PRESUPPOSITION USED IN THE OPRAH TALK SHOW ABOUT J.K. ROWLING’S LIFE AND CAREER

A Thesis
Submitted to Faculty of Adab and Humanities
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for Bachelor Degree (S1)

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ABSTRACT


This research aims to analyze the types of presupposition in the utterance of hosts in *The Oprah Talk Show*, Oprah Winfrey. The researcher uses Yan Huang’s theory to analyze the data. In this research, the researcher uses qualitative descriptive method in analyzing the data. The purpose of this research is to know how presupposition presented by Oprah Winfrey on the Oprah Talk Show. Oprah uses presupposition to assume something that they considered as a fact. It uses context to give a proof about the presence of presupposition statement in Oprah’s utterance. The result shows that there are 34 presupposition triggers in 25 chosen data. The data can be classified into nine types of presupposition. They are Definite Description, Factive Predicates, Aspectual/Change of State Predicates, Iteratives, Implicative Predicates, Quantifiers, Temporal Clauses, Cleft Sentence, and Counterfactual Presupposition. In conclusion, the first most-used of presupposition type is Definite Description with 19 triggers out of 34. While the least-used of presupposition types are Aspectual/Change of State Predicates, Implicative Predicates, Quantifiers, and Counterfactual Presupposition in one trigger respectively.

**Keyword:** Pragmatics, Presupposition, Meaning, Oprah Talk Show
APPROVEMENT

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LEGALIZATION

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The thesis entitled above has been defended before the Letters and Humanities Faculty’s Examination Committee on October 12\textsuperscript{th}, 2017. It has already been accepted as a partial fulfilment of the requirements for Bachelor Degree.

Jakarta, October 12\textsuperscript{th}, 2017

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my own word and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief. It contains no material previously or written by another person nor material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma of university or other institute of higher learning, except where due acknowledgment has been made in text.

Jakarta, 07 September 2017

Ranny Lestari
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In the Name of Allāh, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

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Suggestion and criticism will be accepted for the improvement of this thesis.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Living as a social being, people always communicate with others in every single aspect of life, such as in playing, fighting, doing business, having relationship, and many other activities. They talk to their friends, parents, teachers, wives or husbands, and business partner. Through words, the speaker and hearer express feelings, emotions, thoughts, ideas or intentions, convey the fact, data, information and explain it, exchange feelings and ideas, argue and fight with each other (Hardjana 22). As a main part of communication, language is unavoidable.

In doing communication, people need at least two participants to fulfill the communication process where both participants take a role as a speaker and listener, so that they can create a seamless conversation. Communication clearly depends not only on the meaning of words in the speech awareness, but also on the understanding of the speaker’s utterance along the communication.

People have many ways to make communication become more effective, hence, the types of communication are varied. It can be in the form of a verbal and non-verbal communication. A verbal communication – such as casual conversation, speech public lectures, letters, and others – is a kind of communication that uses words, whether it’s spoken or written, to deliver the information to other people. Otherwise, the non-verbal communication is not
using words to deliver the information, it often uses body language, tone of voice, and gestures that have agreed by the participants. Conversation is one of verbal communication. Conversation can be delivered in person by telephone, machine, or videotape. The receiver could be individual, small group, large group, or masses (Hardjana 15).

Due to language cannot be separated with communication, there should be some studies that deal with language. Linguistics is the study of language that discusses every aspect of language. There are five studies provided in linguistics, such as morphology, phonology, syntax, semantic, and pragmatic. Each of the study has its own concern, where it is obviously related to the language problem. However, this research only focuses on pragmatic study, especially on presupposition.

In most of the daily conversations, the speaker assumes the right information that has already known by the hearer even though the information is not expressed directly. The hearer must know the meaning of the word being said by the speaker because it is not easy to get an implicit meaning of an utterance which is confusing. To understand it, the hearer should know about the context that the speaker intends to speak about. In this case, the presupposition takes a role. The presupposition of the speaker’s utterance is the fact that the truth is needed to make an appropriate relation between the words and their meanings. Such phenomenon is presented in the utterance “Marcel’s house is small”. In this utterance the assumption of the hearer is “Marcel has a house”. As a matter of
fact, there is an aspect assumed to be true in a sentence that asserts other information. This is called presupposition (Fajria 193).

Presupposition is used in communication, whether spoken or written. Conversations can occur in a natural situation, happen by itself, or intentionally happened because it is made and regulated by human. Presupposition can be held in many kinds of conversations. One of them is talk show. The phenomena of presupposition can also be found in Talk Show. Talk show is one of communication that occur due to human creation. In talk show, there are at least three participants. Those are the host, guest star, and the audiences. The conversation between the host and the guest star is regulated by the scriptwriter team, but the statement that spoken by the guest star causes the appearance of the new question from the host.

If we talked about talk show, there are so many television programs that present the conversation among people who have a topic that can be shared with others. In many countries, talk show is often to be held to give an objective information to the citizen. The informants are usually the artist, businessman, politician, and many kinds of job in the world.

Hockett explains one of language universal feature is Rapid Fading (fleeting), it means that all the sounds of language cue fleeting and disappear (Parera 14). The language used in talk show is the language used in daily conversation. For these reasons, this research is using talk show as the data analysis in this study. In the talk show, the language used in one episode will be
different from other episodes, because there are always different topics and informants in each episode. So fleeting language characteristic can be found in the talk show.

The talk show is taken from The Oprah Talk Show where J.K. Rowling attended as the guest star. This episode aired on October 1, 2010 and the event was hosted by Oprah Winfrey. Moreover, the talk show took place in Scotland, especially in the hotel where J.K. Rowling stayed for finishing her books of Harry Potter. The Oprah Talk Show had been aired for years ago, especially in 1986. One of the oldest talk show in the world and had been winning every sweep for 24 consecutive seasons.

In this study, The Oprah Talk Show will be analyzed to discover the phenomenon of presupposition. Researcher uses a pragmatic approach to determine the meaning of the utterance and the context in the talk show. Yan Huang theory is the theory that used in this research to classify the types of presupposition. The reason is there is no journal or thesis that used Huang’s theory yet. Furthermore, Yan Huang’s theory of presupposition is the new theory in pragmatic study.

B. Research Focus

Based on the background of study, this research focuses on analyzing the presupposition and its types that utter by the interviewer, Oprah Winfrey on The Oprah Talk Show that talked about life and career of the legendary author and the creator of Harry Potter, J.K. Rowling, where the talk show published on October
1, 2010. In analyzing presupposition, it considers that context or circumstances in which the conversation takes place plays the main role in interpreting the meaning.

C. Research Questions

Based on the focus of study, the research questions are:

1. What are the types of presuppositions used by Oprah Winfrey on The Oprah Talk Show?
2. How are presupposition statements presented by Oprah Winfrey on the Oprah Talk Show?

D. Research Objectives

Based on the research question, the objective of the research are:

1. To find out the types of presupposition that used by Oprah Winfrey on The Oprah Talk Show, and
2. To analyze the presupposition statements that is presented by Oprah Winfrey on the Oprah Talk Show.

E. Research Significances

In doing the analysis, there are several significances whether in theory and practice. Theoretically, this research could enrich the pragmatic study. Particularly, in presupposition theory in relation between language and context. In another word, this study could be used as one of the references in the
presupposition that would be discussed language and context, especially presupposition in talk show.

Practically, this research hopefully could give the contribution for people who is study in linguistics, especially in pragmatic theory that is discussed about the presupposition. Hopefully, this research could be used as one of additional reference to improve their understanding of presupposition theory, especially in Yan Huang’s theory. However, this research only gives a little contribution in pragmatic studies. So that, it needs to be completed by others who conduct the similar subject and object of the study.

F. Methodology

1. Research Method

The method conducted in this research is descriptive qualitative method. Qualitative method carries the distinction of being non-quantitative which means that qualitative method is not using numeric and statistic in analyze the research. The focus of qualitative research are the social meaning people attribute to their experiences, circumstances, and situations, as well as the meaning people embed into texts and other objects (Biber and Leavy 4). Briefly, the focus is generally words and texts as opposed to numbers. The purpose of descriptive research is to provide an accurate description of the fact, data, or material object in form of words or discourse through the appropriate and systematic interpretation (Wibowo 43). In other word, qualitative researchers generally study in an open-ended way, without prior
expectations, and they develop assumptions and theoretical explanations that are based on their understandings of what they observe.

2. Data Collection Technique

Lichtman (16) stated that the researcher is the main instrument in data collecting and analyzing. So, the primary instrument of this research is the researcher herself. Other sources such as the video of the talk show are taken from youtube and windows media player device as the supporting instruments for this research. This study uses technique of content analysis to collecting the data where it was collected by analyzing the content of the text, in this case the discussion on Talk Show is already copied into written text. Content here refers to the words, meanings, symbols, images of ideas, themes, and all messages can be communicated through the text (Newman 310).

The process of collecting the data is divided into several ways. Firstly, watching the Oprah Talk Show. Secondly, reading the transcript of the Oprah Talk Show. Thirdly, searching the data in the Oprah Talk Show. Fourthly, mark the sentences that contains of the types of presupposition by Yan Huang’s theory and then write down on the data card. Lastly, to list the chosen sentences in the table.
3. **Data Analysis Technique**

   After collecting the data, the researcher analyzes the data selection using the narrative description. To analyze the data, the researcher is doing three steps.

1. Explaining the data collection with divided its data into the types of presupposition by Huang,
2. Analyzing the appearance of presupposition statements in the talk show with context,
3. Finally, the researcher will make a conclusion based on the theory that has explained.

4. **Unit of Analysis**

   The unit of analysis from this research is the utterances that appear from the host, Oprah Winfrey in this program that is contain of the presupposition types based on the theory of Yan Huang. Where the corpus is taken from the video between Oprah Winfrey and J.K. Rowling. This research also puts the text transcript that have taken on November 20, 2016.
CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Previous Research

Presupposition is the field that is often studied by linguists, the aim is to develop the language in reviewing and discussing the phenomenon of presupposition, especially in pragmatic study that used the presupposition as a basic in analyze the language usage in particular context. Some previous researches that related with this topic of the research can be used as a literature review in this research. The researchers who did a presupposition research are Liang and Liu (2016) and Aditya (2014).

First, Liang and Liu (2016) did a research about the presupposition in Hillary Clinton’s first campaign speech entitled *An Analysis of Presupposition Triggers in Hillary Clinton’s First Campaign Speech*. Based on Hilary Clinton’s first campaign speech, this research intends to analyze the presupposition triggers in both lexical and syntactic levels, for the purpose of figuring out how Hilary succeeds in achieving her political intentions through the use of presupposition triggers, hoping to contribute to the composition and understanding of political speeches. In this journal, there are 12 presupposition triggers.

Second is the presupposition research which conducted by Aditya (2014) entitled *A Pragmatic Analysis of Presupposition in Genndy Tartakovsky’s Hotel Transylvania*. The research objections in this research are describes the types of presupposition are used by the characters in *Hotel Transylvania* film and to
interpret the implied meaning of the characters’ utterances in *Hotel Transylvania* film. He found all the six types of presupposition by Yule. Those are Exitential Presupposition (12.5%), Factive Presupposition (15%), Non-Factive Presupposition (5%), Lexical Presupposition (20%), Structural Presupposition (20%), and counter Factual Presupposition (27.5%). Then the Counter Factual Presupposition is the most-used type of presupposition found in the conversations between the characters in *Hotel Transylvania* film.

From those researches above, it can be concluded that there are several researches about presupposition, whether in theses, journal, or article. Due to there are many researches who use the presupposition, the object of research is varied such as novel, film, advertisement, speech, and talk show. The way to study of this research is also varied. Like the research question and theoretical framework that using the different theory.

