

## Forensic Linguistics: Contribution of Linguistics in Legal Context

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### ABSTRACT

This research describes the contribution of linguistics in forensic linguistics, especially in a legal context. This research is library research. The analysis shows that forensic linguistics applies language analysis and linguistic theories in linguistic events involved in the legal process, including products, interactions in the judicial process, and interactions between individuals that result in certain legal impacts. Forensic linguistic analysis involves linguistic fields, including phonetics, semantics, discourse and pragmatics, stylistics, morphological, syntactical, and sociological. The important role of forensic linguistics is supporting the law enforcement process, examining counterfeit documents, detecting plagiarism/lies, and analyzing sound recordings and conversations directly and indirectly. With the 'power' of the analysis tool of each branch, the results and conclusions obtained by linguistics forensic experts may indicate a high level of confidence. Many legal cases occur in society, including oral or written in social media such as cases of insults, defamation, threats, fraud, bullying, criticism, mockery, instigation, slander, insults, and defamation also other cases can be solved by using a forensic linguistic perspective. These cases may be quite challenging because everyone in this field is required to have comprehensive linguistic abilities with the support of elaborative capabilities of the use of spoken language or writing.

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### INTRODUCTION

Linguistics has two main branches namely microlinguistics and macro-linguistics. Microlinguistics is a branch of linguistics that studies language from within that language. That is, what elements form a language, and what kind of system is in the language? Microlinguistics has four main points of study, namely phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. These four studies are different however have a strong attachment to each other. While macro-linguistics is a branch of linguistics that examines language from outside the language or external language. Languages that exist throughout the world have attachments with the environment in which the language develops which is commonly called the external structure of language. There is a structure in language as well influenced by things outside the language (Eriyanti et al., 2020). Macrolinguistics has many branches of study. This matter is directly proportional to the number of language phenomena that are outside the language. Applied linguistics is a branch of macro linguistics that is applied to other disciplines related to linguistics. Many experts provide

definitions of applied linguistics (Ekowati, 2021). From these opinions, the essence is the same namely linguistics/branch of linguistics applied to certain fields that are still related to the field of language. Some of them are sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, stylistics, anthropolinguistics, philology, lexicography, etymology, semiotics, dialectology, translation, and the most recent being neurolinguistics and forensic linguistics.

According to Sapardan (2022), forensic linguistics began to be widely discussed by experts and language observers in line with the entry of life in the industrial revolution era 4.0. The phenomenon of the industrial revolution 4.0 has given birth to a new culture in every human being. They got the ease of being able to express ideas and opinions on various internet-based information media. Various ideas and these thoughts are often nuanced with hate speech and hostility resulting in displeasure at other people. Forms of hate speech or hostility lead to acts that are considered nuanced violations of the law. The study of intersecting spoken and written language with the law makes linguists participate and examine the content of language expression. They are required to carry out a comprehensive study and elaborate to see to what extent the language charge that offends other people.

Forensic linguistics is a branch of linguistics used to uncover criminal acts, namely by analyzing the evidence of a crime in the interest of criminal or civil investigation (Kushartanti et al., 2005). Forensic linguistics or legal linguistics is a branch of linguistics that analyzes and examines the life of human language related to law (Kuntarto, 2021). Forensic linguistics can involve applying scientific knowledge of language to criminal and civil law contexts (Surastina, 2021).

Ekowati (2021) adds that the field of Forensic linguistics is still very wide open for study deeper, given the experts in this field are still limited. Linguists are required to provide or analyze evidence language components for the sake of data investigation and criminal. This branch of linguistics is just beginning to be oriented around the 1980s. In the 1990s this branch was already established. Subsequently, more and more lawyers conceded the existence of forensic linguists who are highly assisting in providing evidence in cases (Kushartanti et al., 2005). Forensic linguists are tasked with providing and analyzing language components as investigative evidence. While legal language is used by legal experts who use scientific language as material for developing laws (Heriyadi, 2015).

When discussing forensic linguistics, there are two disciplines involved in it, namely linguistics and forensic science. Linguistics is known as the science of language. The word linguistics comes from the Latin *lingua* which means 'language.' As a branch of the humanities and cultural sciences, linguistics is an empirical science that studies the ins and outs of the language and seeks regularity of the essential rules of the language it studies.

Forensic science is an applied science of various sciences. It is useful for answering questions that are especially important for a legal, judicial, and judicial system. Due to its connection with the legal system, forensic science methods are scientific. The rules are formed from the facts of various events so that physical evidence can be identified, such as corpses, carcasses, and other evidence. The results of the examination using forensic science are the physical evidence found at the crime scene. The results were then collected and presented in court hearings.

