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The Humor Techniques of Presupposition Deviations
in The Konto Manzai of Sandwichman

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ABSTRACT

This research explores the humor technique of distorting presuppositions in *Sandwichman's konto manzai*. In communication, interlocutors often rely on certain assumptions to interpret a speaker's intentions, known as presuppositions. Humor doesn't just deviate from the semantic aspects of language; it also deviates from the rules of pragmatics. In Japan, humor is a highly popular form of entertainment, with various types like dokkiri, rakugo, shabekuri, konto manzai, and more. Manzai, a particular style of comedy show, is especially well- received. This research is intriguing because it sheds light on humor techniques from the perspective of presuppositional deviation. The analysis of presuppositional deviations is grounded in Yule's presupposition theory and Arthur Asa Berger's theory of humor techniques. The goal of this study is to describe the humorous technique of distorting presuppositions in *Sandwichman's konto manzai*. We employ a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. The data utilized consists of speech in konto manzai that exhibits deviations in presuppositions, along with the humor techniques stemming from these deviations. The results reveal the presence of 50 data points with presupposition deviations. Among these, 11 distinct humor techniques related to presupposition deviations in Sandwichman's konto manzai are identified.

ARTICLE INFO

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a universal tool used by humans to communicate. Communication is used as a means to convey ideas, feelings, information, and the like. Each participant in speech acts is responsible for their actions and deviations from the norms of language in linguistic interactions, according to Allan (in Wijana, 1996). Therefore, in communication, there is a need for the study of language, which is linguistics.

In the field of language or linguistics, there is a branch of study that examines contextual meaning in discourse, known as pragmatics. Yule (2006) suggests that pragmatics is more concerned with analyzing what people intend with their utterances. Pragmatics encompasses various areas of study, one of which is presupposition or assumptions.

In communication, there is a responsibility for participants in speech so that all parties can understand the meaning of an utterance. The process of understanding speech involves not only a literal understanding but also various other important aspects. Specifically, the interlocutor may need to connect the utterance to certain assumptions to interpret the speaker's intent. For example, in the statement "This cake is very delicious," the maxim of quantity is at play as it provides just enough information and triggers several assumptions, such as 'there is a cake' or 'there is delicious cake.' The study of assumptions is also a part of pragmatics, and this study is called presupposition.

Yule (2006) argues that presupposition is something assumed by the speaker as an event that occurs before making a speech. Therefore, presupposition can be understood as the initial assumptions of the speaker before engaging in speech. Yule (in Mustajab, 2006) classifies presupposition into six types: existential presupposition, factive presupposition, lexical presupposition, structural presupposition, non-factive presupposition, and counterfactual presupposition. Often in humor, there is a deviation from these presuppositions intentionally to build initial presuppositions in speech. Once the initial presupposition is established, then comedians deviate from, creating humor that makes people laugh.

Humor is not merely a deviation in the semantic aspect of language, but a deviation from the pragmatic principles (Astuti, 2006). To create humor, speakers often use wordplay in their speech. According to Berger (1993), in a joke, there is usually a narrative that ends with an intriguing punchline. The punchline can be achieved by deviating from presuppositions in a speech. Berger (1993) categorizes language humor techniques into 15 types, including allusion, bombast, definition, exaggeration, facetiousness, infantilism, insults, irony, misunderstanding, overliteralness, Puns or word play, repartee, ridicule, sarcasm and satire.

There are many types of humor in Japan, such as "*dokkiri*," "*rakugo*," "*shabekuri*," "*konto*," "*manzai*," and others. One popular comedy format in Japan is "*manzai*" (Gavin, 2017). *Manzai* is a comedic performance involving two comedians on stage who engage in communication with the goal of making the audience laugh. In a *manzai* performance, the comedians play distinct roles: the "*tsukkomi*" is the straight-man role, and the "*boke*" is the funny role that deviates from presuppositions to create laughter.

