

## AN ANALYSIS OF PRESUPPOSITION IN THE SELECTED SONG LYRICS IN THE *SOUR* ALBUM BY OLIVIA RODRIGO

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### ABSTRACT

Text is a language that contains sentences that express someone's feelings, thoughts, and messages. Song lyrics as a form of text certainly contains meanings or messages addressed by the speaker to readers. In this study, the writer is interested in analyzing to discuss the types of presupposition, the predominant ones, and the implied meaning in selected song lyrics in the Sour album. The research method used is descriptive qualitative. In this study the writer choose five song lyric in the Sour album such as "Driver License", "Good 4 U", "Déjà vu", "Happier", and "Traitor". The result of this study can be summarize as follows. Firstly, there are various kinds of presupposition are found such as existential, factive, lexical, non-factive, structural, and counterfactual. Secondly, the predominant types presupposition is factive, with the assumes that the song lyrics is fact based on subjectify of the speaker. Finally, the meanings implied in the song lyrics of this study mostly indicate expressions of love and broken heart.

Keywords: pragmatics, presupposition types, presupposition meaning, predominant presupposition, song lyrics.

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### INTRODUCTION

Language is communication to connect someone with others. We use communication to interact with people. By using a language to communicate, we can both share and get information. The process of communication is not only spoken but also can be written. It can be expressed in text. Text is a language that contains a sentence which expresses someone's feeling, thought, and message. Halliday (2014) stated that text is the interpretation of what listeners and readers speak or write. The

result of text as a product can be seen in our life such as books, novels, short stories, poetry and song lyrics.

A song lyric is a kind of text. It consists of output of sentences created by songwriters to express their feelings. According to Hornby (Hornby, 1995, p. 1133) "a song is a piece of music with words that is sung". It means that a song is a musical instrument that consists of words to express the feelings of the speaker. The words in the song are called lyrics. Lyrics are a collection of words that can be used to convey a message about someone's feelings. It can be explicit or implicit. Hornby stated that lyric is an expression of the writer's feeling for singing (Hornby, 1995). Brewster also stated that lyric is an expression of personal emotion by involving music or performance (Brewster, 2009). Based on the statement of song and lyric, the writer can conclude that song lyrics are a text that contains the speaker's expressions by sung. There is an example of the song lyric "Traitor" in the *Sour* album by Olivia Rodrigo:

*"You betrayed me"*

The aspect function in the song lyrics can be known by seeing the function of speech. There are many kinds of speech functions such as expressive, directive, referential, metalinguistic, poetic, phatic (Holmes, 2013). As in the song lyric, the speaker conveys the function aspect of the song lyric by using expressive. Expressive is the utterance of the speaker to express feeling (Holmes, 2013). It can be understood that the speaker is sad and disappointed because her boyfriend betrayed her.

Song lyrics not only contain text but also have a meaning itself. The writer is interested in discussing the selected song lyrics in *Sour* album by Olivia Rodrigo. The *Sour* album is her first album which tells about life and failure of love. The writer is interested to know what the song talked about. *Sour* album consists of eleven songs, but in this study the writer chooses five songs to analyze. There are five songs that the writer chooses such as "Drivers License", "Good 4 U", "Déjà Vu," "Happier", and "Traitor". The writer chose five songs because each of them has the same topic about the emotions of young people when they have a broken heart, such as anger, disappointment and sadness. To know the meaning of the utterance in the song lyrics, it can be searched by using pragmatics especially in the aspect of presupposition.

Pragmatics is the study of context meaning in the utterance. Yule (1996) mentions four areas that are concerned with pragmatics such as pragmatics is the

study of speaker's meaning, pragmatic is the study of contextual meaning, pragmatics is the study of how the listeners get the meaning of the speaker say, and pragmatics is the study of the expression of relative distance. There are also linguistics theorists that define pragmatics. First, Leech (1983) defines pragmatics as the study of meaning in speech situations. Second, Mey (2001) argues that pragmatics is the study of the use of language to communicate, and it is determined by the condition of society. Third, Levinson states that pragmatics is the study of the relationship between language and context, which is grammaticalized or encoded in the language (Levinson, 1983). Based on the definition above, it can conclude that in pragmatics, there is a relationship between language and context in communication. Thus, pragmatics can be defined as the study of the contextual meaning in the utterance by the speaker to the listener, which is determined by the situation.