Forensic linguistics is a new discipline and has been recognized for its stability as a scientific discipline in the academic and professional realms. Forensic linguistics is a field of applied linguistics that involves the relationship between language, law, and crime. Therefore, the study of forensic linguistics is commonly referred to as the study of the language of legal texts. The legal texts are physical evidence which is the subject of study. The physical evidence includes various types and forms of text analysis, such as analysis of texts of laws, laws, and regulations made by the government and law-making bodies, personal documents, subpoenas, transcripts of interrogation records carried out on suspects, and transcripts of recorded activities. Spying on suspects, texts of memorandums

of understanding in the business sector, and all kinds of texts used as material for investigations for legal and judicial purposes.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in knowing about forensic linguistics. Therefore, the objective of this research is to describe forensic linguistics, especially the study of language in forensic linguistics.

## **THEORY AND METHOD**

### **A. Forensic Linguistic**

Forensic linguistics is applied linguistics in the realm of law and justice (Meisarah et al., 2022). Forensic linguistics is a subdiscipline of linguistics applied as a tool in proof cases in law and court. The role of forensic linguistics is sufficient. It is important to remember that the evidence is left behind after its existence. Crime is not limited to non-verbal evidence, such as weapons, fingerprints, and so on. However, the evidence can also be verbal evidence or the use of language. As for necessities proving whether the language left behind can be evidence. For this criminal case, a linguistic study is needed scientifically. (Susanto & Nanda, 2020) with the development of linguistic forensics as a discipline, of course much needed good linguistic studies for spoken and written data related to the language in the process of law, language in legal products, and language in legal evidence.

Yendra (2018) states that forensic Linguistics is a field of applied linguistics involving the relationship between language, law, and crime. Therefore the study of Forensic linguistics is also known as language studies texts, especially legal texts cover various types and forms of text analysis, including analyze linguistic product documents from parliament or law-making bodies, personal letters or documents, judgments, and subpoenas, and laws law other bodies such as unions and government department may also refer to ongoing efforts to make legal language better understood by lay people. It means linguists are necessary to provide or analyze evidence in the form of a language component for the sake of investigation of civil and criminal. Forensic linguistics involves topics or issues of legal language, witnesses, suspected perpetrators of crimes, and civil cases. In plain language, forensic linguistics includes the analysis of written and spoken language for legal purposes.

### **B. Forensic Linguist**

Forensic linguists identify problems through a speech from speakers in the form of language style, forensic phonetics, and dialectology while writing is in the form of fingerprints and analysis to reveal the contents of the writing. Orally these problems can be found in hate speech, fake news, defamation, and honesty of speakers while in writing these problems can be found in letters, suicide notes, and fingerprints. At this level, forensic linguistics has the scope to study every problem in the field of law including pragmatics, semantics, discourse analysis, and phonetics.

Linguistic principles such as discourse analysis and language theory will be used by forensic linguists to provide their opinions in court. The contribution of linguists is very helpful for investigators in interpreting biased and ambiguous statements. In several studies, forensic linguists and police investigators have the same goal, namely to get clear information in communication. But once again that the authority to decide a case is the right of the police, the responsibility of a linguist is only to give an opinion on important matters related to language analysis.

The need for a linguist as an expert witness because it is considered possible to testify in a particular case at trial. However, even so, a linguist as an expert witness in court must also have certain criteria, both the criteria of being an expert witness, as well as linguistic evidence scientific criteria so that the testimony given by the linguist as a credible and accountable expert witness. An expert witness must be a person who is truly

an expert in his field. This expertise can be obtained from formal education or education non-formal.

### **Method**

This research applies to library research. Library research is a type of qualitative research that generally does not go into the field of searching for data sources (Fitria, 2022). It is a method used in data search or a method of in-depth observation of the theme under study to find a 'temporary answer' to the problem found at the beginning before the research is followed up.

In this research, the researcher uses the documentation method of searching and collecting data. This indicates that researchers are utilizing source materials that are already available in the library. General library data are secondary sources, therefore the researcher acquires secondary resources (Fitria et al., 2022). The data are taken from several related previous research from Google Scholar pages by typing the keywords "forensic linguistic" and books related to forensic linguistics. The researcher also analyzes data sources to be processed and presented in the form of library research reports then concludes with an answer to the existing problems.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Linguistic Branches of Forensic Linguistic**

Forensic linguistic analysis involves linguistic fields, such as phonetics, semantics, discourse analysis, pragmatics, stylistics, semiotics, and sociolinguistics. Among the existing branches of linguistics, four branches appear to have greater contributions to forensic linguistics, namely phonetics, semantics, discourse and pragmatics, stylistics, morphological and syntactical, and sociological (Aziz, 2021).

The important role of forensic linguistics in supporting the law enforcement process in Indonesia. Besides, it can be used for the examination of counterfeit documents, detection of plagiarism, detection of lies, analysis of sound recordings, and analysis of conversations both directly and indirectly. With the power and sharpness of the tools the analysis that each branch has, the results and conclusions obtained by linguistics for forensic analysis purposes indicate a high level of confidence. Forensic linguistics can be seen as applied linguistics because forensic linguistics uses the application of language analysis for the benefit of the legal process (Susanto & Nanda, 2020). The following several contributions from each of these branches are presented.

