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An Analysis of Presupposition Triggers in Minny Jackson and Hilly Holbrook Speeches in Kathryn Stockett's Novel "The Help"

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ABSTRACT

Presupposition is a linguistic tool that can be used in utterances. The aim of using presupposition in utterance is to enhance the comprehension of what is being communicated. The purpose of the current study is to identify the presupposition triggers types used by two characters in Kathryn Stockett's novel "The Help" Minny Jackson and Hilly Holbrook. Furthermore, the study aims at conducting a comparison between the two characters based on the types of presupposition triggers and the purpose they employed these triggers for. The data of the study are carefully selected scenes that involve the two characters. The scenes are analysed using the proposed model of Yule's (1996) and Levinson's (1983) classification of presupposition triggers.

The analysis of the data reveals that the most dominant type of presupposition triggers that have been used by both of the characters is the existential presupposition triggers. The results show that this type occurred (70) times, which constitutes (69.3%) of the total used types of presupposition triggers. Moreover, it has been found that the second frequently used type of presupposition triggers is the lexical triggers with (18.75%) percentage of occurrence. The two characters have used these types in different contexts to deliver various communicative goals. In other words, the presupposition triggers are used as a linguistic tool for the characters to deliver their thoughts and to communicate more smoothly.

Keywords: *pragmatic, presuppositions, utterances, communication*

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PRESUPPOSITION

Presupposition: Definition

Griffiths (2006: 83) defines presupposition as “shared beliefs that are taken for granted by the speaker or writer and are expected to be used for interpreting the message”. He further adds that presuppositions are not necessarily had to be true. He justifies his view by explaining that communication is something that depends on the shared awareness of pretences and on shared ideologies, prejudices and national stereotypes that are different from one individual to another. This is the reason why presuppositions are said to be shared between people communicating by means of language and share a mutual beliefs, preconceptions and information, rather than knowledge since knowledge is considered to be a true belief.

Kroeger (2019: 40) asserts that presupposition is “information which is linguistically encoded as being part of the common ground at the time of utterance”. The notion of common ground denotes the knowledge and beliefs that both the speaker and hearer share. These shared knowledge and beliefs include facts about the world, knowledge that can be observed from the current speech situation, like the knowledge about the speaker’s clothes or about things that he carries at the time of

interaction. Furthermore, the common ground also includes facts that the interlocutors mentioned earlier in that same conversation (or discourse).

Presupposition Triggers

Presupposition is associated with the use of certain words, structures, and phrases. Linguists isolated these linguistics constructions and considered them as the sources of presuppositions. These linguistics items and constructions are called triggers. That is to say, the term 'triggers' refers to those “presupposition-generating linguistic items”. In other words, presupposition trigger signals the presupposition existence (Levinson, 1983: 179).

Yule (2000: 27) argues that there are certain words, structured phrases related to the use of presupposition. Such linguistics items and forms are regarded to be clues of potential presupposition; this potential presupposition can only turn into a real presupposition when a speaker in context uses it. Thus, when the reader encounter a text he/she will not merely read it but also comprehend the truth-value and the meaning of the context of the implied text and understand the unstated information that these triggers implied.

According Levinson (1983: 217) presupposition generally is regarded as a

"heterogeneous collection of quite distinct and different phenomena". He further adds that presupposition indicates those assumptions or inferences that are built into linguistic expressions. Based on this definition, presupposition tends to relate the linguistic structure with extra-linguistic context based on the inferences that can be made about this context from the linguistic structure itself (ibid: 168).

Types of Presupposition Triggers

Based on Yule's (1996) model and Levinson's (1983) model, the types of triggers in the present study are classified into six major types: existential (definite descriptions); factive (factive verbs); lexical (implicative verbs, verbs of judging, change of state verbs, and iteratives); structural (comparative construction, Wh-questions, cleft constructions, and non-restrictive clauses); non factive (Non-factive verbs) and counterfactual presupposition (Counterfactual conditionals).

Pragmatic Presuppositions

Pragmatic theory of presupposition is originally put forward by Stalnaker (1970, 1973, and 1974). The notion of pragmatic presupposition involves the shared background and knowledge that each of interlocutors have before starting the interaction such as the standard of

dialogue's turn-taking, and all the previous shared knowledge about the aims and goals of the conversation. The pragmatic presupposition cannot be detected from the words and sentences constructions; instead, it is detected from the general contexts properties and the expectations that are put forward by the participants of the discourse (Potts, 2015:3).

Pragmatically, presuppositions are "something like the background beliefs of the speaker propositions whose truth are taken for granted, or seem to take for granted in making his statement". Basically, we can say that the pragmatic notion of presupposition is something related to the speakers rather than sentence and words constructions (Stalnaker, 1974: 472).

As Stalnaker (1975: 473) states that almost all the conversations cannot take place unless there are certain shared beliefs and shared backgrounds of knowledge between the interlocutors. Ultimately, the communication is only possible and effective because of these background assumptions and common ground. The assertions the speaker makes during the conversation can influence the common ground. The assertions that are considered to be part of the common ground are not asserted by speakers because asserting them could cause non-informative statements and redundant. At the same

time, speakers will also try to avoid asserting the propositions that are not related to the common ground, because this will also cause self-defeating statements. Additionally, when a proposition is put forward and receive the audience acceptance then it will become part of the common ground. According to Stalnaker, the communicative dimension where the aim is to exchange information can be considered as an ideal if the presupposition made by the speakers are compatible with beliefs belonging to the common ground.

Accordingly, a proposition P is presupposed by the speaker "in a given context just in case the speaker assumes or believes that P, assumes or believes that his addressee assumes or believes that P, and assumes or believes that his addressee recognizes that he is making these assumptions, or has these beliefs" (Stalnaker, 1974: 473). That is to say, presupposition based on this definition has nothing to do with linguistic form. To put it in another way, presupposition depends on what speakers presuppose in the common ground. In view of Stalnaker definition of presupposition, it can be said that the base of pragmatic presupposition is the speaker (Verschueren & Östman, 2009: 199).

