

**PRAGMATIC PRESUPPOSITION OF ANAS
URBANINGRUM'S
PRESS CONFERENCE ON 23 FEBRUARY 2013**

Submitted by:

Elina Rizky Maulida

13020110130064

Email: elinarizky2@gmail.com

1. INTRODUCTION

When people convey messages or speak to other people, there is always background knowledge shared by the speaker (addresser) and the target (addressee). The concept dealing with that issue is presupposition. The writer thinks Anas Urbaningrum's press conference is an exact object to observe in relation to pragmatic presupposition. As the president of Democratic Party, Anas Urbaningrum resigned on 23 February 2013. He delivered his speech in his press conference after being suspected of receiving gratification in Hambalang project by “KPK” (Anti-Corruption Commission).

Press conference is an exact way to remind people mind of an issue in a short time since people can judge directly by watching and analyzing the speaker's utterances. Mutual information is needed in a communicative interaction. As a result, societies (the addressees) are expected to have presupposition concept in identifying utterances produced by Anas (the addresser).so that they can understand completely what the unsaid messages are really meant by the speaker.

The aims of this study are:

- 1.1 Analyzing the presupposition triggers in Anas Urbaningrum's speech.
- 1.2 Listing the presupposition of the utterances produced by Anas.
- 1.3 Translating the presupposition into English since Anas speaks Indonesian.
- 1.4 Explaining the types of the triggers resulting in presupposition.

2. PRESUPPOSITION TRIGGERS AND TYPES OF PRESUPPOSITION

Levinson (1983: 183-197) argued that a presupposition is a background belief relating to an utterance that must be mutually known or assumed by the addresser and addressees for the utterance to be considered in context. It will remain a necessary assumption the utterance is placed in form of assertion, denial, or question. It can generally be associated with a specific lexical items or grammatical features (presupposition trigger).

According to Karttunen in Levinson (1983: 181-184), there are 31 kinds of presupposition triggers, those are: definite description (*see*), factive verbs (*regret*,

know, realize, odd), implicative verbs (*manage, forget*), verbs of judging (*stop, begin, continue, start, finish, carry on, cease, take, leave, enter, come, go, arrive, etc*), iterative (*again, anymore, return, another time, etc*), change of state verbs (*accuse, criticize*), temporal clause (*before, while, since, after, during, whenever, as*), comparison and contrast (*too, back, in return*), cleft sentences, implicit clefts with stressed constituent, non-restrictive relative clause, counterfactual conditionals (*if*), questions.

3. PRESUPPOSITION IN ANAS' SPEECH

The writer analyzes Anas' utterances based on the triggers. After that, the writer explains the presupposition by translating into English since Anas speaks Indonesian.

3.1 “*Terima kasih dan selamat datang khususnya kepada rekan-rekan wartawan. Hari ini saya akan menyampaikan sikap, pikiran dan pandangan terkait status sebagai tersangka. Seperti diketahui bersama tanggal 22 Februari 2013 KPK sudah mengumumkan bahwa saya dinyatakan berstatus tersangka. Atas pengumuman KPK itu, saya menyatakan akan mengikuti proses hukum sesuai dengan ketentuan dan prosedur yang berlaku. Karena saya masih percaya bahwa lewat proses hukum yang adil dan obyektif dan transparan, kebenaran dan keadilan bisa saya dapatkan.”*

The presupposition found in the utterances above is:

- There are some journalists attending Anas' press conference.

- There are people, who are not journalists, attending the press conference.
- Anas had attitudes, thoughts and views related to the status of a suspect.
- KPK (Anti-Corruption Commission) thinks Anas is a suspect.
- There is a law-process for Anas.
- The law-process has an applicable rules and procedures.
- Anas had been believing that truth and justice can be reached through a fair, objective, and transparent law-process.
- There is something that makes it not fair, not objective, and not transparent.
- Anas had not got truth and justice.

In the first utterance, Anas said “*khususnya*” which means **especially**. It indicates “definite description” since there are some journalists and also there are other people who are not journalists. In the second utterance, the writer thinks “*menyampaikan*” (**convey**) is the trigger of “implicative verbs” as it represents that Anas had something which can be conveyed or not conveyed. Meanwhile, the word “*mengumumkan*” (**announce**) is included in “verbs of judging” because it shows that KPK thinks Anas is a suspect. In the fourth utterance, the word “*menyatakan*” (**declare**) belongs to “implicative verbs” symbolizing that Anas had something which can be

declared. Then, the word “*masih*” (**still**) in the last utterance represents “temporal clauses”.

