun phrases, and quantified noun phrases. Definite descriptions are expressions that refer to some definite entity and identify it partly by means of the descriptive content of the expression. For example: The Governor of North Sumatera, the citizen, the building.

In the example above, the utterance said "The Governor of North Sumatera" that the Governor does exist and they presuppose is "there is the Governor of North Sumatera":

The citizen → exist

The building → exist

2. Factive Presupposition

The second type of presupposition is factive presupposition since some verb used in the sentences to indicates a fact, such as know, realize, regret, glad, odd and aware. The speaker makes the hearer or reader trust and the information of the utterance in a fact, based on Yule's, (1996, p.27) For example:

- 1) She did not realize he told a lie (>> He told a lie)
- 2) We regret buying the gift. (>> We bought the gift)
- 3) I was not aware that she was ill. (>>She was ill)
- 4) It is not odd that he woke up late. (>>He woke up late)
- 5) I am glad that you are the winner (>>You are the winner)

In the example above, the part (a) of the sentence that can be presupposed is "He told a lie" because it is the fact or the part of the sentence that must be true although she realized it or she did not realize it. While the part (b) of the sentence that can be presupposed is "We bought the gift" Because it is the fact or the part of the sentence that must be true although we regret it. The same way part (c) of the phrase "was not aware" gives an assumption that I do not know that she was ill. So, the presupposed information treated as the fact of her.

3. Non-factive Presupposition

The non-factive presupposition is associated with some verbs that are assumed not to be true, such verbs are the dream, imagine and pretend are used with the presupposition that what follows is not true, based on the Yule's, (1996, p.29). For example:

- a. I dreamed that I was popular (>>I was not popular)
- b. We imagined we were in a beach (>>We were not in a beach)
- c. He pretends to be sad (>>He is not sad)

In the first sentence, the use of the verb "dreamed" indicates that the clause following the verb "I was popular" is not true. This means that the presupposition is "I

was not popular”. Meanwhile, is applied to the second sentence where it can be presupposed that the clause “We were in a beach” is not true because it follows the verb “imagined”. The same way, in the third sentence, the presupposition is “He is not sad” because the clause uses the verb “pretends”.

4. Lexical Presupposition.

Based on the Yule’s, (1996, p.28), lexical presupposition is asserted meaning conventionally interpreted with another meaning for the listener understood about the information it and it has some word like managed, stop, and start. For example:

- a. He stopped drinking. (>>He used to drink)
- b. They started shouting. (>>They were not shouting before)
- c. You come again. (>>You came before).

In the example above, in the first sentence, the use of one verb “stopped” can lead up to the presupposition that the drinking was his pass habit, so it can be presupposed that “He used to drink”. Furthermore, in the second sentence, the use of one verb “Started” indicates the beginning which means that before the utterance is made, the action of shouting has never been done. The same way third sentence, the use of one verb “come” indicates the not on time means that before the utterance is made, the action of again has never been done.

5. Structural Ppresupposition.

The presupposition is the speaker treats them as presupposed information and accepted be true by the listeners. It can be seen in the use of WH- question construction, which is the information after WH-question is already known to be the case, based on the Yule’s, (1996, p.28). For example:

- a. When did he go? (>>He went)
- b. Where did you buy the flower (>>You bought the flower)

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

6. Counter-factual Presupposition

This type creates a presupposition meaning that is contrary to the facts or the opposite is true. Such a structure of if-clause presupposes that information is considered as not true. However, the meaning of this presupposition isn’t only true, but it is the opposite of what is true or contrary to the fact, based on the Yule’s, (1996, p.29). For example: If you were my friend, you would have helped me. (>>You are not my friend)

Based on the example above, the if-clause “if you were my friend” uses a conditional structure indicating that the if-clause is opposite to the utterance, so it can be presupposed that the meaning of the clause is “you are not my friend.”

Presuppositions function as follows:

1. To guide specific responses or predictions based on how the spoken language is now being used,
2. To find the meaning of the author's expressions to the reader,

3. To convey information and express feelings through presupposition, because they must offer information about which the reader is already aware of the intended meaning,
4. To give the reader something fresh to think about, or to transform and give others another representation, and
5. To find presupposition from the author's utterances, implying that we may locate what is going on in his map of the world (mind perception/internal representation) (Yule, 1996, p.29).