Moreover, other pragmatic approaches such as Karttunen (1974) are less essential. In these approaches, the linguistics form still part of the pragmatic presupposition. What is meant by presuppositions of sentences are those that must be connected with the context in order to make the utterance suitable to that context and understandable. However, context is defined in terms of speaker's assumptions: it is a set of propositions "that describe the set of background assumptions., that is, whatever the speaker chooses to regard as being shared by him and his intended audience" (Karttunen,1974: 406). Overall, it seems reasonable to say that pragmatic presuppositions are related to various types of knowledge of the world that are assumed to pre-exist when an utterance is made. They are determined by the total context in which the utterance is made (Adisutrisno, 2008:78).

According to Glucksberg and Danks (1975: 115) the knowledge about the world is necessary for the interlocutors so that they can interpret and understand what they hear. Correspondingly, Brown and Yule (1983: 233) argue that the way interlocutors interpret the discourse and every aspect of their experience is determined by this general knowledge. This knowledge is made of different factors including linguistic knowledge, sociocultural, age, sex, value judgments,

political, religious beliefs, etc. It shows the accumulated experience of every individual, which determines the way he/she comprehends things, classifies the object in the world, forms associations, and uses a language. Therefore, what interlocutors consider as an appropriate utterance shows their knowledge about the world. Thus, a sentence is seen as meaningful only when there is consistency in the presupposed knowledge of the world held by the interlocutors (Tyler, 1978: 33).

METHODOLOGY

Models of the Analysis

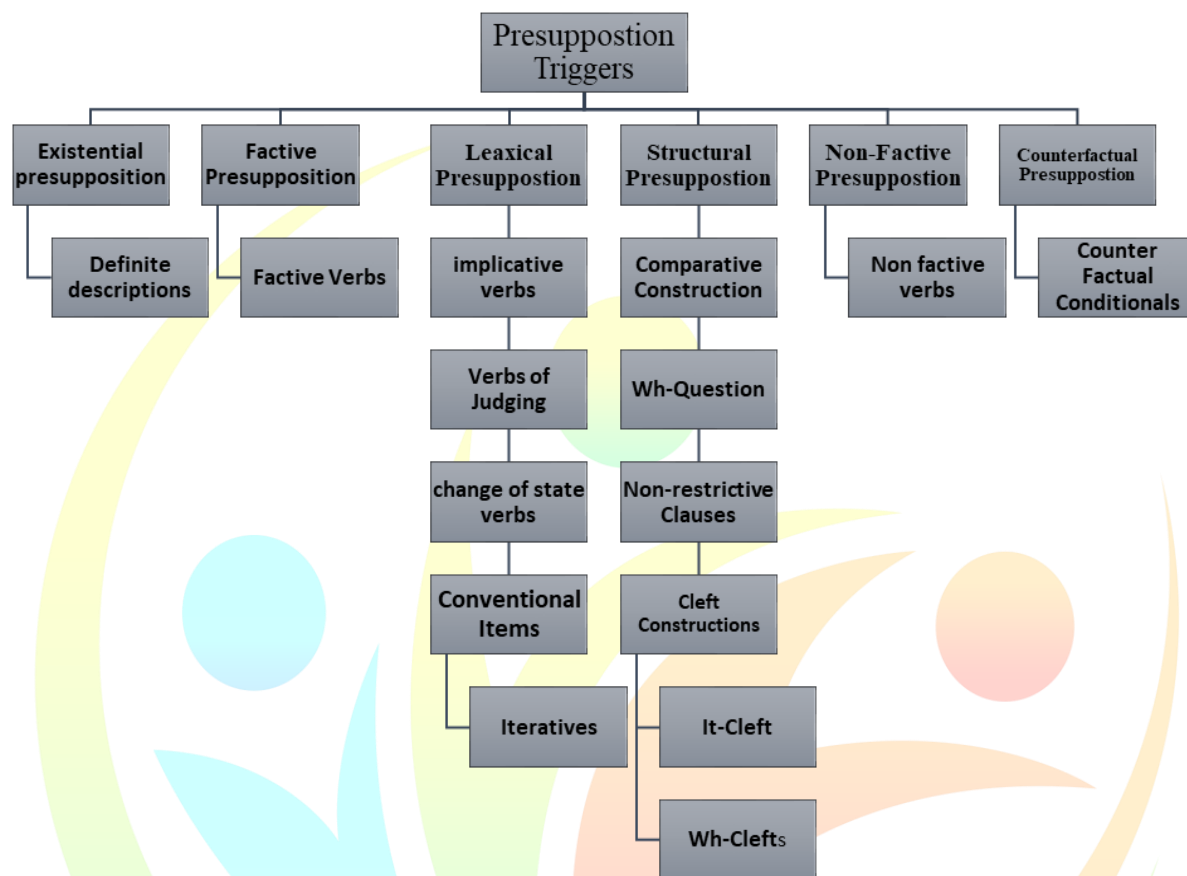
Originally, Yule's (1996) classification of presupposition triggers has been selected for the data analysis. However, Yule's (1996) framework lacks labelling some presupposition triggers forms and subtypes in a detailed way. Thus, the model of analysis can be extended to include Levinson's (1983) classification of presupposition triggers to make the model more comprehensive and appropriate for the presupposition triggers analysis. The following chart illustrates this model:



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Figure (3) the Model of the Analysis of Presupposition Triggers



The Data

The data of the study is a novel by Kathryn Stockett entitled “The Help”. Kathryn Stockett is a novelist who is born in Jackson, Mississippi. Her novel “The Help” is published in 2009 to become the best-selling novel at that year not only this but also after two years, the book turned into a successful movie. This study is particularly concerned with identifying the presupposition triggers used by the two

main characters in the novel, namely Minny, and Miss Hilly. Minny is a black house cleaner, while Miss Hilly represents the white people and how they treat their employees. Although “The Help” is a work of fiction, still it is firmly linked to several and various political and social issues. The novel mainly devoted to deal with racism, and caste based discrimination.

