



تحليل الافتراضات المسبقة التداولية في المقالات الصحفية السياسية

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An Analysis of Pragmatic Presuppositions in Political Newspaper Articles

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المخلص:

تتقصى الدراسة الافتراضات المسبقة المستخدمة في مقال صحفي نُشر في صحيفة التليغراف، وهي صحيفة يومية بريطانية. يعود المقال الصحفي كون كوفلين وهو محرر الشؤون الخارجية والدفاعية في الصحيفة. ينتقد هذا المقال الحرب الروسية في اوكرانيا ويصفها بأنها صراع غير عادل وخاطى ويدعو من خلال المقال إلى محاربة المتطرفين الإسلاميين الذين ينفذون هجمات على روسيا بدلا من محاربة الغرب.

تسعى الدراسة إلى تقصي الأنواع المختلفة والتراكيب اللغوية للافتراضات المسبقة في المقال لتصوير وتوضيح الحملة العسكرية المضللة التي يشنها الرئيس الروسي بوتن ضد الغرب من خلال حربه في اوكرانيا. يتم استخدام أنموذج تداولي لتحليل أنواع والتراكيب اللغوية للافتراضات المسبقة في المقال. اخيرا تستنتج الدراسة ان صحيفة التليغراف تعتمد بشكل اساسي على الافتراضات المعجمية والوجودية، فضلا عن دور ثانوي للافتراضات التركيبية، لنقل الافكار ضمن عملية شيطنة روسيا.

كلمات مفتاحية: الافتراضات المسبقة، الوجودية، المعجمية، التركيبية، الصحف السياسية

Abstract

This study investigates the underlying presuppositions present in a newspaper article published in The Telegraph, a British daily. The newspaper article is authored by Con Coughlin, the foreign and defense editor of the newspaper. This article critiques the Russian war, characterizing it as an unjust conflict aimed at countering Islamic radicals who are carrying out attacks on Russia.

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The study seeks to examine the various types and triggers of presuppositions employed in the essay to accurately depict and illustrate Putin's misguided military campaign. An eclectic pragmatic model is utilized to examine the types and triggers of presuppositions in the selected article. Finally, the study concludes that the Telegraph mainly depend on lexical and existential presuppositions, with a minor role of structural presuppositions, to convey thoughts in the process of vilifying Russia.

Keywords: presupposition, existential, lexical, structural, political newspaper

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Language helps one to express their opinions on particular events and situations. For example, language users can convey their opinions and ideas in newspapers. Through the deft application of linguistic devices like presuppositions, journalists can subtly convey Liang and Liu (2016). The language of newspapers allows us to perceive the production and dissemination of news as the establishment of new forms of power and access to representation. Journalism has never merely challenged a form of political authority that was beyond its own sphere of influence (Conboy, 2010, p.10). The Russian-Ukrainian conflict has garnered significant global attention, particularly in media coverage. It is widely acknowledged that journalistic institutions have experienced polarization and favoritism towards either Russia or Ukraine, resulting in disagreement and bias. The Telegraph, a prominent British daily, is at the vanguard of media sources advocating for the Ukrainians in this conflict and conducting a hostile campaign against Russia, particularly its President Putin. The journalist characterizes the Russian war in Ukraine as a wrong battle that ought to have been directed towards combating Islamic radicals who pose a threat to both Russia and the Western nations. He references other assaults carried out by these radicals targeting Russia. In addition, he discusses the conflicts and incursions conducted by Russia against these extreme groups. The journalist condemns the Russian president for his permissive attitude towards these fanatics. Instead of engaging in conflict with them, he directs his aggression towards the Western region, particularly his assault on Ukraine, which is an inappropriate choice of target. To promote this viewpoint in the global media, the journalist uses strategic linguistic techniques to accomplish their communication objectives.

## 2. Research Questions

This study is driven by the objective of addressing the following inquiries:

- 1- What types and triggers of presuppositions are used in the article to fulfill the journalistic communicative intentions?
- 2- Which types and triggers of presuppositions are more frequently utilized in comparison to other types?



### 3. Presupposition

German logician Frege introduced the term "presupposition" in 1892. The term "presupposition" describes the implicit information that a proposition has within a phrase or other spoken word. Semantic and pragmatic presuppositions are the two categories into which linguists divide presuppositions. Semantic presupposition is a logical notion that is closely related to truth-conditional semantics. It is a method used to analyze the propositional meaning of sentences and determine the logical criteria for determining their truth or falsity (Finch, 2000: 184). Zhao and Cui (2017) defines semantic presupposition as a binary relation between sentences based on their truth values. Specifically, "A presupposes B" means that the truth or falsehood of B is a requirement for determining the semantic value of A. However, semantic presuppositions are outside the scope of this study.

Conversely, pragmatic presuppositions are indirect knowledge that one can deduce practically. Stalnaker (1977) first used the phrase "pragmatic presupposition" to show that a context is required in order to properly understand a statement, with regard to its truth and falsehood. Griffiths (2006, p.143) contends that our shared background assumptions, that which we take for granted, are known as presuppositions. A presupposition is, according to Akmajian et al. (2010), "an insinuation about the universe or preexisting belief connected to a speech whose veracity is assumed in discourse." They are silent concepts that help one understand what others intend to convey to the audience. Presupposition is an assumption taken to be accurate prior to evidence. Furthermore, Pragmatic presuppositions fall generally into three basic categories: existential, lexical, structural.

### 4. Previous Research

Many research papers have been written about presupposition. The first one was written by Jasim and Said in 2018, entitled "A Linguistic Study of Presupposition in Rattigan's Play "While the Sun Shines". In the study the researchers aims to analyze the dramatic implicit meaning triggered by certain types and triggers of presuppositions. The study depends on an eclectic model, based on Yule (1996) and Karttunen, (1973), and Van Der Sandt (1988), to analyze the data. It concludes that structural presupposition is the important types in such data. Another study was written by Ijabah and Argina in 2022, entitled "Understanding Advertiser's Intention: The Analysis of Presupposition Triggers in Advertisement". The study aims to investigate type and triggers used in five videos of cosmetic advertisement. The paper adopts Levinson 1983 as a model for analyzing the advertisements. The findings show the three types of presupposition are used and the most frequent type is the existential one.



