

## HATE SPEECH IN INDONESIA: A FORENSIC LINGUISTICS

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### **ABSTRACT**

This study intends to examine the scientific article about the phenomenon of hate speech in pandemic era in Indonesia from forensic linguistics view. By using a meta-analysis technique on Google Scholar, an official website intended as a collection of scientific articles in Indonesia. A total of 150 articles were accessed from Google Scholar. To assure the review's focus, a selection process for inclusion and exclusion criteria was carried out before it began. There are 20 eligible articles to be reviewed. Findings showed that most of the researchers used social media as the source of data, most of the researchers used the theory of speech act to analyse the data.

**Keywords:** hate speech, systematic literature review

### **ABSTRAK**

*Penelitian ini bermaksud untuk mengkaji artikel ilmiah tentang fenomena ujaran kebencian di era pandemi di Indonesia dari sudut pandang linguistik forensik. Dengan menggunakan teknik meta-analisis di Google Scholar, sebuah website resmi yang ditunjukkan sebagai kumpulan artikel ilmiah di Indonesia. Sebanyak 150 artikel diakses dari Google Scholar. Untuk memastikan fokus tinjauan, proses seleksi untuk kriteria inklusi dan eksklusi dilakukan sebelum dimulai. Ada 20 artikel yang memenuhi syarat untuk ditinjau. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa sebagian besar peneliti menggunakan media sosial sebagai sumber data, sebagian besar peneliti menggunakan teori tindak tutur untuk menganalisis data.*

**Kata kunci:** ujaran kebencian, tinjauan literatur sistematis

### **A. Introduction**

The development of modern society accompanied by the sophistication of information and communication technology has resulted in more opportunities for individuals to interact with others. Social media has become a place for netizens or netizens to carry out several interactions

without having to know each other, know their identities, and meet each other. One form is by giving comments to each other about what an individual sees and feels in a post or news.

Commenting is a natural thing, as a form of expressiveness of an individual. However, it is not uncommon for comments on social media to lead to a trend of

blasphemous or hate speech against an individual or group. The absence of restrictions on good and bad considerations in commenting became the beginning of social media abuse in the gadget era. This of course can lead to polemics between individuals or groups, such as feelings of hurt, uproar, and violence.

Hate speech is someone's words intended to attack and have a certain impact on the object being discussed, either directly or indirectly. Hate speech or negative comments are commonly found on social media. Freedom on social media is the reason why individuals are not afraid to leave some hate speech in a post or news. The anonymity provided by social media also causes many people to feel safe to say anything, even leaving expressions of insults, curses, and insults without being known by many people. Moreover, the people they blasphemed were not people they knew, thereby reducing the impact of feelings of guilt. It has become a common thing, that many individuals give blasphemy under the guise of criticizing. They pretend to convey a message to correct something that is considered wrong from the individual being criticized. Unfortunately, this so-called criticism can no longer be considered constructive and tends to lead to contempt. In addition, negative comments in the form of blasphemy also easily influence the minds of other individuals who read them. So that the "bandwagon" phenomenon arises which causes many netizens to be led to join in throwing negative comments. Just to get a lot of support, look cool, or follow the trend, without knowing what's going on and the matter.

The impact of hate speech on victims can be very dangerous. Moreover, social media is an open place so that hate speech that is raised can be seen by the general public. This can cause social pressure, stress, trauma, and even suicide for victims. In addition, this condition can also cause victims to feel afraid of being in a social environment. Thus, victims will choose to isolate themselves, swear at home, and no longer interact. Therefore, netizens need more awareness in filtering what they want to say.

In Indonesia, Hate Speech (Hate Speech) Crimes are regulated in Act Number 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions. In addition, the issue of the Circular of the Indonesian National Police number SE/06/X /2015 on Handling Hate Speech. It is stated that hate speech was humiliation, defamation, blasphemy, displeasing, provoking, inciting and spreading false news.

Online hate speech's development and proliferation is a growing phenomenon. It took a team effort to comprehend the implications and come up with a suitable solution (Gagliardone, et al., 2015). On social media, there are examples of incitement that happen every year. This demonstrates how language can be used to establish a crime using the methodology of forensic linguistic studies. Linguists apply linguistics to resolve legal disputes. Forensic linguistics is the branch of linguistics that is used. Forensic linguistics is a scientific study of language used for forensic purposes and legal statements (McMenamin, 2002). The relationship between language, crime, and the law encompass law enforcement, legal issues, legislation, disputes or legal processes, even disagreements that may contain several potential legal offenses and are intended to find a legal resolution (Olsson, 2004). Thus, incorporating linguistics and law, forensic linguistics investigates the connection between language and enforcement, as well as issues, conflicts, or legal procedures, as well as laws that may result in a number of legal infractions or the necessity for resource.

