

PRESUPPOSITIONS IN ARTHUR MILLER'S PLAY SCRIPT

DEATH OF A SALESMAN

A GRADUATING PAPER

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Degree in English Literature



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A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

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Kami menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqasyah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

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ABSTRACT

Some people have difficulty in developing their logical reasoning especially in academic writing. This study helps to develop the logical reasoning of the readers and how they can use it in their utterances because it is about one kind of implied relation between two propositions called presupposition. This is surely beneficial for developing their analysis and presenting argumentation which will be used in their life. This research analyzes presuppositions in play script *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller. The objectives of this research are to identify the types of presuppositions founds in *Death of a Salesman* play script and to identify the language function of utterances containing the special presupposition in *Death of a Salesman* play script. This research used a qualitative method. The source of data was play script of Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*. This research used the theory of presupposition and language functions of speech acts to analyze the data. In this study, the writer found 48 data of special presuppositions. From 48 data, the writer found 4 types of presuppositions. They are lexical presupposition (22 utterances), counterfactual presupposition (6 utterances), structural presupposition (18 utterances) and factive presupposition (2 utterances). The writer also found 2 language functions in the use of the presuppositions. They are representatives and directives. The lexical presuppositions show both functions of representatives and directives. The counterfactual presuppositions show representatives functions. The structural presuppositions show both functions of representatives and directives. The factive presuppositions show representative functions.

Key words: play script, presupposition, language function.

PRA-ANGGAPAN DALAM NASKAH DRAMA KARYA ARTHUR MILLER *DEATH OF A SALESMAN*

Oleh: Muslikhah Jazuli

ABSTRAK

Beberapa orang mempunyai kesulitan dalam mengembangkan logika mereka khususnya pada penulisan akademik. Kajian ini dapat membantu mengembangkan logika pembaca dan bagaimana mereka dapat menggunakannya dalam tuturan karena kajian ini membahas salah satu jenis hubungan tersirat antara dua proposisi yang disebut presuposisi atau pra-anggapan. Kajian ini tentunya bermanfaat untuk mengembangkan analisis dan menyajikan argumentasi yang bermanfaat dalam kehidupan. Penelitian ini membahas tentang presuposisi atau pra-anggapan dalam naskah drama *Death of a Salesman* karya Arthur Miller. Tujuan penelitian adalah untuk mengungkapkan tipe-tipe pra-anggapan yang terdapat dalam naskah drama tersebut dan untuk mengungkapkan tipe-tipe fungsi bahasa yang terkandung dalam pra-anggapan (presuposisi) pada naskah drama *Death of a Salesman*. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif. Sumber data diperoleh dari naskah drama karya Arthur Miller *Death of a Salesman*. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori tentang presuposisi (pra-anggapan) dan fungsi bahasa dalam tindak tutur untuk menganalisis data. Pada kajian ini, penulis menemukan 48 data pra-anggapan. Dari 48 data, penulis menemukan 4 tipe pra-anggapan, yaitu pra-anggapan leksikal (22 ujaran), pra-anggapan konterfaktual (6 ujaran), pra-anggapan struktural (18 ujaran), dan pra-anggapan faktif (2 ujaran). Penulis juga menemukan 2 fungsi bahasa yang terkandung dalam pra-anggapan itu, yaitu fungsi representatif dan direktif. Pra-anggapan leksikal memperlihatkan kedua fungsi representatif dan direktif. Pra-anggapan konterfaktual memperlihatkan fungsi representatif. Pra-anggapan struktural memperlihatkan kedua fungsi representatif dan direktif. Pra-anggapan faktif memperlihatkan fungsi representatif.

Kata kunci: naskah drama, pra-anggapan, fungsi bahasa.

Motto

Berbahagialah dia yg makan dari keringatnya sendiri,
Bersuka karena usahanya sendiri,
Dan maju karena pengalamannya sendiri

Pramoedya Ananta Toer

Entah akan berkarir atau menjadi ibu rumah tangga, seorang wanita
wajib berpendidikan tinggi karena mereka akan menjadi seorang
ibu.