## 5. METHODOLOGY AND DISCUSSION

### 6. Data Collection

The analysis data have been extracted from The Telegraph, a renowned international daily newspaper focused on politics. The newspaper extensively covers global political events and aligns with the perspectives and ideologies of Western governments, with a special emphasis on those of Britain. The journal is notorious for its biased stance towards Russia and views the Russian conflict with Ukraine as an unjust war against the Western world as a whole. The search data contains a single article authored by Con Coughlin, the editor responsible for defense and foreign affairs, which was published on March 23, 2024, via the website <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/23/putin-must-now-realise-hes-been-fighting-the-wrong-war/>. The article comprises a total of 599 words. The analysis encompassed the entirety of the article.

### 7. Data Analysis and Discussion

Presuppositions are the language instruments that let the speaker or writer effectively and powerfully transmit his ideas and opinions to the receiver without exposing numerous specifics. These presuppositions have three basic forms according to linguists: structural, lexical, and existential. Every one of them consists in a collection of triggers. Several models of examining presuppositions in the chosen article are applied in this paper. These models are Karttunen (1971), Leech (1974), McCawley (1976), Palmer (1981), Levinson (1983), Yule (1996), Crystal (1997), Saeed (1997), (Biber et al, 1999), Wright (2002), (Liang & Liu, 2016). Adopting all these models is justified by their comprehensiveness and coverage of several linguistic structures that fulfill the goals of the research.

#### 7.1 Existential

Existential presupposition is believed to be inherent in possessive formations, as well as in any definite noun phrase, such as a specific description, in a broader sense. In these cases, the speaker is presumed to be committed to the existence of the entities mentioned (Yule, 1996, p.27). By use any of these terms, it is understood that the writer or speaker is affirming the presence of the mentioned things. In the same way, definite description assumes the presence of a certain object or action. Therefore, it is distinguished by the use of noun phrases and possessive language, together with the use of verbs that depict the existence of certain entities. The following examples from the chosen article illustrate:

- 1- *"But **the** deadly attack on a Moscow concert hall carried out by an offshoot of Islamic State of Iraq".*
- 2- *"...one where confronting the West, not Islamist extremism, has become his main priority".*



In example (1), the phrase "the deadly attack" is employed as a trigger to assume that a lethal attack occurred in Moscow carried out by extremist Islamists. Therefore, it is more appropriate for Putin's war to focus on them rather than the West. Other cases of definite descriptions are (2,3 and 4) in Appendix (2).

In example (2), the journalist uses the trigger possessive "his main priority" to presuppose that battling the West, rather than Islamist extremism, is a priority. Other instances of possessives are (5,6,7,8,9,10,11,13,14 and 15) in Appendix (2).

## 7.2 Lexical Presupposition

Certain types of expressions or lexical triggers a presupposition as illustrated in the sections below:

### 7.2.1 Implicative Expressions

Implicative expressions are linguistic devices that imply the existence of certain necessary conditions for an event to occur, as stated by Karttunen (1971). According to Levinson (1983, p.28), lexical presuppositions can be understood as the stated and presupposed meaning carried by the verb 'managed' when someone says that they were able to do something. The intended interpretation is that the individual achieved a certain task or objective. Thus, when stating that someone did not manage to accomplish something, the explicit meaning is that the person failed, while the implicit meaning (not explicitly stated) is that the person made an attempt to perform that particular thing. Conventionally, the term 'managed' is understood to mean 'succeeded' while also assuming that there was an attempt made. Implicative presuppositions are typically triggered by phrases such as "avoid," "forget," "dream," "figure out," "pretend," and similar terms. If a statement is preceded by any of these words, its assumption is instantly negated as false. Factive verbs, such as manage, fail, avoid, and happen, serve as examples. The following example from the chosen article shows:

3- *"Explaining his decision to **intervene** in Syria."*

In (3), the implicative term 'to-infinitive' "to intervene" is employed as a trigger to presuppose that Putin's invasion of Syria was motivated by his own objectives to combat extreme Islamists in the region. Therefore, the journalist presupposes that the extremism Islamists are considered Russia's primary enemy rather than the Western countries. Other instances of implicative expressions in the article are (17,18,19,20,21 and 22) in Appendix (2).

### 7.2.2 Factive Expressions

According to Leech (1974, p.304), factive presuppositions can be categorized into two types: 'pure factives' and 'conditioned factives'. The former refers to predicates, such as realize and regret, that are primarily related with a that-clause. The latter refers to predicates such as cause, become, have to, force, see, hear, etc. These predicates are mostly linked to infinitive constructions and nominalizations. According to Crystal (1997, p.147) and Yule (1996, p. 27), the term 'factive' is used to classify verbs that require a



complement clause. In these cases, the speaker assumes that the proposition conveyed in the sentence is true. Therefore, they are referred to be 'factive' since they assume the truthfulness of their complement clause. Factive verbs in the English language comprise sorry, aware, strange, know, regret, proud, happy, indifferent, happy that, realize, and sad. know; learn; remember; appreciate; saw; forced to; agree; make sense; amuse; bear in mind; regret. in addition, there are factive predicators may involve other classes than verbs, i.e., adjectives and noun constructions. The extract from the selected data below illustrates:

4- *"Where at least 133 people were **gunned down** by a group of Islamist terrorists".*

In this instance, the journalist employs the factive verb "gunned down" as a lexical trigger to presuppose that Russian citizens have been deliberately killed by their true enemy, Islamist terrorists, but the Russian president purposefully disregarded this fact. Instead of this, Putin misguidedly turns his military aggression at the West. Additional instances of factive expressions are (23,24,26,27,28,29,30 and 31) in Appendix (2).