#### **A. Phonetics**

The phonetic aspect is related to the profile of the person speaking from the sound that is issued and phonology is the meaning of the emphasis on the sound in conversation. There are three branches in phonetics, namely articulatory, auditory, and acoustics. Articulatory phonetics attempts to study the sounds of language by placing the production of these sounds, while auditory phonetics is more about how the sound is heard and understood by the listener. Meanwhile, acoustic phonetics cope makes a description of the physical characteristics of the sounds (language) produced after the speaker uttered, dissolved in the air, and finally disappeared. For the benefit of forensics, auditory phonetics, and acoustics play a greater role.

Each speaker has a distinctive "tone color", which is different from the speaker's other. This difference will be attached to the person concerned and will be relatively stable after the color of his voice was formed by the time he entered adulthood. Not easy for someone, for example, to change the accent or dialect of his first language even if he is so fluent in a second language or a foreign language. Phonological features of sounds and the speech that person produces will also continue to stick to be a concern so that it becomes a

characteristic of the person's voice color, which distinguishes it from the color of other people's voices. Through approaches in auditory and acoustic phonetics, the sounds of language produced by a speaker are analyzed to determine the "tone color". The color characteristics of the sound can indicate the authenticity of a speaker's voice when speaking concerned, for example, impersonating or altering speaking habits. The identification of sound colors can also be found and determined by the characteristics of the speaker, which includes interference in his first language, regional accent/dialect, gender, and age.

Therefore, forensic phonetics deals with the speech recognition of the speakers involved in a legal case. Forensic phonetic research analyzes quality sound acoustics to identify speakers, and voice line-ups, or determine unknown speakers by listening to various previously heard voices, speaker profiling, recording authentication sound, and coding utterances in an argument.

## **B. Semantics**

The semantic is related to the meaning of words or the choice of words/sentences. Semantics examines the meaning of the language contained in words, phrases, sentences, or text in general without relating it to the context in which it occurred speech. While semantic order relates to the meaning contained in a word or term. A linguist as an expert witness must be able to analyze sentence structure along with the meaning contained in the sentence conveyed by someone who is involved with legal events.

In forensic linguistics, semantic analysis is more widely used to uncover the meaning of words or expressions that may be difficult to understand or unable to understand immediately understood by the reader. The difficulty occurs maybe because there is meaning that is typical of the word or expression, or maybe also because the word or expression is (ambiguous). However, maybe not because it is difficult to understand the meaning of words or expressions, but rather because parties such as investigators, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, witnesses, or victims are the ones who ask forensic linguistic experts to explain the nature of the meaning of the word or expression in question.

To explain it, lexical-semantic analysis is more widely used. Documents with dimensions or having legal consequences are designed by experts who understand the material it contains. It can be confirmed that there will be many registers used as a marker of the uniqueness of legal document texts. Thus, it is not easy for ordinary people to understand the text rapidly. Although documents that have legal ramifications, such as employment contracts, insurance policies, contracts, or deeds contain equality of rights, obligations, and sanctions for the parties involved in it, the understanding of each party against every word, expression, or clause of the document is not necessarily the same. This inequality, which originates or results from the use of the word, potentially causes legal problems later on. This problem then becomes part of the study in forensic linguistics using the approach and analysis in semantics.

In forensic linguistic studies, semantics is used in a) meaning analysis in the language of legal products to investigate ambiguity of meaning which can lead to multiple interpretations of legal products; and b) discourse analysis, in this case, investigations regarding elections a word that has a specific meaning, both literal and figurative meaning implies certain intentions of the speaker.

## **C. Pragmatics and Discourse Analysis**

Discourse analysis and pragmatics are studies that focus on the meaning language unit that appears in a given context. The language used by police investigators or prosecutors when examining witnesses, victims, or (prospective) defendants, the language of the enforcers' law (judges, prosecutors, and legal advisers) during a session in a

courtroom is an area of forensic linguistic study whose basic analysis uses the framework of discourse analysis and pragmatics. Asking strategy, way to formulate questions, and the choice of words used by law enforcers to disclose as much and as accurately as possible the information of the examinee is an example. It is obvious how much pragmatics plays a role. In addition, discourse analysis and pragmatics can provide an analysis of the problem mapping model carried out by para law enforcers to understand the integrity of the problem that is being made into a case. The integrity of this understanding is important to be used as a basis for making news examination procedures (for investigators), indictments and charges (for prosecutors), defense/pledges (for the accused and legal counsel), and judgment (for the judge). Thus, justice is expected to be obtained by each party to the dispute can be seated in the actual portion.

Pragmatics plays an important role in forensic linguistic studies. Levinson (1983) explains that pragmatics is the study of the relationship between language and context grammaticalization to understand the use of language. Understanding the context, such as the spatial, temporal, and social relationships of the participants in a legal context, becomes very important. Understanding these concepts will lead to appropriate inferences/conclusions because language often keeps meanings that are not following from its use. The use of language, one of which is in a legal context, needs to be understood using pragmatic concepts so that legal statements can be understood according to the context (Sulistiyo, 2020). Selection of the lexicon in the communication process that describes certain social conditions can occur consciously or socially unaware. The use of language in legal contexts, such as in interrogation, trial, or the interpretation of statements in law, is necessary to understand using concepts in pragmatics. These include maxims, locutions, illocutions, perlocutions, implicature, context, and more.

