



Existential Presupposition Found in The Great Indian Teen Fiction Collective

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this study were to find out the existential presupposition found in the book entitled *The Great Indian Teen Fiction Collective*. This study used George Yule's theory of presupposition in which there are six types of presupposition. The research method used qualitative research method. Data were obtained from the book entitled *The Great Indian Teen Fiction Collective* which is the source of data in this study. A total of 30 existential presuppositions were found, in each of the first to fifth titles. 1% in *The Hero of Mayapur*, 5% in

Finally Free, 6% in *Strangers We Meet, Friends We Depart*, 10% in *Big Brown Desk*, and 7% in *Zem*.

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INTRODUCTION

Before knowing the definition of existential presupposition, language is a crucial communication tool in various contexts, including politics, family, religion, ethnicity, and education. Given its ability to transmit messages from one person to another, language plays an essential role in social interactions (Zuindra, 2019). A presupposition is one of the pragmatics. For pragmatics, the concept of context poses a particularly challenging problem. This paradox can be summarized as follows: while everyone can recognize context (or at least one part of it), no pragmatist has been able to provide a convincing explanation of the concept, much less a theory of context (Finkbeiner et al., 2012).

Similar to assertions, presuppositions are informational units that must be included in the discourse context. However, there are other ways to incorporate an information

unit into the discourse environment that are related to the rhetorical function or functions of that information unit (Bäuerle et al., 2010). An examination of discourse and context are inextricably linked; discourse is embedded in context, which is imported into discourse through both traditional and particularized context-dependent methods (Schneider & Barron, 2014).

Contextual information from a sentence or utterance is important when studying meaning. When interpreting the presupposition included in the statement, the context of the situation in which a speech is made is considered. To understand the speaker's intended meaning, the listener must take the context into account. A crucial component of comprehending the meaning of the utterance is context (Kristy et al., 2020).

The idea behind a demonstrative phrase's existential presupposition is that, for example, when a speaker states, "That man is sitting", he assumes that the object of his indication is a man, i.e., that the statement "That man is a man" is true. However, the speaker's supposed reference has been undermined if he points to a manikin that he mistook for a real man. In this case, the speaker's claim and the statement "That man is a man" are untrue (Cocchiarella, 2007).

In this article, the writer chose the book entitled *The Great Indian Teen Fiction Collective* to discuss how existential presupposition are depicted. The reason why the writer chose this idea is because there are many examples of existential presupposition in the book, which is on *The Great Indian Teen Fiction Collective*. With this, the writer will identify which is an existential presupposition. Apart from that, the writer also adds additional theories in existential presupposition which are connected in pragmatics.

METHOD

This research used the qualitative method. Qualitative research aims to understand a research question as a humanistic or idealistic approach. The qualitative method produces non-numerical data and is used to understand people's beliefs, experiences, attitudes, behavior, and interactions; however, the quantitative approach is more reliable because it is based on numerical data and methods that can be made objectively and propagated by other researchers (Pathak et al., 2013).

The writer analyzed and looked at one of the types of presupposition, namely existential presupposition, in the book *The Great Indian Teen Fiction Collective* by several

known authors from India. The writer also explained why the text is an existential presupposition. The writers took from certain titles, from the first to the fifth title, which are *The Hero of Mayapur*, *Finally Free*, *Strangers We Meet Friends We Depart*, *Big Brown Desk*, and *Zem*. The writers also took data from digital books.

RESULTS

Existential presupposition is an assumption about the existence of something that can be derived from events, fictional stories, or online media. According to Yule's theory, existential presupposition is usually marked by define description and possessive construction (Yule, 2022).

Define description to mention a feature of the object that is not necessary but consistently present in every instance that is known to exist and absent in every other instance (Harris & Hutton, 2007). Possessive construction, the terms "possession" and "possessive" refer to a purely grammatical construction that typically indicates a close association between two entities, the Possessor (Po) and the Possessee (Pe), which is characterized by an entity "having," "owning," or "controlling" another entity. This close association encompasses a variety of semantic relations with distinct characteristics, of which possession or ownership in the strict sense is only one (Schokkin, 2020). Define description consists of "a, an, the," while possessive construction consists of "his, her, my, our, their, etc."