The relevancy of this research that analyzed by Liang and Liu (2016) and Aditya (2014) is all of them studied about the pragmatic study, especially presupposition. However, there are two significant differences about these three studies. First is the theory. Liang and Liu (2016) combined Levinson’s and Yule’s Classification to classify the presupposition triggers. Similarly, Aditya (2014) used Yule’s theory, while this research uses Huang’s theory. Second, the differences of these researches are used speech and film respectively. This research uses the Oprah Talk Show about J.K. Rowling’s life and career as an object where it was aired on October 10, 2010. The researcher hopes that this research can be a compliment for the previous research.
B. Literature Review

1. Discourse Analysis

In doing conversation, the speakers have to set their messages in accordance with what they think their listeners do and do not know, as well as sequence everything in a coherent way. However, if the speakers decided to write out their message, change it into written text, they no longer have listeners giving immediate interactive feedback. Consequently, they have to depend on more explicit structural mechanism for the organization of their texts. In this perspective, speakers and writers viewed as using language not only in its interpersonal function, but also in its textual function and ideational function (Yule 83). Analyzing the area of the form and function of what is said and written is called discourse analysis.

Discourse in a narrow sense is restricted to spoken language alone, for example, to talk. In this understanding, discourse is the opposite of text, text being viewed as a unit of written language only. Yule (83-84) stated that discourse analysis focuses on the record (spoken or written) of the process by which language is used in some context to express intention. Discourse as a complex linguistics phenomenon can be analyzed from a range of different angles (Schneider and Barron 2). The focus may be on grammatical features, which are dealt with in discourse grammar, or it may be on aspects of semantic meaning, dealt with in discourse semantics. If the focus is on interactional issues, it is a discourse pragmatic.
In discourse pragmatic, it tends to focus on aspects of what is yet communicated within the discourse being analyzed specifically and pay much more attention to psychological concepts such as background knowledge, beliefs, and expectations (Yule 84). Discourse pragmatic is explore what the speaker or writer has in mind.

2. Definition of Pragmatic

The pragmatic study is one scientific study that included into the study of linguistics. The elements of outside the context of the language is studied in pragmatics. Likewise the things out of the language affect the people’s understanding within the language itself (Kushartanti 104).

Yule (3) assumes that pragmatic is the study that concerns to the speaker or writer as communicator and the listener or reader as the interpreter. This type of study usually affects the interpretation of the meaning of a person in a particular context and how context can be affected by the utterance. Bublitz and Norrick (4) also explain that pragmatic basically involved the communicative act in variated context.

Commonly, language is the way to reach the success communication, but all the participants cannot gain the successful communication simply and easily. It is due to the meaning and the context affects the communication itself. Someone is often to say something in the same sentences but have the different meaning. People cannot assume the utterance that uttered by one people and another. We must get to the context in for understand about what
the explicit and implicit meaning which uttered by the speaker. In this case, the pragmatic is needed. In this case, when people understand the pragmatic study, they will understand not only the explicit meaning, but also the implicit meaning of an utterance. The implicit meaning consists of the assumption, purpose, and the successful of communication.

In other words, pragmatic is the study about the meaning that depends on the context where the sentence is delivered from the speaker or writer, then the listener or reader interpret the meaning. As the result, there is a share knowledge between the speaker or writer and the listener or reader. The common knowledge about the study of pragmatic is this study relies on the context. Therefore, everything that we learn in pragmatic should be involved the context itself.

3. Presupposition

3.1 Definition of Presupposition

Presupposition (Huang 85) can be interpreted as part of the information or a proposition that has to ascertain the truth in the utterance of a sentence. The main purpose of presupposition as a precondition for proper use in a sentence. Presupposition is usually engendered by the use of particular lexical items and/or linguistic constructions. Lexical items and linguistic constructions which give rise to presuppositions are called presupposition triggers.
Yule (25) explained the presupposition as something that is assumed by the speaker as an event before generating a speech. The important thing that we have to know is in presupposition, the speaker is the object who is presupposes the utterance, not the sentence itself. Moreover, Bublitz and Norrick (401) also explain the presuppositions as a proposition or conclusion where the truth expressed in the sentence.

So it can be concluded that the presupposition is an utterance that assumes to be some truths in the previous case. Presupposition refers to something in presuppose, serves as a starting point in which the statement is made or proposition expressed (Liang and Liu 68). Presupposition which roles in mass media language usage is very important in media writers. It is trying consciously or unconsciously to influence the understanding of the news audience (Zare, Abbaspour and Nia 734).

According to Huang (85), presupposition identified into three conceptual. One of them is pragmatic presupposition. Pragmatic presupposition is defined as speaker’s confidence in building a statement. Speaker presupposes a sentence more than the sentence itself presupposes. In other words, presupposition was brought by the speaker or utterance, not a sentence or statement. Additionally, Levinson (177) concludes the pragmatic presupposition as a relation between the speaker and the relevance of a sentence in a context.
Presupposition can be used to deliver the indirectly information. For instance:

[1] My Brother is rich
[2] Your brother is waiting outside
[3] Why did you arrive late?
[4] When did you stop smoking?

If someone said the sentence in [1], it can be assumed that the speaker has a brother, even though it was not explained explicitly (Fromkin and Rodman 198-199). If someone said the utterance in [2], it is clearly the presupposition of this sentence is the speaker has a brother. If there is a question like in [3], so the presupposition of that question is the hearer have come late. Lastly, if there is a question such in [4], there are two presuppositions in that sentence. First, the hearer is used to smoke. Second, the hearer has stopped to smoke. Kind of this question with presupposition that forms an integral part of the structure, is a very useful tool for interrogators and prosecutors. If a defendant were questioned by a prosecutor:

[5] Okay, Mr. Buckingham, how fast were you going when you went through the red light?

In the question above, there is a presupposition that Mr. Buckingham have passed the red light. If the defendant answer how fast
he passed it, so the prosecutor assume that the presupposition is true (Fajria 195).

If we said in sentence [6a] that signed by $p$, and it has a presupposition in sentence [6b] signed by $q$, the usage of symbol $\triangleright\triangleright$ means “presuppose”, so we can see the result in [6c].

[6] a. Mary’s dog is cute. $(= p)$
   b. Mary has a dog. $(= q)$
   c. $p \triangleright\triangleright q$

Interestingly, when we said the opposite of the sentence in [6a] to negate the sentence such in the sentence [7a], we can see that the presupposition is unchanged, in sentence [7b]. So, the result of the sentence in [7a] is assumed in [7c].

[7] a. Mary’s dog isn’t cute. $(= \text{NOT } p)$
   b. Mary has a dog. $(= q)$
   c. \text{NOT } p \triangleright\triangleright q

3.2 Types of Presupposition

The theory of the types of presupposition in this research is using Huang’s Theory. Where he explained there are nine types of presupposition where it depends on a trigger in every utterance. Those are definite descriptions, factive predicates, aspectual/change of state predicates, iteratives, implicative predicates, quantifiers, temporal clauses, cleft sentence, counterfactual presupposition (Huang 86-87).
1) **Definite Description**

The type of presupposition where the truth is not only assumed as possessive (for example, ‘your book’ >> ‘you have a book’), but also the truth from the statement in the utterance. In Huang, this type is included in the definite description presupposition triggers. The group of definite description may include proper names, possessives, and certain *wh*-phrases (Huang 88). Example:

[8] *The (present) king of France is/isn’t bald.*

>> There is a (present) king of France.

Based on the example above, it obviously knows that the utterance describes that there is something existing in real life. Before saying that utterance above, the speaker assumes that ‘there is a king of France’. So, it can conclude that the type of presupposition above consist of the existence of something.

Equally, Birner (152) also classified this type of presupposition like Huang did. She divided the types of presupposition depend on the presupposition triggers, too. According to Yule, this type includes in Existential Presupposition (Yule 27) where it shows the existence of something that delivers via presupposition that is assumed by the speaker.
2) **Factive Predicates**

Huang, in his book entitled “Pragmatics”, explained that the presupposition appears from the information that asserted the truth with the words that show the fact or news that have guaranteed. This type divided into two subtypes (Huang 87). Those are:

a. **Epistemic or cognitive factives**
   
   This subtype is concern about the knowledge of fact. Such as *know* and *realize*.

   
   >> Baird invented television.

b. **Emotive factives**

   This subtype is concern about the emotional attitude towards fact. Such as *regret, glad, etc.*

   [10] John *regrets/doesn’t regret* that he has said the unsayable.

   >> John has said the unsayable.

   [11] I’m *glad* that it’s over.

   >> It’s over.

In the example of epistemic or cognitive factives above, it can be concluded that the speaker assumes that ‘Baird invented television’ even though John knows or does not know about it. Similarly, in the example of emotive factive, it can accomplish that ‘John has said the unsayable’ even he regrets or does not regret to do that. So, the main
point in this type of presupposition is the sentence has its own presupposition where it conveys an information or a fact that have shown by the verbs mentioned in each sentence above.

Factive verbs in the type of presupposition are well known as Factive Presupposition such Yule (27) mentioned in his classification, where he described it as a presupposition information that followed by the fact verb. Such as realize, regret, know, as well as phrases involving ‘be’ with aware, odd, and glad. In Birner (152), she classified this type as the factive verb, too. Such as stated by Huang in his classification.

3) Aspectual/change of state predicates

It is gets through the utterance that interpreted in sentence affirmation. In Yule’s (28), this type is classified as lexical presupposition, the utterance expressed in implicit meaning so that the confirmation of presupposition in speech obtained after the statement of the utterance.

[12] Mary has/hasn’t *stopped* beating her boyfriend.

>> Mary is beating her boyfriend.


>> He used to smoke.
Birner (153) argued that this type indicates a shift from one state to another, and therefore presupposes that the moved-from state has held at some point in the past.

4) Iteratives

This type also can be said as the repetition presupposition. Huang (88) divided this type into three subtypes. Those are:

a. Iterative verbs


>> John was in Cambridge before.

b. Iterative adverbs

[15] The boy *cried/didn’t cry* wolf *again*.

>> The boy cried before.

c. Iterative prefixes


>> Jane married before.

Birner (153) explained the iteratives indicate repetition of some past action or state, and thus presuppose that past action occurred or that the past state held.
5) Implicative predicates

This presupposition determined based on the implicative verbs. In every implicative verb consists of presupposition meaning where it can be explained in different way.

[17] John managed/didn’t manage to give up smoking.

>> John tried to give up smoking.

Aspectual/change of state predicates, iteratives, and implicative predicates in presupposition type by Yule named as Lexical Presupposition (Yule 28). In this type the asserted meaning interpreted conventionally with the presupposition that another meaning is understood. In other words, this type of presupposition is not understood from the asserted meaning in an utterance, but it is understood through the non-asserted element meaning in the utterance.

From the explanation above, it can be said that in the lexical presupposition the speaker uses particular expression to presuppose another concept (unstated). It makes the difference between lexical presupposition and other types of presupposition where lexical presupposition takes the unstated meaning in the utterance.

6) Quantifiers

This type is about the amount of something that needed to presuppose.
The committee interviewed/didn’t interview all the shortlisted candidates for the post.

>> There is a candidate.

7) Temporal clauses

In the sentence that has a temporal signing the utterance or sentence, it can be concluded that there is a presupposition in it. For example:

[19] After she shot to stardom in a romance film, Jane married/didn’t marry a millionaire entrepreneur.

>> Jane shot to stardom in a romance film.

8) Cleft sentences

a. Clefts

[20] It was/wasn’t Baird who invented television.

>> Someone invented the television.

b. Pseudo-clefts

[21] What Baird invented/didn’t invent was television.

>> Baird invented something.

With the lingual markers unit of those presuppositions, the presupposition can be researched more focused. It is on the utterance related to the participants, context of situation, and common ground.

According to Birner (154), clefts are a group of presuppositional syntactic structures that come in several forms, where the most
common are the it-cleft (also known simply as a cleft), the wh-cleft (also known as a pseudo-cleft), and the inverted wh-cleft (also known as a reverse pseudo-cleft). She summarizes this type into:

a) it-cleft: It’s X that Y.
b) wh-cleft: What X is Y.
c) inverted wh-cleft: Y is what X.

9) Counterfactual conditional

This type of presupposition gives the opposite result from the truth of statement or contradiction. Similarly, Yule (29) explained this type of presupposition is presupposed the opposite of the true facts. The condition that produces the presupposition like this consists in if-clauses that gives the contradiction from the statement before.

Example:

[22] If an ant was as big as a human being, it could/couldn’t run five times faster than an Olympic sprinter.

>>> The ant is not as big as a human being.

[23] If you were my friend, you would have helped me.

>>> You are not my friend.