DATA ANALYSIS**Presupposition Triggers in Minny's Utterances**

For the analysis of presupposition triggers in Minny's utterances, three scenes have been chosen. The contexts in which these scenes happened are illustrated. Then, the utterances are represented and categorized in tables in terms of the type and form of the presuppositions trigger as well as the presupposed information that are employed in the utterances.

The Scene

This scene takes place at Miss Celia's house where Minny was telling Miss Celia about the way she took her revenge from Miss Hilly after what she did to her. This scene is considered one of the main turning points in the novel. As a woman who has a remarkable name and status in the white people's society, Miss Hilly was terrified by the idea that someone might know about what Minny did to her. This event weakened her position and somehow limited her actions against Minny and the other black maids.

Table (1) Presupposition Triggers in Minny's Utterances \ “(stockett, ch26, P.84)

Utterances	Trigger	Trigger's Type	Trigger's Form	Presupposition
“And that’s <u>how come I did it.</u> ”	How come I did it	Structural presupposition	Wh-cleft	Minny did something.
“And that’s how come <u>I</u> did it.”	I	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Minny (the speaker) is referring to herself.
“ <u>I</u> tell her to eat my shit.”	I	Existential presupposition	Definite description	The speaker (Minny) is referring to herself.
“Then <u>I</u> go home. I mix up that chocolate custard pie.”	I	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Minny (the speaker) is referring to herself.
“Then I <u>go</u> home. I mix up that chocolate custard pie.”	Go	Lexical presupposition	Change of state verb	Minny was in Miss Walters' home before she goes to her home.
“Then <u>I</u> go home. <u>I</u> mix up that chocolate custard pie.”	I	Existential presupposition	Definite description	The speaker (Minny) is referring to herself.

Utterances	Trigger	Trigger's Type	Trigger's Form	Presupposition
"Then I go home. I <u>mix up</u> that chocolate custard pie."	Mix up	Lexical presupposition	Change of state verb	The pie was not mixed up before.
"Then <u>I</u> go home. I mix up that <u>chocolate custard pie</u> ."	Chocolate custard pie	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There is a chocolate custard pie in Minny's house.
" <u>I</u> puts sugar in it and Baker's chocolate and the real vanilla my cousin bring me from Mexico."	I	Existential presupposition	Definite description	The speaker (Minny) is referring to herself.
"I <u>puts</u> sugar in it and Baker's chocolate and the real vanilla my cousin bring me from Mexico."	Put	Lexical presupposition	Change of state verb	There was no sugar in the pie before.
"I puts sugar in <u>it</u> and Baker's chocolate and the real vanilla my cousin bring me from Mexico."	It	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Minny (the speaker) is referring to the chocolate custard pie. The chocolate custard pie exists.
"I puts sugar in it and <u>Baker's chocolate</u> and the real vanilla my cousin bring me from Mexico."	Baker's chocolate	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There exists a brand of chocolate called the Baker.
"I puts sugar in it and Baker's chocolate and the real vanilla <u>my cousin</u> bring me from Mexico."	My cousin	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Minny's cousin exists.
"I puts sugar in it and Baker's chocolate and the real vanilla my cousin <u>bring</u> me from Mexico."	Bring	Lexical presupposition	Change of state verb	Minny did not use to have a real vanilla.
"I puts sugar in it and Baker's chocolate and the real vanilla my cousin bring me from <u>Mexico</u> ."	Mexico	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There exists a country in North America called Mexico.
"I <u>tote</u> it over to Miss Walters's house, where I know Miss Hilly be setting round"	Tote	Lexical presupposition	Change of state verb	The pie used to be Minny's home before she takes it to Miss Walters' home.
"I tote <u>it</u> over to Miss Walters's house, where I know Miss Hilly be setting round"	It	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Minny (the speaker) is referring to the chocolate custard pie.

Utterances	Trigger	Trigger's Type	Trigger's Form	Presupposition
"I tote it over to <u>Miss Walters's</u> house, where I know Miss Hilly be setting round"	Miss Walters	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There is a woman called Miss Walters.
"I tote it over to <u>Miss Walters's house,</u> where I know Miss Hilly be setting round"	Miss Walters's house	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Miss Walter's house exists.
"I tote it over to Miss Walters's house, <u>where</u> I know Miss Hilly be setting round"	Where	Structural presupposition	Non restrictive clause	Miss Hilly is setting at Miss Walters's (her mother) house.
"I tote it over to Miss Walters's house, where <u>I</u> know Miss Hilly be setting round"	I	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Mিনny (the speaker) is referring to herself.
"I tote it over to Miss Walters's house, where I <u>know</u> Miss Hilly be setting round"	Know	Factive presupposition	Factive verb	Miss Hilly is setting at her mother's home.
"I tote it over to Miss Walters's house, where I know <u>Miss Hilly</u> be setting round"	Miss Hilly	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There is woman named Miss Hilly. She is Miss Walters's daughter.
"waiting for <u>the home</u> to come and get her mama, so she can sell that house. Go through her silver. Collect her due."	The home	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There exists a home for the old people in Mississippi. Minny is referring the people who are coming from the home to take Miss Walters.
"waiting for the home to <u>come</u> and get her mama, so she can sell that house. Go through her silver. Collect her due."	Come	Lexical presupposition	Change of state verb	The people from the home were not at Miss Walters' home before.
"waiting for the home to come and get <u>her mama,</u> so she can sell thathouse. Go through her silver. Collect her due."	Her mama	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Miss Hilly's mother exists.
"waiting for the home to come and get her mama, so <u>she</u> can sell	She	Existential	Definite	Mিনny (the speaker) is

