



دراسة ادراكية تداولية للافتراض في لغة التغطية الصحفية لانقلاب فاغرن على روسيا في القنوات التلفازية الانجليزية والعربية

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الملخص

تهدف الدراسة الحالية الى بحث موضوع الافتراض من الجانب الادراكي. فمن وجهة النظر الادراكية، فان الفضاءات العقلية تطفو الى فضاءات عليا اذا كان الافتراض متوافقا مع الواقع او مع الفضاءات المتوافقة مع السياق، بينما تنتقل الى فضاءات سفلى مثل التوقعات و وجهات النظر اذا لم تتوافق مع الواقع. لذا تبحث الدراسة في موضوع الافتراض حسب نظرية الفضاءات العقلية لجيل فوكنيه في عدد من القنوات التلفازية الاخبارية الانجليزية و العربية التي غطت موضوع انقلاب فاغرن على روسيا عام ٢٠٢٣. القنوات التي سلطت عليها الدراسة الضوء هي قناتي البي بي سي و السي ان ان الانجليزية، و قناتي العربية الحدث و الجزيرة. تهدف الدراسة إلى: اولا، البحث في العلاقة بين محفزات الافتراضات والفضاءات العقلية في القنوات العربية والانجليزية المذكورة آنفا، ولتحقيق هذا الهدف، تبنت الدراسة نظرية جيل فوكنيه، الفضاءات العقلية (١٩٩٤م). ثانيا: تسليط الضوء على مدى تفسير ظاهرة الافتراض في ضوء نظرية الفضاءات العقلية مقارنةً بالنظريات التداولية التقليدية. توصلت الدراسة الى ان الافتراضات تتأثر سياقياً في اللغة الانجليزية، أما في اللغة العربية فهي تتأثر دلالياً و نحوياً. بالإضافة الى ذلك، فان نظرية الفضاءات العقلية كانت اكثر شمولاً و تفسيراً لموضوع الافتراض مقارنةً بالنظريات التداولية المتعارف عليها. الكلمات المفتاحية:

A Cognitive Pragmatic Study of Presupposition in the Language of Press Coverage of Wagner's Coup against Russia in English and Arabic TV Channels

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Abstract

The present study is concerned with the projection problem of presupposition from the cognitive linguistic perspective. The study addresses the projection problem in terms of spaces in the light of Fauconnier's mental space theory. It is argued that presuppositions lie in spaces that float to the reality space or other spaces that are contextually true. If these spaces do not match the reality, they transfer to lower spaces like hypotheses and postulations as well as spaces of speakers' perspectives. So, the study moves on with two aims: first, investigating the relationship between



spaces and presupposition triggers, and, second, examining the extent to which the theory of mental spaces interpret the projection problem of presupposition in contrast with the traditional pragmatic views. The data includes a number of videos from both English and Arabic TV news channels. These videos are concerned with Wagner's coup against Russia in 2023. The English channels involve the BBC and the CNN News Channels, while the Arabic ones involve Al-Hadath and Al-Jazeera Channels. As a contrastive study, the research is concerned with the comparison and contrast of English and Arabic languages in terms of floating and transferring of spaces. The study concludes that transferring and floating of spaces are contextually affected in the English videos, whereas they are structurally affected in the Arabic videos. Mental space theory is more principal and general in its interpretation of the projection problem of presupposition than the traditional pragmatic views.

Keywords: Presuppositions, Mental Spaces, Floating, Transferring

Introduction

Cognitive linguistic research on meaning construction tackles various pragmatic issues like implicature, presupposition and figurative language (Horn & Ward, 2006). Presupposition as the common knowledge between the speaker and the hearer receives specific attention within the cognitive linguistic framework, specifically, the projection problem of presupposition. The traditional pragmatic views offer various analyses to the projection problem like Karttunen's (1973) classification of presupposition triggers in terms of holes, plugs, and filters, according to the way these presuppositions are projected, and the "cancellation analysis" which assumes that all presuppositions in the embedded clause are projected to the matrix clause unless they are canceled by contextual factors that could be linguistic or non-linguistic (Huang, 2007, p.81). However, from Fauconnier's point of view, all the above strategies that have been used to address the projection problem lie under the framework of truth conditional semantics in addition to a little bit of pragmatics. Additionally, he argues that these strategies haven't not provided a full picture of the issue and that "they" have "lacked elegance and generality" to use his own words (Almeida, 2020, p. 201) .