Pragmatic analysis for forensic purposes is to explain the more intrinsic meaning of language spoken by someone in a context special. The essential meaning is in the form of intention and illocutionary purpose acts). This analysis is necessary given the potential differences in understanding speech partners to utterances made by a speaker. A meaning can express in different forms of speech, and conversely, one form of speech can have different meanings (one for many and many for one). The realization of speech acts is an area that always gets the attention of experts in forensic linguistics that uses discourse analysis and pragmatics as tools the surgery. To determine whether an utterance is meaningful or has a purpose to insult, threaten, incite, remind, defame, or slander, only the results of a pragmatic analysis can be used. these cases are some of the many cases brought to court in many countries and engage forensic linguistic experts to explain them.

In forensic linguistic studies, pragmatic studies are used in discourse analysis, both oral discourses such as conversations between actors in a case, conversations in the process of investigation, or conversations in the trial process, as well as written discourse such as potential social media texts give rise to legal action.

#### **D. Stylistics**

The forensic language style is related to the determination and measurement of content, meaning, speaker identification, or authorship determination, in identifying plagiarism. With style, speakers intend to make their language exposure interesting, rich, concise, clear, and better able to emphasize the idea to be conveyed, creating an atmosphere and displaying an aesthetic effect.

Forensic stylists generally use two approaches to determine or assess the similarity of two or more writings. There are more approaches qualitative, which are more focused on efforts to describe the characteristics of the author, after seeing the form of writing analyzed from various points of view, both elements of morphophonology, morpho-syntax, choice of words, as well as aspects of errors found on the inscription. There is also something more quantitative, namely by finding indicators in an article, then recording

them as relative occurrence frequency data of each of these indicators. Quantitative methods in this way are often called stylometry. However, in reality, the two approaches are mutually exclusive and complement each other. That is, an analyst will provide a similarity assessment of writing after providing an analysis related to the characteristics of writing based on indicators that can be found in the writing he studied.

Through forensic stylistic studies, the analysis is directed to reveal the identity of the authorship of a piece of writing whose ownership is disputed. The language style aspect is used to determine a person's profile from the language style used. There is sometimes, someone who writes a note, writing, or other composition, either short or long, not fully aware that they are left a mark/identity in his writings. There will be consistent symptoms, both at the level of morpho-syntax and word choice.

### **E. Semiotics**

The term "Forensics" is a science and a way of working related to the activity of showing "the public" evidence, especially related to crime and legal cases (Pilliang, 2013). To be able to understand the cultural complexities in forensic work, "cultural competency" is needed, including: "cultural sensitivity", "cultural knowledge" and "cultural empathy". Semiotics can play a role in analyzing forensic evidence "whether material, physical or linguistic in nature to find "logic" "code" and "cultural meaning".

According to Tseng et al. (2004), three central issues related to cultural differences are relevant to forensic practice and law in general, namely "race", "ethnicity" and "minority". Ways of working trials involve a wide variety of individuals with different roles, including a judge, accused and victim (crime case) or defendant or lawyer (civil case), expert lawyers, witnesses, experts from various fields (including forensic psychiatrists and psychologists), and, of course, defenders.

Forensic work involving the human body, objects, tools, places, spaces, and the environment, forensic anthropological and cultural forensic work can be assisted by "semiotic reading", namely understanding the structure of signs (signs), signification relations in between signs, and the meanings or connotations built into them. Various forensic cases are not only related to physical evidence, such as bodies, guns, and other objects, but as well as non-physical evidence, such as speech, writing, or other signs. In this context "forensic linguistics" played its part, for understand and analyze the evidence.

### **F. Morphological and Syntactical**

The morphological aspect is related to the grammatical arrangement of a language that is expressed. The function of the morphological order is not much different from the lexical one. It is just an order. Morphology is also related to the word formation that someone uses in communication events. In forensic linguistic studies, morphology is used in several analyses, namely: a) examine the suitability of the morphological processes of the words in the product law with grammatical rules so as not to cause ambiguity or misunderstanding of meaning; and b) examine individual language style, ie by examining the tendency to use certain morphemes in a figurative language someone who distinguishes it from other people's language styles so that it can be used in the analysis process of identifying the author.

While, the syntactical aspect is the suitability of sentence structure which consists of a subject, predicate, object, and description. The syntax is a linguistic level that describes the system of forming phrases, clauses, and sentences, especially seen in the grammatical relations of the function elements and their categories (Pastika, 2019). Syntactic order relates to the sentence structure someone uses in a communication event. A linguist must be able to analyze every sentence delivered by someone who has had dealings with the law and can explain and prove the truth in court as an expert witness. Syntax in forensic linguistic studies is used to analyze several things, namely: a) suitability of sentence

structure in language legal products with grammatical rules so as not to cause ambiguity and misunderstandings; b) identify the original author of a work; c) analysis transitivity in critical discourse analysis; and d) simplifying complex sentences in legal products so that they are easy to understand.