3.2 “*Saya meyakini bahwa kebenaran dan keadilan pangkatnya lebih tinggi dari fitnah dan rekayasa. Kebenaran dan keadilan akan muncul mengalahkan fitnah dan rekayasa, sekuat apapun dibangun, sehebat apapun itu dibangun, serapi apapun itu dijalankan. Itu keyakinan saya.*”

The presupposition implied in the utterances above is:

- Slander and premeditation has rank.
- There had not been truth and justice.
- Something defeats and another thing is defeated.
- Slander and premeditation have been performed and done by someone.
- Anas believed in something.

As can be seen in the utterances above, the word “*lebih tinggi*” (**higher**) is counted to “comparisons and contrasts” meaning that one thing is lower and another thing is higher. Meanwhile, the word “*muncul*” (**come**) is considered as “change of state verbs”. It represents a process which happens due to a change.

3.3 “*Sejak awal saya meyakini bahwa saya tidak akan punya status hukum di KPK. Mengapa? Karena saya yakin KPK bekerja independen, mandiri, dan profesional. Karena saya yakin KPK tidak bisa ditekan oleh opini dan hal-*

hal di luar opini, termasuk tekanan dari kekuatan-kekuatan sebesar apapun itu. Saya mulai berpikir saya akan punya status hukum di KPK ketika ada semacam desakan agar KPK segera memperjelas status hukum saya.”

The presupposition implied in the utterances above is:

- Anas hadn't been having a law-status in KPK.
- KPK (Anti-Corruption Commission) can give someone a law-status.
- Anas thinks KPK must work independently, autonomously, and professionally.
- Someone gave opinion to suppress KPK.
- There is pressure from someone who has power.
- Anas hadn't been having a law-status in KPK.
- Anas thinks that KPK was forced to make the law-status for him is clear.
- There is someone who insisted that KPK made the law-status for Anas.

As shown in the first utterance, the word “*sejak awal*” (**from the beginning**) refers to “temporal clause”. Then, the writer thinks that the word “*yakin*” (**sure**), in the third utterance, belongs to “verbs of judging”. It implies that Anas thinks KPK must work independently, autonomously, and professionally. The word “*yakin*” (**sure**) in the next utterance is also counted to “verbs of judging”. Meanwhile, the word “*mulai*” (**begin**), as shown in the

last utterance, symbolizes “change of state verbs”. Then, the word “*ketika*” (**when**) is included in “temporal clause” which implies what was happening that moment is someone gave insistence.

- 3.4 *“Saya ingin menyampaikan terima kasih yang tulus pada kader-kader Partai Demokrat, yang telah memberikan kepercayaan dan mandat politik kepada saya untuk memimpin Partai Demokrat sebagai Ketua Umum periode 2010-2015. Saya mohon maaf kalau saya berhenti di awal 2013. Saya tidak merencanakan untuk berhenti di tahun 2013. Sejauh perjalanan yang saya tempuh, saya jalankan, saya tunaikan, sebagai ketua umum, sepenuhnya saya bersungguh-sungguh menjalankan mandat dan amanat politik partai itu.”*

The presupposition implied in the utterances above is:

- Democratic Party’s cadres had given Anas trust and political mandate to lead Democratic Party as the General Leader in the period of 2010-2015.
- Anas stopped being the General Leader of Democratic Party.
- Anas had led Democratic Party before 2013.
- There is a journey that Anas, as the general leader, had taken, passed, and executed.
- There are trust and political mandate for Anas.

In the first utterance, it is considered as “non-restrictive relative clauses” since it provides additional parenthetical information that is “who had given me trust and political mandate” said by Anas. In the second utterance, the writer finds “*mohon maaf*” (**sorry**) which belongs to “factive verbs” because it is followed by a reality that Anas stopped being a General Leader of Democratic Party. Meanwhile, the word “*berhenti*” (**stop**) is included in “change of state verbs” as it represents a moving process that Anas was no longer a general leader. In the next utterance, the word “*sejauh*” (**as far as**) belongs to “temporal clauses” since the utterance implies that Anas had been going through something in a certain period. Then, the last utterance presents an adverb “*bersungguh-sungguh*” (**seriously**). That utterance is considered as “definite description” since it implies that there is something gone through, passed, executed though either it can be serious or not.