Mental Space Theory



Fauconnier defines mental spaces as online makeups made within discourse that grant cognitive construction (Littlemore, 2014). Mental spaces are domains that are upholding particular type of information, and these domains reflect, for instance, a description of the world in an image, an individual's particular world perspective, a temporal or special situation, a virtual or an unreal situation, one's wishes, and others. They present objects as subsisting and show the relation between these objects and the real world. The significance of spaces lays in their assignment of the aim of cognitive functions like knowledge organization, semantic explanations, and incorporation of meaning to discourse (Dinsmore, 1987).

Max believes, that in Len's picture, the flowers are yellow. (Fauconnier, 1994, p. 17)

Fauconnier illustrates this example according to the mental space theory. In his view, the space builder '*Max believes*' sets up the space of belief which he refers to as M1. The prepositional phrase '*in Len's picture*' sets up another space, the space of painting, which he refers to as M. The presupposition that '*the flowers are yellow*', in the space of painting (M), is part of Max's belief (M1), and that's why M is part of M1. Sometimes, the reality space is not directly stated but it could be inferred. For instance, the sentence "*Max believes that Susan hates Harry*" presupposes that there is a relationship between Susan and Harry and establishes the space M. Let's say that in the reality "*Susan likes Harry*" which also presupposes that there is a relationship between Susan and Harry and this establishes the reality space R. So R herein is the parent space for M and hence M is part of R. Although R is not directly mentioned, it is pragmatically inferred. Sometimes, the parent space needs not to be the reality space, but it is real in the context of speech as in the example, "In that Movie, Clint Eastwood is a villain". Herein, in the space of movies (M1), Clint is presupposed to have a certain property. In another sentence "*But he thinks he's a hero*" the subject-verb combination '*he thinks*' sets up the space of thought (M2). The space of movies is regarded as the parent space for the space of thought despite of the fact that movies are not real. It is real in the movie that Clint is a villain. This means that M2 is part of M1 (Fauconnier, 1994, pp. 17-18).

Linguistic markers which Fauconnier refers to as "space builders" (Bublitz, 2011, p. 483) help hearers to build up mental spaces and their referential counterparts. Such space builders include temporal and spatial



adverbs (as in ‘*in Peter’s paintings*’), and connectives (like ‘*if...then*’). Names are triggers of images.

Fauconnier uses kinship expressions to refer to his spaces. The *parent* space is the speaker’s reality, while *daughter* space is set up by the space builder. The reality referred to here is not in the same sense of reality in formal semantics. Instead, it is the speaker’s mental representation of reality. The pragmatic function of a noun phrase, within a space, is identified by adhering to it a certain property. This is what Fauconnier refers to as the Identification Principle (henceforth, ID):

“If two objects, a and b, are linked by a pragmatic function $F(b=F(a))$, a description of a, da , may be used to identify its counterpart b” (Fauconnier, 1994, p. 4) . For example, if someone says “*Shakespeare is on the shelf*” the speaker presupposes that the hearer knows that the speaker is talking about the book of Shakespeare not the man himself. Thus, a property of Shakespeare, that he has books, is used to assign its counterpart.

Fauconnier in his mental space theory has been so attractive to tackle the problem of projection of presupposition. Such problem is addressed in terms of **floating**. If the presupposed clause matches the context of reality (the reality space) it will float to the base space, otherwise, it will not. Fauconnier (1997:61, as cited in (Croft, 2004, p. 37)) states “a presupposition floats up (from a built space to its base space) until it meets itself or its opposite”. For example, in the sentence, “Luke believes that Mary wants the king of France to visit”, a king of France should first exist for such a presupposition to float from the space of Mary’s beliefs to Luke’s contents to the reality space (Almeida, 2020, p. 201) .

Methodology

The present study is concerned with the projection problem of presupposition in the light of Fauconnier’s (1997) mental space theory. The data involves seven videos from English and Arabic news channels. The number of presupposition triggers that are included in the analysis involve 392 presupposition triggers from English channels, namely, the CNN and the BBC News Channels, and the same number from the Arabic channels, namely, Al-Hadath and Al-Jazeera Channels. First, the triggers are derived from the videos. Then the space within which each presupposition occurs is declared. The built and the base spaces are manifested. Then the study follows the floating and transferring of the



spaces. Statistical accounts are considered. Then, a contrastive analysis is conducted.