A forensic linguist is a witness the expert must provide testimony following the Minutes of Examination. The evidence presented by the linguist must be following the facts that happened so that the truth can be acknowledged. Lexical is related to words, lexemes, and vocabulary. In this order, lexical becomes an important aspect as well because the linguist will analyze the use of the word along with the frequency used by someone in a communication event.

### G. Sociological

The relationship between language and society (social) is a study in sociolinguistics. However, as a natural science that cannot stand alone, forensic linguistics also requires concepts from sociolinguistics to examine the use of language in the realm of law. Sociolinguistics is related to the use of language that is influenced by the social environment, gender, age, ethnicity, geographical location, occupation, etc. The social aspects are closely related to the study of forensic linguistics. This linkage is based on the fact that the use of language cannot be separated from the social aspects of the speaker such as the speaker's area of origin, ethnicity of speakers, social class conditions of speakers, and others, which can be seen from the use of lexicons in communication.

The sociolinguistic order discusses the position of language with social interactions. Each individual has their dialect. Therefore, as a witness, the expert must be able to analyze the language someone uses if his language is not easy to understand. Evidence of authorship relates to whether a person produces utterances in the form of an oral or written utterance. This can be identified based on the dialect of a person whose testimony will be given by an expert witness if that person produces speech in spoken form. However, if producing his speech in the form of writing, expert witnesses can analyze the writing as evidence. The tools that are part of the analysis are handwriting, punctuation, typography, and the characteristics of the writing.

As stated by Trudgill (2000) that the use of lexicons that lead to certain social conditions is useful for continuing communication. He also added that the use of language from a social perspective has two important points. First, the function of language is to build social relations. Second, language can convey certain information related to speakers. In a legal context, code-switching or code-mixing is indicated by someone in the interrogation process will help the interrogator to compose facts that can be used in making related legal decisions with the social condition of the person being interrogated.

The next concept related to social aspects in linguistics forensics is code-switching. Code-switching possibly emerged for several purposes, such as explaining concepts in a culture certain to have a special language (Fitria, 2020). These events can also appear in the speaker's second/third language because he is not so skilled in using the language second/third so he uses the first language to explain certain concepts (Fitria, 2021). The purpose is to show solidarity with the interlocutor as well as show membership in a particular community which can be an ethnic-ethnic community. In a legal context, these signs will provide various information to law enforcement regarding the condition of the person who is currently in legal cases.

Holmes (2013) states that the use of variation or a code is to denote a set of emerging linguistic forms based on certain social factors and conditions. In a broad sense, these forms can be in the form of lexicon, grammar, accent, and dialect. The use of certain linguistic forms in communication will provide social information. In addition, he also explains the social dimensions of communication. Four dimensions can be used as a basis for analysis related to deep social aspects of communication. He uses the term scale to



mention the four these dimensions, such as social distance scale, status scale, formality scale, and functional scale. In a legal context, the scales are helpful collection and analysis of information regarding the social situation of the parties who are currently involved in a legal case. The social scale will show how close or away from the solidarity of the parties involved in legal cases. The status scale will show the position of the parties who are communicating, for example in records showing specific legal cases.

Other concepts related to linguistics forensics are bilingual and multilingual. Holmes (2013) states that more than half of the world's population is bilingual or skilled to use two languages. Meanwhile, many people have the skills to use more than two languages or are multilingual. Language is the first thing an individual acquires generally an ethnic language or tribal language. The language is obtained through the closest people individuals, such as parents, relatives, neighbors, or people around them. Meanwhile, second, or even third languages are generally obtained through education. Therefore, in linguistic studies forensics, it is useful to show the social status of people who are involved in legal cases.

The next concept is the variety of languages. One of them is the standard variety. The standard language variety can be referred to as the official language that already has regulations in its use so everyone has to comply with these regulations so that the use of language becomes standard. Non-standard use of language can cause chaotic disclosures that lead to misinterpretation and failure to achieve objectives in communication. The standard language variety is the language variety used in a formal context, such as law. Language in the context of law is a language that is very important to maintain standard or standards because this language has a lot of various legal concepts so they must be presented in a standard way so that they can be understood by everyone.

## **FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

### **Language Studies in Forensic Linguistics**

Language is a tool used in everyday life to communicate. Language is something that cannot be separated from life humans because only language between individuals or groups can convey ideas, ideas, concepts, and social behavior. One role language that is currently in the spotlight is the role of language in the world of law. The role of language in the world of law has become very vital (Rusdiansyah, 2020). This thing can be seen from the number of linguists involved to handle a case. If usually, an investigation of a case piled up on aspects in the world of law, now aspects in terms of linguistics have become one of the aspects that can help in the investigation of a case.

The role of language is very necessary to arousing and cultivating human awareness in creating and enforcing the law. In every good legal activity in the form of a product such as statutes, jurisprudence, lawsuits, defense, letters in civil cases, as well as tangible ones language use skills in certain professions require language assistance. None of these legal activities that exist above can be implemented without the help of a systemic language. In formulating laws, the use of language that is good and correct by the creators of written laws is the main requirement so linguistic studies are deep law is urgently needed.