In Huang’s theory, the types of presupposition from the first until sixth is classed as lexical presupposition and the types from seventh until ninth is classified as construction or structural presupposition.
4. Context and Meaning

4.1 Context

Language activity is the social activity which did by its citizen. Hence, language is cannot be separated from the inhabitant and culture (Rahardi 100). In this activity, context is very crucial to help the addressee for getting the meaning from speaker’s utterance and can give the response appropriately. They cannot get the complete information if the context of the communication is not explained. It is due to there are many varies of language according to where and who uses in communication.

Context can be used as the additional or supporter of meaning clarity. Context is formed by the various elements, such as situation, speaker, hearer, time, place, act, topic, event, code, etc (Moeliono et al., 1988 in Matanggui and Arifin 60). Those elements is tightly correlate with other elements such as setting and scene, participants, ends, act sequence, key, instrumentalities, norms, and genre. In Hymes (1972), this elements brief as SPEAKING.

Cummings (18) in his book titled Clinical Pragmatic divided the elements of context into four parts.

1) Physical Context, this element includes features such as the place of action, the day and time of speaking, and the object in communication;
2) **Linguistic Context**, the feature in this element is the sentence in conversation;

3) **Epistemic Context**, describes the shared background knowledge and beliefs that have known by the participants;

4) **Social Context**, describes the socio-cultural relation that complement the relationship between the participants.

Example:

[24] A: Do you want to come round to my place tonight for dinner?
B: John’s mother is visiting this evening

In the dialogue above, it can be seen that the aspect of physical context, is explicitly mentioned by the speaker A and B for ‘tonight’ and ‘this evening’ respectively. The immediate linguistic context that A uses to recuperate the implication of B’s response is the question posed by A himself. However, earlier parts of the conversation between A and B may also contribute linguistic context that may be relevant to the implication that A derives from B’s response. For example, B may have communicated at the start of the conversation that her mother-in-law is sick and will be unable to take a trip soon. With this piece of linguistic context in mind, it is more important to B that she meets her mother-in-law than dinner with A. Hence, A can conclude the B’s respond. For epistemic context, A and B clearly share the knowledge about who John is, what dinner is, where A lives, etc. in this way, the communication
would be failed if A did not know about historical of B’s family, B did not know where A lives, and both A and B did not know that John’s mother would come in this evening. Lastly, socio-cultural context in this dialogue explained in the answer of B when she declined A’s offer indirectly rather than directly with response of simply ‘No!’.

4.2 Meaning

In doing interaction, all the participants have to know about how the context is, therefore they can conclude the meaning about what the purpose of communication is. If the participant obtains the meaning of their conversation, it can be make sure that there is no misunderstandings in conversation. So that, the meaning is also the important thing in doing daily conversation, whether formal or informal. Literally, the meaning of ‘meaning’ is the meaning of something is what it expresses or represents (Cambridge Dictionary).

Griffiths (9) classified the types of meaning into three. Those are:

1) Sender’s Meaning, is the meaning that delivered by the speaker or writer through speech. Sender’s meaning is something that is often asked by the respondent to keep getting guessed. The reviewers can give the indication, in their next speech about their interpretation. Sender or fellow addressee or even bystanders will sometimes give confirmation, correction or explanation, such as “Yes, that’s part of what I meant, but I’m also trying to tell you …” or “You’ve
misunderstood me” or “The real point of what she said was …” or “Yes, and from that we can tell that he wanted you to know that …” or “The way I understand the last sentence in this paragraph is different.” Sender’s meanings are the communicative goals of senders and the interpretational targets for addressee.

2) Utterance Meaning, is a fiction needed, so the linguist will do semantics and pragmatics. It is the meaning –explicature and implicatures– that an utterance would be understood as conveying when interpreted by people who know the language, are aware of the context, and have whatever background knowledge the sender could reasonably presume to be available to the addressee(s).

3) Sentence Meaning, also called as literal meaning. Where literal meaning of a sentence is based on just the semantic information that you have from your knowledge of English. Among the things that people who know English should be able to explain about the meaning of sentence “That was the last bus” are the following: something salient (That) is equated, at an earlier time (was is a past tense form), to either the most recent (last) or the final (last) bus. Those meaning is available without wondering who might say or write the words, when or where. No needed a context in it that involved.
5. Definition of Talk Show

Conversation is a linguistic activity when a person can exchange information, ideas, and emotions with others. This is an event that must have happened in a part of everyday human life. Successful interaction can be seen from the success of the communication participants who can understand the intent and purpose of the interlocutor. In conversation, there is an interaction between two or more people where not only telling you what we will talk, but also to contribute to the speakers with some influence. Conversation has many kinds of elements, one of the element is the discussion. The discussion is one of a kind of conversation talking about a problem or an idea with some people. We can see the discussion in a talk show. Based on the Cambridge Dictionary (2017), talk show is one of the television or radio program, that is attended by public figures as a resource, where the things in question are related to the resources or community members to discuss the specific topics. According to Timberg (3), talk show is a television show that overall structured on the actions of the conversation itself. Furthermore, Munson (117) argued that talkshow is a simulation of conversational give and take, it becomes a suspect, tricky, and inferior substitute for real interpersonal communication.

In other words, talk show is discussion that has a wide range of topics on television or radio program led by at least one host and attended by at least one guest star. Talk show usually consists of people who are concerned about the topic that will be talked. Moreover, there are a differences about conversation in daily life and in the talk show. Both of the activities are doing
conversation, but the interviewee in talk show talks about the topic that everyone needs to know as a public rights. Otherwise, if the speaker is doing daily conversation, the speaker or hearer does not always have a responsibility or right to take or give the information. This kind of conversation includes the informal conversation.

Frances Bonner (2003) in Tolson (130) classifies the talk show as the ordinary talk. She chooses for discursive definition of ordinariness, but it is the approach that she takes to this that is at issue. She defines ‘discourse’ as ways of speaking about topics, for instances the family, sexuality, race, law, and order. Ordinary television has its own ways of speaking, or not speaking, about such things; some discourses are dominant, whereas others (or the topics that they speak) are absent, or disguised. ‘Ordinariness’ is a kind of ideology, which focuses topics like consumption, the family, sexuality and leisure, but not, because of its inclusive sociability, problematic issues like race and crime (law and order). However, Bonner is forced to admit one huge exception to this generalization, for many talk shows, a major genre of ordinary television do precisely focus on such issues; indeed Oprah Winfrey wouldn’t be where she is today if she did not talk about them.
CHAPTER III

RESEARCH FINDINGS

A. Data Description

The data of this research was collected from utterances in The Oprah Talk Show transcript, especially in J.K. Rowling’s episode that talked about J.K. Rowling’s life and career. The utterance was spoken by Oprah Winfrey as the interviewer which consists of presupposition types are analyzed in this research. Furthermore, the writer uses document study technique to collect data for this research. In this talk show, 25 data were found and all of it have been classified and identified. The writer found 33 presupposition triggers from those data. The dominant type in this research is the Definite Description with 18 triggers of presupposition.

Besides, here are the conventions of classifying data:

a. The symbol >> means ‘presupposes’;

b. Utterance in **bold** indicates the trigger of presupposition,

c. Utterance in *italic* indicates the type of presupposition,

d. Utterance in **underline** indicates Winfrey’s presupposition.
Table 1

The Occurrence of the Types of Presupposition in Oprah’s Utterance on The Oprah Talk Show

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Types of Presupposition</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Definite Description</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Factive Predicates</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Aspectual/change of state predicates</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Iteratives</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Implicative Predicates</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Quantifiers</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Temporal Clauses</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Cleft Sentences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Counterfactual conditional</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Data Analysis

Datum 1

Winfrey: “So, this is the first time we’ve met”.
Rowling: “Yes, it is”.
Winfrey: “And my producer tell me that your real name is Jo. All this time I thought you were ‘J. K.’”. (=p)
Rowling: “(laughing) Yeah”.
There is a producer (=q)

p >> q
The proposition p presupposes that there is a producer. In Winfrey’s mind, both of them, Winfrey and Rowling, have already known that the program has a producer. The type of this presupposition is *definite description* because there is a word “my” in the sentence which means that the possessive form is applied. The producer here is someone who organizes the Oprah Talk Show.

This sentence occurs in the beginning of the talk show. This is a simple conversation by Winfrey to start the talk show before they go to the main topic. Here, Winfrey did a confirmation from J.K. Rowling about her short name was Jo. For all of the time, Winfrey thought that her name was J.K. Winfrey knew that information from the producer of The Oprah Talk Show.

Datum 2

Rowling: “Is just the nom de – well, it’s because my British publisher, when the first book came out, thought ‘this is a book that will appeal to boys’ but they didn’t want the boys to know a woman had written it. So they said to me ‘could we use your initials’ and I said ‘fine’. I only have one initial. I don’t have a middle name. So I took my favourite grandmother’s name, Kathleen”.

Winfrey: “Kathleen”.

Rowling: “Kathleen, yeah”.

Winfrey: “Jo Kathleen”.

Rowling: “Joanne Kathleen”.

Winfrey: “And fooled the boys for a while”. (=p)

There are boys (=q)

p >> q
According to Huang, this type of presupposition is classified as *definite description*. It is because there is a particle “the” in the sentence as one of the item of definite description. The proposition p presupposes that *there are boys*. Actually, “the boys” here means the target which is wanted by the publisher as the readers of Harry Potter’s book.

In this time, the context is J.K. Rowling and Winfrey talk about the used of initial name of J.K. Rowling to publish the first book of Harry Potter for avoid the reality that the writer of Harry Potter was a woman. It is due to the request of her British publisher that did not wanted the boys to know a woman had written it. Moreover, this is a book that would appeal to the boys. In case, Rowling only have one initial, which means that she does not has a middle name. Therefore, she took her favourite grandmother’s name, Kathleen.

Finally, she debuted in public as J.K. Rowling. Joanne Kathleen Rowling. By listening to the Rowling’s explanation, Winfrey gave a perception that Rowling and her publisher did a trick to fool the boys although it was just for a short time. It is due to Rowling has been getting her picture in the Harry Potter’s book press conference.

Datum 3

*Winfrey*: “Yes – and I don’t think the boys have minded”.

*Rowling*: “No – it hasn’t held me back, has it? Clearly not held me back”.

*Winfrey*: “Not a bit. When we came – just arrived yesterday – it was beautiful. **Scotland is beautiful**”. (=p)
There is a place named Scotland (=q)

\[ p \gg q \]

Datum 4

Rowling: “It’s stunning. Yeah, it’s stunning”.

Winfrey: “And the green is greener than anything I’ve ever seen other than Ireland. So I can understand why you love being here. Is there something about being here in this particular hotel where we are”. (=p)

There is a place named Ireland (=q)

Rowling love being here because of Scotland is stunning (=q)

\[ p \gg q \]

According to the data above, it is understood that there are presupposition triggers in those three data. In the datum 3, there is presupposition that there is a place named Scotland. The type of presupposition here included the definite description where the proper name form of Scotland emerged. Scotland is the country that held the talk show between Oprah Winfrey and J.K. Rowling. Likewise, it is the country that would be the witness of J.K. Rowling’s journey in writing the book of Harry Potter, especially in Edinburgh’s Balmoral Hotel.

Datum 4 consists of two presupposition triggers. First, there is a proper name which is also a part of Definite Description, Ireland. Winfrey presupposes that there is a place named Ireland. Second, factive predicate occurs. It is signed by the predicate “understand” where it is part of emotive
factive. In this datum, Winfrey has already known that Rowling love being here because of Scotland is stunning.

All of the data in this context is out of the recent topic. Winfrey and J.K. Rowling talked about the initial name of J.K. Rowling previously. After Winfrey gave the conclusion in the Datum 2, Rowling stated that no one pretends that she was a man anymore. Also, both Winfrey and Rowling were agreed that it was fine that the writer of Harry Potter was a woman.

This data is used by Winfrey in the last minute of the part one of the talk show before the commercial break. It would be the next topic after the commercial break. First of all, Winfrey mentioned about the beauty of Scotland. Furthermore, she compared the green of Scotland is greener than Ireland. Finally, she took conclusion that the reason of Rowling chose to live in Scotland is about the green. Hence, Winfrey utters its sentence as the opening and signal of the new topic about the place that would be a location to Rowling for finishing her books.