### 7.2.3 Change of State Expressions

Change of state verbs, also known as aspectual verbs, represent a distinct category of lexical presuppositions. These verbs and expressions have a specific type of presupposition where the new state is both described and assumed to not have existed before the change. Saeed (1997, p.99) also mentions that these verbs have a similar presupposition. According to Wright (2002, p.339), these verbs can be classified as a distinct group of verbs that specifically involve a modification in the internal structure of an entity during a specific occurrence. He further classifies them into two types: externally caused change of state verbs, including verbs like: break; cool; and freeze; bake; boil; crack; dry; lengthen; melt; open; shatter; straighten; widen; and internally caused change of state verbs including verbs like: bloom; blossom; corrode; decay; erode; ferment; germinate; molt; rot; rust; sprout; stagnate; and wilt. The following quotation from the chosen article illustrates:

5- *"the Western intelligence community which, on the contrary, believes Afghanistan has once again **become** a safe haven for Islamist terror networks".*

The journalist in this quotation presupposes that Afghanistan was devoid of Islamist terrorists prior to the withdrawal of US-led coalition forces in the summer of 2021. By employing a lexical trigger, the verb "become," which signifies a change of state. As a result of this withdrawal, the country has become an ideal location for militants who are targeting the West and Russia. By this presupposition, the journalist endeavors to draw Putin's attention to the threat posed by these militants rather than engaging in a conflict with the West. Appendix (2) of this article contains additional examples of change of state expressions including (33 and 34).



#### 7.2.4 Iterative Expressions

Another form of lexical presupposition is referred to as 'iterative' or 'categorical' presupposition. They refer to the process of repeating a series of steps or actions. Crystal (1997, p.247) defines "iterative" as an occurrence that happens repeatedly. Thus, this type of presupposition is activated by lexical items such as 'repeat, restore, reinstate, again, too, replay; repeal, come back, step back', and so on. These triggers provide information regarding the prior existence of a specific object or the preceding action of the speaker. These cues provide contextual information about the speaker or the world, such as the time period in which something occurred or the speaker's past actions. According to Levinson (1983, p.182), this category also includes terms such as 'anymore, returned, another time, to come back, restore, repeal', and so on. Such phrases or expressions elicit an assumption. Therefore, when it comes to lexical presupposition, the speaker's choice of specific words is understood to imply an additional thought that has not been explicitly articulated. The example below from the selected data explains:

6- *"The Kremlin has a long and bloody history of fighting Islamist extremism".*

This case is an illustration of lexical presupposition by using the repetitive phrase "a long and bloody history". The phrase presupposes that Russia has fought Islamist radicals on multiple occasions in the past because they pose a threat to Russia. As a result, they pose a greater threat to Russia than the West does, and President Putin ought to take them on; however, by attacking Ukraine, he launched the incorrect kind of war against the West. An additional instance of factive expressions are (36) in Appendix (2).

#### 7.2.5 Judging Expressions

Judging is the act of forming an opinion based on a previously established view resulting from a completed activity. This presumption excludes speakers as a subject entirely (Levinson, 1983, p.182). This category of verbs pertains to verbs that express a person's evaluative stance towards another person (or institution) based on a presumed factual basis. This category encompasses actions such as accusing, criticizing, praising, and so on. The following instance from the selected data shows:

7- *"one of the more calamitous consequences of the 2021 withdrawal was the complete destruction of the West's intelligence-gathering network there".*

Example (7) has a lexical presupposition through the use of the phrase "the more calamitous consequences" as an expression of judging. It presupposes that the act of withdrawing is an incorrect option and carries several adverse outcomes. It prevents the intelligence community in the West from taking action against Islamist militants. Consequently, they now possess a secure environment to cultivate their skills in executing assaults against Western targets.



### 7.2.6 Counter-factual Expressions

According to Crystal (1997, p.147) and McCawley (1976, p.400), a counterfactual verb assumes that the claim in its complement sentence is not just false but also goes against what is actually true. The verb 'pretend' exemplifies this category. The following example from the chosen data states:

8- *"Russian President Vladimir Putin may have **convinced** himself that Russia's main enemy lies in the West".*

The journalist employs the verb 'convinced' to express a lexical presupposition in example (8) by employing the rigger counter-factual. This implies that the West is not the primary adversary of Russia. In other words, the West and Russia are allies in the face of their genuine adversary, the Islamist extremists who have launched numerous attacks on Russia.

### 7.2.7 Conventional Expressions

Presuppositions of sentences are regarded by Levinson (1983, p.206) as an integral part of the conventional meaning of expressions, particularly those related to lexical elements. Palmer (1981, p.170) asserts that certain words have specific qualities that are associated with assumption. Hence, the verb "clean" in the statement "I cleaned the room" suggests that the room was unclean before to cleaning. In a similar vein, the sentence "I killed the bird" suggests that the bird was alive prior to its death because of the use of the verb "kill." Beyond verbs, other lexical items with presumed usual meaning might also be included in the notion of conventionality. There are certain nouns with customary meanings. Consider the following example from the selected data:

9- *"Putin may well reflect that, by concentrating his military focus on Ukraine, he now finds himself fighting **the wrong war**".*

The lexical trigger 'conventional expression' "the wrong war" in (9) is employed to signify a lexical assumption. The phrase "the wrong war" implies that Putin should be engaged in a more appropriate conflict, specifically targeting Islamist militants rather than the West, particularly Ukraine. Put simply, Putin should combat the Islamist fanatics who pose a threat to Russian citizens and the nation as a whole. The extra conventional expressions, such as (40 and 41), can be found in Appendix (2) of this article.

