

From Online Post to Crime Report: A Lesson Learned from a Social Media Defamation Case

Sukirno Sukirno

Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto,
Purwokerto, Indonesia

Tono Suwartono

Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto,
Purwokerto, Indonesia

Isnaeni Praptanti

Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto,
Purwokerto, Indonesia

Astika Nurul Hidayah

Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto,
Purwokerto, Indonesia

Dyah Kusumastuti

Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto,
Purwokerto, Indonesia

Muhammad Ajmal

Shaikh Ayaz University Shikarpur,
Shikarpur, Pakistan

Abstract

This study aimed to examine the lingual data of speech on Facebook posts, alleged to have resulted in defamation and to describe the case handling process by the police in Banyumas City, Central Java Province, Indonesia. The data was collected through documents handed over by the police. The data was analyzed qualitatively within the framework of forensic linguistic theory. The main findings of the study are that there were six linguistic aspects on the Facebook posts suspected to contain a defamation case under study, namely dialectology, forensic phonetics, forensic language style, language structure analysis, discourse analysis, and authorship. Additionally, the case handling process underwent seven steps, i.e. delivery of application letter from the police to head of linguists' office, delivery of assignment letter to appointed linguists by head of linguists' office, linguists' documents examination by the police, data collection from the police, forensic linguistic data analysis, review session of analysis results, and submission of final results to the police. This study suggests that upholders of law and linguists should work hand in hand in the interest of justice and that linguists build their understanding of law issues within this multidisciplinary practice, while at the same time, upholders of law benefit from the experience of linguists as expert witness.

Keywords: speech of blame, social media, defamation, law, forensic linguistics.

1. Introduction

The engagement in public discourse, communication, sharing information, and offering unprecedented opportunities for individuals to connect have been revolutionized with the arrival of social media. Despite its merits, social media has many demerits such as: defamation, misinformation, and cyberbullying. In the context of Indonesia, increase in social media usage has raised concerns regarding the spread of defamatory content and its implications for legal and societal norms. The broader trend of social media's impact on local communities has been reflected in the city of Banyumas, a regency situated in Central Java Province, Indonesia, where increase of defamation cases handled by the law enforcement agencies has become prevalent with attaining traction by social media platforms. These cases pose multifaceted challenges, requiring a nuanced understanding of lingual data and communication dynamics on digital platforms. A flourishing interdisciplinary field, Forensic Linguistics, gives significant insights into the analysis of language in legal contexts. By offering insights into the resolution of legal disputes, including defamation cases, it can unveil motives, intent and patterns behind linguistic behavior applying linguistic theories and methodologies to legal investigations.

Based on the aforementioned background, this research attempts to explore the lingual data of speech on social media from the standpoint of forensic linguistic, with special focus on a defamation case handled by the police in Banyumas City. This study aims at exploring the complexities of digital communication and its consequences for law enforcement and legal practitioners by examining the linguistic features, discourse strategies, and socio-cultural factors encircling defamatory speech on social media. It is mandatory to identify with the elaboration of linguistic data in defamation cases both for resolving individual legal disputes as well as for informing broader policies and strategies which aims at protecting digital rights, upholding freedom of expression and promoting responsible online behavior. This research attempts to contribute to the growing body of knowledge on language and law in the digital age (with implications to broader societal and legal discourse beyond the local context) by studying the case in the city applying forensic linguistics as a theoretical framework.

Language as an important holder of the bandage has a connection with many other aspects of life. In its development, language has been intertwined with many other sciences. For example, language has merged with society to form sociolinguistics and language has integrated into psychiatric science to result in a new branch of science called psycholinguistics. The flexibility of language has an impact on its association with other branches of science. Usefulness in the branch of science also produces new 'terms' in language or linguistics called applied linguistics. Applied linguistics is defined as a branch of linguistics that specifically utilizes various theories, methods, and other linguistic findings to solve various linguistic problems. In short, applied linguistics is made use for various practical purposes (Mohandoss & Jayakumar, 2016). The various practical needs in the linguistics program include: language teaching, translation, parchment, speech therapy, graphology, educational linguistics, language planning, and forensic linguistics.

The eight divisions of applied linguistics above have their own peculiarities and uniqueness. For example, forensic linguistics has a relationship with a legal case which is a bridge between linguists and legal experts to determine a case related to the language of a legal case. Forensic linguistics is relatively a new comer to the field of

linguistics. This science examines the interaction between language, criminality, and law (Saletovic & Kisicek, 2012). In forensic linguistics, the knowledge and techniques of linguistics are applied to examine linguistic phenomena related to legal cases or the examination of cases or personal disputes between several parties which at a later stage have an impact on taking legal action (Fitria, 2024). According to the literature, the main concerns of forensic linguistics are: the language of legal documents, the language of the police and law enforcement, interviews with vulnerable children and witnesses in the legal system, interactions in the courtroom, linguistic evidence and expert testimony in the trial, authorship and plagiarism, and forensic phonetics and speaker identification (Alduais, 2023). Apart from these seven aspects, forensic linguistics also examines the language used in prisons, the development of language translations used in the context of legal events, the provision of linguistic forensic evidence based on expertise, and the provision of linguistic expertise in the preparation of legal documents and efforts to simplify legal language (Gibbons, 2017). When it comes to scope, the scope of the discussion of forensic linguistics is quite broad and in-depth because it involves all levels of linguistics, ranging from phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, to pragmatics (Asmayanti, 2019).