Nowadays, *manzai* is divided into two types: "*shabekuri manzai*" and "*konto manzai*" or simply "*konto*". The main difference between *shabekuri manzai* and *konto manzai* lies in the use of gestures. *Konto manzai* often involves the use of gestures and props to create laughter. Sandwichman is a comedy duo composed of Mikio Date and Takeshi Tomizawa, originating from Sendai City in Miyagi Prefecture. Sandwichman frequently performs both *shabekuri manzai* and *konto manzai*, but their specialty is *konto manzai*.

Based on the background provided, the context within a speech situation plays a crucial role in leading the listener's assumptions to create humor, enabling the audience to laugh through the deviation of presuppositions in the utterances. This research is intriguing because in Sandwichman's *konto manzai*, many utterances involve the deviation of presuppositions, resulting in humorous effects. Given this phenomenon, the researcher aims to investigate further the humor techniques derived from the deviation of presuppositions found in Sandwichman's *konto manzai* performances.

Research on presupposition and humor has been conducted. A research conducted by Zainal (2015) discusses violations of the cooperative principle and politeness principles that appear in NETA Jinnai Tomonori's humor content. The results of this research revealed 41 violations of the cooperative principle and 14 violations of politeness principles. The next research was written by Ikkasavitri (2021) delves into "*kandoushi*" and presuppositions in "*kandoushi*" in the manga *Gekkan Shoujo Nozaki-kun* volumes 1-2 by Izumi Tsubaki. The findings of this research include 163 data of "*kandoushi*", 73 data of "*kandoushi kandou*", 58 data of "*kandoushi outou*", 20 data of "*kandoushi yobikake*", and 12 data of "*kandoushi aisatsugo*". Additionally, 142 data of "*kandoushi*" with presuppositions were found, including 60 factive presuppositions, 55 existential presuppositions, 13 lexical presuppositions, 12 non-factive presuppositions, and 2 counterfactual presuppositions. The others researchs about humor and presuppositions have been conducted by Puksi (2018); Kristiawan (2018); Yang (2020), and Abdalhakeem and Mubarak (2019).

There are similarities in the topics explored, which revolve around humor and the theory of presupposition. However, this research also has differences from the previous three studies. The distinction lies in the perspective on presuppositions, which takes a viewpoint of deviating from presuppositions. Additionally, this research places a stronger emphasis on the humor techniques employed, utilizing Berger's theory. In this study, the focus is not solely on humor techniques but also on the utterances that contribute to the formation of humor through deviations in presupposition theory.

2. METHODS

The method used in this research is a descriptive qualitative method. Bogdan and Taylor (in Moleong, 2016) state that descriptive data in the form of spoken or written words from observed objects are data that can be generated by qualitative methodology. Moleong (2016) also adds that the qualitative descriptive method produces data in the form of words or specific descriptions and not numerical figures. This research employs the qualitative descriptive method because it describes the forms of words and language used in the utterances of *konto manzai* comedians. The research uses a pragmatic approach in general. Furthermore, it employs a presupposition specific approach and humor techniques to analyze the findings.

The data in this research consists of spoken words or sentences that exhibit deviations in presupposition and humor techniques derived in Sandwichman's *konto manzai* performances. The primary data sources used in this research are utterances spoken in 5 *konto manzai* videos by Sandwichman that have been uploaded to YouTube within the last 5 years and downloaded using the Internet Download Manager application. The secondary data sources used in this research include literature related to the research topics of presuppositions and humor. These secondary sources include books and previous research.

Data collection in this research employs the note-taking technique. The data collection technique used in this research is note-taking. Note-taking is a technique that

is applied to existing data, and subsequently, classification or grouping is performed (Sudaryanto, cited in Muhammad, 2016). The researcher records the data findings in a Microsoft Word program. Then ensure that the data is in line with the research questions and double-check the findings to ensure their relevance to the research questions. After the data findings have been identified as relevant to the research questions, the researcher are placed into a table as follows to facilitate the analysis.