Forensic linguistics applies linguistic theories in linguistic events involved in the legal process, both in the form of legal products, interactions in the judicial process, and interactions between individuals that result in certain legal impacts. Three main areas are the focus of forensic linguistic studies, namely: (1) language as a legal product; (2) language in the judicial process; and (3) language as evidence. The role of language in the world of law has become very vital. This can be seen from the number of linguists involved to handle a case (Rahayu, 2021).

Forensic needs in the field of language require that there be studies that examine linguistic evidence, so forensic linguistics exists to answer these needs. Moreover, the current era of freedom of information requires strict monitoring of the spread of existing

discourse. At the prevention level, critical thinking can be used by the community as an information filter, but when it reaches the trial stage, forensic linguistics is the answer. Therefore, forensic linguistics is very necessary, especially for investigators in the police. An understanding of forensic linguistics will greatly assist with assignments the police in responding to many legal cases related to data language. Linguistics is not only concerned with subject-predicate, standard words-no standard, and effective-ineffective sentences but linguistically has meaning. Meaning that helps uphold justice, helps reveal corruption cases, and so on.

Language utterances, whether spoken or written, in the form of monomodal or multimodal, have the potential for legal impact. Call it a hoax, where the discourse that is rumored is not following the facts. At this stage, forensic linguistics as a branch of applied linguistics plays a major role in determining whether an utterance, or any language product, has a legal effect or not. What is discussed in forensic linguistic studies is concerned with language interaction, language production, potential crime, and legal impact. Consideration of language in these areas shows that someone's utterances can have legal force. Within the scope of the trial, language can become evidence, such as in the form of documents, sound recordings, testimonies, and other language products. The person appointed as an expert witness must have a comprehensive understanding of linguistics because forensic linguistics will be related to phonetics (especially acoustics), discourse analysis, semantics, pragmatics, and even psycholinguistics. Forensic linguistics can be a tool for analyzing whether an utterance has legal implications or not. Hate speech, for example, of course, has legal implications because it can be subject to articles on unpleasant acts and defamation. Pragmatic analysis can be used to find out the intent and purpose of the utterance. In the case of hoaxes, the spreader of discourse can be subject to criminal action for spreading false news. In this case, discourse analysis can be carried out to uncover the lies.

Forensic linguistics can be defined as a scientific study to study linguistic phenomena which are applied for purposes and in a forensic context. A case will be said to be a forensic problem when related to efforts to prove the truth according to formal law in court. As well as forensic medicine trying to find out the cause of death of someone for the benefit of proof in court, forensic linguistics also tries to perform an analysis of language data to determine the true meaning of a piece of writing or utterances, the meanings they contain, and their owners. With a broad scope analyzed when conducting forensic linguistic studies, it can be ascertained forensic linguistics must use the analytical models of the branches of other linguistics. In other words, it can be said that forensic linguistics is the application of the principles discovered and developed in the study of branches of linguistics for forensic purposes (Aziz, 2021).

The early development of forensic linguistics was marked by an awareness of the importance of language elements in an investigation by the police. Forensic linguistics applies linguistic theories in a linguistic event involved in the legal process, both in the form of legal products, interactions in the judicial process, and interactions between individuals which result in the emergence of certain legal implications. The role of language is very necessary to awaken and foster human awareness in creating and enforcing the law. Language is seen as a practical and effective tool in playing an important role in the creation and implementation of law in society. Vice versa, only with the help of language can humans understand and uphold and maintain the law in society. The development of various legal cases, both in the criminal and civil realms, is deemed necessary to receive the contribution or presence of language experts as experts in uncovering various legal cases. Linguistics which is linked to the field of forensics is a new field of science and is included in applied linguistics (Subyantoro, 2019).

The use of language in the criminal and civil law examination process certainly involves many parties including judges, prosecutors, defendants, expert witnesses, and the

police. The use of language in the judicial process includes interviews with the witnesses involved, police interviews include; investigative interviews; asylum seeker language testing; bilingual courtrooms and second language issues; courtroom interpreting; courtroom interactions; courtroom translating; courtroom language; police language; prison language; language addressed to judges and juries in civil and public courtrooms.

In analyzing the language of the judicial process in the form of oral, namely the honesty of the language used. Legal texts, both oral and written, are materials that are dissected by a forensic linguist. The legal texts here include texts of statutes, laws, and legal regulations, transcripts of recordings of interrogations carried out on suspects, transcripts of recordings of spying activities against suspects, texts of business memorandums of understanding, and all kinds of texts that serve as material for investigations for legal purposes. and judiciary. In researching the language of these legal products, discourse analysis can be used.

According to Kusno (2021), the increase in language-related legal disputes parallels the expanding usage of social media in modern life. These cases are associated with the linguistic war. Society as a whole is still widespread and even misunderstands connected speech that is classified as language war and is potentially illegal. Language war is the purposeful use of a speaker's or writer's language as a tool or weapon for personal or collective purposes. Direct or indirect attacks on the ideas, thoughts, behavior, honor, or physical state of a person or group of speech partners constitute language warfare. Included in language battles are recommendations, criticism, mockery, instigation, slander, insults, and defamation.