Simply put, forensic linguistics also examines the interaction between language, crime, and the law. Techniques applied to analyze the linguistic atmosphere related to legal cases such as case examination, personal disputes with other parties, hate speech, and other linguistic cases that have an impact on taking legal action have been regulated in forensic linguistic analysis (Sukirno, 2022). Forensic linguistics has the task of facilitating investigations in the settlement of legal cases involving linguistics.

Since the 2000s, after the development of information technology in connection with the rampant various written texts or images that are so freely mounted on social media or the internet easily accessible to the public, there have been lot of words, images, and videos that contain insults and defamation. Often, such issues arise before, during, and after presidential elections, people's representatives' election, and those concerning religion. These images, written texts, and videos are uploaded via social media that provoke hostility to take place in both individuals and certain community groups associated with ethnicity, religion, race, and inter-group which lead to disintegration within communities and the nation. As the consequence of these ill-mannered language activities, there have been many people who were trapped in the act of hatred and faced with the realm of law attributable to offensive language.

The Indonesian government puts people who have addressed hate speech or uploaded speech or images through social media as to have committed crime. Of course, published content concerning ethnicity, religion, race, and inter-group issues needs to be examined thoroughly for the sake of justice and law enforcement in order to create sense of fairness in the society. The presence of forensic linguistic studies plays its important role in this regard. It is hoped to help solve problems related to legal cases held. As linguists and language researchers, we found it essential to study the linguistic data that has impact on the law in daily activities, especially linguistic activities such as speech acts, whether in oral or written form which have legal impact.

The purpose of studying such data that has a legal impact through the scientific forensic linguistics is to understand, avoid, and disseminate information having something to do with speech shared to social media, with the hope that it no longer harms oneself or others. The Indonesia's regulation on electronic information and transactions (EIT Law) number 11 Year 2008 Article 27 paragraph 3 writes: "Everyone intentionally and without the rights to distribute and/or transmit and/or make accessible electronic information and/or electronic documents that have a charge of contempt and/or defamation is against the law." In the quote, it is stated that anyone who deliberately sends a message containing elements of insult and/or defamation through electronic media in such a way that it can be accessed by public, it is an act against the law. Defamation can be reported as an act against the law (Mintowati, 2016).

According to the Ministry of Communication and Informatics of the Republic of Indonesia, the population of internet users in Indonesia in 2021 reached up to 202.6 million and from the data, approximately 170 million were active social media users (Darmawan, 2022). As an effort to anticipate for the rampant cases of hate speech, Chief of the Indonesian National Police issued Circular number SE/2/11/2021 concerning ethical cultural awareness to create a clean, healthy, and productive Indonesian digital space. The circular mentions, among others, that in receiving information from the public, investigators should be able to firmly distinguish between critique, advice, hoaxes, and defamation that can be convicted to further determine the steps to be taken. Therefore, in receiving reports from the community, investigators should be precise as to whether they belong to critique, advice, hoax, and defamation. This is a challenge for investigators (Kusno, 2021).

The city of Banyumas constitutes one of the cities in the world's largest archipelago, Indonesia, with a huge number of social media users. Its netizens are also inseparable from the variety of language expressions they use on social media. Moreover, the Regent and his deputy have Instagram accounts with thousands of followers. Since then, the terms 'your mouth is your tiger' in the context of real life and 'your fingers are your tiger' in the context of cyberspace have indeed become the control for either individuals or groups over their speech. Every context of speech produced by a language speaker must have an explicit and implicit meaning. In this case, pragmatics takes its role. However, to examine content in depth, pragmatics alone is not enough. It requires a specific theory and a better understanding in the interpretation of meaning conveyed by the speaker (Franke & Jäger, 2016).

As elaborated above, the existence of this forensic linguistic study contributes to investigations in numerous cases having relation with linguistic aspects like a defamation case that has occurred in Banyumas City recently. This is a legal case in the form of hate speech and defamation acts with court case registration number 56/Pid.Sus/2019/PN.Pbg. and which ended with decision added to the Directory of Decisions of the Indonesia's Supreme Court. Since the problem arose from social media use and has been completely settled in the court, then it is acceptable to utilize it for research material.

To present challenges in regulating online speech, open avenues for discourse and far-flung dispersion of information have been facilitated due to the fast rise in social media platforms. The significantly prevailing cases on social media are defamation cases which require the detailed linguistic data for effective legal resolution. Oyighan & Okwu (2024) are of the view that social media platforms have become important parts of contemporary communication, facilitated instantaneous dissemination of information, and fostered virtual communities worldwide. Also, the unstructured nature of social media poses special challenges regarding the spread of defamatory content and its legal implications. Forensic linguistics has come forth as a significant tool both for giving insights into the complexities of language use and interpretation in defamation cases and for studying linguistic data in legal contexts.

Defamation deals with the communication of false statements which becomes the source of harm for an individual's reputation (McMurtry, 2024; Ronquillo & Varacallo, 2023). They further argued that traditionally defamation has been connected to print media but now its connection has extended to online platforms e.g. social media. The prevalence of defamation cases has been irritated with the ease of publishing and sharing content on social media and it instigates scholars to explore linguistic strategies employed in defamatory speech online.

