

الافتراض المسبق في الخطاب السياسي خلال كوفيد-19

الاستاذ المساعد حيدر حسين كاطع

قسم اللغة الانكليزية, كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية, جامعة ذي قار

Dr.Haider.Hussein.vKatea@utq.edu.iq

نور عبد النبي حسن

قسم اللغة الانكليزية, كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية, جامعة ذي قار

edhphenpm12@utq.edu.iq

المخلص

الدراسة "الافتراض المسبق في الخطاب السياسي خلال كوفيد-19"، تتناول فحص الافتراض المسبق وعواقبه في الخطابات السياسية لأربعة شخصيات بارزة في الولايات المتحدة خلال جائحة كوفيد-19: الحاكم غافين نيوسوم، الحاكم أندرو كومو، وزير الخارجية أنتوني بلينكن، ووزير الصحة أليكس عازار. باستخدام مزيج من الطرق الكمية والنوعية في التحليل، تهدف الدراسة إلى تحديد وتصنيف الأولويات المفاهيمية المضمنة في السياسات الصحية العامة وخطابهم حول إدارة الأوبئة. يكشف التحليل عن المفاهيم الرئيسية في الافتراض المسبق ويصنف إلى ثلاث أنواع: وجودي، معجمي، وهيكلية، المعجمي هو النوع الأكثر شيوعاً في الدراسة. البحث يقدم الإشارات اللغوية وتؤكد على أن الأفعال الواقعية وهيكل المقارنه والأوصاف المحددة باعتبارها الأكثر تأثيراً في تشكيل المعاني الضمنية، استخدمت هذه الدراسة الإطار النظري ليفنسون (1983) و يول (1996). تقدم الدراسة فهماً أوسع لكيفية عمل التصورات المسبقة في الأزمات العالمية ضمن التفاعلات السياسية وتأثيرها على الرأي العام. تُبرز النتائج الدور الحاسم الذي تلعبه هذه الافتراضات في تشكيل الخطاب السياسي وتفسير الجمهور له، مما يوفر رؤى حول الديناميكيات التواصلية في أوقات عدم اليقين.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الافتراضات المسبقة، المحفزات، الوجودية، المعجمية، الهيكلية.

Presupposition in Covid-19 Political Discourse

Asst. Prof. Haider Hussein Katea

Department of English, College of Education for Humanities ,University of Thi-Qar

Dr.Haider.Hussein.vKatea@utq.edu.iq

Noor Abdulnabi Hassan

edhphenpm12@utq.edu.iq

Department of English,College of Education for Humanities ,University of Thi-Qar

Abstract

The study, "Presupposition in COVID-19 Political Discourse," examines the presuppositions and consequences of the political discourse of four well-known Americans during the pandemic: Secretary Alex Azar, Governor Andrew Cuomo, Governor Gavin Newsom, and secretary Antony Blinken . Using a mixed methods mix of statistical and qualitative analysis; the study seeks to distinguish and classify multiple conceptual priorities present in discussions of public health policy and epidemiological response. The study identifies concepts presupposition into three main categories: existential, lexical, and structural. Lexical reasoning is the most common type in the study. Research introducing linguistic cues emphasizes the role of factive verbs, comparison structures, and definite descriptions have in forming implicit meanings. This study uses the theoretical framework of Levinson (1983) and Yule (1996) to examine how presupposition operate in political communication and shape public opinion Provides a comprehensive explanation. The results highlight the importance of such implicit assumptions in shaping political discourse and influencing audience perceptions, providing insights into communication devices in times of uncertainty.

Keywords: Presupposition, Triggers, Existential, Lexical, Structural

1.1 Introduction

The global outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020 marked a pivotal moment in modern history, dramatically changing public discourse, especially politics. Political leaders around the world have taken the lead in addressing the health crisis and the social, economic, and political challenges associated with it.