### 7.2.8 Restrictive Expressions

Words like as "only," "just," and "another" limit or restrict what comes after them (Liang & Liu, 2016, p.69). As an illustration, consider the scenario *"She only slapped him"*, which resulted in the statement "She did nothing else". The following extract from the selected data explains:

10- *"Putin has adopted an **entirely** different approach".*

The adverb "entirely" in this quote is used to presuppose that Putin's approach against the West is distinct and different from all other ways. In essence, the anticipated course of action for Russia would be to align with the





West in combating Islamist extremists. However, Putin's unexpected actions, such as his war against Ukraine, deviate from this expectation.

## 8-Structural Presupposition

Structural presuppositions refers to linguistic phenomenon where specific structures are assumed to convey presupposed information, suggesting that this information is taken as accurate. put it another way, they form a type when certain structures conventionally and regularly, presuppose that part of the structure is already assumed to be true. Addressers can use such structures to treat information as presupposed (i.e., assumed to be true), and, hence, to be accepted as true by the addressee. In the selected article two structural triggers are found: temporal clauses and comparative constructions.

### 8.1 Temporal Clauses

According to Levinson (1983, p.183), these clauses are referred to as temporal clauses. These are adverbials that pertain to time, such as phrases that commence with words like: *after, during, whenever, when, as*, and so on. Such sentences in an utterance can occur either at the beginning or at the end, and in both circumstances, they activate presuppositions. This presupposition trigger establishes a connection between two utterances in a certain scenario. These sentences elicit presupposition (Biber et al, 1999, p.194). The quotation below from the selected article illustrates:

11- "*After the devastating attack on Moscow's Crocus City concert hall*".

In the instance above, the journalist uses the structural trigger 'the temporal clause' to create a structural presupposition. The clause "after the devastating attack on Moscow's Crocus City concert hall" presupposes that Islamist extremists perpetrated an attack against the Russian populace in Moscow. This assault serves as evidence that the true adversary of Russia is not the West, but rather Isil. Appendix (2) contains an additional example of temporal clauses in the article (46).

### 8.2 Comparative Constructions

On this structural level, the presence of certain conjunctions that indicate a comparison or contrast between two clauses are used. Making presupposition is the result of comparing and contrasting, says Karttunen (cited in Levinson, 1983, p.183). According to Levinson (1983, p.183), these constructions prove that presupposition is present. Both the (as + adjective + as) and the (adjective + er + than) formulations fall into this category. Contrast structures also require the existence of their complementary structures, in addition to the ones listed above. Words like "in contrast," "by contrast," "in comparison," "on the contrary," "even though," "notwithstanding," etc. all comprise contrast structures. At the end of each of these constructions is a structural element. The following example from the selected data illustrates:



12- "comparing the campaign to defeat Isil to allied efforts to defeat the Nazis during the Second World War".

The chosen article employs the structural trigger 'compare and contrast' in (12) to establish a structural presupposition. The journalist presupposes that Putin shares similarities with both ISIS and the Nazis from World War II. The journalist used irony to highlight Putin's plea for the West to establish an alliance in opposition to him. Putin prioritizes military aggression against Ukraine instead of concentrating on combatting ISIL. Another instance of comparative constructions are (44) in Appendix (2).

## 9.Result discussions

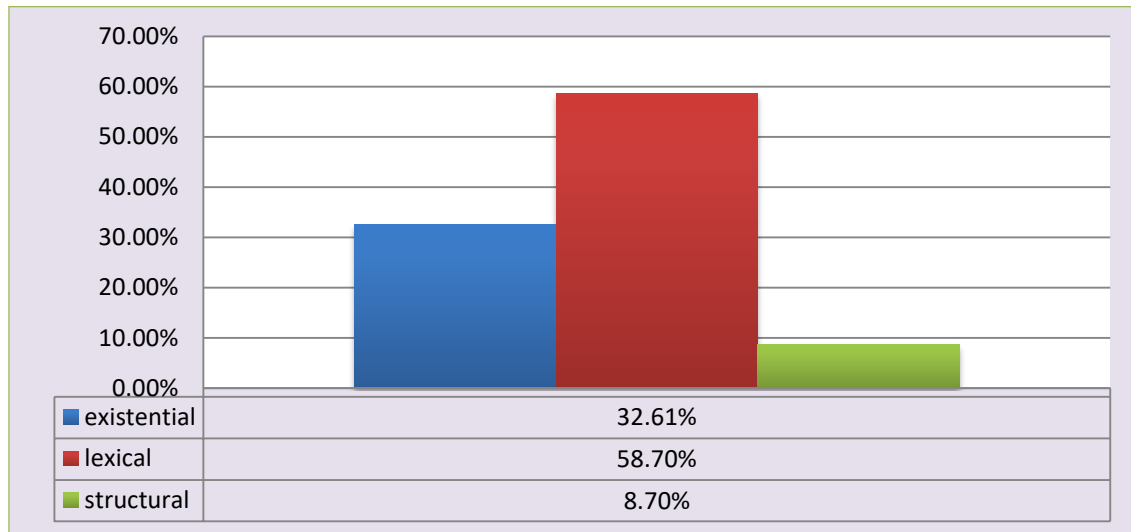
### 9.1 Presupposition Types

Upon analyzing the texts provided, it has been determined that the newspaper article exhibits an overabundance of presuppositions. The newspaper article discusses the strategies implemented by Russian President Putin in his approach towards both the Western countries and Islamic radicals. The newspaper article suggests that the Russian president is engaging in a misguided conflict with the West, particularly in relation to the war with Ukraine, while neglecting the genuine threat posed by Islamic radicals to Russia. The journalist use presuppositions as a pragmatic linguistic tool to effectively communicate the main point of the aforementioned text. Upon analyzing the essay, it is evident that three primary types of presuppositions are employed, albeit in varying degrees. These types include existential, lexical, and structural presuppositions. The study reveals that the journalist exhibits a bias for employing lexical presuppositions over the other two types, as indicated in Table (1) and Figure (1) below:

Table (1): Use and Frequency of Types of Presuppositions

Type	Frequency	Percentage
Existential	15	32.608%
Lexical	27	58.695%
Structural	4	8.695%
Total	46	100%

Fig. 1 : Frequency of Presupposition Types



The table and figure above display the percentages of the various types of presuppositions utilized in the chosen article. The journalist's usage of these types clearly conveys their perspective on Russian President Putin's policies in his conflict with the West and his indifference towards Islamic radicals and their ideological supporters. The percentages above indicate that lexical presuppositions are ranked top (58.695%), followed by existential presuppositions in second place (32.608%), and structural presuppositions ranked third (8.695%).