Alduais et al. (2023) examined that applying linguistic theories and methodologies, forensic linguists study language evidence in legal proceedings, particularly in defamation cases. Forensic linguistics tries to explicate the intent and context behind supposed defamatory statements analyzing the linguistic features which assists in legal interpretation and decision-making. Arifianto & Azhari (2019) foregrounded that the primary focus of the studies on defamation and social media is on legal frameworks and regulatory challenges in the Indonesian context. Online misconduct including defamation is criminalized according to Indonesia's Electronic Information and Transactions Law. Nevertheless, along with the application of this law to social media defamation cases, linguistic analysis plays significant role for recognizing defamatory intent and mitigating freedom of expression concerns.

Regarding social media discourse, while there is little research on forensic linguistics and defamation cases in Central Java Province, Indonesia, the present study aims to fill this gap by exploring the lingual data of speech on social media with the standpoint of forensic linguistic, focusing on a defamation case handled by the police in Banyumas City. Fitting together with previous research on social media defamation, forensic linguistics, and Indonesian legal frameworks, the current study tries to contribute to a comprehensive understanding of linguistic dynamics in online defamation cases, with implications for legal practice, policy development, and digital communication. The primary purpose of the present study is to analyze the lingual data of speech on social media through the lens of forensic linguistic, particularly revolving around a defamation case handled by the police in the city where the current study was conducted.

More specifically, this study is intended:

1. To examine the linguistic characteristics of defamatory statements made on social media platforms;
2. To discover patterns and trends in the use of language within the context of defamation cases;
3. To evaluate the impact of linguistic nuances on the interpretation and severity of defamation allegations;
4. To assess the effectiveness of forensic linguistic techniques in elucidating the intent and context of defamatory speech.

2. Method

Design

The research method applied to this study is qualitative in nature. Qualitative research focuses on determining meaning, description, clarity, and placement of data according to the context and often depicts it in the form of words or narratives (Mahsun, 2012). The designs of qualitative method are those that intend to make descriptions or portraits to understand phenomena of what is experienced by a subject such as behavior, perception, motivation of actions, and others (Moleong, 2017).

Participants

This study involved two people (both males) who opposed each other. One side is a complainant, who suffered from embarrassment for being falsely accused of doing something intentionally harmful to someone else. The other side is a defendant who spread unverified information about the complainant, whose status then was still a witness in an obscenity case.

Data Collection

Data of this study constitute speech brought forward to a defamation case. The speech comprises words and sentences made available in the transcript of the case. The data was collected via documents handed over by the police.

Data Analysis

The data was analyzed qualitatively through three activities occurring simultaneously, i.e. data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing within the forensic linguistic theoretical framework. In order to reduce the potential for bias due to subjectivity in qualitative analysis, we employed investigator triangulation (Carter et al., 2014), where multiple investigators/researchers independently analyzed the data.

3. Results and Discussion

This section describes the linguistic aspects and steps of forensic linguistic analysis contained in the conversational transcript in the title of the case in the Directory of Judgments of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia with court case number: 56/Pid.Sus/2019/PN.Pbg. The title of the case is a complaint from a person who felt embarrassed when realizing that his photo was spread on Facebook by a guy with initials BMW. Unfortunately, it was not verified yet and, therefore, led to a crime report by a person with initials BS for BMW's posting content of warning speech and

photo via Facebook. According to the defendant, the complainant had committed an immoral act. He then tried to upload the complainant's photo to social media with the hope that the wider community would become cautious to possible immoral acts. Unfortunately, the social media activities carried out by the defendant had actually made the complainant embarrassed and felt that his reputation had been tainted instead.

Based on observations, it is revealed that the elements that need to be studied in forensic linguistic analysis consist of eight elements, namely: dialectology, forensic phonetics, forensic language style, linguistics of language, professional linguistics, analysis of language structure, discourse analysis, and authorship. However, in the title of the legal case with court case number: 56/Pid.Sus/2019/PN.Pbg. there are only six linguistic aspects studied in the study of forensic linguistics, namely dialectology, forensic phonetics, forensic language style, language structure analysis, discourse analysis, and authorship. In more detail, it is presented as follows.

3.1. Linguistic aspects found in the speech under investigation

Dialectology

Dialectology is a branch of linguistics that examines islect differences by treating these differences as a whole (Mahsun, 2015). Isolect refers to dialect or language differences (Musfiroh, 2014). In dialect studies, the differences in islect studied are then described according to their linguistic units, such as phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic differences, including differences in sociolinguistics terms such as speech level systems. In forensic linguistic studies, dialectology is used to analyze lingual data, especially in the form of speech, in order to recognize the dialect of speakers who are not yet known and to determine their social accent. In addition, through forensic linguistics, dialects can also be traced and origin and authenticity of the language of speakers whose identity remains unknown can be identified.

In the title of the legal case that served the data of this study, the islect used by the defendant when talking to investigators from the police is Indonesian (official language in the Republic of Indonesia) dialect mixed with *Penginyongan* Javanese. Javanese is the most spoken indigenous language in the Island of Java, and *Penginyongan* Javanese is spoken mainly in the city of Banyumas. The study of dialects in the title of this case has revealed that the defendant who later became suspect was a resident of Banyumas, as evidenced by his dialect.