Sample of Analysis from Each Channel

The English Channels

The CNN Channel

Video1

The following lines are extracted from Video1, the CNN Channel:

- 31 **Alex:** that certainly is an earthquake in Russia's war in Ukraine
32 Ben Wedeman, thank you very much.
33 WE have NEW reporting now on the u ess reaction to this
showdown between Russia and the Wagner mercenary group.
34 Here is our Pentagon correspondent, Oren Liebermann. Oren,
35 what are you being told?

The presuppositional reference of 'that' at the beginning of line31 is the instability in Russia. It sets up the space of war as it reminds the viewer of the consequences of the incident on the war in Ukraine. The noun phrase 'earthquake' presupposes that there is an earthquake which is metaphorically used. Since earthquakes have effect on the situations in which they occur, the incident has effect on the military situation in Ukraine. It sets up the space of effect. So far, the negotiation has been about Prigozhin's coup inside Russia and its consequences on the war in Ukraine. Then the news presenter moves to external reactions to the event, particularly in the US. Since he seeks for information from the US, he moves to the CNN correspondent in the US. In line34, 'our Pentagon correspondent' presupposes that Oren is in the Pentagon, and this moves the viewer to the space of the US reaction.

Video2

The following lines are extracted from Video2, the CNN Channel:

The video starts with the news presenter, Alex, asking the retired general:

- 01 **Alex:** do you think it's safe to say that Putin has Sided with
02 his military leadership with Shoigu with
Gerasimov,
03 at least for NOW
04 and
05 do you think that's a mistake by Putin ↓

The presupposition trigger 'do you' in line1 presupposes Putin has sided with the military leadership. This is the space of bias. This is general's perspective space. This supports the above analysis. The rest of



the turn puts the hearer in the probability space that Putin might have or have not sided with his military leadership. The projection of this presupposition is decided by the general since it is a question and thus the projection is decided by the answer. However, the possessive pronoun 'his' presupposes that this is his government, and thus from the first question, the pronoun prompts the space of accusation to the President to be sided with Shoigu and Gerasimov. These two names are values whose roles are being people who have high ranks in Putin's government. Hence the space of bias transfers to the space of accusation.

The adverbial phrase 'for NOW' presupposes as well as puts the speech in the space of the present time. Such presupposition floats to the reality space as it matches the context. The president has left the leaders in their positions and excluded Prigozhin. This implies that he has sided with the government. That is what's inferred from the reality space not from the perspective space. The speaker in this way puts the interaction within the neutral space by implying that this is what the reality implies for the time being and the speaker in this way releases himself from being biased to either direction. However, the question of who sides with whom involves the accusation that the president has sided with either direction.

The BBC Channel

Video3

The following lines are extracted from Video3, the BBC Channel:

- 27 **Justin** : that's a great question.
28 I think problems of the...the Russian military
throughout twenty twenty two is pretty obvious
29 and eventually they increasingly had to turn to a
private military company in Wagner in particular to
build out their efforts when they ran into real trouble
late last year

In line28, the noun 'problems' presupposes there are problems in the Russian military. In line29, the verb 'turn' in 'they ...had to turn to a private military company' presupposes that the Russian military has not fought alone throughout 2022. This is the effect, and the 'problems of the Russian military' is the cause. The lines set up the space of cause and effect. The phrasal verb 'build out' means to bring a structure into an accomplished state (Merriam-Webster, n.d.). This presupposes that there is a deficiency in 'their efforts', the Russian efforts, and therefore they go to accomplish these efforts by turning to private military companies like



Wagner. This rises the space of deficiency which floats up to the space of cause.

The Arabic Channels

Al-Hadath Channel:

Video4

The following lines are extracted from Al-Hadath Channel:

١٥ مقدمة الاخبار: و اتهم قائد قوات فاغنر وزير الدفاع الروسي سرجي شويغو بانه
فر كالنساء على حد تعبيره حتى لا يجيب لسؤال لبريغوجين بشأن قصف القوات
الروسية لعناصر فاغنر في اوكر انيا.

The verb 'اتهم' presupposes that the Russian Defense Minister Sergi Shoigu has evaded Prigozhin's question. This is the space of evasion. The letter 'ل' in the prepositional phrase 'لبريغوجين' presupposes that Prigozhin has a question. This rises the space of belonging. The prepositional phrase 'على حد تعبيره' presupposes that this is Prigozhin's speech. This is the space of attribution. The space of evasion transfers to the space of attribution because this speech is attributed to Prigozhin.