From the above percentages, it becomes evident that lexical presuppositions play a significant role in effectively communicating the intended meanings about a particular occurrence to the listener. The significance of existential presuppositions in attaining the same objective is also emphasized, as evidenced by the usage percentages. In contrast, the role of syntactic presuppositions seems to be less significant, as the ratio was comparatively low compared to other categories.

## 9.2 Lexical Presupposition

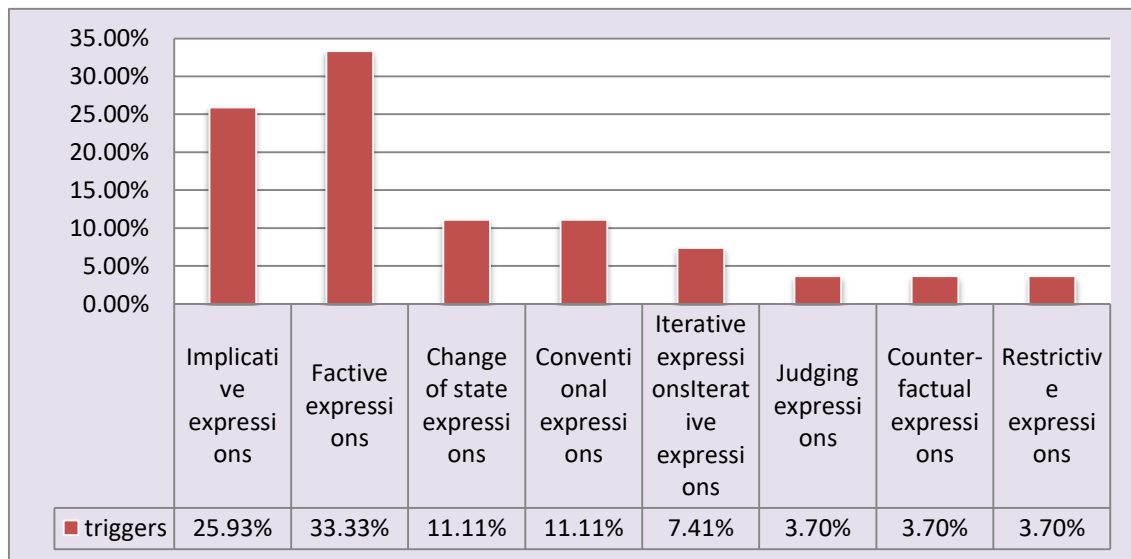
The analysis of the chosen newspaper article reveals that lexical presuppositions are utilized to a significantly higher extent compared to other types of presuppositions, amounting (56.25%). This significant proportion, amounting to over half of all presuppositions types employed, underscores the significance of this particular kind of presuppositions in crafting this genre of newspaper articles. However, the utilization of different levels of lexical presuppositions differed, as indicated in Table (2) and Figure (2) below.



Table (2): Frequency and Percentages of Lexical Presuppositions

Lexical Presuppositions		
Type	Frequency	Percentage
Implicative expressions	7	25.925%
Factive expressions	9	33.333%
Change of state expressions	3	11.111%
Conventional expressions	3	11.111%
Iterative expressions	2	7.407%
Judging expressions	1	3.703%
Counter-factual expressions	1	3.703%
Restrictive expressions	1	3.703%
Total	27	100%

Fig.2 : Use and Frequency of Lexical Triggers



The table and figure above provide percentages that reveal the relative significance of the lexical presuppositions used by the journalist to describe the Russian president's attitude in his battle against the West, which the journalist characterizes as misguided. In addition, these presuppositions include the challenge Russia faces with extreme organizations. The journalist describes how Russian action in Chechnya and Syria against these terrorist organizations unfolds. The journalist describes the extreme attacks directed on Russian people by radical colleges. The utilization of presuppositions has been categorized into various groups based on their respective usage percentages. These groups include factive expressions (33.333%),



implicative expressions (25.925%), change of state expressions (11.111%), conventional expressions (11.111%), iterative expressions (7.407%), judging expressions (3.703%), counter-factual expressions (3.703%), and restrictive expressions (3.703%). The percentages show that factive and implicative expressions are used more frequently than other triggers in newspaper articles, suggesting their significance in writing and preparing such articles. On the other hand, change of state, conventional, and iterative expressions are used moderately. Judging, counter-factual, and restrictive expressions, however, are used less frequently compared to other triggers, indicating that the journalist of the article relies less on these types of expressions in newspaper articles.