Presuppositions as linguistic intentions include ideas or beliefs intended by the speaker and not explicitly expressed by the audience. In politics, especially in times of crisis, presuppositions play a permanent role for certain facts or facts as presented in nuanced terms, direct understanding of the audience they did not so much question the collective sense of urgency and national unity embedded in their rhetoric, but played an important role in shaping public opinion on how government response to the epidemic .

This study examines the role of assumptions in the political discourse surrounding COVID-19, focusing specifically on four selected speeches by prominent American politicians during the pandemic. By analyzing these discourses, this study aims to understand how preconceived notions have been used to manipulate public opinion, construct political realities, and influence the formation of collective's thing on the problem. Furthermore, it will explore how these concepts reflect broader ideological and political goals and subtly frame discourses of health, governance and accountability.

Given the somewhat unprecedented nature of the epidemic and its political risks, this study contributes to the growing body of research on the political discourse of COVID-19 by providing nuanced analysis in several ways through which political leaders think. Through this analysis it seeks to provide insights into the power of language in crisis communication and the role of underlying assumptions in the making of public debate.

1.2 Questions of the Study

1. What are the types of presupposition in political covid-19 texts?
2. What are the triggers of presupposition in political covid -19 texts?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The aim of this study is to identify and categorize the different types and triggers of presuppositions present in political speeches related to COVID-19.

1.4 Procedures of the Study

1. Key Concept Review: Examine theoretical background of presupposition by focusing on the political and rhetorical strategies employed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Adopt research models: Use Yule's (1996) and Levinson's (1983) framework to guide you in identifying and classifying types and triggers of presupposition.
3. Data collection and preparation: Collect selected speeches of four politicians, prepare detailed contextual descriptions for analysis.
4. Data analysis: Based on Yule's classifications and Levinson's catalysts, identify and classify assumptions and analyze them according to the adopted pattern.
5. Perform statistical analyses: Perform statistical calculations to determine the frequencies and distributions of various prior impressions and their motivations.
6. Comparative analysis: Compare presuppositions used in all four languages to show similarities and differences in rhetorical styles.

2. Theoretical Background

2.1 Presupposition: Concept and Significance in Linguistics

Presupposition is a foundational concept in linguistics, referring to the external assumptions made by a speaker or writer, with the listener or reader accepting these underlying assumptions as an integral part of how communication is constructed and interpreted. Specifically, presuppositions enable speakers and listeners to reach common ground, making it easier to understand each other during communication. Simply put, presupposition refers to what is assumed to be true before a statement is made. For example, in the sentence "Your brother is out," the speaker first assumes that the listener has a brother. Without this perspective, communication can be ambiguous or even incomprehensible, as the listener will lack the context necessary to fully understand the intended meaning.

The study of presupposition comes from the philosophical linguistic tradition, where scholars have explored how the meaning of language extends beyond the obvious vocabulary. Philosophers and linguists such as Frege and Strawson dealt with it an important role in the initial discussion of preconceptions. Frege initially introduced the idea when examining sentences with definite implications, that a sentence must assume a fact in order to make sense. Strawson maintained that a sentence first assumes a fact and a sentence cannot possess it understanding when this fact is not true e.g. The bald phrase implies the existence of a king of France, and without such a figure, narrative coherence is lost. These early ideas laid the foundation for later explorations of how first impressions shape discourse and the communication, Beaver and Geurts (1996)

Yule (1996) provides a definition of presupposition, describing it as statements that a speaker believes to be true before making a statement. This definition emphasizes that presuppositions are not just features of language but are closely related to the cognitive and communicative context in which language is used. Similarly, Levinson (1983) emphasized the importance of preconceptions in everyday language. emphasis: speakers often rely on shared knowledge to ensure communication is smooth and effective

The main characteristic of presupposition is their durability under rejection, known as "submissive to rejection" theory. Degano (2007) illustrates this with examples of statements such as "John could not quit in time." Even if the sentence is rejected, it shows that John tried to let go, which shows how preconceived notions remain regardless of changes in the syntax or structure of the sentence. These ongoing concepts emphasize their role in the construction of linguistic meaning, as they often provide the basis for understanding.