Datum 5

Winfrey: “First of all you know this is the last year that I’m doing the Oprah Show.” (=p)

Rowling has known that this is the last year that Oprah doing The Oprah Show (=q)

There is talk show named The Oprah Show (=q)
p \gg q

There are two kinds of presupposition in this sentence. The first presupposition is *factive predicate*. This datum is signed by the word *know*. It means that Winfrey presuppose that Rowling has already known about *The Oprah Talk Show that will be over in this year*. The second chosen proposition p presupposes that *there is talk show named The Oprah Show*. This type of presupposition was *definite description* with the article form of “the” appears. The Oprah Show is the talk show itself.

After the commercial break, Winfrey talked about the Scotland’s views and atmospheres. In this topic, Rowling told about her experiences in writing process the Harry Potter’s book. In the beginning, she wrote the book in the house where it was uncomfortable place to write because the kids were at home and the dogs were barking. She thought that this problem could be handled by moving to the comfortable place rather than her house. She thought that she could write in a corner of café which far from the noise or another quiet place.

Finally, she decided to come to the hotel where the talk show was held. She claimed that the hotel was beautiful but she confessed that purpose of coming to this hotel is only to write the book. She was impressed in her first visit so she kept coming back to the hotel and finished the last Harry Potter book in this hotel.
According to Rowling’s story, Winfrey put herself in a position where she feels the same as Rowling because the episode with J.K. Rowling happened in the last year for The Oprah Show to air as a television program. She would do other things and it was so difficult to her. The statement that she talked was similar with Rowling’s feeling. It brought Winfrey to ask Rowling’s feeling about the ending of writing the Harry Potter books.

Datum 6

Winfrey: “What did you do when you finished?” (=p)

Rowling has started something (=q)

p >> q

In the question that Winfrey gives to Rowling, there is a word that includes the appearance of presupposition trigger, it was “finished”. It presupposes that there is something that is started by J.K. Rowling. In this context, “something” means that J.K. Rowling started in writing the Harry Potter books. By Huang’s theory of the type of presupposition, this case is included the aspectual/change of state predicates. This datum has an implied meaning that has already known by Winfrey and she is asking something that will be answered by J.K. Rowling certainly.

The context of this datum is they talked about the end of Harry Potter books. It was very difficult to feel how that was like. Rowling told about her feeling in this context, she said that it was a bereavement. She was not ready
to face the farewell up, but it has to be end. Even though she has already known that the Harry Potter would be finished in seven books, it was still hard to believe the fact that she had to separate with Harry Potter’s world. According to the context, Winfrey tried to ask about what Rowling does after she finished her writing of the story of Harry Potter. So, there was a question appeared from Winfrey.

Datum 7

Rowling: “You know – I was not the world’s most secure person. I wasn’t someone with an enormous amount of – in fact, I’d say I was someone with not much self-belief at all and yet in this one thing in my life I believed. That was the one thing in my life. I felt ‘I can tell a story’”.

Winfrey: “Is it true that it just – You know I’ve heard the legend is that the story just entered your head while on a train”. (=p)

Rowling: “Yeah. That is – that’s true”.

The story just entered your (J.K. Rowling) head while on a train (=q)

p >> q

In that sentence, there is a presupposition trigger that is a part of cleft sentence. The formula of this type is “It’s X that Y.” From the sentence of this datum, it can be seen that the presupposition trigger presupposes that the story have just gotten by Rowling’s head while he was on the train. It means that Rowling gained the idea about Harry Potter for the first time in the train from Manchester to London in her twenties.

This is a conversation which is in the part two of this talk show. Winfrey as the presenter and J.K. Rowling as the resource person talked about
Sorcerer’s Stone, the first novel of Harry Potter. It was started from her confessions that she was someone with not much self-belief at all and yet in something in whole of her life she believed. In other words, she had low confidence. Finally, she found something that she could do in her life, it is telling the story. From J.K. Rowling’s confessions, Winfrey asked her clarification about the story of the appearance of Harry Potter idea.

Datum 8

Winfrey: “I think the greatest gift the Harry Potter series has given to the world is the freedom to use our imaginations.” (=p)
Rowling: “I really hope so. I’m very frustrated by fear of imagination. That’s – I don’t think that’s healthy”.

There are the series of Harry Potter (=q)

We have our own imaginations (=q)

p >> q

In this datum, the Winfrey’s utterance contains two presuppositions. Firstly, there is phrase “The Harry Potter series”. It is signed by the appearance of article “the”. That phrase means Winfrey presupposes that there are the series of Harry Potter. As we know, there are seven series of Harry Potter’s book. Secondly, there is a form of possessive that is signed by “our imaginations”. Here, the word “our” means the speaker (Winfrey), hearer (Rowling), and all of the audiences who are watching the talk show. Therefore, in general, all of people have their own imaginations in their mind.
Based on both of the data, the type of presupposition here is *definite description*.

In this sentence, they talked about the first idea that came to the Rowling’s mind about the Harry Potter’s world. Rowling had never thought about being an author for children literature. She was twenty-five when she got an idea about ‘the boy who does not know he is a wizard went to a wizarding school. She was thinking anything about the wizard’s school intentionally on the train at that time. She never thought that she was so excited about the idea and at the same time, she decided to write that story. This is the story that she had never excited before, the story about the children. This story contrasted with her amazing story because she was fascinated by folklore.

To giving the feedback of the Rowling’s story, Winfrey took the conclusion from all of them in the sentence “I think the greatest gift the Harry Potter series has given to the world is the freedom to use our imaginations.” Winfrey concluded that we could enrich our imaginations about anything we want in the Harry Potter’s world. There was no wrong story about that.

Datum 9

Winfrey: “What about all the criticism that you received from a lot of religious people who felt that it was too dark and frightening, and wizardry, and sorcerers, and magic, and all the like?” (=p)

There is a critical (=q)
In this sentence, Winfrey said the word “all” where it was one of the trigger of presupposition in *quantifiers* type. The word has the meaning that there is a critical that received by Rowling because of her imagination, particularly from the religious people.

The situation in this sentence is when both the characters in the talk show talked about the freedom of human imagination. Rowling felt that she was afraid about her power of imagination that could make an extravagant story. She felt so frustrated because there were so many critics that she got from the religious people who felt the story is very dark, frightening, wizardry, and magic. According to the explanation, Winfrey wanted to ask about the criticism that she have received.

Datum 10

Winfrey: “In the United States you’re known as the first billionaire author.”

(=p)

There is a country named United States (=q)

From this sentence, there is the type of presupposition in Winfrey’s statement. The proposition of “The United States” presupposes that there is a country named The United States. This presupposition included the *definite description* because in the trigger of presupposition, there is an article “the”
where in Huang’s theory, the use of article is one of a kind the definite description.

In this sentence, the beginning of the situation of the third part of the talk show is when they talked about the failure of Rowling in trying to publish her books. She had been rejected the *Sorcerer’s Stone* from the twelve publishers. Finally, her book was received by the thirteenth publisher. From that moment, she considered thirteen as her lucky number. Based on the topic, Winfrey gave the question to Rowling about having money in her life could do anything and they agreed about it. In contrast, they gave the addition that they do not live for the money at all.

By the opening conversation above, Winfrey gave the statement about Rowling who is being the first billionaire author in the USA, *In the United States you’re known as the first billionaire author*. It is due to Winfrey wanted to know Rowling’s perceptions about the influence of being rich.

Datum 11

Winfrey: “*Is it true that* you still take the bus? I read that you still take the bus.” (=p)

Rowling: “Occasionally. Within the last year I have taken the bus. Definitely, yeah.”

You (J.K. Rowling) still take the bus (=q)

p >> q
This datum has uttered by Winfrey where a trigger of presupposition appears inside. It is cleft sentence type that has a formula “It’s X that Y” even though in this datum the form of its formula is the question sentence. From the trigger, Winfrey presupposes that sometimes, J.K. Rowling still take a bus.

This datum was in the middle of conversation in the part three. It talked about the drive capability of J.K. Rowling. In this context, Winfrey said that she had heard about J.K. Rowling who did not drive because cars are terrifying for her. Moreover, she claimed lately that she had a driver. To continue the conversation, Winfrey asked Rowling about taking the bus occasionally.

Datum 12

Winfrey: “Did you ever imagine your life being the way it is now?”
Rowling: “No. Never. And I really, really mean never. It overshot the mark so ridiculously that I – I was so unprepared for it. This is a thing I think I’ve never really spoken about. I was a writer. I had no one near me professionally or personally who could in any way help me when I had questions like “what do you do when the press is searching your bins?” You know?”
Winfrey: “Mhm.”
Rowling: “Really crazy stuff that happens. The stuff that makes you feel –
Winfrey: “But that doesn’t happen to most writers, you know?”
Rowling: “Exactly. Exactly. So it took everyone around me totally by surprise.”
Winfrey: “It’s not like: if you’re an actress you could have expected that.”
(=p)
You (J.K. Rowling) are not an actress (=q)
According to the explanation above, Winfrey gives the assumption “If you’re an actress you could have expected that.” In that sentence, there is a counterfactual presupposition type. In the chapter two, counterfactual presupposition is signed by the if-clause. Therefore, the presupposition of Winfrey presupposes that J.K. Rowling is not an actress. Rowling is being well known as the first billionaire author due to the Harry Potter series means that she is not an actress.

This datum talks about unexpected life events that have happened towards J.K. Rowling. She never prepared anything to be a famous people. Everything that happened in her life was never thought before. Also, she never prepared the answer of the question that she got from the press. It was all the unexpected event and she never prepared for it because she thought that she was only a writer.

Datum 13

Winfrey: “Tell me – we were talking about this earlier – about people’s criticism of you. Have you made peace with your relationship with God? And do you call it God?”

Rowling: “Yes. I do. I struggle with it. I struggle with it.”

Winfrey: “But when you read the Potter books, watched the Potter movies the theme that is consistent and that obviously in the end rules is love.” (=p)

There are the Potter books (=q)

There are the Potter movies (=q)
In this datum, there are two presupposition types of *Definite Description*. Both of them formed as noun phrase. Those are *the Potter books* and *the Potter movies*. In this trigger, Winfrey presupposes that *there are the Potter books and the Potter movies in real life*. She knows that the Potter Series which is written by J.K. Rowling have already made in movie series so she mentions both of the series in her utterance.

The context in this datum is when Winfrey mentioned about people’s critics about J.K. Rowling’s books that Rowling was not trying to convert people to Christian when she wrote the books. In this time, Winfrey asked to Rowling about her beliefs in made peace in her relationship with God. After that, Rowling said that she did, she was struggling with it. Besides, Winfrey interrupted that in the Potter books and the Potter movies, in the end rules is love. Because of this context, Winfrey mentioned the words which become triggers in this datum.

Datum 14

Winfrey: “What did your first marriage teach you about yourself?” (=p)

Rowling had had first marriage (=q)

p >> q

In this datum, Winfrey utters the question sentence for J.K. Rowling which consists of presupposition trigger. This trigger included the *Definite*...
*Description* with possessive form. In her utterance, Winfrey presupposes that she has already known that Rowling had had first marriage even though it was short and catastrophic.

This datum took a context in the beginning of the fourth part that talked about the J.K. Rowling’s love life. Rowling had a bad experience of marriage. She had married with her husband when she was twenty-five years old and lived in the Portugal when her mother passed away. From this marriage, she had a daughter named Jessica. But, this marriage had happened in a brief time. She divorced with her husband and brought Jessica to move to the Scotland. From those fact above, Rowling asked by Winfrey about how Rowling’s first marriage taught herself.

Datum 15

Winfrey: “In 2001, Jo married anesthesiologist Neil Murray in a private ceremony at their home in Scotland. Today, Jo and Neil are raising their three children in Edinburgh” (=p)

There is someone named Neil Murray (=q)

Rowling and her husband have child more than one (=q)

p >> q

The utterance that uttered by Winfrey in the datum 15, “Jo married anesthesiologist Neil Murray in a private ceremony at their home in Scotland”, consists of the proposition that presupposes there is someone
named Neil Murray and he exists. This type is definite description that possessive form occurs in the sentence as a trigger. Neil Murray is J.K. Rowling’s husband since 2001.