Yule (1996) also states that presupposition have features such as:

1. Stay true even if negated

The fundamental feature of presuppositions is the nature of truth under denial. This means that even if a sentence is employed as a negative sentence or negated, the statement's assumption remains valid as in the following:

- 1) John's house is new.
- 2) John's house isn't new.

Sentence (2) is the negative form of sentence (1). The presupposition of sentence (1) is that John has a house. In sentence (2), it turns out that the presupposition does not change even though sentence (2) contains denial, namely by the presence of the word negation, not from sentence (1), which has the same presupposition that John owns a house.

Sentence is stated to preposition another sentence if the second sentence is incorrect (a sentence prepositioned), resulting in the first sentence not being able to be said to be true or false.

Example:

- 1) The official's wife is very beautiful.
- 2) The official has a wife.

Sentence (2) is a presupposition of sentence (1). The sentence can be stated as right or wrong if the official has a wife. However, when it's the other way around with the existing reality (the official does not have a wife), the sentence cannot be determined.

2. Can be canceled

Presuppositions can be deleted if they do not match the implied assumptions and implicatures of conversational and linguistic context. Furthermore, presuppositions can be delayed because the existence of arguments is reduced by the possibilities that exist in discourse. Example: "I cannot come tomorrow morning because there is an obstacle." The utterance was revealed by someone to their friend. That friend will definitely have a presupposition. Maybe he will take his child to school, or maybe there is an obstacle in the way. However, if the person continues to say, "I have an official meeting tomorrow morning" then the presupposition will be canceled because it has been notified directly by the speaker so that the interlocutor no longer has a presupposition to the statement.

This research is also supported by several related researches:

1. Briant Nino Aditya (2014): in his thesis entitled *A Pragmatic Analysis of Presupposition in Genndy Tartakovsky's Hotel Transylvania*, seeking to identify the most prevalent type of presupposition and the inferred meaning of the characters'

statements in the movie; and this is quite different from the present research in terms of the topic, the theoretical framework applied and the source of data. They are similar only in terms of the subject matter namely presupposition.

2. Yuni lestari (2015): in her thesis entitled *Presupposition of Anna and Declan's Utterances in Anand Tucker's Leap* in which she focuses on the forms of presuppositions and the aim of the characters' utterances in the movies. This work is also different from the present research in terms of focus of analysis and the source of data.

3. Research Method

This part outlines the research methodology used in the study, which includes the research design, data sources, data collection, and data analysis procedures. The study primarily employs a descriptive qualitative method to describe phenomena naturally without experimental intervention, focusing on the types and meanings of presuppositions used by Josephine in *Little Women*, based on Yule's (1996) pragmatic theory. While quantitative elements are applied to present percentages of occurrences for clarity, the research remains predominantly qualitative, as the data are expressed in words rather than numbers. As a form of literary research, the study uses library research, with data consisting of Josephine's utterances and dialogues containing presuppositions in the 2014 PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama edition of *Little Women*.

Data were collected using reading and note-taking techniques, focusing on utterances relevant to the research objectives. For data analysis, the study adopts Sudaryanto's (2015) pragmatic equivalent method, specifically the pragmatic competence-in-equalizing technique, to classify and interpret the presuppositions according to Yule's classification. The process involved reading the novel for contextual understanding, identifying patterns in Josephine's speech, and classifying the types and meanings of presuppositions found in her utterances.

4. Discussion

This part investigates the types and meaning of presuppositions found in the utterances of Josephine March (Jo), a central character in *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott. Jo is known for her strong, expressive, and often impulsive speech, making her utterances rich with presuppositional meaning. The overall data of presupposition found in Jo's utterances can be seen in the table below:

No	Types of Presupposition	Frequency	Percentage
1	Existential Presupposition	10	29
2	Factive Presupposition	8	23
3	Non- Factive Presupposition	3	8.5
4	Lexical Presupposition	5	14
5	Structural Presupposition	6	17
6	Counter-Factual Presupposition	3	8.5
TOTAL		35	100%

Table 1. The Occurrence of the Types of Presupposition in the Conversation

From the total data of 35 on the types of presupposition, 10 of them are Existential Presupposition, 8 of them are Factive Presupposition, 6 of them are Structural Presupposition, 5 of them are Leical Presupposition, 3 of them are Non-Factive Presupposition, and the rest 3 data are Counter Factual Presupposition. Below is

the further explanation of each of the types of presupposition found in the Josephine's utterances.