Utterances	Trigger	Trigger's Type	Trigger's Form	Presupposition
thathouse. Go through her silver. Collect her due.”		presupposition	description	referring to Miss Hilly.
“waiting for the home to come and get her mama, so she can <u>sell</u> that house. Go through her silver.”	Sell	Lexical presupposition	Change of state verb	Miss Hilly towns Miss Walters’s and she attempts to sell it.
“waiting for the home to come and get her mama, so she can sell <u>thathouse</u> . Go through her silver.”	That house	Existential presupposition	Definite description	The speaker (Minnie) is referring to Miss Hilly’s house. Miss Hilly’s house exists.
“waiting for the home to come and get her mama, so she can sell thathouse. Go through <u>her silver</u> .”	Her silver	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Miss Hilly has silver. Miss Hilly’s silver exists.
“Soon as <u>I</u> put that pie down on the countertop, Miss Hilly smiles, thinking it’s a peace offering”	I	Existential presupposition	Definite description	The speaker (Minnie) is referring to herself.
“Soon as I <u>put</u> that pie down on the countertop, Miss Hilly smiles, thinking it’s a peace offering”	Put	Lexical presupposition	Change of state verb	Minnie was holding the pie in her hand before she puts it down on the countertop.
“Soon as I put <u>that pie</u> down on the countertop, Miss Hilly smiles, thinking it’s a peace offering”	That pie	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Minnie is referring to the chocolate custard pie. Thus, there is a Chocolate custard pie.
“Soon as I put that pie down on <u>the countertop</u> , Miss Hilly smiles, thinking it’s a peace offering”	The countertop	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There is a countertop in Miss Hilly’s home.
“... <u>Miss Hilly</u> smiles, thinking it’s a peace offering”	Miss Hilly	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There is woman named Miss Hilly
“Soon as I put that pie down on the countertop, Miss Hilly smiles,	Thinking	Non-Factive presupposition	Non-Factive verb	It is not a peace offering.

Utterances	Trigger	Trigger's Type	Trigger's Form	Presupposition
<u>thinking</u> it's a peace offering"				
"Soon as I put that pie down on the countertop, Miss Hilly smiles, thinking <u>it's</u> a peace offering"	It	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Mিনny (the speaker) is referring to the chocolate custard pie.
" <u>like</u> that's my way a showing her I'm real sorry bout what I said."	Like	Non-Factive presupposition	Non-Factive verb	That is not my way of showing her that I am real sorry about what I said.
"like that's my way a showing her <u>I'm</u> real sorry bout what I said."	I'm	Existential presupposition	Definite description	The speaker (Mিনny) is referring to herself.
"like that's my way a showing her I'm real sorry bout <u>what I</u> said."	What I said	Structural presupposition	Wh-cleft	Mিনny said something.
"like that's my way a showing her I'm real sorry bout what <u>I</u> said."	I	Existential presupposition	Definite description	The speaker (Mিনny) is referring to herself.
"And then <u>I</u> watch her. I watch her eat it myself."	I	Existential presupposition	Definite description	The speaker (Mিনny) is referring to herself.
"And then I <u>watch</u> her. I watch her eat it myself."	Watch	Factive presupposition	Factive verb	Mিনny is watching Miss Hilly as she eats the pie.
"And then I watch her. <u>I</u> watch her eat it myself."	I	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Mিনny (the speaker) is referring to herself
"And then I watch her. I <u>watch</u> her eat it myself."	Watch	Factive presupposition	Factive verb	Mিনny was watching Miss Hilly eating the chocolate custard pie.
"And then I watch her. I watch her eat <u>it</u> myself."	It	Existential presupposition	Definite description	The speaker (Mিনny) referring to the chocolate custard pie.

Utterances	Trigger	Trigger's Type	Trigger's Form	Presupposition
“ <u>Two big pieces</u> . She stuff it in her mouth like she ain’t ever eaten nothing so good”	Two big pieces	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There are two big pieces of chocolate custard pie.
“Two big pieces. <u>She</u> stuff it in her mouth like she ain’t ever eaten nothing so good”	She	Existential presupposition	Definite description	The speaker (Minnie) is referring to Miss Hilly.
“Two big pieces. She stuff <u>it</u> in her mouth like she ain’t ever eaten nothing so good”	It	Existential presupposition	Definite description	The speaker (Minnie) is referring to the chocolate custard pie.
“Two big pieces. She stuff it in her mouth <u>like</u> she ain’t ever eaten nothing so good”	Like	Non-Factive presupposition	Non-Factive verb	Miss Hilly did eat something good before
“Two big pieces. She stuff it in her mouth like <u>she</u> ain’t ever eaten nothing so good”	She	Existential presupposition	Definite description	The speaker (Minnie) is referring to Miss Hilly.
“That’s <u>when</u> Miss Walters, she say she getting a mite hungry too and ask for a piece a that pie”	When	Structural presupposition	Wh-cleft	Miss Walters says that she getting a mite hungry too and asks for a piece that pie.
“That’s <u>when</u> Miss Walters, she say she getting a mite hungry too and ask for a piece a that pie”	Miss Walters	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There exists a woman named Miss Walters. She is Miss Hilly’s mother.
“That’s when Miss Walters, <u>she</u> say she getting a mite hungry too and ask for a piece a that pie”	She	Existential presupposition	Definite description	The speaker (Minnie) is referring to Miss Walters.
“That’s when Miss Walters, she <u>say</u> she getting a mite hungry too and ask for a piece a that pie”	Say	Factive presupposition	Factive verb	Miss Walters was hungry and wanted a piece of that pie.
“That’s <u>when</u> Miss Walters, she say <u>she</u> getting a mite hungry too and ask for a piece a that pie”	She	Existential presupposition	Definite description	The speaker (Minnie) is referring to Miss Walters.
“That’s when Miss Walters, she say she <u>getting</u> a mite hungry too	Getting	Lexical presupposition	Change of state verb	She was not hungry before.

Utterances	Trigger	Trigger's Type	Trigger's Form	Presupposition
and ask for a piece a that pie”				
“That’s when Miss Walters, she say she getting a mite hungry <u>too</u> and ask for a piece a that pie”	Too	Lexical presupposition	Iterative	Someone else was hungry before too.
“That’s when Miss Walters, she say she getting a mite hungry too and ask for a piece a <u>that pie</u> ”	That pie	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There is a pie.
“I tell her, ‘No ma’am. That one’s special for Miss Hilly.’”	I	Existential presupposition	Definite description	The speaker (Minnie) is referring to herself.
“I tell her, ‘No <u>ma’am</u> . That one’s special for Miss Hilly.”	Ma'am	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There exists a woman (Miss Hilly) and Minny called her ma'am because she works for her.
“I tell her, ‘No ma’am. <u>That one’s</u> special for Miss Hilly.”	That one	Existential presupposition	Definite description	The speaker (Minnie) is referring to the pie. The pie exists.
“I tell her, ‘No ma’am. That one’s special for <u>Miss Hilly</u> .”	Miss Hilly	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There is a woman named Miss Hilly. She is Miss Walters’s daughter and the woman that Minny used to work for.