Ibu-ibu yang cerdas akan melahirkan anak-anak yang cerdas

Dian Sastrowardoyo

Tanamkan dalam khayalan tentang keberhasilan, lalu biarkan dia
tertulis dalam benakmu

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Barang siapa takut untuk mendaki gunung,
Selamanya ia akan hidup di dasar lubang

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Dedication

I dedicate this thesis to:

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*Akan ku persembahkan karyaku ini untukmu walau kau tak
dapat melihat*

*Akan ku peruntukkan upacara wisuda ku untukmu walau kau tak
dapat mengikuti*

*Akan ku tunjukkan wujud cita dan mimpi ini untukmu walau kau
tak dapat menikmati*

*Belum tuntas rasanya bersamamu namun Tuhan telah
mengundangmu ke perjamuan-Nya*

Terima kasih Ibu, dariku yang selalu menitipkan rindu padamu

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Bersamamu aku tegar

Bersamamu kau ajarkan bersabar

Bersamamu, ku terus Berdoa, berusaha, dan berkarya

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*We've been through a long heavy life but you both still can smile to
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

People use language to communicate with other people in the world. Language is very important because it is used by people to convey ideas or messages to other people. Language is not only an utterance of people spoken directly but it is also written from people's idea. There are many kinds of written language such as poems, novels, short stories, comics, play scripts, etc. The study of language or linguistics concerns language of humans in the text or speech. Linguistics studies language forms, language meanings, and language in context. The objects of linguistics are articles, speeches, literary works such as prose, poetry, and drama. Linguistics can be descriptive when it describes the features of language as it is used by people. Here, it functions as a means which connects them with their surroundings. People realize that without language they cannot interact to each other. Language can become a bridge to connect people that live in different places and cultures. By using a language one can gain information and knowledge, and express one's feeling and emotions.

Language as a means of communication has been used by people since their first existence. Their culture started to be known in history when a written form of their language was found. Those written forms appeared also in literary works.

Each of literary works contains something that can be analyzed. In this paper the writer focuses on a play or drama script. Drama is a whole story of

fiction which is designed to be performed on stage by people. People who play drama read a play script to understand the utterances of the character in drama. The play script is a piece of writing that tells a story. A play script is also an expression of the writer (playwright) which contains his/her moral value, experiences, and specific ideas. There are some kinds of drama. The kinds of drama are tragedy, comedy, farce, melodrama, and musical (Cheever). The writer chooses a tragedy for this research, entitled *Death of a Salesman*. *Death of a Salesman* is a 1949 play written by an American playwright, Arthur Miller.

Death of a Salesman tells about expectation and wishes of Willy Loman, a traveling salesman. Happy and Biff are children of Willy and Linda Loman. Willy commits suicide to get insurance for his family, although at last they don't get the insurance. In the story of *Death of a Salesman*, the character of Willy Loman does not usually use his logic. Seen from different points of view, the main character seems to have internal conflicts that he feels burdensome in his life as a salesman. The Quran surah Ar-Rad verse 19 it is stated that:

﴿ أَفَمَنْ يَعْلَمُ أَنَّمَا أُنْزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ رَبِّكَ الْحَقُّ كَمَنْ هُوَ أَعْمَىٰ ۚ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ ﴾

الْأَلْبَابِ ﴿١٩﴾

Translation: "Shall he then who knows that what has been revealed unto you (O Muhammad SAW) from your Lord is the truth be like him who is blind? But it is only the men of understanding that pay heed" (Iqra Search).

Also in the Qoran surah Faathir verse 37 it is stated that:

وَهُمْ يَصْطَرِّخُونَ فِيهَا رَبَّنَا أَخْرِجْنَا نَعْمَلْ صَالِحًا غَيْرَ الَّذِي كُنَّا نَعْمَلُ أَوَلَمْ
نُعْمِرْكُمْ مَا يَتَذَكَّرُ فِيهِ مَنْ تَذَكَّرَ وَجَاءَكُمْ النَّذِيرُ فَذُوقُوا فَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ
نَصِيرٍ ﴿٣٧﴾

Translation: "Therein they will cry: "Our Lord! Bring us out, we shall do righteous good deeds, not (the evil deeds) that we used to do." (Allah will reply): "Did We not give you lives long enough, so that whosoever would receive admonition, - could receive it? And the warner came to you. So taste you (the evil of your deeds). For the Zalimoon (polytheists and wrongdoers, etc.) there is no helper"" (Iqra Search).