The first title in *The Great Indian Teen Fiction Collective*, *The Hero of Mayapur*, contains an existential presupposition. The author is Rajeshwari Mandal.

Data 1:

In the title *The Hero of Mayapur*, on page 2, to be precise on line 20, there is a word or what could be called a phrase.

...the CITY HOSPITAL'S ICU...
(Rajeshwari, 2022, p. 2)

In the story, a main character named Ram is injured after he saves 700 people in a fire and ends up in a hospital. This is an existential presupposition, which can be marked

by the define description, namely "the". In this phrase, it can be assumed that there is an ICU room in the hospital in the city where Ram was at that time.

Data 2:

Furthermore, in the second title, namely Finally Free, there are several existential presuppositions. The author of this story is Amrita Pradeep Aniyath. On page 4, precisely in the first line, there is a sentence.

Noor was sitting in class with Fathima, her best friend of 7 years.
(Amrita, 2022, p. 4)

In the sentence above, precisely what is underlined includes an existential presupposition that can be marked by the possessive construction, namely "her". Possessive construction adds to the inherent or contextually available meaning relationship between the two nouns by indicating that the possessor is present to assist the hearer in identifying the possessee (Eckhoff, 2011). In this phrase, it can be assumed that Noor has a best friend named Fathima, in the next explanation it is known that they have been friends for 7 years, and also in the story they are sitting in class.

Data 3:

Still in the second title, namely Finally Free, there is an existential presupposition on page 6, in the first line, precisely at the change of time setting where it is written "The Next Day."

On the way home from her violin lessons, Fathima was taken...
(Amrita, 2022, p. 6)

In the story, the character named Fathima has violin lessons. It is also said that she is on her way home after taking her lessons. Fathima is the friend of the main character, Noor. Enter the explanation section, so the underlined part is an existential presupposition. The same as in data 2, this is marked by the possessive construction, namely "her". In this phrase, it is assumed that violin lessons exist in the story, and Fathima is one of the students there.

Data 4:

Still in the second title, namely Finally Free, there is an existential presupposition on page 6, in the eighth line, precisely at the change of time setting where it is written "The Next Day."

Noor and her and Fathima's parents tried and tried...

(Amrita, 2022, p. 6)

In the story, Fathima's parents try to contact the police regarding Fathima's arrest, where Fathima violates the rules that apply in the story. So it can be concluded that what is underlined is the existential presupposition that can be marked by the possessive form. So that can be assumed that there are parents in the story and they have a child named Fathima.

Data 5:

Still in the second title, namely Finally Free, there is an existential presupposition on page 7, in the eighth line, precisely at the change of time setting where it is written "A Week Later."

They burned their hijabs to the ground.

(Amrita, 2022, p. 7)

In the story, the word "they" refers to the thousand women gathered who are involved in the problem in the story. In the sentence above, what is underlined is an existential presupposition that can be marked by the possessive construction, namely "their". It can be assumed that there is a hijab and a thousand women have it. Then in the story, they are said to have burned their hijabs to the ground.

Data 6:

Still in the second title, namely Finally Free, there is an existential presupposition on page 8, in the eighth line, precisely at the change of time setting where it is written "A Week Later."

Fathima and Noor's families and her classmates had all gathered...

(Amrita, 2022, p. 8)

In the story, Fathima and Noor's entire family as well as their classmates gather to show solidarity with all women. In the sentence fragment above there are two phrases that are underlined and they are existential presuppositions. In the first phrase that can be marked by the possessive form, it can be assumed that Noor has a large family and they gather to fight for a sense of solidarity with all women. Then in the second phrase that can be marked by the possessive construction, namely "her". it can be assumed that Noor has classmates from her violin lessons who also gather in the same situation as Noor's entire family.

Data 7:

Furthermore, in the third title, namely *Strangers We Meet, Friends We Depart*, there are several existential presuppositions in this story. The author of this story is Oindrila Chakraborty. On page 9, in the tenth line, there is a sentence.