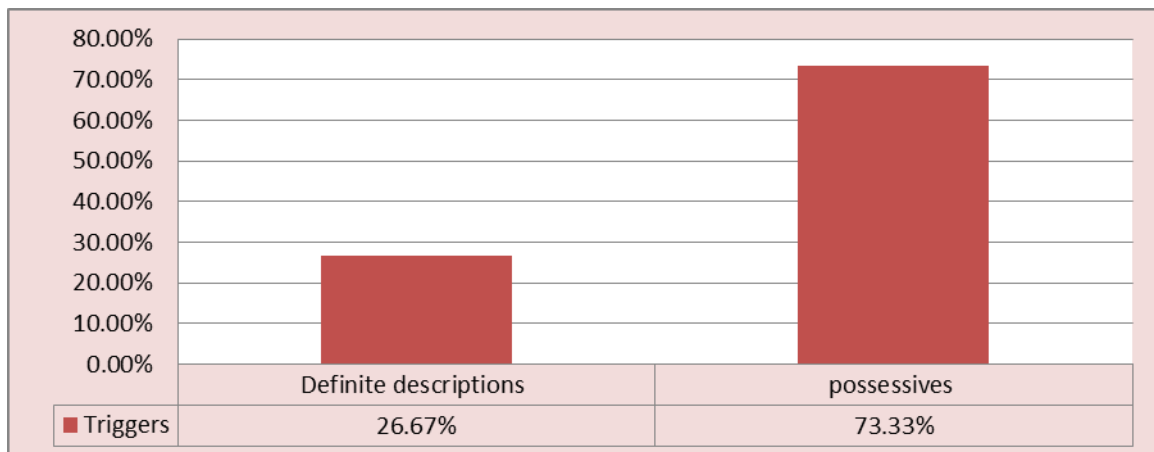
### 9.3 Existential Presuppositions

The analysis of the selected newspaper article demonstrates that existential presuppositions are, in addition to two other types of presuppositions, utilized in the article. It comes in at number two in terms of its use in the chosen article, which amounts to 35.416%. This substantial proportion highlights the significance of this particular kind of presuppositions in the process of writing articles for this category of newspaper. Among several existential triggers, the analysis shows that only two are used in the article including definite descriptions and possessives. The employment of various degrees of existential presuppositions, on the other hand, varied, as shown in the in Table (3) and Figure (3) below.

Table (3): Use and Frequency of Existential Triggers

Existential Presuppositions		
Type	Frequency	Percentage
Definite descriptions	4	26.666%
possessives	11	73.333%
Total	15	100%

Fig.3 : Use and Frequency of Existential Triggers





The table and figure above display the percentages of existential triggers that indicate the proportional importance of the existential presuppositions employed by the journalist of the article to define the Russian president's stance in his conflict with the West, which the journalist portrays as incorrect. The use of presuppositions has been classified into two specific triggers: possessives, accounting for 73.333%, and definite descriptions, accounting for 26.666%. The percentages indicate that possessives are more commonly utilized than specific descriptions, implying their importance in writing and composing such articles. In other words, the journalist extensively utilizes these triggers to portray the Russian strategy towards their true adversary, the Islamist fanatics.

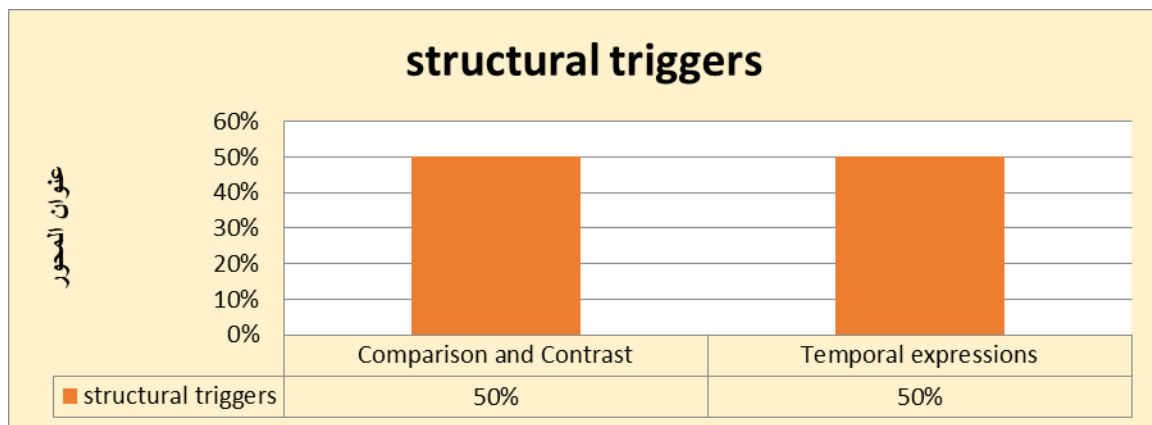
#### 9.4 Structural Presuppositions

The analysis of the chosen newspaper article shows that it uses structural presuppositions, along with two other types of presuppositions. It ranks last in terms of its usage in the selected article, accounting for 8.333%. The low use suggests that this particular form of presupposition is not favored in this type of data. The study reveals that the article utilizes two specific structural triggers, namely Comparison and Contrast and Temporal expressions, among others. The triggers have received the same percentage for each, as seen in Table (4) and Figure (4) below.

Table 4: Use and Frequency of Structural Triggers

Structural Presuppositions		
Type	Frequency	Percentage
Comparison and Contrast	2	50 %
Temporal expressions	2	50 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>

Fig.4 : Use and Frequency of Structural Triggers





The table and figure above present the percentages of structural triggers that demonstrate the journalist's use of less important type of presuppositions in comparison with the other two types; lexical and existential. Thus, their use to characterize the Russian president's attitude in his battle with the West, which the journalist presents as erroneous, seems less important than other two types. the structural triggers are categorized into two distinct triggers: Comparison and Contrast, which make up 50% of the occurrences, and Temporal expressions, which also account for 50%. The percentages show that each of them is utilized in equal measure. Put simply, the journalist does not use these triggers to accurately depict the Russian policy towards their actual foe, the Islamist extremists.