Dialectology is in charge of studying dialects or linguistic fields that focus on dialect studies. Dialect is another form of language spoken in regions geographically different. Other forms are phonological variations and lexical variations (Rumalean et al., 2018). The study of dialects carried out in this legal case examined the elements of spoken language used by the defendant to find place of origin or residence of the defendant, in order then to relate it to the legal case under investigation. Lexically speaking, this defendant used a language with *Penginyongan* Javanese dialect. The *Penginyongan* Javanese dialect is also used in the neighboring cities of Tegal, Brebes,

Cilacap, Purbalingga, and Kebumen (Purwaningrum, 2022). In this case, the defendant was identified as a person living in the city of Purbalingga, as can be recognized from his spoken Javanese accent.

Forensic phonetics

Phonetics is a branch of linguistics that investigates the production, delivery, and reception of language sounds that are sounds produced by speech tools found in the oral cavity and that are used to symbolize meaning (Crystal, 2008). Forensic phonetics relates to the speech recognition of speakers involved in a legal case. Forensic phonetic research analyzes the acoustic quality of voices in order to identify speakers, voice line-ups or determination of speakers whose people do not know by listening to a variety of previously heard voices, speaker profiling, voice recording authentication, and speech coding in a quarrel (Subyantoro, 2019). One of the applications of phonetics and forensic phonology is in the making of phonetic and phonological transcriptions of a utterance in a legal case that is being analyzed in forensic linguistics (Fitria, 2024).

Forensic phonetics relates to the speech recognition of speakers involved in a legal case. Forensic phonetic research analyzes the acoustic quality of sound in order to identify speakers. The forensic focal study in the title of the case used as this data becomes an understanding in the analysis of speech based on the pronunciation of the defendant as an object of language. The defendant's remarks that seemed calm in the investigation process can be concluded that the defendant experienced mental stability in answering every question. Nevertheless, this fact is not a presumption that the defendant was ready to pursue his legal case, as once in a while the defendant looked nervous and took time in responding the questions raised to him. However, in the forensic phonetic studies conducted, the condition of the defendant can be said to be good and does not experience pressure from any party so that the utterances can then be clearly understood.

From the information that has been given by the defendant in this case, the forensic linguistic study conducted against him seeks to open the veil regarding his linguistic issue with the case at hand. However, based on the information provided, it did not come to the jury's verdict in the trial process, but to determination of roles of each party's involvement in the case instead. The verdict as to a defendant pleads guilty or is found not guilty is an absolute decision of the judge in the judicial process (Rusdiansyah, 2020). Therefore, information in the form of phonetics that is included in the examination can help the process of handling the case at hand.

Stylistic analysis

The notion of stylistics as a scientific interpretation of stylistic markers of language observed, described, and analyzed (Musfiroh, 2014). In forensic studies, stylistic analysis is used for sound analysis, translation and interpretation, dialect identification, and discourse analysis. In addition, forensic stylistics are also used to identify the true author of an unnamed texts, for example in a canned letter, a threatening letter, a terror letter, and so on.

In order to detect the lies of suspects or witnesses, the use of investigative questioning strategies combined with the aid of lie detectors is an effective way to support the success of the investigation. In the process of investigating language skills, it is often found that suspects, victims, or witnesses are only silent and do not give answers to the investigator's questions. Forensic linguists can help identify whether the suspect intentionally keeps silent or because he has no language proficiency and therefore is unable to grasp the intent of the investigator's question or is unable to speak well to express his intentions. Such a thing can be assisted by an interpreter, sign language expert, or linguist to help the suspect or witness express his/her intentions well.

In the title of the case carried out by the police investigator, the interviewed defendant did not use complicated word choices. The answers given by the defendant can be said straightforward because they were able to reply to the investigator's questions well without being pedantic and evasive or issuing answers that seem to be swirling. In addition, the transcript comprising speech posted on the Facebook made available to the title of the case is considered very straightforward, as exhibited in the following speech.

"Untuk anak CEWE yg kenal anak ini hati2 Dan untuk pihak sekolahan yg menerima anak ini untuk waspada karena anak ini telah terungkap kejahatannya mencabuli anak TK waspada"

(For girls who know this boy, be careful and for the school that admitted this boy, stay vigilant because this boy was charged with molesting a kindergarten kid).

Having a closer look at the quote above, it can be inferred that the defendant, who posted an update status on his Facebook, used fairly straightforward language. Diction "mencabuli" [molesting], for example, used by the defendant is a common word in the Indonesian vocabulary. The choice of simple words enables investigators to figure out the post in the title of the case better. The stylistic studies conducted in this case refer to the defendant's speech which is evidence of the reporting on him. The style of language that is ejected in the speech on Facebook is a form or style of expression used by the defendant against the sexual harassment case on which the speech was made by the defendant. The linguistic style of speech representing the expression made by the defendant to the ongoing case can be referred to as stylistics (Pramesti & Prawoto, 2020). From the stylistic study carried out on speech in this legal case, certain meanings can be obtained (Lestari, 2021). Therefore, the speech made by the defendant can be interpreted as a message that has a specific purpose.