### **“Language-Use” Cases Related to Forensic Linguistics in Indonesia**

Language is a vital tool for every individual. Not a few people were caught in a legal case because of a language error he/she made. The rise in legal cases that occur in society, both in the media electronic or non-electronic, oral or written such as cases of insults, defamation, threats, fraud, bullying, criticism, mockery, instigation, slander, insults, and defamation, and even cases others can be solved by using forensic linguistic perspective. Legal cases that occur in people's lives do not just happen in the real world, but also more in the world or social media. The rise in cases related to the use of language in social media causes conflict so the government issued rules or laws such as the Electronic Information and Transaction Law (hereinafter referred to as the ITE Law) Number 11 of 2018 which regulates public communication that occurs electronic domains, such as social media.

In several cases in Indonesia, several forms of forensic linguistic evidence were used in court, such as text evidence, email, and analysis of conversations through the media which were used and presented as clear evidence. Therefore, in interpreting a text one must understand the construction of language as a whole. Furthermore, each type of document has a different structure and context. The case related to forensic linguistics becoming science is quite challenging because everyone who jumps into this field is required to have linguistic abilities comprehensive with the support of elaborative capabilities which is high on the phenomenon of the use of spoken language or writing. This is possible because today's forensic linguistics intersects with decisions in the realm of law and should be taken as objectively as possible.

First, taboo words in social media. Putra et al. (2023) state that the freedom in social media communication has not been responded to wisely by the citizen of the net (netizens). Occasionally, when expressing themselves on social media, netizens have used phrases that may be illegal. The research from Putra et al. (2023) shows that social media forbidden terms include: (1) filthy words, (2) vulgar language, and (3) nicknames and insults. These taboo terms may violate the government regulation of the Republic of Indonesia number 11 of 2008 concerning electronic information and transactions article

27 paragraph (3) and article 45 paragraph (1), as well as articles 310 section (1) and 311 section (1) of the Indonesian Criminal Code about defamation (Rahman, 2019).

Second, hate speech in social media. Thamrin et al. (2019) state that there is an alleged crime of deliberately showing hatred towards other people through online media based on article 27 paragraph (3) concerning information and electronic transactions. The result from Suryani et al. (2021) states that forensic linguistics for hate speech is an act of related language law. Hate speech tries to spread information that can cause hatred from others. It shows that hate speech @mantanaurelhermansyah has the potential to violate the law on the ITE Law and the Criminal Code about humiliation. If the identity of the owner of the account can be traced, then a case of hate speech can be rolled into court. Herwin et al. (2021) state that language crimes have a legal impact on expressive illocutionary speech acts in the form of insults, slander, and insults. The forms of this act were carried out by social media users during the pre-and post-election period for the Mayor of Makassar 2020. Then, the illocutionary forms of slander are in the form of expressive illocutionary acts of slander and insults. While, research from Afal (2022), it states that expressive speech functions to make utterances that reflect psychological statements including utterances expressing dislike, criticizing, cursing by using harsh words and utterances expressing dislike and annoyance towards the subject of conversation, an actor initials 'AS' on Twitter social media.

Third, defamation in social media. Casim et al. (2019) state that 1) the utterance "Bau Ikan Asin" can be included in several violations of existing laws in Indonesia, Article 45 paragraph 1 of the ITE Law, and Articles 310 and 311 of the Criminal Code of Defamation; 2) the semantic aspect demonstrates that the utterance "Bau Ikan Asin" has a negative connotation, and 3) the pragmatic aspect of "Bau Ikan Asin" will not be positive if juxtaposed with the object being a woman. Pratiwi (2019) states that videos of the initial "RM" are a controversial speech related to ITE Law article 27 paragraph (3), articles 310 and 311 of the Criminal Code. The analysis shows that 1) RM deliberately uttered speeches that contained insults and defamation, and RM had committed an honor attack with an accusation and slander in his speech. So the ITE Law article 27 paragraph (3), articles 310 and 311 of the Criminal Code can ensnare controversial speeches because they contain violations and can become suspects. Sudaryat (2021) states that the form of insults and defamation in Sundanese through Facebook accounts whose speakers report violations of Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Information and Electronic Transactions (ITE), Article 27 paragraph (3). The analysis shows that an insult on social media is comparing the leadership of an Islamic boarding school to an alcoholic dealer using certain sentences. If the statement is related to disclosure or defamation, it will have legal implications for forensic linguistics. Furqan et al. (2022) state that the form of language crime speech (defamation) on YouTube social media often occurs. A form of speech that can harm other people is considered a crime. In this case a language crime (defamation) and is a violation of the law regulated in Law no. 11 of 2008 concerning Information and Electronic Transactions (ITE) which was updated with the Indonesian Republic Law No. 19 of 2016. Pangestuti (2022) states that in the initial name "NA" arrest case, there are several hate speech comments as many as 5 comments using lexical, grammatical semantics, and pragmatic aspects. The data on hate speech was obtained on Twitter CNN Indonesia hurled to humiliate, and pour out a sense of disappointment towards "NA". Hate sentences are expressed by mentioning words that have a negative meaning. Related to the law, these sentences contain insulting words and drop others, so the comments are hate speech comment that is included in the criminal act of defamation of good name and can be punished following Article 310 of the Criminal Code paragraph (2) concerning written defamation.