In the next sentence that has the same context there is a phrase their three children that presupposes Rowling and her husband have more than one children. The possessive determiner “Their” refers to J.K. Rowling and her husband, Neil Murray. This type of presupposition is also the definite description of the form of possessive construction.

The context in this datum is on the same topic with the previous datum. Here, Rowling talked about the hard situation and feeling at the end of her first marriage. The marriage experienced helped Rowling to get the lesson of life. She was so depressed but she had to do it again. She needed seven years to make herself ready to build a new relationship. So, Winfrey stated that in 2001, J.K. Rowling married her second husband to make their new story.

Datum 16

Winfrey: “During the process of all of this – I understand are you still estranged from your father?”

Rowling: “Yeah, yeah. That’s never an easy thing to do in the public eye, but there you are.”

Winfrey: “Do you have your reasons?”

Rowling: “I have my reasons.”

Winfrey: “Any you want to share?”

Rowling: “It wasn’t a good relationship from my point of view for a very long time but I had a need to please and I kept that going for a long time and
then there – there just came a point at which I had to pull-up and say I can’t do this anymore. And, yeah…

Winfrey: “Do you regret that he can’t be a part of this success?” (=p)

He (Rowling’s father) cannot be a part of the process in writing the Harry Potter series (=q)

\[ p \gg q \]

In Winfrey’s question, there is a word “regret” that includes the presupposition trigger. So, it is the type of factive predicates presupposition. The reason of this datum classified as a factive predicates because of the word regret is one of indicator in this type. That presupposition presupposes that he (Rowling’s father) cannot be a part of the process in writing the Harry Potter series. In Winfrey’s mind, she has already known that there is a fact which shows that Rowling has a problem with her father so he cannot be a part of process in reaching her successes.

Rowling shared about her relationship with her father. During the process of writing Harry Potter books, she was estranged from her father. There were some reasons about it but Rowling only shared the general reason why she was not in a good relationship with her father from her point of view. J.K. Rowling decided to keep the relationship like that until there was something that pulled her up and took the way to estranged from her father. To give the reaction of Rowling’s statement, Winfrey asked Rowling about the regret of those situations that happened between her and her father.
Datum 17

Rowling: “Well, the estrangement happened post-success so he was – he was there for a while. If I’m totally honest with you I regret much more that my mother never saw any of it. That – that’s a bit of a killer. I mean she would have just –

Winfrey: “Would she have loved reading it?”

Rowling: “I can honestly say I know a hundred percent she would have adored it. Yeah. Yeah.”

Winfrey: “But you started writing before she passed?” (=p)

J.K. Rowling’s mother has died (=q)

p >> q

The presupposition type here is *temporal clauses* that signed by the word “before” as the indicator to classify the type of presupposition. In this datum, Winfrey has already known that the mother of J.K. Rowling has passed away. Therefore, when she asked the question, “But you started writing *before* she passed?” Winfrey presupposes that J.K. Rowling’s mother has died.

This context is continuing the context in the previous datum where it talked about Rowling and her father’s relationship. After Winfrey asked “Do you regret that he can’t be a part of this success?” Rowling answered that she regretted much more where her mother never saw the process. She surely said that if her mother is still alive she would have adored it. To continue the conversation, Winfrey asked about the time that Rowling took in writing the first book.
Datum 18

Winfrey: “What the love of your parents – the love of you parents. How that abides with you still. Yes.”

Rowling: “Exactly, exactly. Exactly. So, if she hadn’t died I don’t think it’s too strong to say there wouldn’t be Harry Potter. There wouldn’t – you know? The books are what they are because she died. Because I loved her and she died. That’s why they are what they are.”

Winfrey: “Would it also be fair to say that your life – everything in your life, because I know you went through a period of depression and I had read that the Dementors came from that depression.” (=p)

There is the Dementors (=q)

p >> q

Datum 19

Winfrey: “In Harry Potter’s world, the Dementors are dark creatures who feed-off human happiness causing depression and despair to those in their path.” (=p)

There is Harry Potter’s world (=q)

They have their own path (=q)

p >> q

In this part, the datum 18 and datum 19 is united because both of the data have the same context.

In the datum 18, there is a phrase “The Dementors” in Winfrey’s utterance. There is a type of presupposition in that phrase. An article “The” is
a part of indicator of definite description presupposition so “The Dementors” is includes to its type of presupposition. It means that Winfrey presupposes that there is the dementors. The Dementors is an antagonist character in the Harry Potter’s world.

On the other hand, there are two propositions that contain presupposition trigger in the datum 19. First, in Winfrey’s statement, there is a possessive form of “Harry Potter’s world.” In Huang’s theory, possessive construction is a part of definite description presupposition. Therefore, the possessive form in this sentence is includes of that type of presupposition. In that proposition, Winfrey presupposes that Harry Potter has his own world. Harry Potter is the main character in the Harry Potter books of J.K. Rowling.

Second, there is another possessive form that occurs inside the same sentence that Winfrey utters. That possessive form is “their path.” According to the first proposition in this statement, possessive form is a part of the definite description. Thus, the second proposition is also a part of its presupposition type. In this proposition, Winfrey presupposes that they have their own path. The word “their” refers to the Harry Potter’s world.

In this sentence, the context was Winfrey and Rowling talked about the relationship between J.K. Rowling and her father where after she succeed with Harry Potter books, she had a problem with her father and made her became estranged from him. She was feeling regretted about this situation. Furthermore, she added that it was more regretful that her mother never saw
any of the processes of J.K. Rowling’s career to be an author. She had depressed because of that experiences so she made some imaginations on her minds. The things that occurred on Rowling’s mind is the appearance of The Dementors. Because Winfrey knew about the fact that J.K. Rowling was created the Dementors through her depressions so Winfrey asked the clarification about it to Rowling with the sentence in this context.

Datum 20

Winfrey: “Would it be fair to say that you’ve used, in the seventeen year process, writing the Potter series, that you’ve used the good, the bad and the ugly of your life?”


Winfrey: “And expressed it through your writing through the Potter stories?”

Rowling: “Yeah. For sure. Depression is – Clinical depression is a – is a terrible place to be. Terrible place to be.”

Winfrey: “So you became depressed after your mother died?” (=p)

J.K. Rowling’s mother passed away (=q)

p >> q

In this datum, there is a type of presupposition occurred. In Huang’s theory, he classifies the time that shows there is a fact inside, it is temporal presupposition. The triggers of this presupposition type are “after and before”. In this datum, a word of “after” occurred. Therefore, this datum classified become a temporal clause. Where Winfrey presupposes in her questions that the mother of J.K. Rowling passed away.
This situation happened at the last minute of the part four in this talk show before commercial break. It talked about the process of making the Harry Potter books in seventeen years old, she used the bad, the good, and the ugly of her life. She expressed her feeling into the story. She did it because of the depression that she had since her mother died. Moreover, she had tendencies toward depression that started from quite young age. To assure the depression of Rowling, Winfrey searched the truth that she was depressed start from the death of Rowling’s mother.

Datum 21

Winfrey: “So the most important thing about that speech I think first of all you talked about how rock-bottom became the foundation from which you rebuilt your life.” (=p)

She was built her life before (=q)

p >> q

In this datum, the presupposition type is taking place in Winfrey’s statement. In that statement, there is a word “rebuilt” in it. In theory that this research used, this type is classified as the iterative form, especially iterative prefix where re- is the prefix that emerged in this form and build is the original word of built. So, in that sentence, Winfrey presupposes that she was built her life before. The word of “She” refers to J.K. Rowling.
In this datum, the context was both of them talked about the Harvard Speech. In that speech, Rowling talked about the failure that she had in her life. The failure here is all of the experiences that she had been through such as the rejection from any publishers in the beginning of her career, the problem with her father, her mother’s death, and divorce with her first husband. All of bitter experiences have changed become a strength for her to rebuilt her life. According to Rowling’s speech, Winfrey concluded that the main point in that speech was how rock-bottom became the solid foundation from which Rowling rebuilt her life. For example, in this context, Rowling told about her phobia in public speaking. She needed some time to get better in speech especially in talking on the television.

Datum 22

Winfrey: “In my magazine I do a column at the magazine called ‘what do you know for sure’?” (=p)

Oprah has a her own magazine (=q)

p >> q

In this datum, there is Winfrey’s statement which consists of presupposition type. It is the definite description where it is signed by the possessive construction in proposition of “my magazine”. In that phrase, Winfrey presupposes that Oprah has her own magazine. “My magazine” means that she has her own magazine, it was O Magazine.
The context in this sentence was both of the interviewee and interviewer talked about a column in Winfrey magazine titled ‘what do you know for sure?’ in the beginning of the sixth part. The column in her magazine would be the new topic to ask Rowling’s perception about what she knows for sure in her life.

Datum 23

Rowling: “Well, I definitely know that – that love is the most powerful thing of all and I remember thinking that – God, I’m about to make myself cry but, I remember thinking that when 9/11 happened because those last phone calls were about – the last thing knowingly, that I’m going to say on this earth is “I love you”. What’s more powerful than that? What’s more proof than that? Beyond fear, beyond death.”

Winfrey: “It’s so interesting that you mention 9/11 because I think about them all the time.” (=p)

Someone mentioned 9/11 tragedy (=q)

p >> q

In Winfrey’s statement, there is a cleft sentence which is one of presupposition types based on Huang’s theory. It is marked by the formula “It’s X that Y”. The meaning of that formula in this datum is someone mentioned 9/11 tragedy. “You” refers to J.K. Rowling where she is mentioned the 9/11 disaster. 9/11 is the World Trade Center (WTC) tragedy.

The context of this datum was still talking about the column in O Magazine about ‘what do you know for sure?’ such in the previous datum. Then, Rowling said that the most she knew in this world was love. She said that love is the most powerful thing of all. She also mentioned about 9/11
tragedy which made her love the earth more and more. By listening Rowling mentioned 9/11, Winfrey gave the feedback with the statement that she also thinks about that all of the time.

Datum 24

Winfrey: “What is your dream of happiness?”

Rowling: “Well, in the – in the first *Harry Potter* book, Dumbledore says to Harry that the happiest man alive would look in the mirror and see himself exactly as he is. So I would have to say that I’m pretty close.”

Winfrey: “And will you be writing more?” (=p)

You wrote before (=q)

p >> q

In the question that Winfrey says, there is the trigger of presupposition about *iteratives presupposition type*. It is signed by the word “more” that is a part of *iterative adverbs*. The meaning of that sentence is Winfrey presupposes that J.K. Rowling wrote before. J.K. Rowling had written about Harry Potter’s world and delivered it to public in seven series.

Before the commercial break, Winfrey asked Rowling about her dream of happiness. Rowling answered with Dumbledore utterance that the happiest man alive would look in the mirror and see himself exactly as he is. After the commercial break there is a statement “And will you be writing more?” in the fifth part of the conversation. Winfrey asked Rowling about the future plan of Rowling’s writing after the Harry Potter series.
Datum 25

Winfrey: They tell you now, you’re a writer.

Rowling: Yeah, well, exactly. I love it. I need to do it. I mean do you – you’re coming to the end of this. How does that feel?

Winfrey: It feels like the time is right for the end of this.

Rowling: Of this, exactly.

Winfrey: And would I be able to completely withdraw from the public and never sit and talk to – or never have the curiosity to sit and talk to talk about another person’s life or hear their stories? No. That’s why I’m creating my own network. But I read something recently. It was the story of Michael Jackson in the making of Thriller and in that story the writer said Michael Jackson never realized that Thriller was a phenomenon that, it being the number-one selling album of all times is a phenomenon. That what happened when that album came out and people all over the world doing that dance and listening to every song and that he spent his life chasing the phenomenon and therefore was never satisfied. (=p)

There is the writer who wrote Michael Jackson’s story (=q)

Thriller was a phenomenon (=q)

The Thriller Album did not plan to be the phenomenon (=q)

p >> q

The last datum consists of three presupposition triggers. First, Definite Description occurs in noun phrase “the writer”. In this trigger, Winfrey presupposes that there is the writer who wrote Michael Jackson’s story. The writer here means someone that wrote about the story of Michael Jackson. While in the second trigger, factive predicates occurs in word of “realized”. In this second trigger, Winfrey presupposes that Thriller Album was a phenomenon. Thriller here is an album of the king of pop, Michael Jackson.
It released in 1982 and got the best seller in the world. Third, there is a word of “happened” that takes a role as an indicator of *implicative predicates* appearance. As stated in Huang’s Theory, this type of presupposition shows that there is another meaning in the word that uttered implicitly by the speaker. In this sentence, Winfrey presupposes that the *Thriller Album did not plan to be the phenomenon*.