Existential Presupposition Triggers (EPT) in Minny’s Utterances

The analysis of the presupposition triggers in Minny's utterances shows that the existential presupposition triggers have been used (42) times with a percentage of occurrences (66.66%) which makes it the most used type among the other types of presupposition triggers. From the tables

above, it is clear that the most repeated words by Minny' during her exchanges with Miss Celia were 'Miss Hilly' and other words that have a referent to her which indicates that Miss Minny commits herself to the existence of Miss Hilly. Furthermore, it also shows that Minny and the listener (Miss Hilly) share the same background knowledge and that they are familiar with Minny and knows that she

used to work for Miss Hilly. Minny, as a person who becomes jaded with Miss Hilly's vicious deeds, tried to deliver her painful experience to Miss Celia in a way that would makes Miss Celia see the true face of that woman.

Lexical Presupposition Triggers (LPT) in Minny's Utterances

The lexical presupposition triggers that are found in Minny's utterances are (10) with percentage of occurrences (15.87%) which makes it, the second most

employed presupposition trigger type by Minny. Notably, the most frequently used form of LPT is change of state verb (CSV) (9) which gets (90%). Using this form of verbs indicates a change or a shift of state. Minny employed CSVs such as 'gone', 'leave', 'start', 'come'...etc.to clarify the way things has changed for her after she lost her job. Therefore, this form of verbs is used to state indirectly that it is taken for granted that the state of Minny's life has changed.

Table (2): Lexical Presupposition Triggers in Minny's Utterances

No.	Lexical presupposition triggers	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Change of state verbs	9	90%
2	Iteratives	1	10%
	Total	10	100%

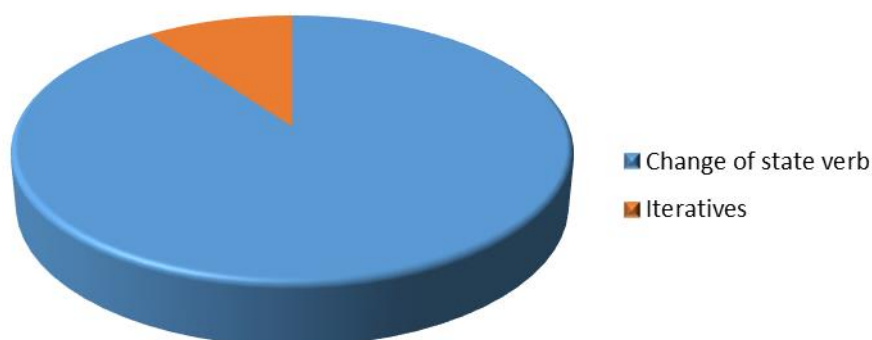


Figure (1): Lexical Presupposition Triggers in Minny's Utterances

Factive Presupposition Triggers (FPT) in Minny's Utterances

The analysis of presupposition triggers in Minny's utterances reveals that the factive presupposition triggers have been used (4) times with percentage of occurrences (6.34%). This type takes the third place among the most frequently used types of presupposition triggers in Minny's utterances. She employed **factive verbs**, mostly to presuppose that the information comes after those verbs are facts, true and taken for granted. Hearing these factive verbs, the other party (Miss Celia) would also presupposes that the information comes after

Structural Presupposition Triggers (SPT) in Minny's Utterances

The structural presupposition triggers found in Minny's utterances are (4) with percentage of occurrences (6.34%). The forms of the structural presupposition triggers that are employed in Minny's utterances are **wh-clefts** (3) (75%), **non-restrictive clauses** (1) (25%). Structural presupposition triggers are mostly used to indicate that the information comes after these structures is true and already known to be the case, therefore, it will be received by the listener as something true.

Table (3): Structural Presupposition Triggers in Minny's Utterances

No.	Structural presupposition triggers	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Wh-clefts	3	75%
2.	Non-restrictive clauses	1	25%
	Total	4	100%

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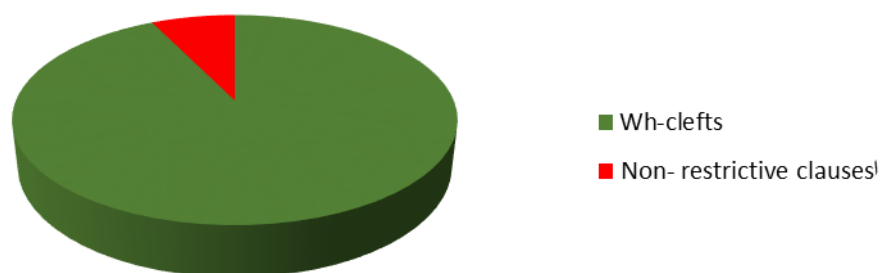


Figure (2) : Structural Presupposition Triggers in Minny's Utterances

Non-Factive Presupposition Triggers (NFPT) in Minny's Utterances

Non-factive presupposition triggers found in Minny's utterances are (3) which gets (4.76%) out of the total presupposition triggers found in the utterances. Non-factive verbs such as 'seem', 'consider', 'think', 'said'...etc. triggered the existence of Non-factive presupposition in Minny's utterances. The information that follows this type of verbs is assumed not to be true.