From the background of the paper above, the writer is interested in analyzing the kinds of presupposition, the predominance of presupposition and meaning are implied in the selected song lyrics in the *Sour* album by Olivia Rodrigo. Thus, the title of this paper is "An Analysis of Presupposition in Selected Song Lyrics in the *Sour* album by Olivia Rodrigo."

## **METHODOLOGY**

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method. Creswell (2014) states that qualitative methods depend on the text and image, with unique analysis steps and various designs. Bogdan and Biklen (2007) also argue that qualitative research is descriptive in that the data is collected in words or pictures rather than numbers. The data can be received from the interviews, transcripts, photographs, videos, memos, documents, and other official records.

Based on the two theorists above, qualitative research is a descriptive analysis of words or pictures, not numbers. It is collected by using documents, transcripts, books, and many more. But, in this study the writer uses words to analyze the problems because there is no picture in the data. Thus, the writer will use qualitative to descriptive the result by using words.

To analyze this study, the writer will do several things such as listening to the song on YouTube or Spotify, reading and understanding the song lyrics, identifying the song lyrics, classifying the song lyrics, analyzing the song lyrics and reporting the result of the song lyrics.

## DISCUSSION

### Types of Presupposition found in the selected song lyrics in *Sour* album by Olivia Rodrigo

Based on the selected song lyrics that the writer used such as "Driver License", "Good 4 U", "D  j   vu", "Happier", and "Traitor" in the *Sour* album by Olivia Rodrigo, the writer found that the song in *Sour* album can be divided into the types of presupposition. The writer will discuss the selected song lyrics in *Sour* album by Olivia Rodrigo based on use of presupposition by using Yule's theories about types of presupposition (Yule, 1996).

- a. Existential is the type of presupposition that the assumption of the speaker to describe something refers to the entities named. It can be interpreted in possessive construction and definite noun phrases.

There are some existential in each selected song lyrics in the *Sour* album:

1. *I got my driver's license last week* (>> "I" exists and she has a driver license)
2. *You look happy and healthy, not me* (>> "you" exist, "you" happy and healthy)
3. *You look happy and healthy, not me* (>> "you" exist, "you" happy and healthy)
4. *One more girl who brings out the better in you* (>> "you" exists and you can be better with the girl)
5. *I kept quiet so I could keep you* (>> "I" exists and I keep quiet to keep you)

- b. Factive is the type of presupposition that can be treated as information that already happened and assumes as true. These types can follow verbs like "know" and other verbs like "realize," "regret," "want," "explain," and the infinitives like "be," "aware," "odd" and "glad." They are factive presuppositions because they are treated as a fact.

There are some factive in each selected song lyrics in the *Sour* album:

1. *And I know we weren't perfect (>> the speaker and her boyfriend are not perfect in relationship)*
2. *You found a new girl and it took a couple weeks (>> the speaker's ex- boyfriend find a new girl only two weeks)*
3. *I know you get déjà vu (>> the speaker's ex-boyfriend get déjà vu)*
4. *We broke up a month ago (>> the speaker and her boyfriend break up)*
5. *Yeah, I played dumb but I always knew (>>the speaker plays dumbs)*

c. Lexical is a form of presupposition whose meaning is stated in general, interpreted with another meaning (unstated) that can be understood. Words like "managed," "tried," "stop," "start," "succeeded," and "again" are presented in lexical presupposition.

There are some lexical in each selected song lyrics in the *Sour* album:

1. *I've never felt this way for no one (>>the speaker did not have feelings like that with no one before)*
2. *Now you can be better man for your brand new girl (>> the speaker's ex-boyfriend was not good man before)*
3. *Watching reruns of Glee (>> the speaker and her boyfriend were watching of Glee before)*
4. *And now I'm pickin' her apart (>>the speaker has been trying to keep the ugliness of her ex's new girlfriend before)*
5. *Now it sure as hell don't look like it (>>the speaker's ex-boyfriend and that girl were friends before)*

d. Non-factive is the type of presupposition that is opposite of factive presupposition. It is assumed not to be true. Some verbs used in this type like "dream," "imagine," "think," "hope," "assume," and "pretend" are presuppositions that are untrue.