Presupposition in discourse are closely related to the notion of shared knowledge or "common ground" among participants. Speakers rely on this shared understanding of prior ideas to ensure that what they say is understood by the audience. Another important aspect of first impressions is "accommodation", where first impressions that are initially unrealized in a conversational situation spontaneously adapt themselves to the situation This process contributes to the possibility of communication and prevents communication breakdown Delin (1992) explains that accommodation is necessary to actively collaborate before ideas get into discourse It helps communication to flow smoothly and effectively.

In summary, presupposition is a central component of communication that connects understanding, action, and discourse. They help manage the flow of information and help establish communication during discussions. From the early contributions of thinkers such as Frege and Strawson to the insights of contemporary scholars such as Yule, Levinson, and Degano, presuppositional learning provides a valuable perspective on how language works at the syntactic level and communication in the extensive context.

2.2 Presupposition Types and Triggers

Presupposition triggers are specific words or constructs that generate presuppositions. These stimuli can be lexical items or syntactic structures that trigger external concepts in discourse. Levinson (1983) identified thirteen major triggers for early pregnancy that are commonly found in everyday speech:

1. **Definite Descriptions:** Definite noun phrases or possessive constructions signal the existence of a specific entity. For instance, "John saw the man with two heads" presupposes that there exists a man with two heads. Definite descriptions often function to introduce entities that both the speaker and listener are expected to recognize (Levinson, 1983, p. 181).
2. **Factive Verbs:** Verbs like "know," "regret," and "realize" presuppose the truth of their complement clause. For example, "Frankenstein knew Dracula was there" assumes that Dracula was, in fact, present. Factive verbs assume the reality of the statement they accompany (Levinson, 1983, p. 181).
3. **Implicative Verbs:** Verbs such as "avoid," "forget," or "fail" imply a presupposition about an attempted action. For example, "John failed to open the door" presupposes that John tried to open it. These verbs create assumptions about the efforts or intentions behind an action (Levinson, 1983, p. 181).

4. **Change-of-State Verbs:** Verbs that describe a transition from one state to another, such as "stop" or "start," presuppose a prior condition. For example, "John stopped beating his wife" presupposes that John had been beating his wife beforehand (Levinson, 1983, p. 181).
5. **Repetitive Verbs:** Words like "again" or "return" presuppose that an action has occurred previously. For instance, "The flying saucer came again" assumes that the flying saucer had come before (Levinson, 1983, p. 182).
6. **Verbs of Judgment:** Verbs like "accuse" imply that the action being judged has already occurred. For example, "Agatha accused Ian of plagiarism" presupposes that Ian committed plagiarism (Levinson, 1983, p. 182).
7. **Temporal Clauses:** Temporal conjunctions such as "before" or "after" imply presuppositions related to time. For example, "Before Strawson was born, Frege had already discussed presupposition" presupposes that Strawson was born (Levinson, 1983, p. 182).
8. **Cleft Sentences:** Cleft constructions like "It was John who opened the door" presuppose that someone opened the door, with the emphasis placed on the identity of the person (Levinson, 1983, p. 183).
9. **Implicit Clefts with Stressed Constituents:** When a particular element in a sentence is stressed, it evokes a presupposition. For example, "Chomsky invented linguistics!" presupposes that linguistics was invented by someone, with the focus on Chomsky (Levinson, 1983, p. 183).
10. **Comparisons and Contrasts:** Comparative structures, such as "better than," create presuppositions about other entities or actions. For instance, "Simon is better than the other players" presupposes that there are other players (Levinson, 1983, p. 183).
11. **Non-Restrictive Relative Clauses:** These clauses provide additional information that is not essential to the main meaning, as in "The Proto-Harrapans, who flourished between 2800-2650 BC, were important builders," presupposing the existence of the Proto-Harrapans (Levinson, 1983, p. 184).
12. **Counterfactual Conditionals:** These conditionals refer to hypothetical scenarios that contradict reality. For example, "If the notice had said 'mine-field' in English, we would never have lost poor Llewellyn" presupposes that the notice did not say 'mine-field' in English (Levinson, 1983, p. 184).
13. **WH-Questions:** WH-questions presuppose the existence of an answer. For instance, "Who opened the door?" assumes that someone opened the door (Levinson, 1983).