The context in the last datum in this research is continuing from the previous datum where both participants talked about J.K. Rowling who would be writing more after Harry Potter projects. Winfrey and Rowling believed that all of people in the world were never satisfied toward what they have achieved in their life. Winfrey mentioned the story that she read about Michael Jackson’s album, *Thriller*. It was the best-selling album in the world, it was phenomenon. At that time, when the album came out, all people doing that dance and listening to every song of the album but he never satisfied about his achievement. He made a new album after all of this phenomenon. Because of Michael Jackson’s story, the presupposition triggers in this datum occurred.
CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

After analyzing The Oprah Talk Show based on linguistic perspective, the focus is on the usage of presupposition in the talk show with the aid of Yan Huang’s theory, and thereby, the conclusions are described as follows:

The first conclusion is related to the first research question, it is about the types of presupposition that are used in Oprah’s utterance among the show. The result shows that all Huang’s nine types of presupposition are found. From 25 data, there are 6 data that have two presupposition triggers while another data have three presupposition triggers. So, there are 33 triggers among 25 data which are found throughout the talk show. The most-used type of presupposition is the Definite Description with 18 triggers in total out of 33. The second most-used type of presupposition is Factive Predicates with 4 triggers out of 33. In detail, the types of Factive Predicates which occurs in this research are 1 trigger from epistemic/cognitive factive and 3 triggers from emotive factive. The third most-used type of presupposition is the Cleft Sentences with 3 triggers out of 33 that based on Huang’s theory, this type is divided into two kinds, Cleft and Pseudo-Clefts. However, there are only 3 triggers of Cleft in this research. The fourth most-used type of presupposition are Iteratives and Temporal Clauses which only have 2 triggers in each. Furthermore, the types of Iteratives that occurs in this research are 1 trigger of Iterative Prefixes and 1 trigger of Iterative Adverbs. The
least-used types of presupposition are Aspectual/Change of State Predicates, Implicative Predicates, Quantifier, and Counterfactual Conditional. Those types only have 1 trigger out of 33 respectively. The Definite Description becomes the most-used type of presupposition in the talk show because it has the relation with the characteristic of the talk show from which anything is discussed based on reality. Hence, Oprah’s entire utterances consist of existences of something in real life.

The second conclusion of this research is related to the second research question about how presupposition statement is presented by Oprah. The presence of presupposition in this research is through a context that is able to take a main role in pragmatic study to get the truth meaning. The context of the conversation between Oprah Winfrey and J.K. Rowling in the Oprah Talk Show is gained through four factors. They are Physical Context, Linguistic Context, Epistemic Context, and Social Context.

B. Suggestion

To linguistics students, the finding of this research can be used as one of the references in pragmatic study, especially in presupposition issues. Due to the fact that presupposition deals with implied meaning and cannot be easily understood in literal meaning, it is suggested for the people who study language as concentration to enrich the knowledge about presupposition.

To other researchers, the researcher would like to suggest for students who are interested to do a research about presupposition to enrich Huang’s theory in
accordance with other corpora because this theory is included to the recent theory of pragmatics. However, this research still has many weaknesses.
WORKS CITED


APPENDIX

Transcript of Oprah Winfrey’s Talk Show Interviews J. K. Rowling

Part One

Winfrey: The J. K. Rowling legend begins with a delightful children’s book about an orphan boy wizard with a lightning-shaped scar – a boy with a magical destiny. A destiny shared by his creator. J. K. Rowling is the first self-made billionaire author in history, selling more than four-hundred million books, captivating readers in sixty-nine languages, and two-hundred countries around the world. Harry’s final chapter – the Deathly Hallows, is the fastest-selling book of all time. No wonder she’s credited with doing more for literacy than anyone else on the planet. Her empire spans movies, merchandise – even an amusement park. The Harry Potter blockbusters are the highest grossing movie franchise in Hollywood history – raking in 5.3 billion dollars and still counting.

Winfrey: So, this is the first time we’ve met.

Rowling: Yes, it is.

Winfrey: And my producers tell me that your real name is Jo. All this time I thought you were ‘J. K.’.

Rowling: (laughing) Yeah.

Winfrey: J. K. is –

Rowling: Is just the nom de – well, it’s because my British publisher, when the first book came out, thought ‘this is a book that will appeal to boys’ but they didn’t want the boys to know a woman had written it. So they said to me ‘could
we use your initials’ and I said ‘fine’. I only have one initial. I don’t have a middle name. So I took my favorite grandmother’s name, Kathleen.

Winfrey: Kathleen.

Rowling: Kathleen, yeah.

Winfrey: Jo Kathleen.

Rowling: Joanne Kathleen.

Winfrey: And fooled the boys for a while.

Rowling: Yeah, not for too long.

Winfrey: Not for too long.

Rowling: Yeah – because I started getting my picture in the press and no one could pretend I was a man anymore.

Winfrey: Yes – and I don’t think the boys have minded.

Rowling: No – it hasn’t held me back, has it? Clearly not held me back.

Winfrey: Not a bit. When we came – just arrived yesterday – it was beautiful. Scotland is beautiful.

Rowling: It’s stunning. Yeah, it’s stunning.
Winfrey: And the green is greener than anything I’ve ever seen other than Ireland. So I can understand why you love being here. Is there something about being here in this particular hotel where we are.

*** Commercial Break ***

Winfrey: – That you thought would be particularly stimulating to your creative process. That’s why you wanted to come here? To finish?

Rowling: Well, it turned out to be stimulating. As I was finishing *Deathly Hallows* there came a day where the window cleaner came, the kids were at home, the dogs were barking, and I could not work and this light-bulb went on over my head and I thought ‘I can throw money at this problem. I can now solve this problem.’ For years and years and years I just would go to a café and sit in a different kind of noise and work. I thought ‘I can go to a quiet place’. So I came to this hotel because it’s a beautiful hotel, but I didn’t intend to stay here. They were so nice to me here – and I think writers can be a little bit superstitious – so the first day’s writing went well so I kept coming back to this hotel and I ended-up finishing the last of the *Harry Potter* books in this hotel.

Winfrey: We have a lot of things in common.

Rowling: Yeah.

Winfrey: First of all you know this is the last year that I’m doing the *Oprah Show*. I will go on and do other things but when I came to the end of *Hallows* – the ‘last trace of steam evaporated in the autumn air’, ‘the train rounded a corner’, ‘Harry’s hand was still raised in farewell’. “‘He’ll be alright,” murmured Ginny. As Harry looked at her he lowered his hand absentmindedly and touched the lightning scar on his forehead. “I know he will”. The scar had not pained Harry for nineteen
years. All was well.” When I came to the end of that I mourned not only for the end of the series but for you. I cannot imagine what that was like.

Rowling: It was huge.

Winfrey: I can’t imagine.

Rowling: I kept – It was a bereavement. It was. It was a bereavement. It was huge. I think one way – although I knew it was coming we all know that the people we love are mortal – we are mortal. We know it’s going to end. You cannot prepare yourself for it. So even though I always knew it would be seven books – that was it. I knew how it was going to end. When it ended I was in a slight state of shock.

Winfrey: What did you do when you finished?

Rowling: Well, initially I was elated but then there came a point – I cried as I’ve only ever cried once before in my life and that was when my mother died. It was uncontrollable and I’m not a big crier. You know – I cry, but I’m not someone who can sort of keep crying going. You know what I mean? Some people can – do floods for hours. I’ve never – only twice in my life have I done that. For seventeen years I’d had that – through very tumultuous times in my personal life and I – I’d always had that. And if it was an escape for all these children you can imagine what it would have been for me. And it was not just the world. It was the discipline of working and it was the structure it gave to my life and I knew I’d still be writing but I had to mourn Harry.

Winfrey: Did you know ‘all is well’ was going to be the last line?

Rowling: Yeah, I did.

Winfrey: And you always knew that?
Rowling: Well, that’s a really good question because for a long time the last word was going to be ‘scar’. It was just worded differently but I – and I had said that to fans. The last word would be ‘scar’ and then I changed my mind. I just wanted the last words to be ‘all is well’.

Winfrey: ‘All is well’.

Rowling: ‘All is well’, yeah.

Winfrey: But you know what happens ‘ever after’.

Rowling: Yeah, I do. I couldn’t stop. I don’t think you can when you’ve been that involved with the characters for that long. It’s still all in there. They’re all in my head still. I mean I could write – I could – I could definitely write an eighth, ninth, tenth – I could – easily.

Winfrey: Will you?

Rowling: I’m not going to say I won’t. I don’t think I will. I loved writing those books. I love writing it. So, I feel I am done but you never know.

Winfrey: Tell me: did you ever feel that you had to succumb to the pressure? Because when you first started – the first one – the world didn’t know. And afterwards – once the deals are made and the industry and the entire universe of Harry Potter began I’m sure the pressure was overwhelming at times.

Rowling: Yeah. It was. I can say that now because I’m free of it. At the time I felt the need to deny how great the pressure was because that was my way of coping. It happened so fast for me and it shouldn’t have happened. You know? This was a children’s book. A children’s book, moreover, that I’d been told repeatedly that
wasn’t very commercial because I’d been turned-down a lot. So – and I went from utter obscurity – it was like being a Beatle – there came a point where it was crazy.

Winfrey: That’s such a great analogy.

Rowling: But there were – except there were four Beatles – so they could turn to each other and say ‘my God, this is crazy!’ I couldn’t turn to anyone. So the pressure was insane. We turned-up to a book signing my second American tour – my first American tour had been kind of hit and miss, you know? – We turned-up for my second American tour, thought it was going to be the same thing again. We’re in this car rolling down the street and there’s just this queue block after block after block after block and I’m looking out the window and I turn to the girl from the publisher and I say “Is there a sale on?” And we turn the corner and there was this enormous Barnes & Noble and I thought “Oh, my God”. And the queue snaked up the street, up the Barnes & Noble, up though four floors and they took me in the back entrance. They opened the door and they screamed. And all these light-bulbs went off in my face. And I was – oh, my God – and I signed two thousand books and the queue hadn’t ended. We had to go.

Winfrey: We call queues lines.

Rowling: Lines.

Winfrey: The line went on and on and on.

Rowling: The line was on and on and on. Yeah. Okay.

Winfrey: And that is when you knew.
Rowling: Yeah. That’s a real stand-out moment for me. I mean I knew it was getting big – in that there was press attention and so-on – but at that point – that for me was the real – that was when it felt *Beatlesque*. That’s when it started to get crazy. So you ask about the pressure? At that point I kept saying to people “Yeah, I’m coping, I’m coping.” The truth was there were times I was barely hanging by a thread.

*** Commercial Break ***

**Part Two**

Winfrey: It is the land of bagpipes, whiskey, kilts, and castles. Scotland is also the land home to the queen of the publishing world – billionaire mom – J. K. Rowling. I traveled to Edinburough to meet J. K. in the city where her beloved boy wizard, Harry Potter, leapt from her fantastical imagination into the hearts of millions. Here among the cobblestone streets and quaint cafés. J. K., then a struggling single mother, wrote the *Sorcerer’s Stone* – long-hand, while her young daughter slept by her side.

Winfrey: But isn’t it interesting that in the first book, when Harry is being dropped-off at his uncle’s, it is predicted –?

Rowling: One day every child in the world will know his name.

Winfrey: One day every child in the world will know his name.

Rowling: Well, the screenwriter –

Winfrey: So, didn’t you know?

Rowling: No.
Winfrey: Wasn’t there part of you –

Rowling: Part of me –

Winfrey: Subconsciously, that knew? Yes.

Rowling: I – I remember once and it was like – it was like – well, like – I’m going to call it clash – a flash of clairvoyance now. Obviously if it hadn’t come true it would just be some crazy thought I had. But I do remember one day, writing *Philosopher’s Stone*, I was walking away from the café where I’d been working on –

Winfrey: *Philosopher’s Stone* which became *Sorcerer’s Stone*.