Table 1 Classification of Presupposition Deviations and Humor Techniques

Num ber	Video Title	Data	Presupposition Deviations						Code	Humor Techniques
			E	F	L	S	NF	K		
Total										

Keterangan:

E   = Existential   F = Factive   L = Lexical   S = Structural
NF   = Non-factive   K = Counterfactual

After the data has been collected, the researcher proceeds to analyze the data to address the research questions. The data analysis technique used in this research is descriptive analysis. Below is a table representing data analysis in the form of classifications related to the research questions. Once all the data has been classified based on the research questions, the researcher discusses the data according to the descriptive analysis. Conclusions are drawn from the analyzed data, and the results of the data analysis are reported.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After the analysis process is conducted based on the method outlined in the introduction, the results of this research are presented using tables and explanations, utilizing the following theories:

Table 2 Humor Techniques from Presupposition Deviations

No	Humor Techniques	Presupposition Deviations						Total
		Exis tential	Fac tive	Le xical	Struc tural	Non factive	Counter factual	
1	Allusion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Bombast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Definition	-	1	1	1	-	-	3
4	Exagge ration	3	7	5	-	-	1	16
5	Facetiousness	-	-	-	2	-	1	3
6	Infantilism	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
7	Insults	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
8	Irony	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

9	Misunde rstanding	2	1	3	1	-	-	7
10	Over literalness	-	1	3	-	-	-	4
11	Puns or word play	-	3	1	-	-	-	4
12	Repartee	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
13	Ridicule	-	-	4	1	-	-	5
14	Sarcasm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	Satire	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
	Total	5	14	20	7	-	4	50

In the table above, it can be observed that out of the 6 presuppositions presented by Yule, there are deviations in 5 presuppositions that occur. The most frequently occurring presupposition deviation is in lexical presupposition, with the following breakdown for each presupposition deviation: lexical (20 data), factive (14 data), structural (7 data), existential (5 data), and counterfactual (4 data).

In the table above, it can also be observed that out of the 5 presupposition deviations, there are 11 humor techniquesthat emerge from the 15 humor techniques proposed by Arthur Asa Berger. The most frequently occurring humor technique is exaggeration. With the following breakdown for each humor technique that appears: exaggeration (16 data), misunderstanding (7 data), ridicule (5 data), literalness (4 data), wordplay (4 data), definition (3 data), facetiousness (3data), satire (3 data), infantilism (2 data), repartee (2 data), and insults (1 data).

1) **Existential Presupposition Deviations**

Based on Yule (in Mustajab,2006:46), existential presupposition is a presupposition that assumes the existencenot only in the possessive structure but more generally or broadly into a specificphrase. Existential presupposition refersmore to ownership, but it can also extend to the broader existence within a statement of utterance.

Data 1
Context:
In a restaurant, a customer is scolding the waiter for providing a repulsive food recommendation. The waiter suggested adding insects to the meal as a surprise forthe customer's lover.

客　　　　:何だろうなあなた、考えてるさプレート認識が違うんですけど、
　　　　　それ相手喜んでじゃないですか。
ウェイトレス：じゃあ、その虫食
　　　　　べれるんですけど。

Kyaku　　 : *Nandarou　　na　　anata,*
　　　　　　kangaeteru sa pureeto ninshikiga chigaundesukedo, sore aite yorokonde janai desuka.
Weitoresu　: *Jaa,　　sono　　mushi*
　　　　　　tabererundesukedo.

Customer　: 'What's　wrong　with　you,

your way of thinking about presentation has a differentperception, it doesn't make the partner happy.'