Yule (1996) expands on this categorization of presupposition triggers, grouping them into six major categories:

1. **Existential Presupposition:** This type of presupposition assumes the existence of certain entities, usually indicated by possessive constructions or definite noun phrases. For example, "Maria's cat" presupposes that Maria exists and owns a cat.

2. **Factual Presupposition:** Verbs like "know" and "regret" presuppose the truth of the information following them. For instance, "Linda is sorry to tell us" Presupposes that Linda has already communicated something.
3. **Lexical Presupposition:** Certain verbs, like "stop" or "start," carry presuppositions with them. For instance, "He stopped smoking" presupposes that he previously smoked.
4. **Structural Presupposition:** WH-questions assume the truth of the information following the Wh-word. For example, "Where did you buy the bike?" presupposes that a bike was bought.
5. **Non-factual Presupposition:** Verbs like "dream" or "imagine" imply scenarios that are not real. For example, "I dreamed that I was rich" presupposes that the speaker is not actually rich.
6. **Counterfactual Presupposition:** This type of presupposition is based on hypothetical situations that contradict reality. For example, "If English were our native language" presupposes that English is not the speaker's native language.

2.3 Literature Review

Sadiq et al., (2021), studied A Pragmatic study of Presupposition in Massoud Barzani's pre-referendum speech. A key concept in pragmatics is lexical presupposition, which is used to describe a broad pragmatic and semantic class that fundamentally affects how texts are understood. Discourse is assessed using a hybrid approach, which includes a qualitative analysis based on classification of presuppositions by Yule (2010) and Levinsons (1983) in addition to a quantitative approach to identifying common types of presupposition of the use of the. The results of the study indicate that of all the extracts used in this study, active presuppositions are used the most (64%) while counterfactual and non-active presuppositions are used the least (4%). The speaker's goal to be clear in his words and facts to prevent any form of misunderstanding or misinterpretation of his intentions during such a momentous occasion as the referendum is often demonstrated by his use of proactive presupposition.

Mohammed (2023), the study examined A Pragmatic Analysis of Presupposition Triggers in Coronavirus News Headlines. Specific language variations are employed to achieve the two objectives of the news headline writing process: conciseness and informativeness, as the purpose of news headlines is to capture the reader's attention. The first criterion may be met with a few grammatical adjustments, while the second requires a return to pragmatics. Presupposition is a practical device that news producers employ to their advantage since it makes headlines simple for listeners and readers to understand and evaluate. This study investigates and assesses the presupposition triggers included in news headlines in order to comprehend how presupposition influences news perceptions. News stories about coronaviruses are selected for analysis in order to achieve that purpose. There are sixty-six selected headlines, comprising 29 from Fox News and 37 from BBC News. The findings show that lexical presupposition triggers show significant occurrences in both Fox news and BBC news. Due to the nature of the stories covered, iterative verbs are used often.

3.1 Data and Methodology

This study adopts a mixed-methods approach, incorporating qualitative and quantitative approaches, to explore preconceptions in the politics of COVID-19. The qualitative aspect focuses on identifying and classifying presuppositions in political discourses, while quantitative analysis measures the frequency and distribution of these presuppositions for statistical perspective. Politics a few of the languages Provides a more accurate understanding of how previous concepts are systematically implemented

Data from this study include four keynote speeches by prominent American politicians — Governor Gavin Newsome, Governor Andrew Cuomo, Secretary Antony Blinken, and Secretary Alex Azar — who played key roles in the COVID-19 pandemic and focused on key policy decisions. The lectures were sourced from credible sources, including official government websites and reputable news organizations, to ensure that they could be reliable and accurate.