## CONCLUSIONS

After conducting an analysis of the data, the study derives the following conclusions: The journalist in his article relies on a narrative of details that substantiate his primary idea, which is that the Russian president is conducting a wrong war in Ukraine instead of the right war against Islamic extremists. They are those who attack Russian territory or those who threaten the authority of his ally in Syria. In an effort to promote this idea, The journalist employs presuppositions in the article. Consequently, he employs the three types of presupposition: existential, lexical, and structural. The lexical presuppositions are first, accounting for 58.695%. The existential presuppositions are second, accounting for 32.608%, and the syntactic presuppositions are third, accounting for 8.695%. Furthermore, the existential triggers employed are definite descriptions and possessives. The lexical triggers are factive expressions, implicative expressions, change of state expressions, conventional expressions, iterative expressions, judging expressions, counter-factual expressions, and restrictive expressions. Finally, the structural triggers are comparison and contrast, and temporal clauses as illustrated in Tables (1, 2 and 3). Subsequently, the conclusions validate the hypothesis.

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*Appendix One: the article*

Putin must now realise he's been fighting the wrong war

The deadly attack in Moscow will serve as a painful reminder of the threat posed by Islamist terrorism

CON COUGHLINDEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS EDITOR23 March 2024 • 6:00pm

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/23/putin-must-now-realise-hes-been-fighting-the-wrong-war/>

"Russian President Vladimir Putin may have convinced himself that Russia's main enemy lies in the West. But the deadly attack on a Moscow concert hall carried out by an offshoot of Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (Isil) demonstrates that Islamist terrorists pose a far more deadly threat to his country's well-being".

The Kremlin has a long and bloody history of fighting Islamist extremism, from Russia's brutal military campaign in Chechnya – Putin's first war after becoming president – to Moscow's more recent military intervention in Syria, where Russian forces were involved in eliminating Isil's self-declared caliphate in Raqqa".

"It is worth remembering that Putin's primary justification for deploying Russian forces to Syria in 2015 was to target the Islamist militants who had seized control of large swathes of the country, even if his main motivation was to keep the Assad regime, long-standing allies of Moscow, in power".

"Explaining his decision to intervene in Syria in a speech to the UN General Assembly in September 2015, Putin made a rousing call for an international coalition to fight global terrorism, comparing the campaign to defeat Isil to allied efforts to defeat the Nazis during the Second World War".

"These days, Putin has adopted an entirely different approach, one where confronting the West, not Islamist extremism, has become his main priority. Many of the Russian forces that fought Isil in Syria are now mired in a brutal conflict in Ukraine".

"After the devastating attack on Moscow's Crocus City concert hall, where at least 133 people were gunned down by a group of Islamist terrorists, Putin may well reflect that, by concentrating his military focus on Ukraine, he now finds himself fighting the wrong war".

"After the destruction of Isil's caliphate in Syria in 2017, there has been a worrying tendency, both in Moscow and the West, to believe the threat posed by Islamist militants is on the wane".

"That was certainly the thinking that informed the Biden administration's disastrous decision to withdraw US-led coalition forces from Afghanistan in the summer of 2021, handing control of the country over to the Taliban, Isil's ideological soulmates. Putin even made a rare public declaration in support of the decision. It's a judgment he may well come to regret following reports that the group responsible for the concert hall attack was based in Afghanistan and operating under the Taliban's protection".

"While most world leaders regard the Taliban regime in Kabul as relatively benign, that is not the view of the Western intelligence community which, on the contrary, believes Afghanistan has once again become a safe haven for Islamist terror networks. Moreover, one of the more calamitous consequences of the 2021 withdrawal was the complete destruction of the West's intelligence-gathering network there".

"This has eroded our ability to confront the Islamist threat, and at a time when terrorist organisations like Hamas – which adheres to the same Islamist creed as the Taliban – are increasing their capacity to carry out large-scale operations such as that of October 7. The tactics used by the terror group responsible for the Moscow attack were disturbingly similar to those that Hamas used in its assault on Israeli civilians".

"In such circumstances Putin, instead of escalating his confrontation with the West, would be better advised to give his backing to an international effort to combat the modern menace of Islamist-inspired terrorism".

"A good place to start would be at the UN where Moscow could concentrate its efforts on tackling the disturbing rise of Islamist terrorism. That could prove far more effective at keeping Russia's citizens safe than persisting with his unwinnable war in Ukraine".



*Appendix Two: Analysis of the article*

	Trigger	Example	Presupposition
<b>Existential Presuppositions</b>			
.1	<b>Definite description</b>	"the deadly attack"	Presupposes there is a deadly attack takes place against Russia
.2		"Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (Isil)"	Presupposes the existence of Islamic State of Iraq
.3		<u>Islamist extremism</u>	Presupposes the existence of Islamic extremists who threat Russia
.4		"there has been a worrying tendency, both in Moscow and the West, to believe the threat posed by Islamist militants is on the wane"	Presupposes the existence of uncertainty about the total destructi threat.
.5	<b>Possessives</b>	"his country's well-being"	Presupposes his own conuntry
.6		"Russia's main enemy"	Presupposes the existence of a main enemy of Russia
.7		"Russia's brutal military campaign in Chechnya"	Presupposes the invasion of Russia against Islamists
.8		"Moscow's more recent military intervention in Syria"	Presupposes Russia's fighting Islamist terrorists in Syria
.9		" <b>Isil's</b> self-declared caliphate in Raqqa"	Presupposes the existence of Isil's state in Syria
10		" <b>his main motivation</b> was to keep the Assad regime, long-standing allies of Moscow, in power"	Presupposes that Putin supports Assad regime to be in power
11		Explaining <b>his decision to intervene</b> in Syria"	Presupposes Putin's prior decision to occupy Syria
12		"one where confronting the West, not Islamist extremism, <b>has become his main priority</b> "	Presupposes Putin's main priority is fighting the West, not Isil
13		"the Biden administration's disastrous decision to withdraw US-led coalition forces from Afghanistan in the summer of 2021"	Presupposes that US coalition forces were withdraw from Afghanis
14		"handing control of the country over to the Taliban, <b>Isil's ideological soulmates</b> "	Presupposes that Isil has Taliban's identical ideologies against the V
15	"Putin, instead of escalating <b>his confrontation with the West</b> "	Presupposes that Putin confronted the West instead of Islamist ext	
<b>Lexical Presuppositions</b>			
16	<b>Implicative expressions</b>	"Moscow's more recent military <b>intervention</b> in Syria"	Presupposes that Russia occupied Syria
17		"where Russian forces <b>were involved</b> in eliminating <b>Isil's</b> self-declared caliphate in Raqqa"	Presupposes Russian forces' contribution in fighting Isil in Syria.
18		"Putin's primary justification for <b>deploying</b> Russian forces to Syria in 2015"	Presupposes that Russian forces invade Syria in 2015
19		" <b>target</b> the Islamist militants who had seized control of large swathes of the country"	Presupposes that the extremists make control on Russia's alley's la
20		"explaining his decision to <b>intervene</b> in Syria"	Presupposes Syria's occupation by Putin's forces.
21		"It's a judgment he may well come to <b>regret</b> following reports that the group responsible for the concert hall attack was based in Afghanistan and operating under the Taliban's protection"	Presupposes that Isil's responsibility for the concert hall attack in M
22		"Putin...would be better <b>advised</b> to give his backing to an international effort to combat the modern	The international effort needs Russian backing to be effective in the modern menace of Islamist-inspired terrorism