١٦ شويغو هرب بجبن كالنساء

١٧ ليتهرب من الاجابة على السؤال

١٨ لماذا قصفت المروحيات الروسية عناصرنا.

These lines are Prigozhin's speech as translated in the channel. Lines 16 and 17 involve the same presupposition as that in line 15 above, namely, that Shoigu has evaded Prigozhin's question 'هرب', and hence it has the same space. In line 18, the question word 'لماذا' presupposes that the Russian helicopters have stricken Wagner's forces for a certain reason. This rises the space of attack. This space also transfers to the space of Prigozhin's perspective because this is his speech as presented in the recorded message.

Al-Jazeera Channel

Video5

The following lines are extracted from Video5, Al-Jazeera Channel:

01 مقدمة الاخبار: اصدرت وزارة الدفاع الروسية رسالة لمقاتلي فاغنر
٠٢ قالت فيها انه تم خداعكم في مغامرة بريغوجين الاجرامية و المشاركة

في تمرد مسلح، وفق تعبير البيان ↓

٠٣ و اضافت وزيرة الدفاع الروسية ان اعضاء من مجموعة فاغنر طلبوا
المساعدة لتأمين عودتهم الى نقاط انتشارهم الدائم.

٠٤ كما قالت وزارة الدفاع الروسية ان على مقاتلي فاغنر التحلي بالحكمة

و

التواصل مع ممثلينا و اجهزة انفاذ القانون باسرع وقت.



٥٠ من جانبها قالت لجنة مكافحة الارهاب الروسية انه تم فرض نظام مكافحة الارهاب في العاصمة الروسية ومقاطعة موسكو تحسبا لاعمال ارهابية

The noun 'رسالة' in line1 presupposes that there is a message. This rises the space of communication. The presuppositional reference of the pronoun 'ها' in 'فيها' is the message in the previous line. The pronoun indicates that whatever is said in the line is part of the message that is sent by the defense ministry to Wagner fighters. This is the space of communication. The verb 'قالت' in line2 presupposes that Wagner fighters have been deceived by Prigozhin. This is the space of deception. The definite nouns 'وفق تعبير البيان' in the same line presupposes that all this is the speech of the ministry not the speech of the speaker. This rises the space of perspective. The space of deception transfers to the space of perspective.

The definite noun 'عودتهم' in 'طلبوا المساعدة لتأمين عودتهم الى نقاط انتشارهم' in line3 presupposes that Wagner fighters are not in their usual distributional points. This means that they have participated in the coup. This rises the space of participation which floats to the space of reality because this is already known from the title. The spaces of deception, perspective, and participation float to the spaces of communication because they are all part of the message that is sent by the defense ministry. The verb 'طلبوا' presupposes that the fighters have sided with the defense ministry. This means that they have broken up from Wagner forces and joined the defense ministry. It rises the space of renunciation. It also floats to the space of communication.

The definite noun 'التواصل مع ممثلينا و اجهزة انفاذ القانون' in 'التواصل مع ممثلينا و اجهزة انفاذ القانون' in line4 presupposes that there is no communication between Wagner and representatives of the ministry so far. This rises the space of lack of cooperation on the part of Wagner forces. The verb 'قالت' in line5 presupposes that anti-terrorism system has been enforced in the Russian capital. This rises the space of reaction. The definite noun phrase 'اعمال ارهابية' in line5 presupposes that there are terroristic actions. This rises the space of terrorism. However, the noun 'تحسبا' presupposes that this is merely an expectation, and this rises the space of expectations. The space of terrorism transfers to the space of expectations.

Video6

The following lines are extracted from the analysis of Video6, Al-Jazeera Channel:



عنوان الفيديو: فايز الدويري: تصرف بريغوجين من وجهة نظر القانون الروسي يعتبر تمردا مسلحا

The title presupposes that Prigozhin's behavior is described by a certain expression. This is triggered by the verb 'يعتبر'. The definite nouns 'القانون الروسي' presupposes that the Russian law has a certain perspective concerning Prigozhin's behavior. The first presupposition rises the space of terminology. The second presupposition sets up the space of legality. The space of terminology floats to the space of legality. This is because the choice of the term is determined on the basis of the Russian law. The title summarizes the main points that are tackled in the video, namely, the terminology of Prigozhin's behavior.