Speech can be said to be hateful if the speech expresses feelings of hatred or intolerance that are extreme and those feelings are directed to other individuals or groups based on identities such as race and sexual orientation (Ahnaf & Suhadi, 2014). This is in line with Robert Post (in Hare & Weinstein, 2009) hate speech as speech expressing hatred or intolerance of other social groups, especially on the basis of race or sexuality. Further Robert Post [in Hare & Weinstein, 2009] says

"speech that is formulated in a way that insult, offends or degrade". It can be concluded that hate speech is speech that shows hatred or intolerance towards individuals or groups based on ethnicity, religion, and race. Hate speech also contains actions that can attack the honor of others such as insults, petty insults, defamatory accusations, and various other forms.

Forensic linguistics is a branch of linguistics that combines the study of language (linguistics) with the field of law. Furthermore, forensic linguistics is a science related to the application of linguistic knowledge and techniques to language facts contained in legal cases, personal disputes between certain parties which later lead to the taking of certain legal actions. (Olsson and Luchjenbroers, 2013). In the context of this research, a case that has legal implications due to the use of language is a case of defamation with the alleged Jerinx and dr. Louis Owien. Based on the stated opinion, it shows that forensic linguistics is a study that examines linguistic aspects in legal cases. This is in accordance with what is stated by Olsson and Luchjenbroers (2013) which states that forensic linguistic studies apply linguistic knowledge and techniques to examine linguistic phenomena related to legal cases, case investigations, or interpersonal disputes that have legal

**B. Research Method**

This study employs a qualitative methodology with a thorough qualitative examination of the literature. This method is most frequently employed, along with Davis in Snyder (2019), it is seen as transparent, systematic, and reproducible. The methodical qualitative evaluation is also known as a "meta-synthesis," which combines the data to provide fresh, in-depth ideas and hypotheses (Lachal et al., 2017).

From 100 articles accessed from 2020 to 2022 in Google Shoolar, the exclusion article are 80, the inclusion articles are 20.

**C. Result and Discussion**

There are five sources of data used from 20 articles.

**Table 1. Rank of Source of Data**

|              | n  | %   |
|--------------|----|-----|
| Social Media | 12 | 60  |
| You Tube     | 5  | 25  |
| Court        | 2  | 10  |
| Media Online | 1  | 5   |
| Talk Show    | 1  | 5   |
|              | 20 | 100 |

Table 1 shows the sources of data in the article of hate speech from a forensic linguistics view. It can be seen that social media is the most source of data used in the studies.

**Table 2 Rank of The Applied Theory**

|   | n  | %  |
|---|----|----|
| Speech Act theory                                       | 11 | 55 |
| Lexical semantic meaning and Grammatical meaning        | 2  | 10 |
| Systemic Functional Grammar (SFL) theory                | 1  | 5  |
| Dell Hymes' theory                                      | 1  | 5  |
| John Olsson's theory of veracity language               | 1  | 5  |
| Semantically and pragmatically theories of Chaer & Yule | 1  | 5  |
| Semantic theory   | 1  | 5  |
| Politeness Principle by Gricean Maxims                  | 1  | 5  |
| Impoliteness theory                                     | 1  | 5% |

Table 2 shows the theories applied in the articles. The theory mostly used in the studies is Speech Act.

First article used impoliteness theory, while the methodology uses qualitative. The data used, as many as 40 comments were used as research objects. Realization of hate speech based on impoliteness, there are 3 strategies, namely positive impoliteness strategies, negative impoliteness strategies, and satire or scoffing strategies. In other words,

linguistic hate speech can be sent in the form of words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and in the form of discourse (Subyantoro & Apriyanto, 2020).

Second article found (1) the expressive speech act committed by the defendant contains utterances of hatred or contempt for a particular religion and (2) based on the appraisal system analysis, the defendant's utterance of hatred towards religion was evident from the use of language which was reflected in her attitude. The results of this study are that there is a criminal act intentionally showing hatred towards certain individuals and or groups of people based on religion through social media based on Article 28 paragraph (2) of Law No.19 of 2016 about the changes of the Law Number 11 of 2008 on Information and Electronic Transactions (ITE) in terms of speech act theory and appraisal system (Syahid, A., Sudana, D., Bachari., A.D., 2021).