Rowling: Which became *Sorcerer’s Stone*, exactly. So that’s the first novel. And I had this moment where I suddenly thought – It was like another voice speaking to me and the voice said “the difficult thing is going to get published. If it gets published it will be huge.”

Winfrey: Wow.

Rowling: And that is exactly what it was.

Winfrey: So there was some hint that – the voice had said to you –

Rowling: Well, the thing is you’ve got to believe, haven’t you?

Winfrey: Yes.
Rowling: You know – I was not the world’s most secure person. I wasn’t someone with an enormous amount of – in fact, I’d say I was someone with not much self-belief at all and yet in this one thing in my life I believed. That was the one thing in my life. I felt ‘I can tell a story’.

Winfrey: Is it true that it just – You know I’ve heard the legend is that the story just entered your head while on a train.

Rowling: Yeah. That is – that’s true.

Winfrey: That is true.

Rowling: I had been writing – all I ever wanted to do from – as – from the age at which you understand that books are written – they don’t just spontaneously grow out of the ground.

Winfrey: Which for you is about six?

Rowling: Yeah. Five or six. That’s all I ever wanted to be.

Winfrey: Was a writer.

Rowling: Yeah. I wrote compulsively all through my late teens into my twenties, but I’d never really the right thing, you know? And then I was on a train, I was twenty-five, and it came. And what came was ‘boy who doesn’t know he’s a wizard goes to wizarding school’. Bang. Bang. Bang. And then that was it. And that was like touch paper. And I was on this delayed train going from Manchester to London and my head was just flooding with what’s at this wizard’s school. There were four houses, there were ghosts, there were house ghosts. What do they teach? What subjects do they learn? Who are the teachers? And I had no pen. But that was it. That was it. And I don’t think I had ever felt so excited. I thought ‘I’d
love to write that’. I’d never thought about writing for children. I’d never thought about aiming anything at that age group and yet it was the thing I was meant to write, you know? Because I’d always being fascinated by folklore. I love a kooky word.

Winfrey: I know. Kooky words –

Rowling: I do!

Winfrey: I think the greatest gift the Harry Potter series has given to the world is the freedom to use our imaginations.

Rowling: I really hope so. I’m very frustrated by fear of imagination. That’s – I don’t think that’s healthy.

Winfrey: What about all the criticism that you received from a lot of religious people who felt that it was too dark and frightening, and wizardry, and sorcerers, and magic, and all the like?

Rowling: Well, I think –

Winfrey: I love what you said. I read this some place where you said you were not trying to convert people to Christianity when you wrote the books.

Rowling: No. No. I’m not pushing any belief system here, although there is a lot of Christian imagery in the books. That’s undeniable. And certainly in Hallowsthere’s a very clear – but that’s not. That’s an allusion to a belief system in which I was raised. But to answer the question about how that felt – How did that feel –

Winfrey: To be criticized –
Rowling: To be criticized in that way. Well, I tried to tease out – okay, what do they – what are they being critical of here? Well, if we’re talking about that dark and scary stuff, I think it’s perfectly legitimate for a parent to say ‘that’s a little old for my child’ or ‘we’re going to need to discuss that together – we’ll read that together’. That’s great. In fact, that’s perfect! Sit down and read that together. That would be amazing. On the ‘you must not discuss witchcraft, you must not have witches or magic depicted in a book’ I find that nonsensical. Nonsensical. In a hundred, two-hundred, three-hundred years from now there’ll be a new children’s story that has witches, and wizards, and magic. It will always be with us because it’s a belief system that humanity passed-through. It still has huge attractions. There’s a quotation that I almost used in the *Harry Potter* book. I’m paraphrasing, this won’t be exact. In magic, man has to rely on himself. So, in religion, of course, you’re looking for outside support but that’s the appeal of magic. I’m not saying I believe magic is real. I don’t. But that’s the perennial appeal of magic – that we ourselves have power and we can shape our world. I sometimes think its very analogous to having a lot of money that people think – ‘cause that’s kind of like a super power. I’ve often thought this, since all this happened to me. People think ‘well, you can solve anything now’. Really? It doesn’t work like that.

*** Commercial Break ***

**Part Three**

Winfrey: [J. K. Rowling] for all farewell season billionaire of JK Rowling granted us a rare interview in Edinburgh, Scotland – the city she calls home. We sat down at the historic Balmoral Hotel. This is where she completed the final chapters of Harry Potter’s wondrous journey. After selling more than four-hundred million copies of this series it’s hard to believe that twelve publishers rejected the *Sorcerer’s Stone*. Thirteen turned-out to be a lucky number. A
publisher bewitched by the spectacular tale finally agreed to print it. J. K. signed
the deal with a warning from her agent. “You’ll never make money writing
children’s books”.

Winfrey: Isn’t it interesting how when you first get to understand what having
money can do – like – you have to realize – I don’t have to be in this situation
where –

Rowling: Did you feel that?

Winfrey: Yeah.

Rowling: Did it take you a while to understand?

Winfrey: And it still is. And it still does.

Rowling: Me, too! I think it’s that moment when you’re trying to choose between
two things.

Winfrey: That’s happened to me!

Rowling: And you think – I could –

Winfrey: I could get both!

Rowling: But you don’t – you’ve not lived like that for so long.

Winfrey: Yes, and you know why? Because you understand what twenty-five
pounds is.

Rowling: Exactly. Always.
Winfrey: Yes. Or a hundred dollars.

Rowling: This felt so extravagant!

Winfrey: In the United States you’re known as the first billionaire author.

Rowling: Yeah.

Winfrey: So how has being the first billionaire author affected your perception of yourself?

Rowling: I dress better. But that’s not just about money, ’cause you meet lots of rich people who dress atrociously. It’s more that you can afford to – well, you can definitely afford better clothes. I think the single biggest thing that money gave me – and obviously I came from a place where I was a single mother and it really was hand to mouth at one point. It was literally as poor as you can get in Britain without being homeless at one point. If you’ve ever been there you will never, ever take for granted that you don’t need to worry. Never.

Winfrey: Are you in a place now where you can accept that you will always be rich?

Rowling: No. Are you?

Winfrey: Kind of. Getting there.


Winfrey: Unless I’m a complete fool.
Rowling: But that’s it! Unless I’m a fool! And you know what? I’ve never been a fool with money so why worry? But I do. I think ‘God, if I blew this, how could I look everyone in the face?’

Winfrey: But, you know psychologically it’s a difficult thing to come to terms with because it’s like saying – not allowing room for never say never.

Rowling: Exactly.

Winfrey: You know?

Rowling: Exactly. And you feel – I feel – I don’t want to get complacent.

Winfrey: Right.

Rowling: I don’t want to take things for granted.

Winfrey: Correct.

Rowling: I just – I just – and after all. Well, you do know what, I’m talking absolutely rubbish, aren’t I? I’m talking rubbish. I mean really would have to be very stupid but, yeah, I do still worry.

Winfrey: Really?

Rowling: Yeah. Not all the time. I mean mostly I feel great.

Winfrey: What do you actually think money has done for you? What does it do?

Rowling: It frees you. That’s what it does. It frees you. That’s why it’s like a super power. You don’t – it frees you. I mean we don’t have to – the luxury of
literally being able to sit down and say “where should we go for a holiday?” and not be, in any way, limited.

Winfrey: I hear you don’t drive.

Rowling: No, I don’t drive. No. Cars terrify me. I am really frightened of cars.

Winfrey: So do you have a driver?

Rowling: I – of – lately I have had a driver. Very lately.

Winfrey: Is it true that you still take the bus? I read that you still take the bus.

Rowling: Occasionally. Within the last year I have taken the bus. Definitely, yeah.

Winfrey: Did you ever imagine your life being the way it is now?

Rowling: No. Never. And I really, really mean never. It overshot the mark so ridiculously that I – I was so unprepared for it. This is a thing I think I’ve never really spoken about. I was a writer. I had no one near me professionally or personally who could in any way help me when I had questions like “what do you do when the press is searching your bins?” You know?

Winfrey: Mhmm.

Rowling: Really crazy stuff that happens. The stuff that makes you feel –

Winfrey: But that doesn’t happen to most writers, you know?

Rowling: Exactly. Exactly. So it took everyone around me totally by surprise.
Winfrey: It’s not like: if you’re an actress you could have expected that.

Rowling: Of course! Of course. You know that if I’m wildly successful that stuff will happen. I’m not going to like it but that will happen. But as a writer there’s no way of thinking “if I’m wildly successful they will want long-lens photographs of me on the beach in my bikini. Never occurred to me in a million years.

Winfrey: So you weren’t prepared for it.

Rowling: Totally unprepared. And really running scared for a while.

Winfrey: Tell me – we were talking about this earlier – about people’s criticism of you. Have you made peace with your relationship with God? And do you call it God?


Winfrey: But when you read the Potter books, watch the Potter movies the theme that is consistent and that obviously in the end rules is love.

Rowling: Definitely.

Winfrey: Love wins.

Rowling: Yes, which is a concept which runs through all the major religions – without exception. And I think that, this is probably true of all writers, but sometimes I know what I believe because of what I have written. Oddly, if you’d asked me before I wrote it ‘what did I believe’ I maybe couldn’t have told you. But it does come through strongly in the Potter books. You’re right. It does and that –
Winfrey: That in the end love wins.

Rowling: Love wins. It does win. We know it wins. When a person dies, love isn’t turned-off like a – I was going to say tap, but it’s faucet. Cause you had to translate ‘queue’ to ‘line’.

Winfrey: Yes.

Rowling: It isn’t turned-off. Yeah. It is an amazingly resilient part of us, isn’t it?

Winfrey: So you believe in a higher power?

Rowling: Yeah, I would say I do. Yes. And would I call it God, yes. For want of a better word sometimes, but yes. Yeah.

*** Commercial Break ***

Part Four

Winfrey: Before J. K. Rowling became one of the world’s richest women she led a modest life as a secretary in London. She was twenty-five years old when her mother died from Multiple Sclerosis sending Jo into an emotional tailspin. Desperate to escape the pain, she moved to Portugal, married and gave birth to her first daughter, Jessica. But, the marriage was, in Jo’s words, ‘short and catastrophic’. She packed-up her daughter and moved to Scotland, where she hit a new low. Jo was clinically depressed and struggling to survive on welfare.

Winfrey: What did your first marriage teach you about yourself? You know, we’ve heard very little about it and you haven’t spoken very much about it – only that it was short-lived. I think thirteen months and a day?
Rowling: Yeah, it was, yeah. You’re good.

Winfrey: Thirteen months and a day. What did you learn about yourself to never be repeated?

Rowling: Well, I’d think the first and most important thing to say about that marriage is I would do it all again, step for step to have Jessica, who is incredible and the world’s a better place for having her in it. So, you know, don’t regret a thing.

Winfrey: Okay.

Rowling: I think I repeated patterns from my first family as we often do in my selection of my first husband.

Winfrey: Which is what we do.

Rowling: Yeah, you’d think. You say “what did I learn”? I think that it taught me – I’m proud that it taught me how – that I had a strong survival instinct. Because when I knew that it was time to go, I left.

Winfrey: Did it help you to know more of who you are? Did it bring you into a –

Rowling: Eventually. But I can’t say I walked straight out of that marriage and that experience saying, you know, I feel enlightened in any way – I felt quite shell-shocked. I had a very, very tiny baby. And then I went straight into poverty and depression. So, but – in a strange way all of that, yes, was enormously illuminated. But I did a lot of thinking after that – after that marriage ended. Primarily about me. Why things had been as they had been. And it was seven years before I met the right man. But I think it needed to be seven years. You know? They –
Winfrey: And you were ready?

Rowling: Yeah, I was really ready.


Rowling: The strange thing is a week before I met Neil – literally a week – and I hope this gives hope to all single women out there – I remember speaking to a very good friend and she said “well, what would you like in a man?” And I said “I would need to be with someone intelligent, ’cause I just value that. I said I would really like him to have his own career. I thought these were really basic things, okay? Integrity was very important and kindness and a very strong sense of who he was. These were things I would really like. And then she looked and me and she said, “well, that’s not going to happen.” Like I’d asked for, you know, the earth. And I –

Winfrey: Like you’d asked for Jesus.

Rowling: Yes, exactly! And I thought “okay, yeah, maybe that’s not going to happen.”