The other girl has short red hair, brown eyes, and rosy lips as well.

(Oindrila, 2022, p. 9)

In the sentence above, precisely what is underlined includes an existential presupposition that can be marked by define description, namely "the". In this phrase, it can be assumed that there is a girl whose appearance is described in that sentence. In the story, the girl comes under the shade of a mango tree and then she realizes there is another girl. It was revealed that the girl described, introduced her name, namely Daffodil.

Data 8:

Still in the third title, namely *Strangers We Meet, Friends We Depart*, there is an existential presupposition on page 10, in the fifth line, precisely at the change of time setting where it is written "Ten Years Later."

It said, you girls would meet the great king of the magical forest
found near your town.

(Oindirila, 2022, p. 10)

In the sentence above, precisely what is underlined includes an existential presupposition that can be marked by define description, namely "the". In this phrase, it

can be assumed that there was a king who lived in a forest, but the forest was not an ordinary forest, but a forest that had magic in it.

Data 9:

Still in the third title, namely *Strangers We Meet, Friends We Depart*, there is an existential presupposition on page 11, in paragraph 2, in the third line, precisely at the additional title where it is written "King Griffin and the Magical Forest."

The next day, they both arrived at the gate of the Magical Forest, and there a flying elephant took Dafodil and Sky to their specific location from where they were supposed to begin their sojourn.

(Oindrila, 2022, p. 11)

In the sentence above, precisely what is underlined includes an existential presupposition that can be marked by a define description, namely "a". In this phrase, it can be assumed that there is an elephant which is one of the creatures in the magical forest, that's why the elephant can fly because things in the magical forest are things that don't exist in the real world.

Data 10:

Still in the third title, namely *Strangers We Meet, Friends We Depart*, there is an existential presupposition on page 11, in paragraph 1, in the fourth line, precisely at the change of time setting where it is written "One Year Later."

Sky had to go up the Rocky Mountains and fetch that magical watering can designed for the bees.

(Oindrila, 2022, p. 11)

In the story, it is said that Sky was told by Queen Bee to go to a mountain to get something. In the sentence above, especially what is underlined is an existential presupposition, which can be marked by the define description, namely "the". In this phrase, it can be assumed that in the story there is a mountain called the Rocky Mountain or it can be assumed that the mountain has a lot of rocks so the mountain is called the Rocky Mountain. In the real world, the Rocky Mountains are in North America, but it is not known whether the mountains are based on those in the real world.

Data 11:

Still in the third title, namely *Strangers We Meet, Friends We Depart*, there is an existential presupposition on page 11, in paragraph 2, in the fifth line, precisely at the change of time setting where it is written "One Year Later."

She went back to the big open space which was now a beautiful garden.

(Oindrila, 2022, p. 11)

In the sentence above, precisely what is underlined includes an existential presupposition that can be marked by define description "a". In this phrase, it can be assumed that there is a garden in the story, and the garden is described as a beautiful garden and used to be a spacious area.

Data 12:

Still in the third title, namely *Strangers We Meet, Friends We Depart*, there is an existential presupposition on page 12, in paragraph 3, in the fifth line, precisely at the change of time setting where it is written "One Year Later."

They had dresses, weaved from silk, given by the magical silk-bug...

(Oindrila, 2022, p. 12)

In the story, it is said that "they" refers to Daffodil and Sky who are the main characters in this story. They were awarded to be queens of the magical forest and given unusual dress but very special. In the sentence above, especially what is underlined is an existential presupposition, which can be marked by the define description, namely "the". In this phrase, it can be assumed that there is a special dress worn by the queen who is part of the magical forest there. The dress is made from magic silk that only exists in the magic forest.

Data 13:

Furthermore, in the fourth title, namely *Big Brown Desk*, there are several existential presuppositions in this story. The author of this story is Taisha. On page 13, in paragraph 1, in the first line, there is a sentence.

The backbone of my life is the big brown desk in my room.