- 01 **سهام:** معنا من عمان اللواء فايز الدويري، الخبير العسكري و
الاستراتيجي، لواء فايز الدويري، بريغوجين يصر على انه ليس انقلابا
عسكريا بل تصحيح
- ٠٢ السلطات في موسكو تتهمه بالتمرد المسلح.
- 03 بناء على التطورات الاخيرة ، في أي خانة يمكن توصيف ما يقوم به
بريغوجين؟
- 04 **الدويري:** يعني هو تصرف من وجهة نظر القانون الروسي او أي قانون هو
يعتبر تمرد مسلح
- ٠٥ و اقرب الى تمرد مسلح

The negative sentence 'ليس انقلابا عسكريا' in line1 presupposes that there is a military coup. In other words, it presupposes that there are sayings that Prigozhin's action is called a military coup. This external negation involves a positive meaning. This is the space of coup. The noun 'تصحيح' presupposes that Prigozhin's action is called correction. This is the space of terminology. However, this is Prigozhin's speech and hence the above two spaces transfer down to the space of perspective. The verb 'تتهمه' in line2 presupposes that Prigozhin's action is a military mutiny. This rises the space of mutiny which transfers to the space of perspective because the verb 'تتهمه' is a verb of judging that reflects the subject's perspective, namely, Moscow's authorities. The question word 'أي' presupposes that there is a terminology that describes Prigozhin's action. The speaker is seeking for better terminology by which one could describe Prigozhin's action. This is the space of inquiry for description.

The nouns 'تمرد مسلح' in line4 presupposes that there is a military mutiny. This is the space of military mutiny. The prepositional phrase 'من وجهة نظر القانون الروسي' presupposes that the Russian law has a perspective concerning Prigozhin's action. This is the space of the Russian legality.



The space of military mutiny transfers to the space of the Russian legality because it is the speaker, Al-Duwairi, who puts it within this space. The noun 'اقرب' presupposes that there is an approximation. This means that describing the action as a military mutiny is part of the speaker's conclusion. This is the space of approximation to which the space of military mutiny further transfers. The space of military mutiny floats to the space of inquiry for description because the former provides an answer to the latter.

Video7

The following lines are extracted from the analysis of Video7, Al-Jazeera Channel:

- 01 مقدم الاخبار : ارحب بضيبي من عمان اللواء فايز الدويري، الخبير العسكري و الاستراتيجي . سيادة اللواء، مرحبا بك،
- ٠٢ اذا استسلمنا لظاهر الامور دون الغوص في تفاصيل ما يمكن ان يوصف بمؤامرات او ترتيبات.
- ٠٣ ظاهر الامور يقول ان مجموعة مسلحة قوامها على اقصى تقدير خمس و عشرين الف مقاتل
- ٠٤ توغلت في الجغرافية الروسية الرهيبة في اكبر دولة في العالم مساحتها تزيد عن ١٧ مليون كيلومتر مربع و
- ٠٥ وصلت الى تخوم العاصمة موسكو دون ان يطلق عليها طلقة واحدة↑

The noun phrase 'ظاهر الامور' in line2 presupposes that there are things that are hidden. The news presenter performs the act of reading between the lines. The emphasis on 'ظاهر الامور' confirms that there are unannounced points. The speaker is questioning the clarity of events. He wants to say that things are not as shown on the stage. The verb 'يقول' in line3 presupposes that Wagner consists of thousand soldiers. This means that it is a small group. The definite nouns 'الجغرافية الروسية الرهيبة' presupposes the existence of huge distance in Russia. The news presenter performs the act of inquiring about the ability of small group to move a huge geographic distance inside Russia. The prominence on 'الرهيبة' emphasizes the contradiction between the two directions. The negated verb 'دون ان يطلق' in line5 presupposes that Wagner has been armed. The news presenter outweighs Wagner's victories despite of its tiny amount in comparison with the Russian areas and the military capabilities. The rising tone emphasizes the passivity of the Russian army in front of Wagner forces.

Results and Discussion



Results show that spaces are classified into two groups: the floating group involves the Reality Space and the Higher Spaces, and the transferring group involves the Perspective Space and Lower Spaces:

1. Reality Space: this is the space which reflects the reality as it is;
2. Higher Spaces: these are the spaces that are contextually true;
3. Perspective Space: this is the space that reflects the speakers' perspectives;
4. Lower Spaces: these are the spaces that reflect the speakers' postulations and expectations.