Table (4): Frequency and Percentage of Occurrences of Presupposition Triggers in Minny's Utterances

No.	Type of Presupposition Triggers	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Existential presupposition	42	66.66%
2.	Lexical presupposition	10	15.87%
3.	Factive presupposition	4	6.34%
4.	Structural presupposition	4	6.34%
5.	Non-Factive presupposition	3	4.76%
Total		63	100%

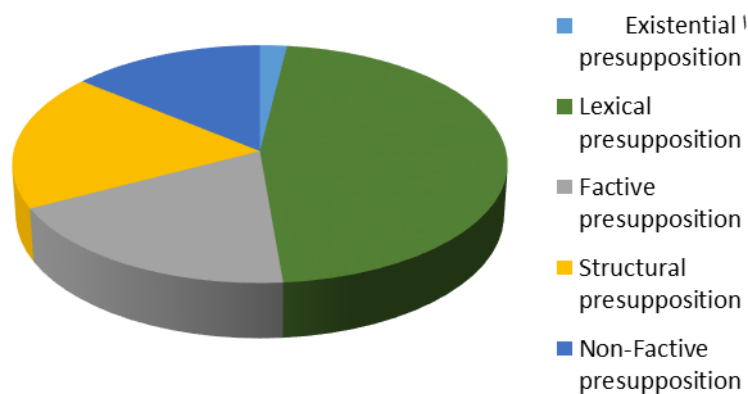


Figure (3): Frequency and Percentage of Occurrences of Presupposition Triggers in Minny's Utterances

Presupposition Triggers in Hilly's Utterances

The analysis of Miss Hilly Holbrook's utterances was carried out by selecting a scene in which she takes the main lead. The utterances are represented and categorized in tables in terms of the type and form of the presuppositions trigger as well as the presupposed information that are employed in the utterances.

The Scene

The scene takes place at Miss Leefolt's backyard where she and Miss Hilly arranged a play date for their children. A day before, Miss Hilly discovered that Skeeter is planning to

support the colored people by writing an articles to the newspaper to show her objection towards the injustice that the colored people are facing in Jackson. Undoubtedly, Miss Hilly would not let this go unnoticed, therefore, she keeps complaining to Miss Leefolt about how wrongful the thing Skeeter did and that her actions will cause a irreparable damage to Jackson society. She then turns to Aibileen, who was working at Miss Leefolt's house, inquiring about her opinion in the Help Sanitation Initiative in attempt to find out whether or not Aibileen is collaborating with Skeeter in writing the articles. Moreover, she continually mentions the advantages of her initiative to Miss Leefolt.

Table (5): *Presupposition Triggers in Hilly's Utterances* (Stockett, Ch 14: P.218)

Utterances	Trigger	Trigger's Type	Triggers' Form	Presupposition
" <u>Aibileen</u> , get me a little more iced tea, would you, please?"	Aibileen	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There is a woman called Aibileen. She is the help of Miss Leefolt.
"Aibileen, <u>get</u> me a little more iced tea, would you, please?"	Get	Lexical presupposition	Change of state verb	Miss Hilly used not to have iced tea.
"Aibileen, get me a little <u>more</u> iced tea, would you, please?"	More	Lexical presupposition	Iteratives	Miss Hilly had some iced tea before.
"Aibileen, get me a little more <u>iced tea</u> , would you, please?"	Iced tea	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There is an iced tea.
"Aibileen, get me a little more iced tea, would <u>you</u> , please?"	You	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Miss Hilly is addressing Aibileen.
"See, that's <u>what I don't understand</u> ,"	What I don't understand	Structural presupposition	Wh-cleft	There is something I don't understand.
"See, that's what <u>I</u> don't understand,"	I	Existential presupposition	Definite description	The speaker (Miss Hilly) is referring to herself.
" <u>Aibileen</u> , you like having your own toilet, don't you?"	Aibileen	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There exists a woman named Aibileen.
"Aibileen, <u>you</u> like having your own toilet, don't you?"	You	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Miss Hilly is addressing Aibileen.
"Aibileen, you like having your own toilet, don't <u>you</u> ?"	You	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Miss Hilly is addressing Aibileen.

Utterances	Trigger	Trigger's Type	Triggers' Form	Presupposition
“That’s <u>what</u> Governor Ross Barnett <u>says is right</u> , and you can’t argue with the government.”	What Governor Ross Barnett says is right	Structural presupposition	Wh-cleft	Governor Ross Barnett says that separating the toilet of the colored people from the white ones is right.
“That’s what <u>Governor Ross Barnett</u> says is right, and you can’t argue with the government.”	Governor Ross Barnett	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There exists a governor and his name is Ross Barnett.
“That’s what Governor Ross Barnett <u>says</u> is right, and you can’t argue with the government.”	Says	Non-Factive presupposition	Non-Factive verb	It is not a fact that separating the toilet of the colored people from the white ones is right.
“That’s what Governor Ross Barnett says is right, and <u>you</u> can’t argue with the government.”	You	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Miss Hilly is addressing Miss Leefolt.
“That’s what Governor Ross Barnett <u>says</u> is right, and you can’t argue with <u>the government</u> .”	The government	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There is a government.
“ <u>Aibileen</u> , you wouldn’t want to go to a school full of white people, would you?”	Aibileen	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There exists a woman named Aibileen. She is the help of Miss Leefolt.
“Aibileen, <u>you</u> wouldn’t want to go to a school full of white people, would you?”	You	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Miss Hilly is addressing Aibileen.
“Aibileen, you wouldn’t want to go to a school full of	White people	Existential	Definite	There are white people

Utterances	Trigger	Trigger's Type	Triggers' Form	Presupposition
<u>white people</u> , would you?"		presupposition	description	
"Aibileen, you wouldn't want to go to a school full of white people, would <u>you</u> ?"	You	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Miss Hilly is addressing Aibileen.
"But <u>Aibileen</u> "	Aibileen	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There exists a woman named Aibileen.
" <u>colored people</u> and white people are just so . . . different."	Colored people	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There exists a colored people.
"colored people and <u>white people</u> are just so . . . different."	White people	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There exists a white people.
".. if Skeeter thinks she's going to get away with this colored non—"	If Skeeter thinks she's going to get away with this colored	Counterfactual presupposition	Counterfactual Conditionals	Skeeter is not going to get away.
".. if <u>Skeeter</u> thinks she's going to get away with this colored non—"	Skeeter	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There exists a woman named Skeeter.
".. if Skeeter <u>thinks</u> she's going to get away with this colored non—"	Thinks	Non-Factive presupposition	Non-Factive verb	She (Skeeter) is not going to get away with what she did.
".. if Skeeter thinks she's going to <u>get away</u> with this colored non—"	Get away	Lexical presupposition	Implicative verb	Skeeter was trying to get away with what she did.
" <u>I</u> see you! I do! What with William running for office	I	Existential presupposition	Definite description	The speaker is referring to herself.