Both verses mean that people must think a lot about themselves, their environment, and their universe. Loman's life can be a good lesson for all humans. Furthermore, studying Loman's life can make people aware of the importance of careful thinking. Therefore, the writer researches the play script of *Death of a Salesman*.

The specific object to study is the presupposition of the characters. A presupposition is "something the speaker assumes to be the case prior to making an utterance" (Yule, 1996: 25). There are two reasons why this study is worth researched. As speakers, people need to understand presuppositions to help them produce clear utterances. As listeners, people need to understand presuppositions to help them catch the speaker's meanings.

A presupposition is not only used in daily life among the real people but also used in play conversation. In many discussions of the concept, presupposition is “treated as a relationship between two propositions” (Yule, 1996: 26).

e.g. My ring is gold (= p)

My ring is not gold (= NOT p)

This sentence presupposes that “I have a ring.” Although two sentences above have opposite meanings, the presupposition remains to be true. This property of presupposition is generally described as constancy under negation (Yule, 1996: 26). Initially, it means that the statement is true even though the statement is negated. In the case below, there is a sentence that contains a proposition p and another proposition q .

- a. Arimbi’s rabbit is cute. (= p)
- b. Arimbi’s rabbit is not cute. (NOT = p)
- c. Arimbi has a rabbit. (= q)
- d. $p \gg q$, NOT $p \gg q$

In sentence *Arimbi’s rabbit is cute*, it presupposes that Arimbi has a rabbit. In sentence *Arimbi’s rabbit is not cute*, it presupposes that Arimbi has a rabbit. Although the second sentence is negated, the presupposition sentence is true. It means that the presupposition of a statement will remain constant, i.e. still true even when that statement is negated (Yule, 1996: 26).

This research analyzes not only the types, but also the general functions of the speech acts of the presuppositions. Related to the phenomena, there are different types of presuppositions and their language functions.

From the temporary research, the writer found many utterances of the characters which show different types of presuppositions. It is also interesting to know that the types of the presuppositions of the utterances demonstrate various speech act functions. Therefore, studying types of presuppositions and the speech act functions are interesting to analyze. Since people can find existential presuppositions almost in every utterance, the writer excludes that type in this study and focuses on the other special types of presuppositions.

1.2 Problem Statements

Considering the importance of the problems, the writer formulates the following research questions:

1. What are types of presuppositions found in *Death of a Salesman* play script?
2. What are the language functions of the utterances containing special presuppositions used in *Death of a Salesman* play script?

1.3 Objectives of Study

Based on the problem statements, the objectives of study on this research can be stated as follows:

1. to identify the types of presuppositions found in *Death of a Salesman* play script.
2. to identify the language function of utterances containing the special presupposition in *Death of a Salesman* play script.

1.4 Significances of Study

This research is included in the pragmatics field. This study is able to develop the logical reasoning of the readers and how they can use it in the sentences or utterances. This is surely beneficial for developing their analysis and shall present argumentation which will be used in every field of life.

1.5 Literature Review

This research analyzes about presupposition found in play script of *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller. The writer finds some papers that have a similarity to the research topic.

First is the paper which was written by Yuhezmi Hamzah Havid, the student of State University of Padang entitled “An Analysis of Presupposition Used in The Movie *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows Part 2*.” He observed types of presuppositions and language functions in the movie. He uses Yule’s theory of presupposition and Searle’s theory of language function. The method he uses to analyze is descriptive method. Then the result of this research is there are some types of presuppositions found in the movie are existential presupposition,

factive presupposition, counterfactual presupposition, lexical presupposition, and structural presupposition. The types of language functions also found in the movie are representative, directive, commissive, and expressive.