There are some lexical in each selected song lyrics in the *Sour* album:

1. *And pictured I was driving home to you (>>the speaker dreams that she drives to her ex-boyfriend's home)*
2. *Maybe I'm too emotional (>> the speaker is not too emotional)*

3. *She thinks it's special (>> she is not special)*
4. *And I thought my heart was attached (>>that the speaker's heart is not attached)*
5. *Guess you didn't cheat (>>the speaker's ex-boyfriend was cheating)*

e. Structural is a type of presupposition that information is a particular sentence structure by using *wh-question*. It is analyzed conventionally and regularly that the sentence is already assumed to be true. The speaker uses structure to treat the listener as presupposed or assumed to be true and accepted true.

There are some lexical in each selected song lyrics in the *Sour* album:

1. *Cause how could I ever love someone else? (>>the speaker could not love someone else)*
2. *Baby, what the fuck is up with that? (>> the speaker does not understand with her ex-boyfriend who does not think their relationship is happened)*
3. *So, when you gonna tell her that we did that too? (>>the speaker's ex-boyfriend has not tell yet about their relationship with the speaker to his new girlfriend)*
4. *How you run to her the second we called it quits? (>>the speaker's ex-boyfriend runs to other girl)*

f. Counterfactual is the type of presupposition that is contrary to fact or opposite of what is true. It is also called counterfactual conditional, which means the information in the clause is not true. It also can be recognized through using the "If"- clause or conditional sentence.

There are some lexical in each selected song lyrics in the *Sour* album:

1. *Remember when you said that you wanted to give me the world (>> The speaker ex-boyfriend does not give her the world)*
2. *God, I wish that I could do that (>> The speaker cannot do great as same like her ex-boyfriend)*
3. *God, I wish that you had thought this through (>>the speaker's boyfriend had not thought through about their relationship)*

After found the types of presupposition in selected song lyrics in the *Sour* album by Olivia Rodrigo, the writer draw the types of presupposition as follow in the table below:

No	Song	Existential	Factive	Lexical	Non-Factive	Structural	Counterfactual
1.	Drivers License	7	6	5	1	2	-
2.	Good 4 U	5	5	5	2	1	2
3.	Déjà vu	6	6	4	3	2	-
4.	Happier	7	6	1	6	-	-
5.	Traitor	4	9	3	2	2	1

*Table 1 Types of Presupposition in Selected Song Lyric in The Sour Album by Olivia Rodrigo*

The writer found there are various kinds of presuppositions expressed in selected song lyrics in the *Sour* album by Olivia Rodrigo. There are two songs that have six types of presupposition such as “Good 4 U” and “Traitor”. Each of them has existential, factive, lexical, non-factive, structural and counterfactual presuppositions. It is different from the song lyrics in “Drivers License”, “Déjà vu” and “Happier”. In “Drivers License” “Déjà vu”, the writer found there are five types of presupposition such as existential, factive, lexical, and non-factive. Then, in “Happier” the writer found four types of presupposition; existential, factive, lexical, and non-factive. From that, it can be seen that factive is the most appeared type of presupposition in the selected song lyrics which has factive presupposition appear in the selected song lyric.

**Predominant types of Presupposition in the selected song lyric in *Sour* album by Oliva Rodrigo**

From the discussion above, the writer found that the predominant type of presuppositions expressed in selected song lyrics in the *Sour* album by Olivia Rodrigo is a factive. Factive presupposition is a type of presupposition that can be treated as true information. In selected song lyrics in the *Sour* album, factive is mostly used by the speaker to describe the situation that already happened.

There are thirty two factive presuppositions expressed in the selected song lyrics. The number of each song are six factive in “Drivers License”, five factive in “Good 4 U”, six factive in “Déjà vu”, six factive in “Happier” and nine factive in “Traitor”. Thus, it can be understood that the speaker’s utterance in the song lyrics can be treated as true information. As in selected song lyrics, the speaker conveys about

her feelings when her relationship with her boyfriend is over. She is broken-hearted, sad, disappointed, jealous and angry. It also can relate with the topic of the song which has anger, sadness, jealousy and disappointment.