4.1 Existential Presupposition

Existential Presupposition is the most frequently occurring type in the main character's utterances in Little Women novel. This type is called existential presupposition since it is the assumption of the existence of the entities named by the speaker. In this research, the writer founds 10 data but, the writer just to explain some of data this type. The data can be seen below:

1. The first data can be seen on the page 23 chapter 2 where Jo and her sisters are going to surprise their mother at home.

Jo: 'She's coming! Strike up, Beth! **Open the door, Amy!** Three cheers for Marmee!' cried Jo, prancing about while Meg went to conduct Mother to the seat of honor.

The bold words refer to existential presupposition because the word "the door". It uses definite noun "the" and the listener or readers assume that there is a door, so the door exists.

2. The utterances can be found on the page 202 - 203 chapter 13

The utterance below shows that the participants of the conversation are Jo, Meg and Laurie in front their house. They were talking about their big dream. Both Meg and Laurie want to have a great wedding party and a lovely house but Jo is different. Jo shows that she doesn't want her sisters' dream. She only wants to be a well-known author.

Jo: What's yours, Meg?"

Meg: *(talk about her wedding and house)*

"A lovely house, full of all sorts of luxurious things..."

Laurie **(kidding at Jo)**:

"Wouldn't you have nothing but horses, ink-stands, and novels in yours?"

Jo **(serious and excited)**:

"Not a single horse, nor a novel even. I do want to do something splendid before I go into my castle, something heroic or wonderful that won't be forgotten after I'm dead." "I think I shall write books, and get rich and famous; that would suit me, so that is my favorite dream." "**My sisters** always laughs at me when I talk about fame, but I mean to go a different way from most girls and try something new."

The bold utterance is classified as the existential presupposition because it shows that the speaker mentions concrete noun, my sisters. Readers can presuppose that Jo has sisters and they exist.

3. The utterances below can be seen in chapter 3 on page 39 where Jo and Mr. Laurie Laurence are talking in March's house.

Mr Laurie : 'My first name is Theodore, but I don't like it, for the fellows called me Dora, so I made the say Laurie instead.'

Jo : 'I hate **my name**, too, so sentimental! I wish every one would say Jo instead of Josephine.'

The bold words refer to existential presupposition as there is possession word "my". The readers presuppose that Jo is her name and Jo exists.

4. The fourth data from existential presupposition can be seen in the conversation below:

Laurie : ‘Do you like your school?’ asked the boy, changing the subject, after a little pause, during which he stared at the fire and Jo looked about her, well pleased.

Jo : ‘Don’t go to school, **I’m a businessman—girl**, I mean. I go to wait on **my great-aunt, and a dear**, cross old soul she is, too,’ answered Jo.

The conversation can be found on page 71 – 72 chapter 5 where Laurie invites Jo to look around his house. From the bold words, readers or listeners can conclude that the words are existential presupposition. A businessman or girl is real, because she is an author and my great aunt means Jo has an aunt. Then a dear is include in existential presupposition because it uses a definite article “a”.

5. The fifth data can be seen on page 87 – 88 chapter 6, where the conversion take place in March’s house between Jo and her sister Amy.

Amy: ‘How nice it sounds! I wish someone would write to me so!’ said Amy, who thought the old-fashioned address very elegant

Jo: **I have had many pairs of slippers in my life**, but I never had any that suited me so well as yours, “ continues Jo.

This bold utterance is classified as the existential presupposition because it shows that the speaker has slippers. It means that the slippers are exist, as well as her life. The word “my” is one of the characteristics of existential presupposition.

6. The sixth and seventh utterances can be seen on page 222 chapter 15 where the March sister are talking each other in their house.

Meg: I dare say, but nothing pleasant ever does happen in this family,’ said Meg, who was out of sorts. ‘We go grubbing along day after day, without a bit of change, and very little fun. We might as well be in a treadmill.’