The theoretical framework draws on Yule (1996) and Levinson (1983), whose empirical work provides the basis for this study. Yule's framework classifies presuppositions into six types, this classification allows studies to systematically examine how politicians subtly inject meanings into their speeches to shape public opinion. Levinson's attention to linguistic motives, it divided into thirteen types, with complement Yule's categories by explaining how linguistic concepts are used together. These two frameworks offer a comprehensive set of tools for analyzing presupposition types and driving mechanisms in politics.

In addition to qualitative classification, statistical analysis counts the frequency of presuppositions and determines the relationship between specific presupposition triggers and their prevalence in political discourse. The researcher aims to positively present certain presuppositions by politicians will be used to influence public understanding of COVID policies.

An integrated approach involving qualitative analysis, quantitative measures, and statistical modeling ensures that the analysis not only identifies different dimensions and motivations but also quantifies their impact on political interactions during the COVID-19 pandemic in the 19th century as well. Through this comprehensive approach, the study provides a strong understanding of the role of preconceived notions in shaping public discourse, especially in times of global crisis when politics has a profound influence on public behavior and on an acceptable schedule.

3.2 Analysis

3.2.1. The Analysis of Governor Newsom's State of the State Address (March 9, 2021)

1. Existential Presuppositions

Definite Description

"The top minds from our nation's leading research institutions and life sciences companies immediately jumped from development of groundbreaking COVID treatments and vaccines."

The Definite Description **"The top minds "** It presupposes that these top minds were already engaged in critical scientific work and quickly shifted their focus to developing COVID-19 treatments and vaccines.

2. Lexical Presuppositions:

Implicative Verbs

"We were the first state to issue a stay-at-home order, which helped us avoid an early spike in cases."

The implicative verb **"avoid"** it presupposes a direct correlation between the order of a stay at home and the outcome of avoiding a surge in cases, highlighting the proactive approach of the state's leadership.

3. Structural Presuppositions:

Cleft Sentences

"It was a year ago, we made the incredibly difficult decision to issue a stay-home order to slow the spread."

The trigger of the presupposition here is the cleft sentence structure "It was a year ago." It presupposes that a significant decision was made at that time, specifically issuing a stay-home order. This cleft construction emphasizes the importance of this decision and its timing in the context of efforts to slow the spread of COVID19.

3.2.2. The Analysis of Secretary Blinken's Remarks on the COVID-19 Response (April 14,2021)

1. Existential presupposition

Possessive expression

"We have already loaned vaccines to our closest neighbors, Mexico and Canada."

The existential presupposition trigger in this case is the possessive expression **"our closet neighbor."** It presupposes that these countries are recognized and relevant entities to which the U.S has provided vaccines. This highlights the role of the U.S. in supporting neighboring countries through vaccine distribution, reflecting its broader commitment to international COVID-19 efforts.

2. Lexical presupposition

Factive Verbs

"We have a duty to other countries to get the virus under control here in the United States."

The factive verb **"have."** It presupposes that controlling COVID-19 within the U.S. is essential for global efforts. This suggests that the U.S. has a responsibility to manage the pandemic domestically to support international health goals.

Structural presupposition

Comparative and Contrast

"Even if we vaccinate all 332 million people in the United States tomorrow, we would still not be fully safe from the virus."

The contrastive expression **"Even"**. It presupposes that full vaccination alone is insufficient for complete safety from COVID-19, highlighting the complexity of achieving total protection.

3.2.3. The Analysis of Alex Azar's Remarks at National Taiwan University (August 11,2020).

1. Existential presuppositions

Definite Description

"The Taiwan model of excellence in combating The Virus has been obvious to us all."