### **An analysis of the implied meaning in the selected song lyric in *Sour* album by Olivia Rodrigo**

#### *1. Existential*

The selected song lyrics in *Sour* album which has existential presupposition are "Drivers License", "Good 4 U", "Déjà vu", "Happier" and "Traitor". It can be seen that all the selected song lyrics have existential presuppositions. Existential is assumed to describe something that refers to entities named. Almost in selected song lyrics, the existential in the song lyrics describes someone's presence.

In "Drivers License" the implied meaning is harmony in a relationship can be destroyed because of infidelity. As in the song lyrics, the speaker says that her relationship is over because her boyfriend chose another girl. Then, the implied meaning in "Good 4 U" is that a breakup can make people sad and jealous. In the song lyrics, the speaker feels sad and jealous with her ex-boyfriend because her ex-boyfriend has a good life but she does not.

In "Déjà vu" the implied meaning of harmony in a relationship with a partner can create beautiful memories that are hard to forget. As in the song lyrics, the speaker conveys that she is curious and emotional with her ex-boyfriend if he still thinks about her after they broke up. Next, in "Happier" the implied meaning is that jealousy of a partner does not only exist when they are in a relationship but also when the relationship ends. The song lyrics convey that the speaker is jealous. The speaker is jealous of her ex's new girlfriend. Last, in "Traitor" the implied meaning is how much we love our partner but when we are betrayed and hurt we will be disappointed with it. The song lyrics tell that the speaker is disappointed with her boyfriend because he betrayed her and chose a new girl. Although the speaker loves him and won't lose him, she cannot hide her feelings when she knows that her boyfriend is cheating.

#### *2. Factive*



The selected song lyrics in *Sour* album which has factive presupposition are "Drivers License", "Good 4 U", "Déjà vu", "Happier" and "Traitor". It can be seen that all the selected song lyrics have existential presupposition. Factive presupposition is the speaker conveying true information.

In "Drivers License" the implied meaning of love can not only give happiness but also sadness. In the song lyrics can be seen the speaker's sadness when she broke up with her boyfriend. It is because the speaker's boyfriend says that their relationship will be forever but the fact is not. Then, in "Good 4 U" the meaning is seeing an ex-lover who just broke up and is now dating someone else makes us feel annoyed. It can be seen in the song lyrics that the speaker is angry and annoyed when she finds out that her ex-boyfriend easily forgets her and continues his life well. In "Déjà vu" the implied meaning is someone will feel annoyed if the good memories in the past relationship are done again with a new person. The speaker is annoyed when she finds out that all the good memories she had with her ex-boyfriend were now being replay by her ex-boyfriend with his new girlfriend. For example when the speaker is making jokes to her boyfriend and teaching the piano about Billy Joel's song so that her ex-boyfriend does it to his new girlfriend. Then her ex-boyfriend does it again to his new girlfriend by making jokes and playing piano with her.

In "Happier" the implied meaning is that a relationship that has ended can make a person feel disappointed and sad. In the song lyrics, the speaker feels disappointed with her ex-boyfriend who can find another girl. She is also sad when she does not forget her ex-boyfriend after they broke up. Last, in "Traitor" the implied meaning do not pretend to be stupid when you find out our partner is cheating behind your back. As in the song lyric, the speaker pretends not to know that her boyfriend is cheating with another girl behind her. So, she is annoyed and sad at the same time knowing that her boyfriend is cheating on her.

### 3. *Lexical*

The selected song lyrics in *Sour* album which has existential presupposition are "Drivers License", "Good 4 U", "Déjà vu", "Happier" and "Traitor". Lexical is the presupposition that can be understood with another meaning that the speaker unstated.

In "Drivers License" the meaning is when we love someone it will be difficult to forget. The speaker conveys that she is annoyed because she has not been able to forget her ex-boyfriend. It can be understood that the speaker really loves her ex-boyfriend. Then, in "Good 4 U" the meaning implied is that someone who really loves their partner will not feel fine when they just broke up. The speaker stated that her ex-boyfriend can be a better man for his new girlfriend. She also said that her ex-boyfriend treated it as if their relationship never existed. There is a disappointed and sad expression from the speaker.