The English Data

Concerning the first aim of the study which is concerned with the relationship between triggers and spaces, results show that Questions (2.10%), Existential Presuppositions (23.20%), Change of State Verbs (3.37%), Structural Presuppositions (6.75%), Iteratives (3.37%), Conventional Items (2.95%), and Adverbs (8.86%), all have the percentages of floating higher than the percentage of transferring. Other presupposition triggers like Verbs of Saying (3.37%), Adjectives (2.53%), Verbs of Judging (0.84%), and Factive Presuppositions (0.42%), all have the percentages of transferring higher than those of floating. Non-Factive Presuppositions, and Counterfactual Presuppositions are equally transferred and floated with the same percentage (0.42%). Implicit Presuppositions (1.68%) also show equal percentages of floating and transferring. The general percentage of floating (59.49%) is higher than that of transferring (40.50%), as shown in Table1. Concerning the two groups of spaces, the following results are deduced:

1. Floating to the Higher Spaces takes the highest percentage (48.10%);
2. Transferring to Lower Spaces takes the second level in the frequency of occurrence(30.37%);
3. Floating to the Reality Space takes the third level in the frequency of occurrence(11.39%);
4. Transferring to Perspective Space takes the lowest percentage (10.12%).

Mustansiriyah Journal of Arts
2026, Vol. 50, No. 113, PP.1-22
Mustansiriyah University



مجلة آداب المستنصرية، جزء الاول
٢٠٢٦ المجلد ٥٠ العدد ١١٣ ص ١-٢٢
الجامعة المستنصرية

ISSN:0258-1086



Table1
Numbers and Percentages of Presupposition Triggers and Mental Spaces in The English Videos

Triggers	Floating		Numbers	Percentage	Transferring		Numbers	Percentage
	Reality Space	Higher Space			Perspective	Lower Spaces		
Questions	1	4	5	2.10%		4	4	1.68%
Verbs of Sayings	4	1	5	2.10%	4	4	8	3.37%
Change of State Verbs	1	7	8	3.37%	1	2	3	1.26%
Existential	10	45	55	23.20%	6	27	33	13.92%
Structural	3	13	16	6.75%	6	4	10	4.21%
Iteratives	1	7	8	3.37%		2	2	0.84%
Adverbs	2	19	21	8.86%	2	5	7	2.95%
Verbs of Judging	1		1	0.42%	1	1	2	0.84%
Counterfactual		1	1	0.42%		1	1	0.42%
Implicatives		1	1	0.42%		3	3	1.26%
Adjectives		4	4	1.68%		6	6	2.53%
Factives						1	1	0.42%
Emotives					2	2	4	1.68%



Non-Factives		1	1	0.42%		1	1	0.42%
Comparaive Constructions		4	4	1.68%	1	3	4	1.68%
Implicit	2	2	4	1.68%	1	3	4	1.68%
Conventional Items	2	5	7	2.95%		3	3	1.26%
Total	237	27	114	59.49%	24	72	96	40.50%
Percentages		11.39%	48.10%		10.12%	30.37%		



The Arabic Data

Concerning the first aim of the study which is concerned with the relationship between triggers and spaces, results show that Questions (3.53%), Existential Presuppositions (27.43%), Structural Presuppositions (7.07%), Iteratives (2.65%), Comparative Constructions (1.76%), Adjectives (1.32%), Implicit Presuppositions (7.07%), Conventional Items (1.32%), and Factive Presuppositions (1.32%), all have the percentages of floating higher than the percentage of transferring. Other presupposition triggers like Verbs of Saying (10.17%), Verbs of Judging (1.32%), Change of State Verbs (5.30%), Non-Factive Presuppositions (2.65%), Emphatic Expressions (2.21%), and Counterfactual Presuppositions (1.32%), all have the percentages of transferring higher than those of floating. Adverbs (0.88%) show equal percentages of floating and transferring. No Emotive and Implicative Presuppositions are employed in the Arabic data. The general percentage of floating (67.69%) is higher than that of transferring (32.30%), as shown in Table2. Concerning the two groups of spaces, the following results are deduced:

1. Floating to the Higher Spaces takes the highest percentage (62.83%);
2. Transferring to the Perspective Space takes the second level in the frequency of occurrence(21.68%);
3. Floating to the Lower Spaces takes the third level in the frequency of occurrence(10.61%); and
4. Transferring to the Reality Space takes the lowest percentage (4.86%).