Utterances	Trigger	Trigger's Type	Triggers' Form	Presupposition
next—”				
“I see <u>you</u> ! I do! What with William running for office next—”	You	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Miss Hilly is addressing Skeeter.
“I see you! <u>I</u> do! What with William running for office next—”	I	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Miss Hilly is referring to herself.
“I see you! I do! <u>What with William running for office next—</u> ”	What with William running for office next—	Structural presupposition	Wh-question	William was running for office.
“I see you! I do! What with <u>William</u> running for office next—”	William	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There exists a man named William.
“—cannot have <u>colored-supporting friends</u> in my closet—”	Colored-supporting friends	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Miss Hilly has colored supporting friends.
“I read it. I found it in her satchel and I intend to take action.”	I	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Miss Hilly is referring to herself.
“I read <u>it</u> . I found it in her satchel and I intend to take action.”	It	Existential presupposition	Definite description	The speaker (Miss Hilly) is referring to the thing she found in the satchel..
“I read it. <u>I</u> found it in her satchel and I intend to take action.”	I	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Miss Hilly is referring to herself.
“I read it. I <u>found</u> it in her satchel and I intend to take	Found	Factive	Factive verb	There is something in

Utterances	Trigger	Trigger's Type	Triggers' Form	Presupposition
action.”		presupposition		her satchel.
“I read it. I found it in <u>her satchel</u> and I intend to take action.”	Her satchel	Existential presupposition	Definite description	There exists a satchel.
“I read it. I found it in her satchel and <u>I</u> intend to take action.”	I	Existential presupposition	Definite description	Miss Hilly (the speaker) is referring to herself.
“I read it. I found it in her satchel and I <u>intend</u> to take action.”	Intend	Non-Factive presupposition	Non-Factive verb	Miss Hilly did not take action yet.

Existential Presupposition Triggers (EPT) in Hilly's Utterances

The analysis of presupposition triggers in Hilly's utterances reveals that the existential presupposition triggers have been used (28) with a percentage of occurrences (73.68%) which makes it the most used type among the other types of presupposition triggers. Miss Hilly in the above utterances expresses throughout the use of EPT that she is a person with high authorities and that what she says is already proven true. Therefore, there are excessive uses for names of people and institutions that work for governmental organizations such as “Governor Ross Barnett”, ‘the Government’. That is to say, Miss Hilly committed herself to the

existence of the mentioned entities. As a result, the listeners will consider Miss Hilly's connections with these people and institutions as something taken for granted and that she is indeed a powerful person with high authorities.

Lexical Presupposition Triggers (LPT) in Hilly's Utterances

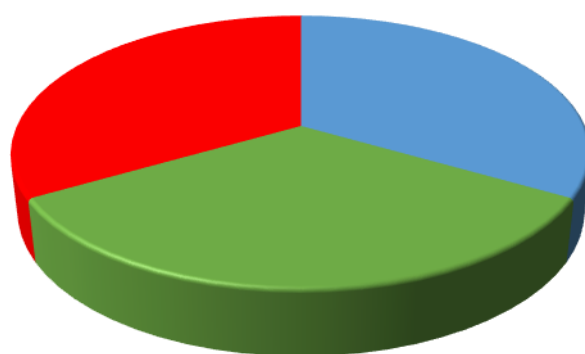
According to the tables above, Hilly has used lexical presupposition triggers (3) times with a percentage of occurrences (7.89%). The forms of lexical presupposition triggers (LPT) employed are **change of state verb (CSV)** (1) with percentage of occurrences (33.33%), **implicative verbs** (1) (33.33%), **iterative** (1) (3.33%). The use CSV is an indication that there is a change in the situations

mentioned by Miss Hilly. She mostly attributes these changes (the positive one) to her efforts and her hard work.

According to her, the fact that she is the one who helped to accomplish these achievements should be taken for granted.

Table (6): Lexical Presupposition Triggers in Hilly's Utterances

No.	Lexical presupposition triggers	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Change of state verbs	1	33.33%
2.	Implicative verbs	1	33.33%
3.	Iteratives	1	33.33%
	Total	3	100%



■ Change of state verb ■ Implicative verbs ■ Iteratives

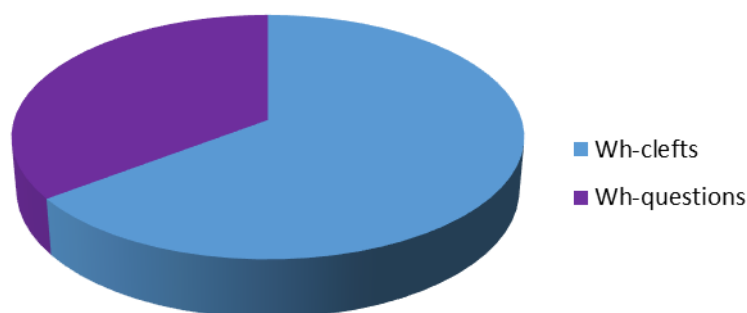
Figure (4): Lexical Presupposition Triggers in Hilly's Utterances

Structural Presupposition Triggers (SPT) in Hilly's Utterances

The structural presupposition triggers that are used in Hilly's utterances are (3) with percentage of occurrences (7.89%). The forms of SPT presupposition triggers that are employed by Hilly are **Wh-cleft** (2) (66.66%), **wh-questions** (1) (33.33%). Regularly, SPT are used to presuppose that a certain part of a sentence structure is assumed to be true.