Second is the paper *which* was written by Ulfa Muthia Asri, the student of English Department, Faculty of Letters, Andalas University of Padang entitled “An Analysis Presupposition as Found in *Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire* Movie.” She also observes types of presuppositions and the language functions. She uses Yule’s theory (1996), Leech (1987), and Hymes (1972). The method she uses to analyze is formal and informal method. The result of this research is there are some types of presuppositions found in the movie are structural presupposition, existential presupposition, lexical presupposition, and counterfactual presupposition. The types of language functions also found in the movie are informational function, expressive function, directive function, and phatic function.

The last is the paper which was written by Yosi Anggreini, the student of English Department, Faculty of Letters, Andalas University of Padang entitled “Presupposition in Tagline of Hollywood Horror Movie.” She observes types of presupposition. She uses presupposition theory to analyze. The method she uses to analyze is distributive and referential method. The result of this research is there are some types of presuppositions found in the movie are existential presupposition, factive presupposition, lexical presupposition, and structural presupposition.

The previous researches have similarities and differences with this research. Three researchers above use Yule's theory to analyze types of presupposition.

The differences of those previous researches and this research are in the material object of the research, some methods of research, and some theories of language function.

1.6 Theoretical Approach

This research is conducted by using pragmatics theory about presupposition. Presupposition is something the speaker assumes to be the case prior to making an utterance (Yule, 1996: 25). As stated in objectives of study, this research tries to analyze and identify the types of presupposition. This research also tries to identify the language function of utterance containing presupposition used in *Death of a Salesman* play script.

Yule (1996: 27) classifies six types of presuppositions. They are existential presupposition, factive presupposition, lexical presupposition, structural presupposition, non-factive presupposition and counterfactual presupposition.

As stated in the second of objectives of study, this research identifies the language function of utterances containing the special presupposition in *Death of a Salesman* script play.

Yule (1996: 47) states that speech acts are "actions performed via utterances and commonly given more specific labels, such as apology, complaint,

compliment, invitation, promise, or request.” There are five types of general functions performed by speech acts. They are representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations.

1.7 Method of Research

1.7.1. Type of Research

This research uses a qualitative method. Qualitative method is a method which collects the data not in numerical and statistical forms (Arikunto, 2006: 12). It is qualitative because the writer seeks answer to a question, systematically uses a predefined set of procedures to answer the question, collects evidence, and produces findings that are applicable beyond the immediate boundaries of the study (Natasha, 2005: 1). This research is conducted by using descriptive method because it only describes the phenomenon that occurs in the play script.

1.7.2. Source of Data

The source of the main data is one of literary works that is a play script entitled *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller. This is a written document. The data to answer the problem statement are in the form of the characters' utterances. The data to answer the second problem include the context of the utterances.

1.7.3 Data Collection Technique

Since the data are found in the form of written document in play script of *Death of a Salesman*, the writer uses documentation technique to collect the data. These are the procedures to collect the data:

1. Identifying presupposition triggers;
2. Writing sentences containing the triggers;
3. Writing the information of the context of the utterances.

1.7.4 The Technique of Analyzing Data

After the data have been collected, the writer analyzes them. The writer uses qualitative descriptive technique to analyze the data. These are some procedures to analyze the data:

- a. classifying sentences into types of presuppositions based on the triggers,
- b. analyzing the presupposition of the utterances,
- c. identifying the functions of the utterances by thinking of the context,
- d. analyzing the performative hypothesis of the utterances,
- e. drawing conclusion.

