

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter will present five sub chapters, they are background of study, statements of research problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and scope of limitation of the study. They are important to explain because they describe this study generally.

1.1 Background of the Study

In social interactions, people often express ideas, opinions, and attitudes without stating all meanings explicitly. This occurs because speakers generally assume that others share the same background knowledge, social norms, or situational context, making detailed explanations unnecessary. As a result, communication often relies on implied meanings that must be interpreted through shared understanding. Yang & Jiang (2023) argue that meaning in communication is frequently implicit and must be interpreted through context. This argument is also supported by Kurniawan (2023) and Sidabutar et al (2023), who notes that effective communication happens when both speaker and listener share the same understanding about the context being discussed. This phenomenon, where communicators rely on assumed knowledge to convey meaning, is known in pragmatics as presupposition.

The phenomenon of presupposition can be found in various forms of communication, including digital communication, particularly on social media platforms. This occurs because communication on social media often emphasizes speed, brevity, and efficiency, which leads users to assume shared background knowledge rather than explicitly stating all information. According to Rahma & Kurniati (2023), presupposition frequently appears on social media, where users communicate not only through text but also through shared images, videos, and moments. In addition, Wahid et al (2025) highlights that presuppositions play a significant role in shaping meaning in online interactions, as implicit assumptions are embedded in words, phrases, and sentence structures. Therefore, presupposition becomes an important aspect of online communication, as meanings are often

implied and depend on shared assumptions between users in social media interactions.

In the context of presupposition in social media, comment sections in particular serve as spaces where the public expresses opinions, reactions, and evaluations toward various social issues. Unlike formal texts, online comments are typically brief and spontaneous, which encourages users to communicate efficiently by relying on shared background knowledge rather than explaining everything in detail. As a result, communication in online comments often involves interactions among netizens that contain various forms of presupposition (Pasaribu et al., 2023). Presupposition in online comments helps the writer's intention to be understood through common assumptions, which can reduce the chance of misunderstandings between the writer and readers (Harahap & Amri, 2023). Therefore, studying presupposition in social media comments is important to understand how meaning is created, interpreted, and sometimes misinterpreted in online interactions.

Among various topics in online comment sections, political discussions are particularly suitable for studying presupposition because they attract wide public attention and often trigger strong emotional responses. Political issues are closely related to public interests and power, which leads users to express their opinions indirectly through shared assumptions rather than explicit statements. Supporting this view, Ferreira et al., (2021) observes that while many online topics attract attention only temporarily, political discussions centered on fundamental issues tend to remain consistently active over time. Furthermore, nowadays political news is mostly shared and accessed through online platforms, allowing people to easily engage with and respond to political content in comment sections (Vendemia et al., 2019; Casero-ripollés, 2018). Therefore, political comment sections offer a rich context for examining how presupposition functions in conveying meaning within public communication.

One of the political issues that generated significant public attention in Indonesia was the Instagram post by the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR RI), the country's national legislative body, responding to the 17+8 Demands, a civic movement calling for reforms in areas such as corruption, governance, and

institutional accountability. In Indonesia, Instagram has a significant influence, as the country ranks fourth globally in the number of Instagram users, and it is the second most-used social media platform after WhatsApp (We Are Social, 2025). It has also become an important platform for the Indonesian government and regional administrations to provide information and interact with the public (Sutrisno & Mayangsari, 2021). Therefore, the official Instagram post containing DPR RI's response to the 17+8 Demands received significant public attention and active engagement from netizens. According to Rojabi (2025), the 17+8 Demands were more than just a list of complaints they showed a collective effort by citizens asking for more accountability and fairness in Indonesia.

The 17+8 People's Demands refer to a set of public demands expressed by students and civil society groups during a series of demonstrations in Indonesia from August to September 2025. These demands were divided into seventeen short term demands and eight long-term demands. The issues raised include anti-corruption efforts, government accountability, labor rights, transparency, and public welfare, among others. The movement emerged as a response to public concerns about various political and social issues in the country, and it gained wide public attention due to its relevance to people's daily lives. As a result, it attracted national discussion and created expectations for the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR RI) to respond. The DPR RI then addressed these demands through an official press conference, which was later published on its official Instagram account and received a large number of comments from the public.

Several previous studies have been conducted related to the topic of presupposition. Agustin and Setyaningsih (2022) analyzed presupposition in Twitter hate comments toward Meghan Markle at Queen Elizabeth II's Funeral. Fahriza, Ruminda, and Wardoyo (2025) examined presupposition in Kamala Harris' statements during the 2024 United States Presidential Debate. Fitriani (2021) investigated presupposition triggers in thesis abstracts. Erlinda, Mursyida, Agamas, and Dewanti (2023) analyzed presupposition used in the dialogues of the Pathway to English textbook. Meanwhile, Fitriani and Johan (2023) examined presupposition triggers in the movie *Turning Red*.

Although many researchers have analyzed presupposition in various contexts, none of them has analyzed presuppositions in netizens' comments on DPR RI's Instagram post about the 17+8 Demands. Analyzing presuppositions in netizens' comments on the post is important for understanding how implicit meanings, assumptions, criticisms, and expectations are expressed by the public toward political issues through social media communication. Consequently, this study aims to fill the gap by exploring the types of presuppositions and their linguistic triggers in netizens' comments on DPR RI's Instagram post about the 17+8 Demands under the title "An Analysis of Presuppositions in Netizens' Comments about the 17+8 Demands on DPR RI's Instagram Post."

1.2 Research Questions

After understanding the issues presented in the background above, the researcher has formulated two research questions:

1. What are the types of presupposition found in netizens' comments on the DPR RI Instagram post regarding the 17+8 Demands?
2. What are the linguistic elements that trigger presuppositions in netizens' Instagram comments about the 17+8 Demands?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Each of the research questions above has the following objectives:

1. To identify the types of presuppositions found in netizens' comments on DPR RI's Instagram post related to the 17+8 Demands.
2. To analyze the linguistic elements that trigger presuppositions in netizens' Instagram comments about the 17+8 Demands.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of this study is reflected in both theoretical and practical implications. Theoretically, it is expected to provide new insights into presupposition in social media communication and help readers understand how presupposition types are used in online comments. This research can also guide future researchers, especially English Study Program students, who want to study presupposition or analyze social media language.

Practically, this study aims to help readers develop critical thinking when reading social media comments by identifying hidden assumptions and implicit meanings. It can be useful for students, teachers, and anyone interested in digital communication to understand how language works in online interactions. Additionally, it can serve as a reference for future research on presupposition or other aspects of online language analysis.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study focuses on Pragmatics, particularly on presuppositions in social media communication. The analysis is conducted on netizens' comments from a single Instagram post uploaded by @dpr_ri in 2025, which presented the DPR's official response to the 17+8 Demands. The data are limited to comments posted in September 2025 so that the findings reflect netizens' immediate reactions and interactions following the release of the statement. To keep the discussion specific, only comments containing presuppositional elements were selected as data. The analysis in this study is based on Yule's (1996) theory, which serves as the main framework for both the classification of presupposition types and their linguistic triggers. Yule classifies presupposition into six categories, namely existential, factive, lexical, structural, non-factive, and counterfactual, which are also used as the basis for identifying trigger patterns in the data. To provide a more detailed explanation of how presuppositions are generated, Huang's (2014) theory is employed as a supporting framework for identifying presupposition triggers, namely definite descriptions, factive predicates, aspectual and change-of-state predicates, iteratives, implicative predicates, quantifiers, temporal clauses, cleft sentences, and counterfactual conditionals.