Third article showed that there were nine forms of hate speech. Two forms of hate speech were considered to be the style of speech that was widely used by the public in delivering comments on social media. The forms of the speech were "Form of Hate Speech, Assertive Speech - Insult" and "Form of Hate Speech, Assertive Speech - Defamation". The existence of this form of speech can be a reference for the community to process opinions first before conveying it on social media. It's legally can be used as an offense in cases of hate speech (Yulianti, T. et. al. 2020).

Fourth article obtained data from Direktori Putusan Mahkamah Agung from 2019 - 2021. The results of the analysis reveal that hate speech portrays hurtful feelings and harmful attitudes. It is reflected by malice (expressive speech act), insult, or accuse (assertive speech act), persuasions so that others commit crimes (directive speech act), and crime plans in the future (commissive speech act). Then, there are ten forms of pejorative labels for the Chinese ethnic group. Race-based hate speeches expressed in the online media are

prohibited according to Article 28 paragraph (2) of The ITE Law Article Number 19 of 2016. They are prejudiced action, violate human rights and cannot be considered as freedom of opinion and democracy because of their dangerous perlocutionary effects. The effects can provoke discriminatory (Floranti, A. 2022).

Fifth article got data from utterances published on their respective social media accounts. Semiotic analysis and pragmatic discourse methods are integrated into the data interpretation and description process. The results of the analysis concluded that the posts from three convicted KOL (ADP, JG, BY) have fulfilled the element of hate speech acts through illocutionary speech acts that contain elements of humiliation, defamation, and incitement of violence and provocation that have the potential to create conflicts between religions, ethnicities and groups (Agustina., et. al. 2020).

Sixth article The data source in this study is the social media YouTube. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method, data collection techniques in the form of viewing and documentation. The data were analyzed using the steps of (1) identifying, (2) classifying, and (3) analyzing. The results of this study indicate that: Natalis Pigai's utterances on social media contain literal indirect speech acts, while locutionary speech acts use declarative locutions, expressive illocutions, and get hearer to think about perlocutions (make the interlocutor think about). These statements violate the Criminal Code, Article 160 and Article 161 regarding sedition. Keywords: provocative speech acts, social media, forensic linguistics (Sarifuddin., et. al. 2021).

Seventh article the Javanese related to humans in social media is the swear and denotative words which refer to the rough connotation due to the morphological process. The clitic -mu becomes the most common modifier of denotative words into rough connotation

of Javanese vocabularies related to humans (Sutarsih., et. al. 2021).

Eight article used social media platform YouTube served as the study's data source. The descriptive qualitative method was used in this study, as well as data gathering strategies such as watching and documentation. The procedures of identifying, classifying, and analysing were used to analyse the data. The findings show that politicians' social media utterances comprise literal indirect speech acts, but locutionary speech acts use declarative, imperative, interrogative locutions, expressive illocutions, and induce the listener to consider perlocutions (make the listeners think about it). These statements violate Articles 160 and 161 of the Criminal Code, which deal with sedition (Harsa & Arifulhak. 2022).

Ninth article showed two things. First, the insulting form to President Joko Widodo concerned several aspects, namely aspects of religion, personal, family, position/profession, and work, accompanied by harsh words, degradation, and disrespect for a head of state. Second, the method of conveying insults to President Joko Widodo was carried out using language and non-linguistics, namely words contained in a sentence, memes, Figures, and animal symbols. Thus, in the study of Forensic Linguistics, the case of insulting President Joko was carried out in the form of non-linguistic evidence (Lindayani., L., R. et. al. 2022).

Tenth article showed that the sentences posted are a unified form of interconnected language, forming a meaning as defamation. The tendency of words and phrase to form sentences that turn positive implications into negative implications, due to the influence of the story's importance attached to it means negative.

## Conclusion

This study has looked at 20 articles related to hate speech from the view of forensic linguistics in Indonesia range from 2020 to 2022. Thus, recent studies carried out in investigating various

source of data and various theories in analysing hate speech from forensic linguistics view.

All sources mentioned in the article should be listed in reference. Reference should be taken from primary sources (scientific journal and books) published within last 10 (ten) year.

The formatting style should apply APA (American Psychological Association). Below shall be the examples of reference style formatting from several sources.

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