Waiter : 'If that's so, what if those
insects <u>can be eaten?</u>' (V4/03:59-04:06/E/01)

In the utterance "If that's so, what if those insects" (line 8), an existential presupposition is found. According to Yule (in Mustajab, 2006:46), an existential presupposition is an assumption that indicates existence. The existential presupposition in the utterance abovepertains to the existence of a noun is insect. In the utterance 'If that's so, whatif those insects' (p1), it gives rise to presuppositions (q1) or (q2), as explainedbelow:

'If that's so, what if those insects' (p1)

>> Will be replaced with a different menu(q1)

>> The insects will be removed (q2)

From the explanation of presuppositions above, it can be inferred(p1 >> q2) or (p1 >> q2). Considering the context, the customer rejects the waiter's suggestion to add insects to the food because it would make the customer's lover unhappy. Initially, the waiter's response, seemingly understanding the customer's intent andresponding with 'If that's so, what if thoseinsects' (p1) gives rise to the presupposition 'will be replaced with a different menu' (q1) or 'the insects will beremoved (q2). However in data 1 or theutterance '<u>can be eaten?</u>', the waiter deviates presupposition (q1) or (q2).

The humor technique employed inthe deviation of existentialpresupposition in in data 1 or the utterance '<u>can be eaten?</u> is exaggeration. According to Berger (1993:33), exaggeration expects the listener to believe. The context should have been thewaiter finding a solution to the customer'scomplaint about the insect menu suggestion. However, the waiter insists on serving the insect menu and expects the customer to believe that it edible'.

2)   **Factive Presupposition Deviations**

According to Yule (2006), informationpresupposed following the verb 'know' can be considered as a fact and categorized as factive presupposition.Besides this verb, there are other verbs that can indicate a fact in this presupposition, such as 'realize', 'regret','aware', 'amaze', 'happy', and other verbs.

Data 2

Context:

In a mattress store, a customer tell his need for a mattress to the store employee. 客   ：あのう、ベッドが必要。店員　　　：あ、すみません、<u>内犬</u>
<u>とか猫とか置いてない</u>ずね。

Kyaku : Anou beddo ga hitsuyou.

Tenin : A, sumimasen, <u>uchi inu tokaneko oitenai desu yo nee.</u>

Customer : 'Excuse   me,   I   need   amattress.'

Employee : 'Ah, I'm sorry, <u>our storedoesn't have dogs and cats</u>.'

          (V1/00:48 - 00:51/F/01)

In the statement 'Ah, I'm sorry' (line 3), a factive presupposition is found.According to Yule (in Mustajab, 2006) in statement 'Ah, I'm sorry' (p1), there is the verb 'regret' expressed through an apology. 'Ah, I'm sorry' (p1)generates presuppositions (q1) or (q2), sowe can obtain (p1 >> q2) or (p1 >> q2). Like in the following explanation:

'Ah, I'm sorry' (p1)

>> Apologizing for not being able to finda mattress (q1).

>> Currently unable to assist (q2).

From the explanation of the presupposition above, we obtain (p1 >>q1) or (p1 >> q2). Looking at the context,the employee's response in the statement'ah, sorry' (p1) creates the presupposition 'apologizing for not being able to find amattress' (q1) or 'currently unable toassist' (q2). However, in data 2 or in statement '<u>our store does not have dogs and cats</u>' deviates from the presupposition (q1) or (q2).

The humor technique utilized in the deviation of factual presupposition in '<u>our store doesn't have dogs and cats</u>.' ordata 2 is the technique of misunderstanding. According to Berger (1993:43), it involves the ambiguity of language or the strange meanings generated when language is taken out of context. Data 2 mixes up the syllables between '*beddo*' and '*petto*' resulting in the conversation going out of context, leading to a misunderstanding.

3) Lexical Presupposition Deviations

Based on Yule (in Mustajab, 2006:47), lexical presuppositions are derived from statements that areinterpreted through emphasis in the utterance. From the explanation of the presupposition above, we obtain (p1 >>q1) or (p1 >> q2). Looking at the context,the employee's response in the statement 'Well, if you say it like that' (p1) creates the presupposition 'the employee understands the customer's intention' (q1) or 'the employee will provide adviceabout the desired mattress' (q2).However, in data 3 or in statement '<u>the best thing would be sleeping pills</u>' deviates from the presupposition (q1) or(q2).