(Taisha, 2022, p. 13)

In the sentence above, precisely what is underlined includes an existential presupposition that can be marked by define description, namely "the". In this phrase, it can be assumed that there is a large, brown table which is the essence of the title of the story. Then it is also stated that the owner of the table is the main character in the story.

Data 14:

Still in the fourth title, namely Big Brown Desk, there is an existential presupposition on page 13, in paragraph 1, in the sixth line.

...a faux cactus plant for the past week...

(Taisha, 2022, p. 13)

In the story, it is said that there was a bottle containing water lying next to the plant for several weeks. In the sentence above, especially what is underlined is an existential presupposition, which can be marked by the define description, namely "a". In this phrase, it can be assumed that there is a fake plant in the form of a cactus around the setting of the story.

Data 15:

Still in the fourth title, namely Big Brown Desk, there is an existential presupposition on page 13, in paragraph 1, in the seventh line.

...a mountain of art sheets and physics formulas...

(Taisha, 2022, p. 13)

In the story, a continuation of data 16, it was previously said that there were fake plants in the story which also displayed lots of papers and formulas. In the sentence above, especially what is underlined is an existential presupposition, which can be marked by the define description, namely "a". In this phrase, it can be assumed that there is a mountain of papers containing art and physics formulas.

Data 16:

Still in the fourth title, namely Big Brown Desk, there is an existential presupposition on page 13, in paragraph 1, in the twelfth line.

...the Great Battle of Chemistry exams...

(Taisha, 2022, p. 13)

In the story, it is said that the desk at the heart of the story, namely Big Brown Desk, is a witness to the main character's struggle in facing his chemistry exam at that time. As it says in the story "being the bloody training grounds". In the sentence above, especially what is underlined is an existential presupposition, which can be marked by the definite description, namely "the". In this phrase, it can be assumed that there is a big exam studying chemistry in the story.

Data 17:

Still in the fourth title, namely Big Brown Desk, there is an existential presupposition on page 13, in paragraph 2, in the second line.

...in my sparkling blue Princess Elsa dress with a frown on my face...

(Taisha, 2022, p. 4)

In the story, it is said that when the main character was 6 years old, she walked around the room wearing a dress with a frown on her face. In the sentence above, precisely what is underlined, includes an existential presupposition that can be marked by the possessive construction, namely "my". In this phrase, it can be assumed that there is a shiny blue dress known as Elsa's dress, Elsa is a famous character from Disney, which the main character owned when she was 6 years old in the story.

Data 18:

Still in the fourth title, namely Big Brown Desk, there is an existential presupposition on page 13, in paragraph 2, in the fourth line, there is a sentence.

My protests on having a frozen-snow-wonderland-themed room had been in vain.

(Taisha, 2022, p. 13)

In the sentence above, precisely what is underlined includes an existential presupposition that can be marked by define description, namely “the”. In this phrase, it can be assumed that there is a room owned by the main character whose theme is like a magical land in winter.

Data 19:

Still in the fourth title, namely Big Brown Desk, there is an existential presupposition on page 13, in paragraph 2, in the eighth line.

...I collected my unicorn sketch pens...
(Taisha, 2022, p. 13)

Data 20:

Still in the fourth title, namely Big Brown Desk, there is an existential presupposition on page 13, in paragraph 2, in the ninth line.

...stuffed them into my furry pencil case...
(Taisha, 2022, p. 13)

In the story, a continuation of data 21, it is told that the pen with the unicorn sketch was placed in a pencil case. In the sentence above, precisely what is underlined, includes an existential presupposition that can be marked by the possessive construction, namely “my”. In this phrase, it can be assumed that there is a pencil box that the main character also owns, where the pencil box has something unique, namely a furry design.

Data 21:

Still in the fourth title, namely Big Brown Desk, there is an existential presupposition on page 14, in paragraph 3, in the first line.

My new desk was made of wood-solid, resilient, dependable-a
perfect role model for me to grow into.
(Taisha, 2022, p. 14)

In the sentence above, precisely what is underlined, includes an existential presupposition that can be marked by the possessive construction, namely “my”. In this

phrase, it can be assumed that there is a desk owned by the main character which is the main character's new desk and the sentence above explains the description of the desk.