Language structure analysis

Language structure analysis deals with examining linguistic structural structures that include structural linguistic units, such as morphological, syntactic, and semantic analysis in a text in forensic study analysis. With regard to language in legal products, this analysis of language structure examines the structure of language in legal products to dissect the use of language in legal products, whether it is in accordance

with linguistic rules so as not to cause meaninglessness which has an impact on the misuse of legal language in court proceedings. In addition, the analysis of language structure in the study of legal products can also come to recommendations for simplifying complex sentences in legal products so that they are easier to understand. At the level of language structure analysis in the title of the case with court case number: 56/Pid.Sus/2019/PN.Pbg. carried out by the police, the defendant who committed hate speech or defamation on Facebook can be said to use speech that is simple and can be easily understood by the wider community who see his post.

“Untuk warga yg mengenal anak ini khususnya yg mempunyai anak perempuan ataupun pihak sekolahan untuk berhati2 dengan anak ini karena anak ini telah melakukan perbuatan cabul.”

(For the residents who know this boy, especially those who have daughters, or the schools, be watchful with this boy, because this boy has committed an obscene act)

The speech above is a type of sentence that is easy to understand by the wider community. The speech is also very neat and linguistically well-organized. The writing error of the sentence can be studied through the first word in the sentence which should use the subject instead of conjugation of words (please refer to the word “Untuk” [For]). Even, the defendant is a thorough person when viewed from the words he wrote on Facebook. In the defendant's post, only a few typing errors were considered serious. Errors such as spelling and abbreviations using numbers are understandable, because, as stated in the case title letter, the defendant is a vocational high school graduate, where at this level of study one is not supposed to really care about writing in accordance with the Indonesian Spelling Guidelines in his social media posts.

The analysis of the language structure in the title of this defamation case was carried out as an effort to reveal the educational background and also the science or language skills possessed by the defendant. This is in line with the purpose of the analysis of language structure used to reveal the specific background of the speaker/author of a linguistic product (Sebayang, 2018). This language structure allows the readers to understand the forms of immortality used by the author/speaker (Chandra & Pratama, 2022). The structure of the language used by the defendant in his speech has a mediocre diction with a tendency to choose non-standard words in order that they can be easily understood by speech partners.

Critical discourse analysis

Discourse analysis is a study of the use of language in the scope of its use or context (Brown & Yule, 2012). Discourse analysis attempts to examine: 1) the use of language that affects systems of cognition and social interaction, 2) social interactions that affect the use of language, 3) systems of cognition that influence the use of language and social interaction (Van Dijk, 2011). Discourse analysis analyzes the structure of discourse both oral and written by applying linguistic criteria such as morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and so on including by utilizing discourse (Crystal,

2008). In addition, critical discourse analysis links discourse studies with factors beyond linguistic aspects such as sociocultural, economic, and political factors (Crystal, 2008; Eriyanto, 2011; Musfiroh, 2014). Critical discourse analysis in the study of forensic linguistics is used to dismantle certain powers implicit in the use of language. Critical discourse analysis in the study of forensic linguistics is mandated to dismantle certain powers implicit in the use of language. In general, the implied intentions in the use of language studied through critical discourse analysis are related to political and social elements.

In the study that examined the speech having legal impact with court case registration number 56/Pid.Sus/2019/PN.Pbg., it was shown that a long discourse is not always significant. The discourse noticed in the case constitutes a Facebook post consisting of only a few sentences. However, such a brief discourse can cause BS to be reported to the police by BMW, as it is regarded as defamatory speech in the society. Consider the following discourse.

"Terungkap pencabulan selama 2 taun dimewek pelaku anak Dari OB PT SCA hati2 dengan pelaku yg dilingkari merah korban sudah Banyak, untuk Sekolahn yg menerima bajingan ini harap waspada, untuk para anak perempuan yg kenal bajingan ini harap menjauh ini predator yg membahayakan."

(It revealed that a 2-year-obscenity act has taken place in the district of Mewek. The child perpetrator is from OB PT SCA. Be careful with the perpetrator circled in red, there have been many victims. For schools that admitted this scumbag, please be vigilant. For those girls who know this bastard, please stay away from this very harmful sexual predator.)

In relation to discourse analysis, the discourse that can be analyzed consists of clauses and sentences that become a topic containing information (Akbar et al., 2022). The discourse (i.e. speech) made by the defendant on social media contains sentences that become a solid topic of information so that it takes the form of an information topic. The brief discourse containing warnings posted on Facebook by BS was widely seen by the people living in Banyumas City and the vicinity, and beyond, so that it seriously affected BMW. The power generated from this discourse has brought BS to justice. His act caused BMW to feel so embarrassed to come up among people in the community that he reported BS to the police for committing defamation.

Viewed from its form, the discourse created on social media by the defendant can be categorized as a monologue (single) discourse. Nevertheless, this single discourse results in a giant impact on the information delivery to the public domain, as it is done on Facebook as social media, which is accessible to public. This is fit for the purpose of the discourse, which is to provide information that has an impact: reactions of individuals or certain groups (Husein & Wance, 2021).