The trigger responsible for the presupposition here is Definite Description **"the Taiwan model of excellence"** It presupposes that Taiwan has shown a model of excellence in combating the virus. It assumes that Taiwan is recognized as exemplary in managing the virus ,and that is clear and acknowledged by everyone.

2. Lexical presuppositions

Non- Factive Verb

"Weeks after the virus had spread beyond borders, Beijing admitted that China's team of international experts could assist with the investigation—while claiming that the U.S. had been doing nothing to help."

The Non-Factive Verb **"claimed"** it presupposes that Beijing's assertion about the U.S. not providing help is a statement made by Beijing but does not necessarily reflect an established fact. In the context of COVID-19, this implies that while Beijing's claim about the U.S.'s lack of aid is presented, it is acknowledged as Beijing's position rather than a verifiable truth.

3. Structural presuppositions

Temporal clause

"The same week the virus was finally reported, and before any case had been confirmed outside China, CDC Director Robert Redfield spoke frequently with his counterpart in the PRC about the outbreak."

The structural presupposition here is Temporal Clause "before" it presupposes those cases of the virus were confirmed outside China at some point, but not before the specified time. In the context of COVID-19, this indicates that there was a period during which the virus had not yet been reported outside China, highlighting an initial delay in international awareness and confirmation of the virus's spread.

3.2.4. The Analysis of Cuomo's Announcement on COVID-19 Restrictions (June 15, 2021)

1. Existential presupposition

Definite Description

"You have nurses in the school or you have a local government that can send the vaccination team to the school."

The trigger that starts the presupposition in this context is definite description **"the vaccination team."** It presupposes that the vaccination team exists in place and operational. The speaker uses this to suggest the readiness and capability of these entities in managing COVID-19 vaccination efforts, reinforcing the feasibility of getting children vaccinated in schools.

2. Lexical Presupposition

Iterative Items

"We have to work to bring New York back."

The iterative item **"back."** It presupposes that New York had a pre-pandemic state that was better than the current one, and efforts are needed to restore it. The speaker is emphasizing the need to return to an earlier, more favorable situation that existed before the pandemic's impact.

3. Structural Presupposition

Comparative and Contrast

" We have done more shots in arms per capita than any big state in the country."

The structural presupposition in this context is comparative "more" and "than." It presupposes that New York's success in administering COVID-19 vaccines compared to other large states. The

comparison underscores the state's leadership and effectiveness in its vaccination campaign, which is crucial to controlling the pandemic.

Table (1) the total frequency of the triggers of the presupposition

Triggers of Presupposition	Total Frequency	Percentage
Definite Description	16	10.9%
Proper Noun	11	7.5%
Possessive	12	8.2%
Factive Verbs	27	18.4%
Non-factive Verb	2	1.4%
Implicative Verb	5	3.4%
Change of State Verb	17	11.6%
Iterative Items	10	6.8%
Verbs of Judging	0	0.00%
Temporal Clause	9	6.1%
Cleft Sentences	5	3.4%
Implicit Cleft with Stressed Constituents	0	0.00%
Comparative and Contrast	17	11.6%
Counterfactual Conditionals	6	4.1%
Non-restrictive Relative Clauses	3	2.0%
Questions	7	4.8%