Table 2

Numbers and Percentages of Presupposition Triggers and Mental Spaces in The Arabic Videos

Triggers	Floating		Numbers	Percentage	Transferring		Numbers	Percentage
	Reality Space	Higher Space			Perspective	Lower Spaces		
Questions		8	8	3.53%	1	3	4	1.76%
Verbs of Sayings	1	14	15	6.63%	20	3	23	10.17%
Change of State Verbs		9	9	3.98%	3	9	12	5.30%
Existential	6	56	62	27.43%	12	34	46	20.53%
Structural		16	16	7.07%	1	1	2	0.88%
Iteratives	2	4	6	2.65%		3	3	1.32%
Adverbs	2		2	0.88%	1	1	2	0.88%
Verbs of Judging					2	1	3	1.32%
Counterfactual		1	1	0.44%	1	2	3	1.32%
Implicatives								
Adjectives		3	3	1.32%	1	1	2	0.88%
Factives		3	3	1.32%		1	1	0.44
Emotives								
Non-Factives		4	4	1.76%	2	4	6	2.65%
Comparative		4	4	1.76%	1	1	2	0.88%



Constructions									
Implicit		16	16	7.07%	3	5	8	3.53%	
Conventional Items		3	3	1.32%					
Emphatic Expressions		1	1	0.44%	1	4	5	2.21%	
Total	226	11	142	153	67.69%	49	24	73	32.30%
Percentages		4.86%	62.83%			21.68%	10.61%		



ISSN:0258-1086

Contrastive Analysis

The section focuses on the differences and similarities between the English and Arabic data concerning the relationship between triggers and spaces, as shown in Table3:

Table 3

Percentages of Floating and Transferring of Spaces in English and Arabic Data

Triggers Data	English Data		Arabic Data	
	Floating percentage	Transfer Percentage	Floating percentage	Transfer Percentage
Questions	2.10%	1.68%	3.53%	1.76%
Verbs of Sayings	2.10%	3.37%	6.63%	10.17%
Change of State Verbs	3.37%	1.26%	3.98%	5.30%
Existential	23.20%	13.92%	27.43%	20.53%
Structural	6.75%	4.21%	7.07%	0.88%
Iteratives	3.37%	0.84%	2.65%	1.32%
Adverbs	8.86%	2.95%	0.88%	0.88%
Verbs of Judging	0.42%	0.84%		1.32%
Counterfactual	0.42%	0.42%	0.44%	1.32%
Implicatives	0.42%	1.26%		
Adjectives	1.68%	2.53%	1.32%	0.88%
Factives		0.42%	1.32%	0.44%
Emotives		1.68%		
Non-Factives	0.42%	0.42%	1.76%	2.65%
Comparative Constructions	1.68%	1.68%	1.76%	0.88%
Implicit	1.68%	1.68%	7.07%	3.53%
Conventional Items	2.95%	1.26%	1.32%	
Emphatic Expressions			0.44%	2.21%
Total	237	59.49%	40.50%	67.69%

Differences

This section focuses on the differences between the English and Arabic data concerning the relationship between the triggers and the spaces. Results show that Change of State Verbs have the percentage of floating higher than that of



ISSN:0258-1086

transferring in the English data while the opposite is true in the Arabic data. Adverbs show the percentage of floating that is higher than that of transferring in the English data but equal percentages in the Arabic data. Counterfactual presuppositions are equally floated and transferred in the English data whereas in Arabic the percentage of transferring is higher than that of floating. Adjectives and Factive Presuppositions show the percentages of transferring that is higher than floating and the opposite is true in the Arabic data. Emotive Presuppositions have a percentage of transferring with no chances of floating in the English data. Implicative Presuppositions show the percentage of transferring that is higher than floating in the English data. No Emotive or Implicative Presuppositions are employed in the Arabic data Counterfactual constructions and Non-Factives are equally floated and transferred in the English data but in the Arabic data, transferring is higher than floating. Implicit Presuppositions show high degree of floating in contrast with transferring in the Arabic data, while in English, floating and transferring are equally employed. Emphatic Expressions are highly employed in the Arabic language but there is no such employment in the English data.