1.8 Paper Organization

This research consists of four chapters. First chapter is background for choosing the subject, problem statement, objectives of the study, significances of study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. The second chapter explains the theoretical review in describing and identifying the types of presupposition and language functions in *Death of a Salesman* play script. Next, chapter three is discussion and the fourth chapter contains the conclusion of the discussion of this research.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1. Conclusion

Based on the analysis in the previous chapter about presupposition and speech act function, it can be concluded that there are some types of presupposition and some types of speech act function used by the characters in *Death of a Salesman* play script. Some types of presupposition are lexical presupposition, counterfactual presupposition, structural presupposition and factive presupposition. The most frequent presupposition used by the characters is lexical presupposition. It is the type of presupposition which “the use of one form with its asserted meaning is conventionally interpreted with the presupposition that another (non-asserted) meaning is understood” (Yule, 1996: 28). There are 22 data of lexical presupposition. Then structural presupposition is the second frequent presupposition. Structural presupposition is “presuppositions which are associated with the use of certain words and phrases” (Yule, 1996: 28). There are 18 data of structural presupposition. The third frequent presupposition is counterfactual presupposition. Counterfactual presupposition is the assumption that what is presupposed is not only untrue, but it is the contrary of fact. There are 6 data of counterfactual presupposition. Next, the fourth frequent is factive presupposition. It is the type of presupposition which consider that something is true. There are 2 data of factive presupposition.

There are two types of speech act functions used by the character of *Death of a Salesman* play script. They are representatives and directives. The

most frequent speech act is representatives. It is the type of speech act where the speaker believes to be the case or not. There are 26 data that can be categorized into representative speech acts function. Then the writer finds 21 data that can be categorized into directives function. The type of speech acts which attempts by the speaker to get someone else to do something. The writer also finds 1 data that can be categorized into expressives function. The kind of speech act which express a psychological state.

4.2. Suggestion

Based on the analysis and the conclusion of this research, the writer suggests that the future researchers will be interested to analyze about presuppositions and language functions in some object of linguistics such as speeches, articles, discourses, literary works and many else. The writer also expects that the future researchers should explore more deeply about presuppositions since many kinds of object of study that can be analyzed.

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APPENDIX

A. LEXICAL PRESUPPOSITION

No.	Utterances	Presupposition	Function
1.	WILLY (<i>after a pause</i>): I suddenly couldn't drive anymore. (act 1, page 2, line 67)	I could drive the car before	Representatives
2.	LINDA (<i>helpfully</i>): Maybe it was the steering again. (act 1, page 2, line 69)	It was the steering before	Representatives
3.	WILLY (<i>with wonder</i>): I'm dreamin' again (act 1, page 3, line 96-97)	I dreamed before	Representatives
4.	LINDA: Willy, dear. Talk to them again! (act 1, page 3, line 99)	Willy talked to them before	Directives
5.	WILLY: The grass don't grow anymore (act 1, page 5, line 184)	The grass grew before	Representatives
6.	WILLY: I won't fight with him anymore. (act 1, page 6, line 213)	I fought with him before	Representatives
7.	HAPPY (<i>to Biff</i>): Jesus, maybe he smashed up the car again! (act 1, page 7, line 239)	He smashed up the car before	Representatives

8.	HAPPY (<i>with deep sentiment</i>): funny, Biff, y'know? Us sleeping in here again. (act 1, page 8, line 274-275)	We slept here before	Representatives
9.	WILLY: I'll never have to leave home anymore (act 1, page 16, line 563-564)	I had to leave home before	Representatives
10.	WILLY: I get the feeling that I'll never sell anything again. (act 1, page 22, line 776-777)	I sold anything before	Representatives
11.	WILLY: Will you come up again? (act 1, page 22, line 793)	You come before	Directives
12.	WILLY: He's going back to Texas again. (act 1, page 26, line 926-927)	He went back to Texas before	Representatives
13.	CHARLEY: You're insulted again. (act 1, page 27, line 945)	You were insulted before	Representatives
14.	CHARLEY: You never heard from him again. (act 1, page 27, line 963)	You heard from him before	Representatives
15.	LINDA: I just stopped dyeing it (act 1, page 35, line 1.232-	I used to dye it	Representatives