In "Déjà vu" the implied meaning is even though we have feelings of disappointment, and anger when we just broke up with our lover, it does not mean we do not have compassion for others. In the song lyrics, the speaker feels sorry to see her ex-lover's new girlfriend being treated like when the speaker was still with her ex-boyfriend. It can be seen that to forget all the memories that have been passed together with a lover is not easy and sometimes we still do all the activities that we have done with our new partner. Then, in "Happier" the implied meaning is letting go of someone we love with other people is not easy, so that sometimes there is a desire to take revenge and damage the relationships of someone we love. The song lyrics tells that the speaker is still hurt when she just broke up, so selfishly she will do anything to ruin her ex-boyfriend's relationship with her new girlfriend. She had plans to expose her ex's new girlfriend's ugliness but she did not. In "Traitor" the speaker feels annoyed and hurt knowing her boyfriend is cheating with another girl. It has the implied meaning that lies in a relationship will slowly be exposed and it can hurt people.

#### 4. *Non-factive*

The selected song lyrics in *Sour* album which are non-factive are "Drivers License", "Good 4 U", "Déjà vu", "Happier" and "Traitor". Non-factive is the opposite of factive presupposition.

In "Drivers License" the implied when we can achieve the hopes and promises we ever made in a relationship we will get happiness. The song lyrics tells that the speaker is happy that her wish of driving to her boyfriend's house has come true. But the

reality is that her relationship with her boyfriend is over, so she cannot make her wish come true. Then, in "Good 4 U" the meaning implied is that in a relationship we must reduce the sense of selfishness in ourselves, but on the contrary we must give a sense of care for our partner. The song lyrics, tells that the speaker lowers her ego by blaming herself for being too emotional so that her lover does not care about her. In "Déjà vu" the implied meaning is do not expect that in a relationship there will always be happiness and harmony. In the song lyrics, the speaker said that her ex-boyfriend's new girlfriend is happy and felt special being treated special by her boyfriend. It can be seen that there is harmony in the relationship. The speaker also feels happy when she dreams to be the only girl who is in a relationship with her boyfriend. When the reality is not the same as she expected, she is annoyed because she is not the only girl of her boyfriend.

Next, in "Happier" the implied meaning is almost the same as "Déjà vu" . Do not expect that in a relationship there will always be happiness, harmony and beautiful memories because if you expect more, you will feel disappointed and hurt. The song lyrics tells about how the speaker hopes that her relationship with her lover will always be together but in fact is not like that, so she feels hurt and disappointed when the relationship ends. The speaker also conveyed her hopes for her ex-boyfriend with his new girlfriend to be happy but in fact she does not want her ex-boyfriend to be happier when he broke up with her. Last, in "Traitor" the meaning of infidelity can destroy a harmony in a relationship and make someone hurt.

##### 5. *Structural*

The selected song lyrics in *Sour* album which has structural presupposition are "Drivers License", "Good 4 U", "Déjà vu" and "Traitor". It can be seen there is one song lyric which has not been expressed by using structural. Structural presupposition is the information by the speaker that can be followed by using *wh-question*.

In "Drivers License" the implied meaning of loyalty and sincerity in loving a partner will be seen when the relationship ends. It can be seen in the song lyrics that the speaker won't be able to forget and leave the partner easily, it means that the speaker sincerely loves her boyfriend even though she feels hurt and disappointed

with her boyfriend. In "Good 4 U" the implied meaning is when breaking up with a lover makes someone upset. In the song lyrics, the speaker is annoyed because her relationship ends and her ex-boyfriend never seemed to think their relationship existed.

Next, in "Déjà vu" the implied meaning is honesty in relationships is important so that there are no misunderstandings and separations in relationships. The song lyrics talk about the speaker being annoyed with her ex-boyfriend who still has not been honest with his new girlfriend that they were in a relationship. Last, in the "Traitor" the implied meaning is lies and infidelity in a relationship can make a person hurt and sad. The song lyrics tell about the speaker who is hurt and disappointed when she finds out her boyfriend is cheating on her.