Data 3

Context:

In a mattress store, a customer wants toinquire and seek advice on a mattress thatcan provide a comfortable for sleep to thestore employee.

| 客 | ： なんかないかねえ？ |
| 店員 | ： そうですね、そんなと言えば、<u>一番の嗣明役</u>。 |

| *Kyaku* | : *Nanka nai ka nee?* |
| *Tenin* | : *Sou desu ne, sonna to ieba, <u>ichibanno suiminyaku</u>.* |

Customer	: 'Is there one?'
Employee	: 'Well, if you say it like that,<u>the best thing would be</u> <u>sleeping pills</u>.'
	(V1/02:12-02:15/L/01)

In the statement 'Well, if you say itlike that' (line 3) a lexical presupposition is found. According to Yule (in Mustajab, 2006: 48), this is a presupposition in speech that is interpreted through emphasis. The statement 'Well, if you sayit like that' contains a re-emphasis on the customer's intention. In the statement'Well, if you say it like that' (p1), it generates presuppositions (q1) or (q2), sowe can obtain (p1 >> q1) or (p1 >> q2),as explained below:

'Well, if you say it like that' (p1)

>> The employee understands thecustomer's intention (q1).

>> The employee will provide adviceabout the desired mattress (q2).

The humor technique employed inthe deviation of lexical presupposition in data 3 or in statement '<u>the best thing</u> <u>would be sleeping pills</u>' is technique of definition. According to Berger (1993:30), humorous definition is a kind of joke where the listener or reader momentarily finds something light orzany when they expected something serious or

heavy. Data 3 conveys information that is commonly known, which is that sleeping pills can promoterestful sleep. Although they share similar characteristics with the customer's request, the mattress store employee provides advice that is not in line with thecontext. The context in this conversationis about mattresses, not sleeping pills.

4)   **Structural Presupposition Deviations**

According to Yule (as cited in Mustajab, 2006: 47), structural presuppositions are conventionally interpreted through question words. Structural presuppositions are marked by structures that are assumed to be true.

Data 4
Context:
The employee is currently receiving a complaint over the phone from a customer about a pants he recently bought has white stains on it.

会社員　　：　どう言うことでしょう
　　　　　　　か？それはホワイトジ
　　　　　　　ーンズであって、周り拷。

Kaishain   : Dou iu koto deshouka?
                    sore wa howaito jiinzu deatte, mawari ga kitanai.

Employee   : 'What   are   you   talking about? It's white jeans, andthe area around it is dirty.'
                    (V4/02:39-02:46/S/05)

In the statement 'what are you talking about?' (line 2), structural presupposition is found. According to Yule (as described in Mustajab, 2006: 48),this is a presupposition in the utterance that is interpreted with a question word.The statement 'what are you talking about?' contains a question word, indicating that the employee wants to clarify what the customer is trying to convey. In the statement 'what are you talking about?' (p1), it triggers presuppositions (q1) or (q2), allowing us to derive (p1 >> q1) or (p1 >> q2), as explained below:

'What are you talking about?' (p1)
>> The employee doesn't understand thecustomer's intent (q1).
>> The employee wants to clarify thecustomer's intent (q2).

From the explanation of the presupposition above, we obtain (p1 >>q1) or (p1 >> q2). Looking at the context,the employee's response in the statement'What are you talking about?' (p1) createsthe presupposition 'the employee doesn't understand the customer's intent' (q1). or 'the employee wants to clarify the customer's intent' (q2). However, in data 4 or in statement 'It's white jeans, and thearea around it is dirty.' deviates from thepresupposition (q1) or (q2).

The humor technique employed inthe deviation of structural presupposition in data 4 is the technique of repartee. According to Berger (1993:45), repartee isa technique that counters aggression with aggression. In data 4 or in the statement'it's white jeans, and the area around it is dirty,', humor arises because the employee attempts to deny the customer's complaint. This humortechnique occurs because the employee's response doesn't align with the context. The employee should have acknowledgedthe customer's complaint and sought a solution, rather than denying the complaint.