	1.233)		
16.	BIFF: He probably just fell asleep again. (act 1, page 38, line 1.360)	He felt asleep before	Representatives
17.	BIFF (<i>furiously</i>): stop yelling at her! (act 1, page 43, line 1.531)	He used to yell at her	Directives
18.	WILLY: Don't talk anymore (act 1, page 46, line 1.626)	He is talking	Directives
19.	WILLY: It just broke again. (act 2, page 48, line 1.693)	It broke before	Representatives
20.	LINDA: I'm not afraid anymore. (act 2, page 50, line 1.772)	I was afraid before	Representatives
21.	LINDA: I'm not your maid anymore (act 2, page 89, line 3.123)	I was your maid before	Representatives
22.	BIFF: There's no spite in it anymore (act 2, page 96, line 3.377)	There was spite in it before	Representatives

B. COUNTERFACTUAL PRESUPPOSITION

No.	Utterances	Presupposition	Function
1.	WILLY: If old man Wagner was alive I'd a been in charge of New York now! (act 1, page 3, line 112-113)	Old man Wagner is dead.	Representatives
2.	HAPPY: If I were around you... (act 1, page 11, line 389)	I am not around you.	Representatives
3.	WILLY: If I'd gone with him to Alaska that time, everything would've been totally different. (act 1, page 28, line 974-975)	I didn't go with him to Alaska.	Representatives
4.	HOWARD: If I had a spot I'd slam you right in. (act 2, page 54, line 1.893)	I don't have a spot	Representatives
5.	WILLY: If I had forty dollars a week (act 2, page 55, line 1.942)	I don't have forty dollars a week	Representatives

6.	WILLY: If I could kiss him (act 2, page 98, line 3.444)	I can't kiss him	Representatives
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C. STRUCTURAL PRESUPPOSITION

No.	Utterances	Presupposition	Function
1.	WILLY: I been wondering why you polish the car so careful. (act 1, page 14, line 501)	You polish the car so carefully	Directives
2.	BIFF: Tell me, what'd you buy? (act 1, page 15, line 529)	You bought something	Directives
3.	WILLY: Where'd you get a new ball? (act 1, page 15, line 543)	You got a new ball somewhere	Directives
4.	LINDA: Why? Why would they laugh at you? (act 1, page 21, line 733)	They would laugh at you	Directives
5.	WILLY: Why is he taking everything? (act 1, page 23, line	He is taking everything	Directives

	831)		
6.	WILLY: Why is he stealing? (act 1, page 24, line 852)	He is stealing	Directives
7.	WILLY: Why did she have to wax the floors herself? (act 1, page 24, line 857-858)	She had to wax the floors herself	Directives
8.	BEN: When did mother die? (act 1, page 29, line 1.006)	Mother died	Directives
9.	LINDA: Why are you fighting? (act 1, page 31, line 1.086)	You are fighting	Directives
10.	WILLY: When Ben came from Afrika that time? (act 1, page 33, line 1.179)	Ben came from Afrika	Directives
11.	LINDA: When does he get the medal for that? (act 1, page 37, line 1.310)	He gets the medal	Directives
12.	BIFF (<i>after a pause</i>): Why is he dyeing?	He is dyeing	Directives

	(act 1, page 38, line 1.335)		
13.	WILLY: When he died? (act 2, page 55, line 1929)	He died	Directives
14.	LINDA: Why must everybody conquer the world? (act 2, page 58, line 2.051-2.052)	Everybody must conquer the world	Directives
15.	WILLY: Why did he lay down? (act 2, page 64, line 2.269)	He laid down.	Directives
16.	LINDA: Why didn't anybody come? (requiem, page 100, line 3.497)	Nobody came.	Directives
17.	LINDA: Why did you ever do that? (requiem, page 101, line 3.549)	You did that.	Directives
18.	LINDA: it's been gray since you were in high school. (page 35, line 1.232)	You were in high school	Representatives

D. FACTIVE PRESUPPOSITION

No.	Utterances	Presupposition	Function
1.	LINDA: I'm so glad you called (act 2, page 50, line 1762)	You called.	Expressives
2.	WILLY: He never realized-I am known! (act 2, page 91, line 3.200-3.201)	I am known.	Representatives