Fourth, fake news or hoaxes. Asfar (2020) states that the study of speeches that are suspected of containing hoaxes explores narratives related to the issue of Covid-19. This

issue was published on a Facebook account which informed that there was an area in Yogyakarta where all were positive for Covid-19. This paper describes the alleged lies in the news spread on Facebook social media. This semantic analysis is contrasted with other texts that explain the facts of the case. It indicates that the news disseminated has the potential to violate the law because it is suspected to contain elements of lies. Arianto (2021) states that totaled 59 news/posts on social media tend to report news hoaxes about vaccines. Hoax reporting tends to be provocative and not accompanied by a clear news source. Shabrina et al. (2022) state that the news is not founded on facts and contains aspects of deception and manipulation; hence, the news is considered to be fake news. Hoax reporting is conducted by persons or organizations with specific intentions and objectives. Based on her analysis, it is possible to conclude that the news concerning bank information that is circulating on one of the Facebook pages reported by liputan6.com is fake and that the news can be used as linguistic evidence.

Fifth, threat Language. Rahmat (2015) reveals that there are four distinct forms of language threat in the Text of Kaba Sabai Nan Aluih show: direct speech act, indirect speech act, literal speech act, and non-literal speech act. The meaning of threatening language in KSNA is as follows: (1) think in every act, because if it is not doing so would cause harm to themselves; (2) pride and arrogance will lead to the destruction of those who have the attitude; (3) every person should have a sense of caring so that the people closest to us are not wrong in its attitude and decisions; and (4) an error should be corrected, even if the truth is painful. If someone was in danger of being vanquished, they may utilize a speech including threats to save themselves. (7) Not all forms of threat are negative; (8) recognizing the nearest wrongdoing is a form of responsibility; (9) threatening to motivation is not negative; (10) recognizing the nearest wrongdoing is a form of right action; (11) there is a fixed fee for the self-esteem that has been damaged; and (12) very uncontrolled emotion can be harmful.

Sixth, extortion. Kusno (2021) states that the collector from the PT application should be suspected of threatening and pressuring NT to make immediate loan payments to the PT application, even though NT believes he has fulfilled his commitments. Moreover, the uncertain status of the loan is damaging to NT's position as a debtor. The collector compelled NT to make several quick payments accompanied by a variety of repercussions for disseminating personal information and offensive images and physically threatening NT and his family. Typically, threats are used in conjunction with blackmail. Furthermore, the indicators of extortion can be identified, namely (a) the existence of a subject, someone who commits the act; (b) the act committed in the form of extortion is against the law; (c) the act intends to benefit oneself or others; (d) coercion by force on a person to give goods in whole or in part to the perpetrator; (e) threats in the form of defamation both verbally and in writing, intending to reveal secrets to committing acts of violence against victims. The difference between extortion and threats must also be considered, and (f) the purpose is to give something that is wholly or partly owned by another person or to give a debt or write off a receivable.

Seventh, provocative. Sarifuddin (2021) states that speech from the initial RT, PA, NP, and HRS on YouTube is indicated to be provocative. Types of provocative speech acts include direct literal speech acts, direct non-literal speech acts, and indirect literal speech acts. Speech is considered a provocative/solicitous form that can create feelings of hatred or hostility for certain individuals and/or groups of people based on ethnicity, religion, race, and inter-group who commit acts against the law by spreading information that can provoke/incite. Harsa & Arifulhak (2022) state that politicians' social media utterances contain literal indirect speech acts, but elocutionary speech acts employ declarative, imperative, and interrogative locutions, expressive illocutions, and lead the listener to ponder perlocutions (make the listeners think about it). These utterances violate the sedition provisions of Articles 160 and 161 of the Criminal Code.

## CONCLUSION

Forensic linguistics uses the application of language and linguistic analysis for the benefit of the legal process. The forensic linguistic analysis involves linguistic fields, such as phonetics, semantics, discourse and pragmatics, stylistics, morphological and syntactical, and sociological. Among the existing branches of linguistics. The important role of forensic linguistics in supporting the law enforcement process. Besides, it can be used for the examination of counterfeit documents, detection of plagiarism, detection of lies, analysis of sound recordings, and analysis of conversations both directly and indirectly. With the power and sharpness of the tools the analysis that each branch has, the results and conclusions obtained by linguistics for forensic analysis purposes indicate a high level of confidence. The rise in legal cases that occur in society, both in the media electronic or non-electronic, oral or written can be solved by using forensic linguistic perspectives such as cases of insults, defamation, threats, fraud, bullying, criticism, mockery, instigation, slander, and even cases others.

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