Data 22:

Still in the fourth title, namely Big Brown Desk, there is an existential presupposition on page 14, in paragraph 5, in the second line.

I scrawl notes in my DIY organizer...

(Amrita, 2022, p. 14)

In the story, it is told that the main character has a valuable experience with a study table which is a witness to her struggle. In the sentence above, precisely what is underlined, includes an existential presupposition that can be marked by the possessive construction, namely “my”. In this phrase, it can be assumed that there is an agenda that the main character has, where the agenda is made by the main character herself to note important things.

Data 23:

Furthermore, in the fifth title, namely Zem, there are several existential presuppositions in this story. The author of this story is Kavin. On page 22, in the seventh line.

There is Viraj, the Businessman.

(Kavin, 2022, p. 22)

In the sentence above, precisely what is underlined, includes an existential presupposition that can be marked by the definite description, namely “the”. In this phrase, it can be assumed that there is a businessman in the story named Viraj.

Data 24:

Still in the fifth title, namely Zem, there is an existential presupposition on page 22, in the first line.

Kavin, the Influencer.

(Kavin, 2022, p. 22)

In the sentence above, precisely what is underlined, includes an existential presupposition that can be marked by the definite description, namely “the”. In this phrase, it can be assumed that there is an influencer in the story named Kavin, also the fun fact, the name of the author of this story is Kavin.

Data 25:

Still in the fifth title, namely Zem, there is an existential presupposition on page 22, in the first line.

Siya, the Journalist.
(Kavin, 2022, p. 22)

In the sentence above, precisely what is underlined, includes an existential presupposition that can be marked by the definite description, namely “the”. In this phrase, it can be assumed that there is a journalist in the story named Siya.

Data 26:

Still in the fifth title, namely Zem, there is an existential presupposition on page 22, in the first line, there is a sentence.

Anaisha, the Mistress.
(Kavin, 2022, p. 22)

In the sentence above, precisely what is underlined, includes an existential presupposition that can be marked by the definite description, namely “the”. In this phrase, it can be assumed that there is a mistress in the story named Anaisha.

Data 27:

Still in the fifth title, namely Zem, there is an existential presupposition on page 22, in the second line, there is a sentence.

Ayon, the Politician.
(Kavin, 2022, p. 22)

In the sentence above, precisely what is underlined, includes an existential presupposition that can be marked by the definite description, namely “the”. In this phrase, it can be assumed that there is a politician in the story named Ayon.

Data 28:

Still in the fifth title, namely Zem, there is an existential presupposition on page 22, in the first line, there is a sentence.

Anya, the Actor.
(Kavin, 2022, p. 22)

In the sentence above, precisely what is underlined, includes an existential presupposition that can be marked by the definite description, namely “the”. In this phrase, it can be assumed that there is an actor in the story named Anya.

Data 29:

Still in the fifth title, namely Zem, there is an existential presupposition on page 22, in the first line, there is a sentence.

Chaitanya, the Developer.
(Kavin, 2022, p. 22)

In the sentence above, precisely what is underlined, includes an existential presupposition that can be marked by the definite description, namely “the”. In this phrase, it can be assumed that there is a developer in the story named Chaitanya. This is a summary table or results of research to make it easier for readers to find how much the writer found.

Table 1. Summary of Research's Result

Title of the Story	Total of Existential Presupposition
The Hero of Mayapur	1
Finally Free	5
Strangers We Meet, Friends We Depart	6
Big Brown Desk	10
Zem	7
Total	29

CONCLUSION

Existential presuppositions are often found in the form of phrases, such as nicknames or the existence of something. Existential presupposition is very much needed to know the message the author wants, whereas the public understands many phrases or sentences. As in data 10, it is explained that there is a phrase "a flying elephant" which does not exist in the real world but rather a fictional setting. In this case, existential presupposition is needed for this explanation. Existential presupposition was found in 30 units.

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