Table (7): Structural Presupposition Triggers in Hilly's Utterances

No.	Structural presupposition triggers	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Wh-clefts	2	66.66%
2.	Wh-questions	1	33.33%
	Total	3	100%



Non-Factive Presupposition Triggers in Hilly's Utterances

The Non-Factive presupposition triggers found in Hilly's utterances are (3) with percentage of occurrences (7.89%). As the name implies, Non-Factive presupposition denotes Non-Factive information.

Factive Presupposition Triggers in Hilly's Utterances

According to the analysis of presupposition triggers in Hilly's utterances, the factive presuppositions

triggers have been used only one time with a percentage of occurrences (2.63%) which make them the least frequently used types. Conventionally, this type of presupposition is used to denote facts, and it triggers by the existence of factive verbs. That is to say, what come after those verbs is assumed to be fact. Surely, Miss Hilly employs this type to fulfill her goals of disparaging the colored help.

Table (8): Frequency and Percentage of Occurrences of Presupposition Triggers in Hilly's Utterances

No.	Type of Presupposition Triggers	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Existential presupposition	28	65.17%
2.	Lexical presupposition	3	13.83%
3.	Structural presupposition	3	9.82%
4.	Non-Factive presupposition	3	4.46%
5.	Factive presupposition	1	3.12%
Total		38	100%

Findings and Discussions

After analyzing the utterances of the two characters it has been found that Minny, who is portrayed as a wisecracking black maid, has employed the existential presupposition triggers in her utterances (42) times with percentage (66.66%). The way Minny employs this type of trigger also reflects her commitment to the existence of white people superiority over black people. However, the case is different for Hilly Holbrook, as she employs this type of triggers for totally different goals. The existential presupposition triggers have appeared in her utterances (28) with percentage of occurrences (73.68%). For instance, as we have seen in the analysis of her utterances, she excessively uses names of people and institutions that work for

governmental organizations. That is to say, Miss Hilly committed herself to the existence of the mentioned entities. As a result, the listeners will consider Miss Hilly's connections with these people and institutions as something taken for granted and that she is indeed a powerful person with high authorities.

Moreover, the analysis reveals that the second most highly used type of presupposition triggers by the two characters is the lexical triggers. On the individual level, Minny is the one with the highest number of utterances with LPT (10) (15.87%) and Hilly with the least frequent occurring LPT as they occurred only (3) times. Lexical presupposition triggers can take distinct forms such as change of state verb (CSV), iteratives, implicative verbs etc. Noticeably, the most

frequently used form in the two characters' utterances is the change of state verbs as it occurs in Minny's utterances (9) with percentage of occurrences (90%), the frequent use of CSV is an indication that there is a change in the situations as mentioned by the speaker. As for Miss Hilly Holbrook; the total number of LPT in her utterances is (3) (7.89%). As mentioned earlier, there are different forms of lexical triggers and in Hilly's utterances, we can find three forms of these triggers namely CSV, iteratives, implicative verbs. Other types of presupposition triggers also appeared in the utterances of the two characters such as structural presupposition triggers which occurred in Minny utterances (4) times with percentage (6.34%) taking distinct forms such as Wh-clefts (3) (75%), non-restrictive clauses (1) (25%). On the other hand, in Hilly's utterances this type occurred (3) times, taking the form of Wh-cleft (2) and wh-question (1).

As for Minny, it is clearly evident that she employs SPT to reflect on the unfortunate events she encountered due to Miss Hilly's mischievous allegations. To illustrate, as mentioned earlier, in one of her utterances she states, " I'm real sorry about what Isaid."", where she uses the wh-cleft construction to presuppose the truth of the information that comes after this construction. Therefore, the utterance

would be interpreted by the listener as something already known to be the case and the presupposed information would be "Minny did say something to Miss Hilly". That is to say, Minny successfully employed SPT to convey the misfortune events that she went through. Miss Hilly, on the other hand, again employed this type for merely showing off and attracting the attention of the other party in a way that she can make them believe in her popularity and authorities. Finally, the least frequent occurring types of presupposition triggers are the factive presuppositions triggers and the Non-Factive presupposition triggers. Minny has employed the factive presupposition triggers in her utterances four time with percentage of occurrences (6.34%). Conventionally, this type of presupposition is used to denote facts, and it triggers by the existence of factive verbs. In these times, Minny attempted to mention some facts that could support her argument against Miss Hilly. Miss Hilly, on the other hand, used this type only one time with percentage (2.63%) which is considered to be the least occurring type in her utterances. The last used type of presupposition triggers is the Non-Factive triggers where it occurred (3) times in both Minny's and Hilly's utterances. As the name suggests, the NFPT is primarily used to denotenon factive information.

CONCLUSION

After analyzing presuppositions from both Minny's and Hilly's utterances, the results reveal that the frequently used type of presupposition triggers is the existential presupposition triggers by both of the characters. The two characters employed this type in different contexts and for various purposes. For Minny, she mostly employed this type to commit herself to the existence of the mentioned entities that can help her convince Miss Celia that Miss Hilly is indeed a vicious person. As for Hilly, who is introduced in the novel as a white arrogant woman, she successfully used this type to show the white community superiority over the black community. Even in the white community itself, she misses no chance to show how her high social status as well as continually bragging about her connection with people from government so that no can show an objection to her projects and plans concerning separating the white and black communities. Therefore, she uses

this type of triggers in a way that can serve her interests. To put differently; we can say that each one of the characters has employed the EPT to create a different presupposition and to achieve different goals. The findings also show that the second most employed type of presupposition triggers by both of the characters is the lexical triggers with (). Finally, the researcher has found that the least occurring type of presupposition triggers in Minny's utterances is the Non-Factive presupposition triggers, which can be attributed to her attempts to reveal the truth without mentioning any misleading information. On the other hand, the least frequently used type of presupposition triggers by Hilly is the factive presuppositions triggers which occurs only one time. In a word, we can say that the two characters employ various types of presupposition triggers. These types have been used to serve different communicative goals and to pass different information produce more convincing and comprehensible speech.

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