Similarities

In both English and Arabic data, Questions, Existential Presuppositions, Structural Presuppositions, and Iteratives show the percentages of floating higher than that of transferring. Verbs of Saying, and Verbs of Judging show a percentage of transferring that is higher than floating.

Pragmatic Views

This section addresses the second aim of the study which is examining the way mental space theory interprets the projection problem in comparison with the traditional pragmatic views. The analysis shows that there are similarities between the two views in the interpretation of the projection problem of presupposition. For instance, Questions, Existential Presuppositions, Structural Presuppositions, and Iteratives show the percentages of floating higher than that of transferring. This coincides with the traditional pragmatic views which indicate that these expressions ascend to the matrix sentence. On the other hand, in the light of mental space theory, Verbs of Saying, and Verbs of Judging show the percentage of transferring that is higher than floating. This also coincides with the pragmatic views that indicate that these expressions block their presuppositions from ascendance. However, mental space theory is more general and principal in the interpretation of the projection problem of presupposition.

Conclusion

The present study has been concerned with the projection problem of presupposition in the light of mental space theory. The study moves on with two aims: first, it is concerned with the relationship between spaces and triggers; and, second, it examines the extent to which mental space theory interprets the problem in contrast with traditional pragmatic issues. The study comes up with the following conclusions:



ISSN:0258-1086

a) Concerning the first aim which is *examining the relationship between triggers and spaces*, the study concludes that the relationship between presupposition triggers and mental spaces vary according to the type of presupposition trigger. Questions, Existential expressions, Structural Constructions, Iteratives, and Conventional Items are more floated than transferred. Verbs of propositional attitudes like Verbs of Saying and Verbs of Judging are more transferred than floated, in the sense that these expressions reflect the speakers' attitudes rather than the reality. Change of State verbs, unlike other types, depend on the context in their transfer and float. These findings are true for both English and Arabic data. Other presupposition triggers float and transfer variously in both languages. Factive and Non-Factive presuppositions, Adverbs, Counterfactual Constructions, Comparative Constructions, and Adjectives are affected contextually in the English data but structurally in the Arabic data. Emotive and Implicative presuppositions are merely employed in the English data with no manipulation of these expressions in the Arabic data. Implicit presuppositions are more noticed in the Arabic data than in the English one since the speakers in the English videos are more direct than those in the Arabic ones. These expressions are equally floated and transferred in the English videos but they are transferred more than floated in the Arabic videos.

Floating to Higher Spaces is the most common feature of spaces in both languages, since the language of the channels' coverage of Wagner's coup mainly mirrors contextually true information. Reality is covered with the least common amount in both languages. Transferring in the English videos is directed to Lower Spaces. This means that the speakers cover the events relying on contextual postulations and expectations. In the Arabic videos, however, transferring is directed to the Perspective Space, since the speakers in the Arabic videos cover the events relying on their own (or the subjects') perspectives.

b) The second aim of the study follows the way *mental space theory interprets the projection of the pragmatic presupposition in contrast with traditional pragmatic views*. Throughout the analysis, the derivation of presupposition has been based on the traditional pragmatic perspectives. From the pragmatic perspective, the projection problem of presupposition could be resolved by grouping presupposition triggers into filters, plugs, and holes. However, such grouping could not resolve the projection problem because they do not apply to all situations. There are situations in which the trigger does not submit to such grouping. From the pragmatic perspective, when the presupposition contradicts with the context, it is simply blocked from the context, i.e., the defeasibility of presupposition. From the perspective of mental spaces, such presupposition is not blocked, it is simply transferred to lower spaces. Mental space theory is more principal and more general in accounting for the context and it could apply to various contexts.



ISSN:0258-1086

Nevertheless, the two directions are similar in their interpretation of presupposition. Questions, Existential expressions, Structural Constructions, Iteratives, and Conventional Items show floating more than transferring. Similarly, from the pragmatic perspective, these expressions ascend their presuppositions to the main sentence. Verbs of propositional attitudes, like Verbs of Saying and Verbs of Judging, show transferring more than floating. These expressions fail to ascend their presuppositions to the matrix sentence, from the traditional pragmatic vie

Funding

This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to institution, for the moral support provided during the course of this research. The encouragement and guidance provided by the institution have helped tremendously in completing this research.

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ISSN:0258-1086

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