Jo: ‘**My patience, how blue we are!**’ cried Jo. ‘I don’t much wonder, poor dear, for you see other girls having splendid times, while you grind, grind, year in and year out. **Oh, don’t I wish I could manage things for you as I do for my heroes!** You’re pretty enough and good enough already, so I’d have some rich relation leave you a fortune unexpectedly. Then you’d dash out as an heiress, scorn everyone who has slighted you, go abroad, and come home my Lady Something in a blaze of splendor and elegance.’

The two bold utterances are classified as the existential presupposition because they use possessive construction “my”. It also means that Jo has patience in her self. As well as the word I do for my heroes, it means that Jo has heroes that is her parents and she will do anything for her parents as she can do.

4.2 Factive Presupposition

Factive Presupposition refers to an assumption that the speaker is a fact. This type has some words are used in the sentences to denote facts, such as know, realize, regret, glad, aware, odd. In this research, the writer found 8 data that be part of factive presupposition. They can be seen in these utterancs below:

7. The utterance below shows that the participants of the conversation are March's sister and their mother. It takes place at home when they are having dinner in the kitchen.

Amy: 'Is it fairies?' asked Amy.

Beth: 'Santa Claus,' said Beth.

'Mother did it.' And Meg smiled her sweetest, in spite of her gray beard and white eyebrows.

Jo: 'That boy; put it into his head, **I know he did!** He's a capital fellow, and I wish we could get acquainted. He looks as if he'd like to know us but he's bashful, and Meg is so prim. She won't let me speak to him when we pass,' said Jo, as the plates went round, and the ice began to melt out of sight.

This bold utterance is classified as the factive presupposition because it shows that the speaker indicates excitement about talking to the man. Furthermore, Jo has already known that boy.

8. The next utterance is happened in Laurie's house when Jo was visiting her neighbour's house Laurie. This conversation can be found on chapter 5 page 38.

Jo: Dear me, I didn't know anyone was here!' stammered Jo, preparing to back out as speedily as she had bounced in. But the boy laughed and said pleasantly.

This bold utterance is classified as the factive presupposition because it shows that the speaker indicates feeling embarrassed because she came immediately to a room where there is a man "Laurie", and Jo doesn't know that the man is in the room.

4.3 Non-Factive Presupposition

The non-factive presupposition is one that is assumed not to be true. Then, these types are the opposite of factive presupposition. There is a verb that includes this type like dream, imagine and pretend. In this research, the writer found 3 utterances that belong to the type of non-factive those are:

9. Jo: What's yours, Meg?"

Meg: (talk about her wedding and house)

"A lovely house, full of all sorts of luxurious things..."

Laurie (kidding at Jo):

"Wouldn't you have nothing but horses, ink stands, and novels in yours?"

Jo (serious and excited):

"Not a single horse, nor a novel even. I do want to do something splendid before I go into my castle, something heroic or wonderful that won't be forgotten after I'm dead." **"I think I shall write books, and get rich and famous; that would suit me, so that is my favorite dream."** "My sisters always laugh at me when I talk about fame, but I mean to go a different way from most girls and try something new."

This bold utterance is classified as the non-factive presupposition because it shows that the speaker indicates she isn't famous and rich.

4.4 Lexical Presupposition

Lexical Presupposition is the fourth most frequently occurring type in the main

character's utterances. In this type, the use of one form with its asserted meaning is conventionally interpreted with the presupposition that another (non-asserted) meaning is understood. It is also can be said that Lexical Presupposition is the assumption that, in using one word, the speaker can act as if another meaning (word) will be understood.

10. The utterance below can be seen on page 125 chapter 9

Sallie: 'What shall you wear?' asked Sallie.

Jo: **'My old white one again,** if I can mend it fit to be seen, it got sadly torn last night,' said Jo, trying to speak quite easily, but feeling very uncomfortable.

From the bold word above, we can assume that Jo has once wore the clothe. "Again" means something have been repeated.

4.5 Structural Presupposition

Structural Presupposition is the third most frequently occurring type in the main character's utterances. In this type, certain sentence structures have been analyzed as conventionally and regularly presupposing that part of the structure is assumed to be true (Yule, 1996, p.29). One might say that speakers can use such structures to treat information as presupposed (assumed to be true) and hence to be accepted as true by the listeners. The Structural Presupposition found in Josephine's utterances can be seen below:

11. This conversation happened between Jo and her sister Meg on page 79 chapter 5.

Meg : 'That's why he has such handsome black eyes and pretty manners, I suppose. Italians are always nice,' said Meg, who was a little sentimental.