Authorship

This method is generally used in cases of plagiarism and accountability for published work that the actual author does not know (Fitria, 2024). The identification of the

author in cases of plagiarism is applied using stylistics. Through stylistics, the typical language style that is usually used by a person in his/her works can be known, so that the actual author can prove who plagiarizes the work. Through the use of a certain style of language, the origins or stylistic features of a person can be identified, which can then become a clue to uncover the real culprit in the investigation of a case.

In determining a plagiarism case, a separate assessment of the object of study that is 'allegedly' exposed to plagiarism is needed (Cesarti, 2020). This plagiarism case is a violation of the code of ethics in certain cases, for example in the academic and scientific realms. However, in legal cases plagiarism is also used to determine whether there are similar cases in the form of previous speech or utterances. As previously explained, the study of stylistics is the study of authorship styles related to aspects of language use in language production either in written or spoken texts (Wulandari et al., 2022).

In the study, which dealt with the speech having legal impact with court case registration number 56/Pid.Sus/2019/PN.Pbg., cases of plagiarism or authorship were not proven in the social media posts shared by the defendant, because his Facebook posts were not found on or part of other Facebook accounts. So, it can be said that in this forensic linguistic study it was the defendant who indeed created the post. He did not take it from other social media accounts.

3.2 Steps taken in the forensic linguistic study in the city of Banyumas

In the application of forensic linguistic analysis measures for the case with court case registration number 56/Pid.Sus/2019/PN.Pbg., there are seven important steps in conducting a forensic linguistic analysis related to the impact of the law. The steps are listed in Table 1.

Table 1 - Steps for forensic linguistic analysis that have a legal impact at Banyumas police station

No	Steps
1	Delivery of letter of application from the police to the head of linguists' office.
2	Delivery of letter of assignment from the head to the appointed linguists.
3	The appointed linguists' documents examination by the police.
4	Collection of data (documents: speech, written texts, images, and videos) handed over by the police to the linguists.
5	Forensic linguistic analysis of the data.
6	Review session of analysis results.
7	Submission of the forensic linguistic analysis results to the police.

Step 1 is optional. If the linguists are appointed directly by the police, no application to the head of linguists office is required. Nevertheless, a direct application to the designated linguists is required. If the police address an application to the head of linguists' office, then the head of linguist department will assign his/her colleagues in response to the request.

Step 3 taken by the linguists is to create minutes whose points have been prepared by the police. It usually contains the time and the people involved along with details or identities. The next column contains questions related to their expertise in forensic linguistics, educational background, employment history, competence or expertise as a linguist, and letter of commitment where they will be sworn in the name of God the Almighty in accordance with the religion they adhere to.

Step 4 is to obtain data in the form of speech, writing, images, and videos from the police, both in soft copy (as can be seen on computer screen) and hard copy/printed. Furthermore, the linguists entered step 5, where they conducted data analysis. The data (i.e. speech, written texts, images, and videos) was analyzed using the forensic linguistic theory which studies eight aspects, namely: dialectology, forensic phonetics, forensic language style, linguistic honesty, professional linguistics, language structure analysis, discourse analysis, and authorship.

Further, in step 6, assuming that the linguists have conducted the analysis professionally and, therefore, it is believed to be correct according to the theory of forensic linguistic studies and the linguists' reasoning framework, then they proceed with a review session of analysis results whose rundown has been prepared by the police. In this session, thoroughness and accuracy of the linguists are central. Feedback on the process of forensic linguistic study is given. Since results of the study greatly affect the court's decision, the linguists must be absolutely independent and pressure free from any party. Once the analysis comes to end, then the results are sent either online or offline to the police.

In addition to having steps in determining forensic linguistic studies, forensic linguistics also has the application of analysis in the legal case process (legal impact). To apply forensic linguistic analysis, linguists must be good at interviewing in order to find out the truth that the suspect or witness has presented in written materials, speech, image, or video content. Here is an example of a forensic linguistic analysis questions related to the posting of written material on social media. There were at least twenty-five linguists' questions to the suspect/witness. Table 2 below outlines the questions.

Table 2 - Questions asked in interrogating suspects

No	Questions
1	Are you currently physically and psychologically healthy?
2	You need to know that at this time you are being examined under the investigation of criminal cases where you are suspected to have deliberately disseminated information or electronic transactions in connection to ethnicity, religion, race, and inter-group issues resulting in hatred or hostility of certain individuals and or community groups on the day of... month... year... at... Regarding the letter of complaint from a guy ... address..., Are you willing to be examined and tell us the truth?
3	Have you ever been convicted of a criminal act?
4	Tell us clearly and briefly about your curriculum vitae.

5	Do you have social media ...? If you have, what?
6	Who created the account? and if you, how did you make it?
7	What is the name you use for your account?
8	Until now, how many friends have you made with the account? For how long has it been?
9	In the account, have you written and posted words as status update?
10	When and where have you written and posted words as mentioned in column (9).
11	What kind of means do you use when you write and post on the social media?
12	After you post words as status update... how do you respond and comment from your friends/viewers?
13	To the words you wrote, did you have time to re-edit before you posted them to social media?
14	What was your intention of posting the words to your social media... ?
15	What is behind your writing and posting these words to your social media?
16	Did you explain the meaning of each word you wrote?
17	Did you know the consequences of writing or posting what you have written on the social media?
18	While uploading the screenshot of the profile photo next asked, is this really a screenshot of your picture and writing?
19	Is it at the time you wrote and shared the post on social mediaGuy is being sober-minded and not of being forced?
20	Has anyone told you to write and post the writing on social media?
21	How did you respond after writing and sharing a post on social media?
22	You explained how you were in the police department and checked?
23	Is there anything else you have said besides that?
24	Is the information you gave true?
25	Is it when giving information that you feel forced and influenced by others?