#### 6. *Counterfactual*

The selected song lyrics in *Sour* album which has counterfactual presupposition are "Good 4 U" and "Traitor". Counterfactual is types that are contrary to the fact or opposite of what is true. In *Sour* album the writer only found three songs which have counterfactual presuppositions.

In the "Good 4 U" the meaning is do not make promises when you do not keep them. It can be seen that the speaker has been given the sweet promise by her boyfriend that she would have happiness in a relationship but the fact is not. She feels disappointed, annoyed and jealous at her ex-boyfriend who could live well without her. Then, in "Traitor" the implied meaning is when you are in a relationship with someone, you have to think about the relationship carefully so that the relationship can last forever. In the song lyrics, the speaker is disappointed that her relationship ended and does not last long because her boyfriend did not think about their relationship carefully.

From that, it can be seen that the selected song lyrics in *Sour* album have various kinds of presuppositions. Some of them have six types of presupposition but there is a song that does not have six types of presupposition. It can be seen in "Drivers License", "Déjà vu" and "Happier" are not expressed in counterfactual terms. It is because the speaker does not have information that contradicts the facts. It can assume

that the information is in accordance with the facts. Then, "Happier" is not expressed in structural presupposition. It is because the speaker has no questions regarding her breakup with her boyfriend. This is reinforced by the speaker's hopes for his ex-boyfriend to be happy with her new girlfriend.

After know the meaning in the selected song lyrics in *Sour* album by Olivia Rodrigo, the writer can draw the function in the meaning in the table below:

No.	Song lyrics	Meaning in song lyrics to express feeling of love and broken heart					
		Existential	Factive	Lexical	Non-Factive	Structural	Counter-factual
1.	Drivers License	Cheating	Sad	Annoyed	Happiness	Sincerity, disappointed, hurt	-
2.	Good 4 U	Jealous, sad	Annoyed	Disappointed, sad	Selfish, care	Annoyed	Happiness
3.	Déjà vu	Curious, emotional	Annoyed	Pity	Happiness	Honesty	-
4.	Happier	Jealous	Disappointed, sad, selfish	Selfish, hurt	Happiness, harmony	-	-
5.	Traitor	Disappointed	Cheating, sad, annoyed	Annoyed, hurt	Harmony	Hurt, disappointed	Long last relationship

*Table 2 Meaning of Presupposition in Selected Song Lyrics in the Sour Album by Olivia Rodrigo*

From table 2, it can be seen that the meaning in the selected song lyrics on the *Sour* album by Olivia Rodrigo tells about a feeling of heartbreak when knowing that the relationship in love does not last long. The speaker used the function of speech to express her feelings of love and broken heart. Some of these songs have the same characteristics, namely about an affair that can make a person feel annoyed, sad, disappointed, hurt and jealous.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings and discussion in the previous chapter, the writer can conclude that there are various kinds of presuppositions are expressed in the selected song lyrics in *Sour* album. From the five songs lyrics that the writer chose, two of them are "Good 4 U" and "Traitor" have six types of presupposition. Then,

three song lyrics have different types of presuppositions. As in the “Drivers License” and “Déjà vu”, the writer found there are five types of presupposition such as existential, factive, lexical, and non-factive. Then, in “Happier” there are four types of presupposition such as existential, factive, lexical, and non-factive.

The predominantly types of presupposition in the selected song lyrics in *Sour* album is factive presupposition. There are thirty two song lyrics that are expressed with factive presupposition; six factive in “Drivers License”, five factive in “Good 4 U”, six factive in “Déjà vu”, six factive in “Happier” and nine factive in “Traitor”. It can be assumed the speaker conveys the true information. It is related to the speaker’s experience which tells about her emotion when she was broken-hearted in a relationship.

The meaning of the song lyric in *Sour* album is about feeling love and a broken heart in a relationship. The speaker shows that love not only can make people happy but also can make them annoyed, jealous, disappointed, sad, hurt, and many more. It is connected with the topic of the song which tells about the failure of love from the speaker.

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