Jo: **'What do you know about his eyes and his manners?** You never spoke to him, hardly,' cried Jo, who was not sentimental.

This bold utterance is classified as the structural presupposition because in this expression it has a presupposition that Jo is realistic, so she ask Meg

12. The next data happened in the girls bedroom on the page 101 chapter 8

Jo: **Girls, where are you going?' asked Jo,** coming into their room one Saturday afternoon, and finding them getting ready to go out with an air of secrecy which excited her curiosity.

'Never mind. Little girls shouldn't ask questions,' returned Meg sharply.

This bold utterance is classified as the structural presupposition because in this expression it has a presupposition that Jo wants to know where they are going to go.

4.6 Counter Factual Presupposition

Counter Factual Presupposition is the type of presupposition occurs when the assumption of 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.

13. The utterance below can be seen on 113 chapter 8 where Jo and her mother are talking in bedroom

Jo: Oh, Mother, **if I'm ever half as good as you, I shall be satisfied,'** cried Jo, much touched.

'I hope you will be a great deal better, dear, but you must keep watch over your 'bosom enemy', as father calls it, or it may sadden, if not spoil your life.

The bold sentence identifies as the Counterfactual Presupposition because the word "if" and it means that Jo isn't as patient as her mother.

5. Conclusion

Based on the data analysis, all Yule's six types of presupposition are found in the utterances of Jo as the main character in *Little Women*. Those six types of presupposition are Existential Presupposition, Factive Presupposition, Non-Factive Presupposition, Lexical Presupposition, Structural Presupposition, and Counter Factual Presupposition.

Based on the table 1 above, it can be seen that all types of presupposition are found in the Josephine's utterances in *Little Women*. The Existential Presupposition is the most-used types of presupposition with total 10 data out of 35 data. It also can be seen that Existential Presupposition has 29% portion in the presupposition conversation found in Jo's utterances. It implies that Existential Presupposition is the type of presupposition that mostly appeared in main character's utterances *Little Women*. The second most-used type of presupposition is the Factive Presupposition. It has 8 data out of 35 data which means that Factive Presupposition has 23 % of the data findings. The third most-used type of presupposition is the Structural Presupposition. Structural Presupposition has 6 data out of 35 data which means that it has 17 % of the data findings. As for the fourth most-used type of presupposition, it is the Lexical Presupposition. Lexical Presupposition has 5 data out of 35 data which means that it has 14% of the data findings.

The least-used types of presupposition found in Jo's utterances in *Little Woman* novel are the Non-Factive Presupposition and Counter Factual Prsupposition. They both have 3 data out of 35 data. It also can be seen that Non-Factive Presupposition and Counter Factual Presupposition have 8,5 % portion in the main character's utterances. It implies that Non-Factive Presupposition and Counter Factual are the types of presupposition that least appeared in Jo's utterances in *Little Women* novel. A total of 35 utterances by Jo March were identified as containing presuppositions. These utterances were selected based on their relevance and clarity in showing presuppositional triggers. The analysis reveals that Jo frequently uses existential and factive presuppositions, followed by structural, lexical, non-factive, and counterfactual presuppositions. The findings show that Jo's use of presupposition is closely linked to her personality traits: independent, emotional, observant, and imaginative. The high occurrence of existential and factive presuppositions suggests that Jo's speech is rooted in real and emotionally charged experiences. Less frequent types like non-factive and counterfactual reflect Jo's inner thoughts, dreams, and social critiques. These presuppositions contribute not only to character development but also enrich the narrative by revealing Jo's values and inner struggles. Through her utterances, readers gain insight into her evolving identity, her relationships, and her responses to societal expectations. As a young woman living in 19th-century New England, Jo is expected to conform to traditional gender roles to be modest, domestic, and marriage-minded. However, Jo often resists these expectations, and this resistance is reflected in the presuppositions embedded in her speech. For example, when Jo says, "I can't get over my disappointment in not being a boy," (Chapter 3), the existential presupposition

("there is a world where she could be a boy") highlights her desire to escape the limited roles offered to women. It presupposes that being a boy would allow her more freedom and opportunity, subtly critiquing societal norms.

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