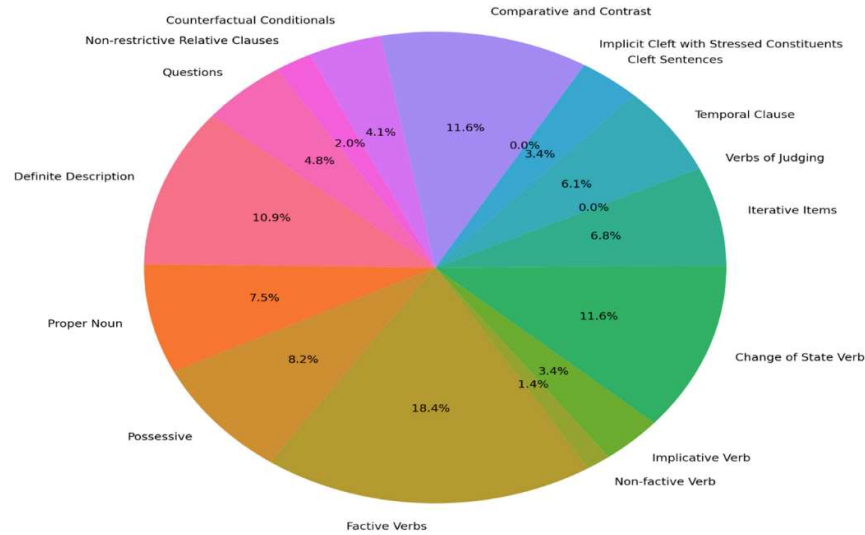


Figure (1) the total frequency of the triggers of the presupposition

Table (2) Total Frequency and Percentage of Presupposition Types in the Speeches of Governor Newsom, Secretary Blinken, Alex Azar, and Governor Cuomo

Speaker	Type of Presupposition	Total Frequency	Total Percentage
Governor Newsom	Structural Presuppositions	15	34.88%
	Existential Presuppositions	11	25.58%
	Lexical Presuppositions	17	39.53%
Secretary Blinken	Lexical Presuppositions	16	53.33%
	Existential Presuppositions	8	26.67%
	Structural Presuppositions	6	20.00%
Governor Cuomo	Lexical Presuppositions	18	43.90%
	Existential Presuppositions	10	24.39%
	Structural Presuppositions	13	31.71%
Alex Azar	Structural Presuppositions	14	41.18%
	Lexical Presuppositions	10	29.41%
	Existential Presuppositions	10	29.41%

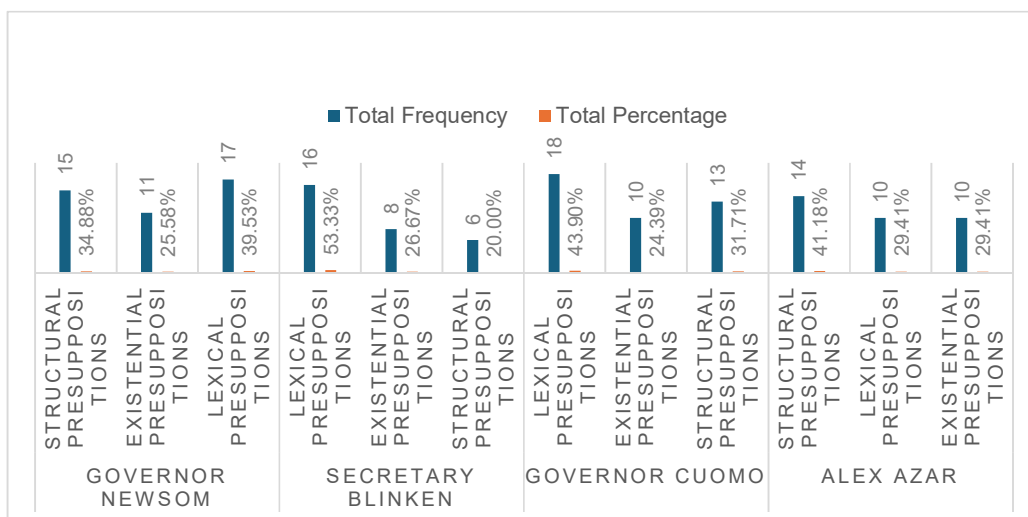


Figure (2) Total Frequency and Percentage of Presupposition Types in the Speeches of Governor Newsom, Secretary Blinken, Alex Azar, and Governor Cuomo

