

Forensic Linguistics: Need for Criminal Identification

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Abstract—The paper includes the review of forensic linguistics or need of forensic linguistics in criminal identification. The language plays important role in discourse analysis. Language is the way of communication. The paper also covers the different techniques and methodologies in the subject forensic linguistic to analyze the different evidences including written and spoken evidence in criminal cases. It also includes the different applications in forensic linguistics in the analysis of linguistic evidences like spoken evidences, voice evidences, etc., and the importance of the subject forensic linguistic in criminal investigation. The paper also explains some advancements in forensic linguistics which enables the experts in the field to analyze the recordings or written evidences in short time as compared to that they do in the past and the role of forensic linguistic in solving crimes in youth by focusing on the lexical, syntactic and semantic features.

Indexed Terms—Crime, Evidence, Forensic, Linguistic.

I. INTRODUCTION

- Linguistics – Linguistics is the branch of science which deals with the human languages. Linguistics includes the study of structure of language, study of characteristics of sound and the grammar. Linguistics is also known as Language. Language is the most important part of society as it is for communication. There are various studies of language, which includes forensic linguistics.

Linguistics evidences can support the investigation process and helps the lawyers who prepare for the traits.

- Forensic linguistics – Forensic linguistics is the combination of language and law. Discourse analysis is the one of the study of forensic linguistics. Language is used as an investigative tool to solve crimes. Forensic linguistics is the study of language for the identification of criminal. For the identification of different languages, linguists use various techniques which are phonetics, morphology and phonology. Forensic linguistics solves problems related to language.

Forensic linguists analyses the given information so they can be easily determine the background or state of a person. Forensic linguists states that whether the person is telling truth or he is talking under the force by analyzing confession.

Forensic linguistics is the practice of using the knowledge in the field of linguistics to analyze the written and spoken evidences, to determine the authorship of written evidence, etc. for administration of justice in the court of law.

Forensic linguistics involves the analysis of language in legal context to identify the individual. It has also one man application i.e. “authorship attribution” (identifying the author of particular writing or the speaker of speech), that is why forensic linguistic is considered as the interface between law and language.

- Controversies in forensic linguistic – Speaker identification – One of the arguments in forensic linguistics is disagreement about the accuracy in identifying the unknown speaker in voice recording.
- Testimony – Another controversy is the testimony as the testimony can be considered as unreliable

evidence since human memory is incapable to recall the exact words even after few seconds.

Future prospects of forensic linguistics –

- a. Integrated studies of languages and laws.
- b. Use of advanced computer assistance in forensic linguistics.
- c. Certification courses in forensic linguistics.
- d. The development of more advanced techniques and methodologies to test the reliability of written evidence or voice recordings.

Forensic linguistics is wide variety youth in different types of court proceedings in various regions of world. Forensic linguistics is admissible in court in form of call recording done by secret microphone used in trap cases. Forensic linguistics is the branch which also analyses different types of calls from anonymous personalities such as threatening calls, ransom calls or kidnapping calls. Along with forensic linguistics language expert is also important for the accurate examination of voice and determining the region, religion, gender, age or presence or absence any disability or diseases by the voice characteristics such as frequency amplitude and repeating words use.

• Forensic phonetics –

Forensic phonetics have more importance nowadays as audio and video related crime increased. Phonetics is the study related to sound. Phonetics includes the study organs which produce sound that are lips, mouth, vocal cords and nasal cavity. Phonetics also deals with brain, ears and how they adapt a sound.

Phonetics includes analysis of sound by –

- 1) The sound which is produced from vocal cords.
- 2) The sound which is produced from mouth and nasal cavities.
- 3) Analysis of speech characteristics such as pronunciation, grammar, etc.

Forensic phonetics includes the study of production of sound. There are two types of phonetics which are Acoustic phonetics and auditory phonetics.

II. METHODOLOGY

In the paper of (Oglekwo, May 2020) the method used is qualitative method because it has descriptive nature. The corpus is used to interpret the results. The corpuses are video clips of three suspects involved in cultism and three online confessions of suspects and witnesses in criminal cases of kidnapping, rape, robbery, murder, and fraud. The data was sourced from newspaper and video clips of prevalent criminals between age 20-23. Following features are used in data presentation & analysis: -

- a. Forensic phonetic analysis – Comparing speech features of individuals.
- b. Lexical analysis – Identification of words that have great significance in detecting the crime.
- c. Syntactic analysis – Formation of sentences was analyzed.
- d. Semantic analysis – Uncovering the hidden meanings and intentions in language used.

In the paper (KADIR, 2020), the qualitative method is used for the research. It was conducted in State courts namely, Gorontalo state court, Limboto state court, Boalemo state court and pohuwato state court. Data collected from judges of the state courts. For the sampling of collected data, literature review technique is used. Data analysis is done by using three factors which are -1) Discourse form 2) Language style and 3) Speech acts.

In the paper (Coupland, 2007) states that, language is used to detect the crime. Language style produce statistical values in society. Language is used by variety of peoples in their own group.

In the paper (Wijana, 1996) states that, speech can be divided into two types- direct speech and indirect speech. Direct speech is a kind of formal speech. Indirect speech is the way in delivery of utterances.

In the paper (Nawaz & Naveed, 2013) the research deals with the style of language, language used in legal settings, the result concluded that there are various several unique features in language. The uniqueness of language is found in complex sentences.

In the paper (Djatkika, 1999) contains the approach to examine the different aspects of language and how the language used in law.



Fig. 1 Crimes solved by linguistics

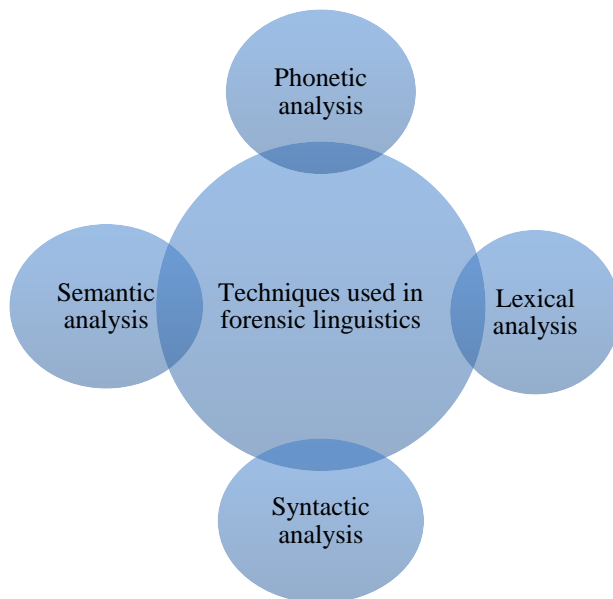


Fig. 2. Techniques used in forensic linguistics

CONCLUSION

Linguistics is simply a study of language but when the application of language used for criminal identification then it comes under forensic linguistics. Forensic linguistics includes the analysis of patterns of sound or any disruption in sound. Forensic phonetics deals with the study of sound produced from stages such as mouth, vocal cords and nasal cavity. Forensic phonetics is the branch of linguistics which plays important role in criminal identification. Forensic linguistics is one of the tool which is used for criminal charges or convictions. Forensic linguistics is the field in which language is considered as the evidence. Discourse includes the relationship between the text and context. Context identification is used in understanding the text. The texts of the criminal judges are arranged according to a system and clear. The language used is formal. Judges of the criminal cases use grammatical rules of the language.

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