Some of the questions above can be used as the basis for analyzing forensic linguistic science more thoroughly. Based on the results of analysis conducted to the speech derived from the transcript of the title of the case by the police with the registered judicial number 56/Pid.Sus/2019/PN.Pbg. involving BS and BMW regarding posts on Facebook, there are four utterances that are categorized as speech act of blame, because they convey views or opinions that explain behavior considered wrong or unnecessarily done. This speech of blame may happen because of some factors, such as discovery of mistakes made by the speech opponent, irresponsibility of the speech opponent for his mistakes, or intention to escape from a mistake by the speech opponent. Those things have caused BS to write speech of blame addressed to immoral acts committed by BMW. The defamation case with BS being the defendant has ended in the title of the police case via the competent court whose jury reached a verdict of not guilty.

4. Conclusions

In conclusion, in the legal case dealing with BS's Facebook written material post presumably containing BMW's immoral act, there are six linguistic aspects that can be investigated within the present forensic linguistic analysis framework: dialectology, forensic phonetics, forensic language style, analysis of language structure, analysis of discourse, and authorship. In the application of the current forensic linguistic analysis of speech having legal impact, seven important steps were taken, i.e. delivery of application letter from the police to head of linguists' office, delivery of assignment letter to appointed linguists by head of linguists' office, linguists' documents examination by the police, data collection from the police, forensic linguistic data analysis, review session of analysis results, and submission of final results to the police. Additionally, as many as twenty-five questions were raised by the investigators in an attempt to uncover the court case. This study suggests that the police and other upholders of law and linguists should work hand in hand in the interests of justice and that not only should linguists improve their understanding of law issues but also the upholders of law should benefit from the experiences of linguists as expert witness. While qualitative study focuses on deep understanding of a particular phenomenon with a single case, similar research involving multi-cases is encouraged to offer generalizability.

5. References

- Akbar, Y. P., Satyawati, M. S. & Sastra, N. P. (2022). Sentiment analysis of the word "anjay" on social media Twitter in computation linguistic studies. *Stilistika: Journal of Indonesian Language and Literature*, 1(2): 62-73.
<https://doi.org/10.24843/STIL.2022.v01.i02.p06>
- Alduais, A., Al-Khulaidi, M. A., Allegretta, S., & Abdulkhalek, M. M. (2023). Forensic linguistics: A scientometric review. *Cogent Arts & Humanity*, 10(1): 1-42.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2023.2214387>
- Arifianto, A. & Azhari, A. (2019). The politics of digital defamation in Indonesia. In E. Lim & K. C. Yong (Eds), *Digital Indonesia: Connectivity and Divergence* (pp. 167-186). ISEAS Publishing.
- Asmayanti, A. (2019). Forensic linguistics: Linguists as an expert witness in court. In *The Proceedings of International Seminar on Linguistics* (pp. 629-636), Jakarta, Indonesia.
<https://repository.kemdikbud.go.id/20235/89/63.%20LINGUISTIK%20FORENSIK%20sunting.pdf>
- Oyighan, D. & Okwu, E. (2024). Social media for information dissemination in the digital era. *RAY: International Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies*, 10(1): 1-21.
- Brown, G. & Yule, G. (2012). *Discourse Analysis*. Cambridge University Press.
- Carter, N., Bryant-Lukosius, D., DiCenso, A., Blythe, J., & Neville, J. (2014). The use of triangulation in qualitative research. *Oncol Nurs Forum*, 41(5): 545-547.
<https://doi.org/10.1188/14.onf.545-547>
- Cesarti, D. M. (2020). *Analysis of Plagiarism Case*. Airlangga University Press.
- Chandra, D. & Pratama, F. F. (2022). Analysis of the structure and meaning in Palika mantra (sacred words/sounds) in Karangnunggal district in the town of Tasikmalaya. *BASINDO: Jurnal Kajian Bahasa, Sastra Indonesia, dan Pembelajarannya*, 6(1): 33-40.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.17977/um007v6i12022p33-40>
- Coulthard, M., Johnson, A. & Wright, D. (2017). *An Introduction to Forensic Linguistics: Language in Evidence*. Routledge.
- Crystal, D. (2008). *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics* (6th ed.). Blackwell Publishing.