		menace of Islamist-inspired terrorism"	
23	<b>Factive expressions</b>	"It is worth <b>remembering</b> that Putin's primary justification for deploying Russian forces to Syria in 2015"	Presupposes that Putin has a justification for deploying his forces to Syria
24		" <b>Many of the Russian forces</b> that fought Isil in Syria are now <b>mired</b> in a <b>brutal</b> conflict in Ukraine"	Presupposes that Russian forces are engaged in fierce fighting in Ukraine
25		"where at least 133 people were <b>gunned down</b> by a group of Islamist terrorists"	Presupposes that some of Russian citizens were killed by Islamist terrorists
26		"he now finds himself fighting the <b>wrong</b> war"	Presupposes that the right war is against Islamist terrorists
27		"Putin even <b>made</b> a rare public declaration in support of the decision"	Presupposes that Putin supports Biden's decision to withdraw coalition forces from Afghanistan
28		"While most world leaders <b>regard</b> the Taliban regime in Kabul as <b>relatively benign</b> "	Presupposes that Taliban movement is less extreme than Isil, and represents an Islamic extremism hostile to the West.
29		"the Western intelligence community which, on the contrary, <b>believes</b> Afghanistan has once again become a <u>safe haven for Islamist terror networks</u> "	Presupposes that Afghanistan is still a <u>safe haven for Islamist terrorism</u>
30		"This has <b>eroded</b> our ability to confront the Islamist threat"	Presupposes that the West previously has ability to confront the Islamist threat
31		"That could prove far <b>more</b> effective at keeping Russia's citizens safe <b>than</b> persisting with his unwinnable war in Ukraine"	Presupposes that Russian citizens would be safe through Russian military effort, not the international effort, not fighting Ukraine
32		<b>Change of state expressions</b>	"the Western intelligence community which, on the contrary, believes Afghanistan has once again <b>become</b> a <u>safe haven for Islamist terror networks</u> "
33	" <b>handing</b> control of the country over to the Taliban, Isil's ideological soulmates"		Presupposes that Islamists extremists have control over Afghanistan, and US coalition forces
34	"at a time when terrorist organisations like Hamas ... are <b>increasing</b> their capacity to carry out large-scale operations such as that of October 7"		Terrorist organizations have the ability to threaten the West
35	<b>Iterative expressions</b>	"The Kremlin has a long and bloody <b>history</b> of <u>fighting Islamist extremism</u> "	Presupposes that Russia has been fighting Islamist extremists before
36		"the Western intelligence community which, on the contrary, believes Afghanistan has <b>once again</b> become a <u>safe haven for Islamist terror networks</u> "	Presupposes that Afghanistan was a <u>safe haven for Islamist terrorism</u> in the past.
37	<b>Judging expressions</b>	"one of the <b>more calamitous consequences</b> of the 2021 withdrawal was the complete destruction of the West's intelligence-gathering network there"	Presupposes that the 2021 withdrawal was wrong since it led to the complete destruction of the West's intelligence-gathering network
38	<b>Counter-factual expressions</b>	"Russian President Vladimir Putin may have <b>convinced</b> himself that Russia's main enemy lies in the West"	Presupposes that Russia's main enemy does not lie in the West
39	<b>Conventional expressions</b>	"Putin may well reflect that, by concentrating his military focus on Ukraine, he now finds himself fighting <b>the wrong</b> war"	Presupposes that the right war should be against the Islamist extremists
40		"While most world leaders regard the Taliban regime in Kabul as <b>relatively benign</b> "	Presupposes that the extremist Islamists represent a brutal regime.
41		"That could ...than persisting with his <b>unwinnable</b> war in Ukraine"	Presupposes that Putin's winnable war is against the Islamist extremists



war in Ukraine"			
42	<b>Restrictive expressions</b>	"Putin has adopted an <b>entirely</b> different approach"	Presupposes that Putin's new approach of confronting the unprecedented
<b>Structural presuppositions</b>			
43	<b>Comparative constructions</b>	"comparing the campaign to defeat Isil to allied efforts to defeat the Nazis during the Second World War"	It presupposes the similarity between the battle against ISIL and the collective efforts of the Allies during World War II.
44		"The tactics used by the terror group responsible for the Moscow attack were disturbingly <b>similar to</b> those that Hamas used in its assault on Israeli civilians"	Hamas is a terror group responsible for the attack against citizens
45	<b>Temporal expressions</b>	"After the devastating attack on Moscow's Crocus City concert hall"	Presupposes that a deadly attack takes place against Russian citizens
46		"After the <u>destruction of Isil's caliphate in Syria</u> in 2017"	Presupposes that <u>Isil's caliphate in Syria</u> was destroyed in 2017