- 3.5 “*Saya akan tetap berkomunikasi sebagai sahabat dengan kader-kader Partai Demokrat di seluruh Indonesia. Tidak dalam posisi sebagai Ketua Umum, tetapi sebagai teman dan sahabat. Saya juga berharap siapapun yang nanti menjadi Ketua Umum Partai Demokrat bisa menunaikan tugas, bahkan jauh lebih baik dari apa yang sudah saya tunaikan bersama teman-teman pengurus. Saya yakin pasti akan datang ketua umum yang lebih baik.*”

The presupposition implied in the utterances above is:

- Anas had been communicating as friends with Democratic Party's Cadres throughout Indonesia.
- There is a position as general leader.
- There is a position as companions and friends.
- Anas had been hoping for something before.
- There will be a General Leader of Democratic Party.
- There is a duty for the general leader.
- Anas had executed the duty with the committee.
- There hadn't been a general leader replacing Anas.

In the first utterance above, the word “*tetap*” (**remain**) indicates “change of state verbs” since it implies that a transferring process happens. Meanwhile, in the next utterance, it is considered as “comparisons and contrasts” since the utterance “not in a position as General Leader, but as friends and companions” implies that there is a something compared between the position as a general leader and as a friend. In the next utterance, the writer also finds “comparisons and contrasts” triggered by the word “*lebih baik*” (**better**). The utterance compares how Anas executed his duty with his companions and how the the next leader will execute the duty as a general leader. Then, the word “*datang*”(**come**) in the next utterance belongs to “change of state verbs” since it symbolizes a moving process that a general leader will exist replacing Anas.

3.6 “Saya akan melepas jaket biru kebesaran, dan saya akan menjadi manusia yang bebas dan merdeka. Bukan berarti selama ini tidak bebas dan merdeka. Tapi tentu ini ada maknanya secara etik dan organisatoris. Selamat berjuang kader-kader Demokrat di seluruh Indonesia, berjuang sesuai pilihan yang merdeka.”

The presupposition implied in the utterances above is:

- Anas had been wearing the famous blue-jacket.
- Removing the famous blue-jacket has meaning.
- Democratic Cadres fight for something.
- There is a choice to be independent.
- Democratic Cadres fight for something not based on independent choice.

In the first utterance, the word “*melepas*” (remove) referring to his blue-jacket, in this case is his position, indicates “change of state verbs” since it implies a moving process. In that utterance, Anas said “I will become a free and independent human being” which properly presupposes “Anas hadn’t been a free and independent human being”. However, as we can see from the next utterance, Anas said “it doesn’t mean I have not been free and independent up till now”. Due to that utterance, the proper presupposition is cancelled. This is called “defeasibility” proposed by Levinson (1983: 186). Then, since an utterance depends on someone’s definition of presupposition, the last utterance “fight based on independent choice” indicates

“implicative verbs”. It implies that “Democratic Cadres fight for something not based on independent choice”.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Shared knowledge has significant role in understanding Anas’ speech since there are some implicative verbs that is intentionally made implicit indeed. Anas seems to impress that there is someone who wants him to be a suspect.
- 4.2 Presupposition is needed for language users as it is impossible to conduct an effective interaction without mutual knowledge. Due to presupposition concept, the messages conveyed by Anas can be received perfectly by the targets.
- 4.3 Shared knowledge may not be stated explicitly on purpose since the addresser assumes that the information of the utterances has been noticed by the addressees.
- 4.4 Presupposition is crucial since it depends on someone’s background assumptions and depends on the definition of presupposition used.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Arikunto, Suharsimi. 2002. *Prosedur Penelitian Suatu Pendekatan Praktek*. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta.

Investopedia US. 2013. A Division of ValueClick, Inc. 30 April 2013. <http://www.investopedia.com/terms/p/press-conference.asp>

- Iryani, Endang. 1 Juny 2011. Contoh Proposal Skripsi Sastra Inggris. 30 April 2013.
<<http://endangmaster.blogspot.com/2011/06/contoh-proposal-skripsi-sastra-inggris.html>>
- Jordan, R. 1997. *Academic Writing Course*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Levinson, Stephen C. 1983. *Pragmatics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Lyons, John. 1997. *Semantics*. Volume 1. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Palmer, F. R. 1981. *Semantics*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Sumayyah. 2009. Pra-anggapan Pragmatic Dalam Judul Berita Surat Kabar *The Jakarta Post*. Semarang: Undip.
- Trimmer, Joseph F. 2004. *A Guide to MLA Documentation*. Sixth Ed. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.
- Weissberg, Robert, and Buker, Suzanne. 1990. *Writing Up Research*. Prentice-Hall, Inc.
- Yule, George. 1996. *Pragmatics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.