5) **Counterfactual Presupposition Deviations**

According to Yule (as cited in Mustajab, 2006: 51), counterfactualpresupposition is an assumptionconveyed by the speaker that is not onlyuntrue but also the opposite of reality.

Data 5

Context:
A customer enters a mattress store and finds an employee waking up from sleepon one of the mattresses for sale. The customer then scolds the employee for appearing to have just woken up from sleep while at work.

客　　　：なんだよお前は？なんで寝てなんだ？大体ここに。
店員　　：　寝てないんす。
客　　　：　寝てだろう？今。
店員　　：　いや、寝てないですけ
　　　　　ど、<u>あと１０分だけ、</u>
　　　　　<u>１０分だけ</u>。

Kyaku ： *Nandayo   omae?   Nande netenanda? Daitai koko ni.*
Tenin ： *Netenainsu.*
Kyaku ： *Netedarou? Ima.*
Tenin ： *Iya,   netenaidesu   kedo,   <u>ato juppun dake, juppun dake</u>.*

Customer　：'What are you doing? Why
　　　　　　are you sleeping? Especiallyhere.'
Employee　：'I'm not sleeping.'
Customer　：'You are sleeping, right? Here.'
Employee　：'No, I'm not sleeping, <u>but give me 10 more minutes,just 10 more minutes.</u>'
　　　　　　(V1/00:17-00:23/K/01)

In the statement 'no, I'm not sleeping' (line 8), counterfactual presupposition is found. According to Yule (as cited in Mustajab, 2006: 51), counterfactual presupposition is an assumption conveyed by the speaker that is not only untrue but also the opposite ofreality. The statement 'no, I'm not sleeping' is contradictory to the contextand the employee's actual actions. In thestatement "No, I'm not sleeping" or (p1),it triggers presupposition (q1), allowing usto derive (p1 >> q2), as explained below:

'No, I'm not sleeping' (p1)
>> The employee is not sleeping (q1).
>> The employee denies being asleep(q2).

From the explanation of the presupposition above, we obtain (p1 >>q1) or (p1 >> q2). Looking at the context,the employee's response in the statement'No, I'm not sleeping' (p1) creates the presupposition 'the employee is not sleeping' (q1). or 'the employee denies being asleep' (q2). However, in data 5 orin statement '<u>but give me 10 more minutes, just 10 more minutes.</u>' deviatesfrom the presupposition (q1) or (q2).

The humor technique employed in the deviation of counterfactual presupposition in data 5 or in statement'<u>but give me 10 more minutes, just 10 more minutes</u>' is technique of Infantilism.In data 5 or in statement '<u>but give me 10 more minutes, just 10 more minutes</u>' theemployee makes a statement commonlyuttered by children when they areawakened from sleep. Children oftenrequest more time if they are woken up from their sleep.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the research and discussion on humor techniques derived from the presuppositions deviation of*konto manzai* sandwichman, the researcher concluded that: 1) out of the 50 data, there are five types of deviationspresuppositions, with abreakdown of 20 lexical presuppositions, 14 factive presuppositions, 7 structural presuppositions, 5 existential presuppositions, and 4 counterfactual presuppositions. The dominance of deviations in lexical presuppositions occursbecause it seems as if the "*boke*"understands the "*tsukkom,*" as indicated by assertive statements. This leads the audience to assume that the "*boke*" comprehends the "*tsukkomi*" intent before ultimatelydeviating from the presupposition, and 2) among the 50 data of presupposition deviations, thereare 11 humor techniques employed. The most prevalent humor technique is exaggeration. The dominance of the exaggeration technique is due to the "*boke*" often deliveringexaggerated statements that gobeyond the context, which frequently leads to the deviation of presuppositions by the audience and generates laughter.

5. AUTHORS' NOTE

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article. Authors confirmed that the paper was free of plagiarism.

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