The overall frequency and proportion of the different presupposition triggers found in the speeches examined are shown in table (1). These language triggers appeared 147 times in total across the cumulative count of all talks. Out of all of them, factive verbs were the most common trigger, appearing in 27 cases (18.4%). Additional noteworthy triggers included of specific descriptions, which occurred 16 times (10.9%), verbs of change of state at 17 times (11.6%), and comparing and contrast structures, which also occurred 17 times (11.6%). Furthermore, possessive structures were present 12 times (8.2%), whereas questions were present 7 times (4.8%). The information shows the wide range of triggers that the speakers used to elicit presuppositional meanings, underscoring the complex ways that language may affect audience comprehension and perception in the context of political communication. Overall, this table shows how carefully language is used to transmit implicit signals connected to COVID-19 and offers a thorough analysis of the linguistic devices that support the presuppositional framework in the political speeches that were examined.

Table 2 summarizes the frequency and percentage of the different sorts of assumptions that Governor Andrew Cuomo, Secretary Alex Azar, Governor Gavin Newsom, and Secretary Antony Blinken utilized. The study found that lexical presuppositions were the most often employed kind among all speakers. Governor Newsom's remarks contained a total of 15 structural presuppositions (34.88%), 11 existential presuppositions (25.58%), and 17 lexical presuppositions (39.53%). In contrast, Secretary Blinken used 16 lexical presuppositions (53.33%), 8 existential presuppositions (26.67%), and 6 structural presuppositions (20.00%). Governor Cuomo demonstrated a balanced use of presuppositions throughout his speech by utilizing 18 lexical (43.90%), 10 existential (24.39%), and 13 structural (31.71%) presuppositions. Secretary Azar, on the other hand, concentrated more on structural presuppositions, which were mentioned 14 times (41.18%), including 10 lexical (29.41%) and 10 existential (29.41%) presuppositions. The many tactics used by each speaker to incorporate hidden meanings into their political discourse during the COVID-19 outbreak are clearly displayed in this table.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, this study of preconceptions in COVID-19 politics aims to provide a comprehensive examination of the ideas and motivations embedded in the political discourse of four prominent Americans: Gov. Gavin Newsome and Andrew Cuomo, Secretaries Antony Blinken and Alex Azar. By examining discourses on public health policy and advocacy in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, this study seeks to identify and categorize the concepts used, and the linguistic elements that drive them also under these obvious reasons. The findings indicate that there is considerable variability in the use of concepts, with the use of lexical concepts being the most common across languages. This suggests a strategic dependence on language subtly influence audience perceptions and interpretations of a given message. Furthermore, preconception-trigger analysis reveals the different linguistic tools used by speakers, highlighting how language shapes politics in a global crisis. Finally, this study contributes to understanding the complex relationship between language, between first impressions, and political negotiations greatly underlies the possibility of influence.

References

- Al- Hindawi F.H. and Mohammed Z.S. (2023) A Pragmatic Analysis of Presupposition Triggers in Coronavirus News Headlines, *European Journal of English Language and Literature Studies*, Vol.11, No.6, pp.30-57
- Beaver, D., & Geurts, B. (1996). Presupposition. In *The handbook of logic and language*.
- Delin, J. (1992). Properties of it-cleft presupposition. *Journal of Semantics*, 9(4), 289-306.
- Degano, C. (2007). Presupposition and dissociation in discourse: A discourse approach. In *Language and ideology* (Vol. 1, pp. 492-509). International Pragmatics Association Antwerp.
- Levinson, S. C. (1983). *Pragmatics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Sadiq, H. H., & Amin, N. M. (2021). A pragmatic study of presupposition in Masoud Barzani's speech ahead of the referendum. *Zanco Journal of Humanity Sciences*, 25(3), 191-202.
<https://doi.org/10.21271/zjhs.25.3.13>
- Yule,G. (1996). *Pragmatics*. Oxsford: Oxsford University Press.