- Darmawan, B. N. (2022). Internet users become more adaptive, Central Java Province Govt: Needs supporting and optimizing. Retrieved 21/7/2023, from <https://jawatengah.online/03/04/2022/pengguna-internet-makin-adaptif-pemprov-jateng-perlu-didorong-dan-optimalkan/>
- Eriyanto. (2011). *Discourse Analysis: An Introduction to Media Text Analysis*. Printing LKiS.
- Fitria, T. N. (2024). Forensic linguistics: Contribution of linguistics in legal context. *Prasasti: Journal of Linguistics*, 9(1): 117-133. <https://jurnal.uns.ac.id/pjl/article/view/71527>
- Franke, M. & Jäger, G. (2016). Probabilistic pragmatics, or why Bayes' rule is probably important for pragmatics. *Zeitschrift für Sprachwissenschaft*, 35(1): 3-44. <https://doi.org/10.1515/zfs-2016-0009>
- Gibbons, J. (2017). *Forensic Linguistics: An Introduction to Language in the Justice System*. Blackwell Publishing.
- Husein, M. I. & Wance, M. (2021). Critical discourse analysis of conflict news at Ambon Express and Siwalima Media. *Jurnal Inovasi Penelitian*, 1(9), 1995-2010. <https://doi.org/10.47492/jip.v1i9.392>
- Kusno, A. (2021). The redefinition of vocabulary dealing with language war: Forensic linguistic studies. *Diglosia: Jurnal Kajian Bahasa, Sastra, dan Pengajarannya*, 4(3): 287-300. <https://doi.org/10.30872/diglosia.v4i3.183>
- Lestari, H. P. (2021). Critical discourse analysis of the song "Lexicon" by Isyana Sarasvati. *Jurnal Undas*, 17(1): 47-62. <https://ojs.badanbahasa.kemdikbud.go.id/jurnal/index.php/undas/article/view/3398>
- Mahsun. (2012). *Methods in Language Studies: Steps, Strategy, Method, and Technique*. Rajawali Press.
- Mahsun. (2015). *Diachronic Dialectology: An Introduction*. Gadjah Mada University Press.
- McMurtry, T. (2024). When can an "opinion" become a defamatory statement? Retrieved 16/5/2024, from <https://www.hemmerlaw.com/blog/when-can-an-opinion-become-a-defamatory-statement/>
- Mintowati. (2016). Defamation: A forensic linguistic analysis. *Jurnal Paramasastra*, 3(2): 197-208. <https://doi.org/10.26740/paramasastra.v3n2>
- Mohandoss, S. & Jayakumar, T. (2016). Applied linguistics: Its meaning and use. *Shanlax International Journal of English*, 4(3): 30-32. <https://www.shanlaxjournals.in/journals/index.php/english/article/view/3054>
- Moleong, L. J. (2017). *Qualitative Research Methodology*. Remaja Rosdakarya.
- Musfiroh, T. (2014). Forensic linguistics in a multicultural community. Master Thesis, State University of Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
- Pramesti, A. M. & Prawoto, C. E. (2020). Stylistics in aesthetic beauty products advertisement on YouTube. *Jurnal Ilmiah Buana Bastra*, 7(2): 62-68. <https://doi.org/10.36456/bastra.vol7.no1>
- Purwaningrum, W. P. (2022). Lexical variation in Kebumen Regency: A study of dialects. *Wanastra: Jurnal Bahasa dan Sastra*, 12(2): 112-119. <https://ejournal.bsi.ac.id/ejurnal/index.php/wanastra/article/view/8096>
- Rumalean, I., Laksono, K. & Yulianto, B. (2018). The phonotactic phoneme of Gorom language: A study of dialects. *Elite Journal: International Journal of Education, Language, and Literature*, 1(2): 16-23. <https://doi.org/10.26740/elitejournal.v1n2.p%25p>
- Rusdiansyah. (2020). The law and forensic linguistics. *Jurnal Al-Anwal*, 5(1): 21-31. <https://ejournal.iainpalopo.ac.id/index.php/alamwal/article/view/1420/0>
- Saletovic, L. M. & Kisicek, G. (2012). Contribution to the analysis of witness statements in the Croatian Language. *Suvremena Lingvistika*, 38(73). <https://suvlin.ffzg.hr/index.php/en/browse-archive/36-vol-38-no-73-07-2012/73-contribution-to-the-analysis-of-witness-statements-in-the-croatian-language>

- Sebayang, S. K. H. (2018). A structural analysis of the inner in the poem "Sesamar Kasih Pencari Rezeki" by Dwi Ayu Utami Nasution. *Basastra: Jurnal Kajian Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia*, 7(1): 1-13.
<https://journal.ikipsiliwangi.ac.id/index.php/parole/article/view/4703/pdf>
- Subyantoro. (2019). Forensic linguistics: Contribution of linguistic studies to law enforcement. *ADIL Indonesia Journal*, 1(1): 36-50.
<https://jurnal.unw.ac.id/index.php/AIJ/article/view/141>
- Sukirno. (2022). Forensic linguistic analysis of speech act that has legal impact: A study as a linguist. In *Seminar Nasional Senasbasa*. Universitas Muhammadiyah Malang, East Java, Indonesia.
- Van Dijk, T. A. 2011. *Discourse as Structure and Process Discourse Studies a Multidisciplinary Introduction*. Sage Publication.
- Ronquillo, Y. & Varacallo, M. (2023). Defamation. Retrieved 1/1/2024, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK531472/>
- Wulandari, S., Wilyanti, L. S. & Triandana, E. (2022). Women authorship style in Indonesian novel from stylistic perspective. *Jurnal Ilmiah Universitas Batanghari Jambi*, 22(1): 239-246.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.33087/jiubj.v22i1>