Winfrey: Were you okay with it?

Rowling: I certainly wasn’t crying my eyes out every night. I could have done it, but I’m glad not to have had to do it.

Winfrey: During the process of all of this – I understand are you still estranged from your father?
Rowling: I am, yeah.

Winfrey: You are?

Rowling: Yeah, yeah. That’s never an easy thing to do in the public eye, but there you are.

Winfrey: Do you think you’ll ever make peace?

Rowling: No, I don’t. I don’t. I think that it’s such a huge thing to be estranged from a parent that obviously you would – it would have to be very big reasons for that.

Winfrey: Do you have your reasons?

Rowling: I have my reasons.

Winfrey: Any you want to share?

Rowling: It wasn’t a good relationship from my point of view for a very long time but I had a need to please and I kept that going for a long time and then there – there just came a point at which I had to pull-up and say I can’t do this anymore. And, yeah…

Winfrey: Do you regret that he can’t be a part of this success?

Rowling: Well, the estrangement happened post-success so he was – he was there for a while. If I’m totally honest with you I regret much more that my mother never saw any of it. That – that’s a bit of a killer. I mean she would have just –
Winfrey: Would she have loved reading it?

Rowling: I can honestly say I know a hundred percent she would have adored it. Yeah. Yeah.

Winfrey: But you started writing before she passed?

Rowling: Yeah, but I never told her about it.

Winfrey: You never told her?

Rowling: And I would have done. You know? I would have told her about it and I know she would have really liked it. I think she was – I think it was six months before she died I started writing. Yeah, and I never shared it with her.

Winfrey: Do you regret that?

Rowling: Yeah, hugely. Hugely. But the odd thing is that that’s just life, isn’t it? The books wouldn’t be what they are if she hadn’t died. I mean her death is on virtually every other page of the Harry Potter books, you know? At least half of Harry’s journey is a journey to deal with death in its many forms, what it does to the living, what it means to die, what survives death – it’s there in every single volume of the books.

Winfrey: What the love of your parents – the love of you parents. How that abides with you still. Yes.

Rowling: Exactly, exactly. Exactly. So, if she hadn’t died I don’t think it’s too strong to say there wouldn’t be Harry Potter. There wouldn’t – you know? The books are what they are because she died. Because I loved her and she died. That’s why they are what they are.
Winfrey: Would it also be fair to say that your life – everything in your life, because I know you went through a period of depression and I had read that the Dementors came from that depression

Rowling: Completely, yeah.

Winfrey: In Harry Potter’s world, the Dementors are dark creatures who feed-off human happiness causing depression and despair to those in their path. Dementors are capable of consuming a person’s soul.

Winfrey: Would it be fair to say that you’ve used, in the seventeen year process, writing the *Potter* series, that you’ve used the good, the bad and the ugly of your life?


Winfrey: And expressed it through your writing through the *Potter* stories?

Rowling: Yeah. For sure. Depression is – Clinical depression is a – is a – is a terrible place to be. Terrible place to be.

Winfrey: So you became depressed after your mother died?

Rowling: Yes, but I think it was a kind of delayed – I think I had tendencies toward depression from quite young. It became really acute when I was sort of twenty-five to twenty-eight was a dark time. It’s that absence of feeling – and it’s even the absence of hope that you can feel better. And it’s so difficult to describe to someone who’s never been there because it’s not sadness. Sadness is – I know sadness – sadness is not a bad thing. You know? To cry and to feel. But it’s that
cold absence of feeling – that really hollowed-out feeling. That’s what the Dementors are. And it was because of my daughter that I went and got help.

*** Commercial Break ***

Part Five

Rowling: – Means a stripping-away of the inessential. I stopped pretending to myself that I was anything other than what I was and began to direct all my energy into finishing the only work that mattered to me. I was set free because my greatest feeling had been realized and I was still alive and I still had a daughter whom I adored and I had an old typewriter and a big idea and so rock-bottom became the solid foundation on which I re-built by life. It is impossible to live without failing at something unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all.

Winfrey: I love the Harvard Speech. Were you a little nervous going to speak to Harvard? Even you?

Rowling: A little. That was – That was easily the most frightening thing I’ve done in my life. Easily. It felt very exposing because this wasn’t me reading-out words that had already been approved. Do you know what I mean? I used to be borderline phobic about public speaking.

Winfrey: Wow, really?

Rowling: Yeah. Really. Like shaking so badly I couldn’t – I didn’t know what sentence I was on. So I’ve come a long way. I’m still not – public speaking I’ve got better at but there are things like having to give a speech on T.V. still scares me so much I can’t deal with that very easily. This feels very easy.
Winfrey: I was going to say, you’re doing so well!

Rowling: But this is different. This is different!

Winfrey: A conversation. Like a conversation.

Rowling: Well, exactly, but you’re quite good at this, you know?

Winfrey: Well thank you.

Rowling: They say.

Winfrey: So the most important thing about that speech I think first of all you talked about how rock-bottom became the foundation from which you rebuilt your life. But the most important thing was about how to use failure.

Rowling: Failure. Failure is so impor – it doesn’t get spoken about enough. We speak about success all the time, but, you know, I do not know any – I haven’t met – and I’ve been so fortunate and met extraordinary people through *Harry Potter*, and not one of them didn’t have their failure – more than one failure. And it’s the ability to resist failure, in many ways, or use failure that often leads to the greatest success, isn’t it? So, yeah. Failure. I’ve often met people who – who are terrified, you know, in a straight jacket of their own making because they’d rather do anything that fail. They don’t want to try for fear of failing. Well that’s the rock-bottom thing. Rock-bottom wasn’t fun – at all. I’m not going to romanticize rock-bottom, but it was liberating. What did I have to lose?

Winfrey: Were you reluctant to increase the empire?

Rowling: Yeah.
Winfrey: Meaning the theme parks, the doll figures, I mean there is an entire *Potter* universe.

Rowling: There is.

Winfrey: I mean anything you imagine in the world – it’s been *Potterized*.

Rowling: I can only say to you: it could be so much worse.

Winfrey: It could be?

Rowling: Michael Jackson wanted to do the musical.

Winfrey: Really?

Rowling: Mhmm.

Winfrey: That’s big, that you didn’t want Michael Jackson to do –

Rowling: I said no to a lot of things, we’ve –

Winfrey: Do you control all of it?

Rowling: No. I mean – no. I have a say. For me it’s – I love the films, I love the books, and there are elements that are really fun around it. Now with the theme park – when they came to us, they came to us with a really extraordinary proposal. Which is that this will be state-of-the-art and be like nothing anyone has ever seen and they could back that up. They showed us their ideas and I thought yeah, this could be amazing but I only wanted to do it if it was going to be incredible. And it truly is. I mean, if I had been a reader of the books, I would have wanted to go there.
Part Six

Winfrey: In my magazine I do a column at the magazine called ‘what do you know for sure’? And every month when I write it I’m like “I don’t know a thing!”

Rowling: I’m really glad you said that because I thought wouldn’t if you ask me what do I know for sure, this is going to be tricky. Okay, okay.

Winfrey: Yeah, I’m prefacing it by saying it’s difficult to know what you know for sure.

Rowling: Yeah, it is.

Winfrey: But what do you?

Rowling: Well, I definitely know that – that love is the most powerful thing of all and I remember thinking that – God, I’m about to make myself cry but, I remember thinking that when 9/11 happened because those last phone calls were about – the last thing knowingly, that I’m going to say on this earth is “I love you”. What’s more powerful than that? What’s more proof than that? Beyond fear, beyond death.

Winfrey: It’s so interesting that you mention 9/11 because I think about them all the time.

Rowling: It’s such a huge – it is a defining moment in our lives. I remember thinking “they can’t have come down”.

*** Commercial Break ***
Winfrey: Could they have come down? Yes.

Rowling: Yeah. When I turned-on the T.V. and then yeah – I saw it. Yeah. And I panicked because I have good friends in New York and I emailed my two best friends in New York. One of them is my editor Arthur Levine and bizarrely, he was able to email me back virtually immediately and his last line in his email was “and they say we shouldn’t teach children about evil”. Cause we had had many a discussion about that.

Winfrey: What is your dream of happiness?

Rowling: Well, in the – in the first Harry Potter book, Dumbledore says to Harry that the happiest man alive would look in the mirror and see himself exactly as he is. So I would have to say that I’m pretty close.

*** Commercial Break ***

Winfrey: And will you be writing more?

Rowling: Definitely. Oh, God, definitely. I can’t, yeah, I literally can’t stop. Well, I mean, you could tie my hands to my sides, I suppose, but I have to write. For my own mental health, I need to write. Yeah.

Winfrey: They tell you now, you’re a writer.

Rowling: Yeah, well, exactly. I love it. I need to do it. I mean do you – you’re coming to the end of this. How does that feel?

Winfrey: It feels like the time is right for the end of this.

Rowling: Of this, exactly.
Winfrey: And would I be able to completely withdraw from the public and never sit and talk to – or never have the curiosity to sit and talk to talk about another person’s life or hear their stories? No. That’s why I’m creating my own network. But I read something recently. It was the story of Michael Jackson in the making of Thriller and in that story the writer said Michael Jackson never realized that Thriller was a phenomenon that, it being the number-one selling album of all times is a phenomenon. That what happened when that album came out and people all over the world doing that dance and listening to every song and that he spent his life chasing the phenomenon and therefore was never satisfied.

Rowling: I read it and that really resonated with me.

Winfrey: And it really resonated with me, too and I thought “I don’t want to be that.”

Rowling: Exactly.

Winfrey: I don’t want to be chasing the phenomenon that I know –

Rowling: I have to do it again. I have to do it again.

Winfrey: I have to do it again.

Rowling: I know. I did it, I’m really proud that I did it and I’m sure you feel the same way.

Winfrey: Yes. That’s exactly how I feel.

Rowling: But this is a new phase.
Winfrey: That I will bring this to a close just as you have brought that to a close and then I will go one to whatever the next chapter is and let that be whatever that is going to be.

Rowling: I feel exactly the same. It would be more interesting if I disagreed for interview purposes, but I do feel – I read that interview and that part is the part that stayed with me.

Winfrey: That was life-changing for me in that moment. Click! Switched. I thought “oh, that’s why I was so afraid of moving forward with this idea of the network” ’cause I’m thinking “how am I going to top this, how am I going to make it? How am I going to do that?” You have to – it’s a completely separate thing and it will be paralyzing – it’s paralyzing.

Rowling: Totally. If you’re going to spend your whole life chasing that.

Winfrey: But, like, trying to create that. Because the fact that that was –

Rowling: You never meant to be that huge.

Winfrey: That’s right! I never – I didn’t create that in the first place. That was .. Universal, divine order, Jesus, all of it. So yes, that brings me to the final question for you. Is there, or was there, has there been a part of you that feels “I’ve got to top Harry”.

Rowling: No and I really mean that. And I get asked that – it’s not even – people don’t ask me that, interestingly, people tell me that. People say to me “well, you must just think how on earth am I going to top that?” And I think “No. I really, truly don’t think that.” It was amazing. It was also insane, at times.

Winfrey: Yes, yes.
Rowling: And there are parts of that insanity I’ll be quite glad to leave behind.

Winfrey: You became a Beatle!

Rowling: I’m so – yeah. It was fun for a while, but it – you know – I’m so grateful I had it, honestly. On so many different levels. I love the people who read the books, I dedicated the last book to the people dearest to my heart and the seventh part of that dedication was a reader who’d stuck with Harry right the way through, I love them.

Winfrey: Which is exactly how I feel about all the people who stuck with me. When I was saying – when I was making the announcement for leaving the show, the only time I teared-up and, in the future, even sitting in meetings, the only time – the only thing that makes me cry is thinking about the viewers. The people who made it all possible.

Rowling: Yeah. I feel totally the same way. There was a girl who came-up to me the other day in the street, sort of ballooned out of the pavement in front of me like she’d Apparated. She must have been early twenties and she said to me “You are my childhood”. How can you – I know! About the nicest thing anyone’s ever said to me.

Winfrey: That is pretty good.

Rowling: Yeah.

Winfrey: That was so much fun, Jo. That was really fun.

Rowling: Thank you.

Winfrey: Thank you so much.