
SUICIDE NOTES: FORENSIC LINGUISTIC PROFILING ANALYSIS

Asep Surahman

Magister Ilmu Linguistik/Universitas Warmadewa
asep@mybalitrips.com

Published: Desember/2022

How to cite :

Surahman, A. (2022). Suicide Notes: Forensic Linguistic Profiling Analysis. *IJFL (International Journal of Forensic Linguistic)*, Vol 3(2), Page. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.55637/ijfl.3.2.6351.105-108>

Abstract- Forensic linguistics is the branch of the linguistics study which investigates legal text in crime. The aim research is to identify the suicide notes: forensic linguistic profiling analysis. The research method used cumulative sum calculation strategy for elements: SL, Pron, Prep, Ver, Adj, Adv, Conj, CSS-SL, CSS-Pron, CSS-Prep, CSS-Ver, CSS-Adj, CSS-Adv, & CSS-Conj. The program read the given texts and counted the percentage of words that reflect different emotions, thinking styles, and social concerns. The result shows that Based on the analysis of the first letter, a graph of parallel relationships is obtained between SL and CSS-SL, Pron and CSS-Pron, Ver and CSS-Ver, Adv and CSS-Adv, and Conj and CSS-Conj. Meanwhile, there are still lines that intersect in the graph of the relationship between Prep and CSS-Prep and Adj and CSS-Adj. This indicates that the first letter is genuine, considering that the number of graphs showing parallel relationships is more dominant than those with intersecting lines.

Keywords: *Forensic Linguistic, Social Media, Suicide Notes.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The phrase forensic linguistics first appeared in 1968 when Jan Svartvik, a linguistics professor, used it in an analysis of statements by Timothy John Evans. Olsson (2004) stated that "Forensic Linguistics is the application of linguistics knowledge to a particular social setting, namely the legal forum (from which the word forensic is derived.) In its broadest sense we may say that Forensic Linguistics is the interface between language, crime and law." The range of topics within forensic linguistics is diverse. One forensic linguistics area is the legal text language, which includes the study of text types and forms of analysis. Olsson (2008) stated that "literally any text or item of spoken language has the potential of being a forensic text. If a text is somehow implicated in a legal or criminal context then it is a forensic text." These texts can be a book, thesis, phone text messages, ransom demands, other threat messages, or even a suicide note. Olsson (2004) said, "Suicide notes generally have sentences alluding to the act of killing oneself, or the method of suicide that was undertaken" (p. 1).

Forensic linguistics is the branch of the linguistics study which investigates legal text in crime. From its point of view, forensic linguistics is really helping the court or police or law attribute in investigating criminal case (Sudjana & Fitri, 2013). Aspects of linguistics plays important role when it deals with legal texts such as suicide note. Here what the forensic linguist trying to do are analyzing linguistic text in crime. It helps the court solving cases through the language point of view that is to say the language that is used by the defendant, witness, or criminal. It is really helpful and useful in investigating and solving cases. Forensic linguist usually pointed out the language that is used when someone do the crime, so they will know what the real motives of the carsonist in doing the actions. For instance: one of the reason why the research in forensic linguistics are needed because most of the time the police or investigator face the difficulty in translating or gaining such statements from the defendant, criminal, or witnesses like when they speak to loud, omit the important things that will be effecting judge's work, or tell lies about the crime. Here, we can see the key position of linguist in analyzing those statement.

McMenamin (2004) says "The classification of areas in forensic linguistics

evolves as the field develops." It usually follows existing classifications in the structure and function of language as a basis for cataloging actual and potential subject areas. "To sum up, there are many areas of linguistics fields that can be a main approach in identifying cases of forensic linguistics. It can be said that forensic linguistics need another linguistic fields that will support their analysis. It can be taken from theory of grammar, phonetics, phonology, morphology, semantics, pragmatics, discourse analysis, etc. All of those linguistics aspects have their own way in helping solving cases, but it doesn't mean that every approach is working effectively in one case. For example: syntactical approach is not working significant in investigating crimes in courtroom. It doesn't really explain enough about the case which they investigate. The other way to strength the analysis can be helped by other linguistic fields. So, it does not matter how many parameters that we will use when identifies cases as long as it can prove our statements or analysis. Coulthard & Johnson (2010) mention that forensic linguistics ranges from courtroom discourse and legal language to plagiarism. Briefly, plagiarism is using another person's work for personal advantage without mentioning his/her name. Forensic linguistic experts proficient in plagiarism cases and copyright infringements provide evidence to determine which work is based upon another.

Olsson (2008) also explained, "Forensic linguists have also been asked to analyse text purporting to be suicide notes. Even though the police in such cases may not suspect foul play, it could be important to attempt to establish whether the questioned text can throw any light on the cause or circumstances of death." The application of linguistics in the analysis of suicide notes plays an important role in investigating the genuineness and the intention of the suicide note. The scope of this study is the semantic forensic analysis, whether it is from the lexical choice, the phrase, or the sentences' meaning by Virginia Woolf in her suicide notes to her husband and her sister.

The literature review for this analysis is an article, "Analysis of the O.J. Simpson Suicide Letter," taken from the LSI Laboratory for Scientific Interrogation. Inc. The suicide letter was analyzed with the SCAN (Scientific Content Analysis) Technique. The first study only elaborated on the language analysis but lacked the psychological side. Suicide is a leading cause of death worldwide. Identifying those at risk and delivering timely interventions is challenging. The aim research is to identify

the suicide notes: forensic linguistic profiling analysis.

II. METHOD

The research method used cumulative sum calculation strategy for elements: SL, Pron, Prep, Ver, Adj, Adv, Conj, CSS-SL, CSS-Pron, CSS-Prep, CSS-Ver, CSS-Adj, CSS-Adv, & CSS-Conj. The program read the given texts and counted the percentage of words that reflect different emotions, thinking styles, and social concerns. Next, the suicide notes were read several times; the clauses, phrases, and sentences were highlighted and analyzed with semantic forensic theory.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

SURAT 1.

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh Wasiat kepada orang yang saya cintai karena Allah

Wahai Umyy ku, minta maafka kalo ada salahku baik perilaku maupun lisanku, jangan ki lupa senantiasa beribadah kepada Allah dan jangan ki tinggalkan sholat. Semoga Allah kumpulkanki di Surganya.

Umyy sekali lagi minya maaf ka, ku sayang sekali tapi Allah lebih menyayangi hambanya.

Makanya saya tempuh jalanku sebagai mana jalan Nabi/Rasul Allah untuk selamatkan ki dan bisa ki kembali berkumpul di surga

Satu ji pesanku buat kita ummy, berhenti ambil uang bank, karena uang bank itu riba dan tidak diberkahi oleh Allah.

Ini ada uang simpananku 2.350.000 untuk bayar pinjaman di bank dan itu uang kontrak rumahku masih ada 5 bulan di karyawan laundrynya mus. 500.000/bulan na kontrakan ambil meri tiap bulan, simpan ki untuk bayar pinjaman

Pitto, minta maaf ka kalau ada salahku dek, baik itu lisanku maupun perbuatanku dulu.

Satu pesanku untuk kau dek, jaga ummy baik-baik. Kau mami bisa jaga ummy dan jangan juga malas-malasan sholat dan jangan i bergaul-gaul, fokus saja bantu ummy.

Istiqomah ki semua di jalan ini nah ummy, Pitto dan keluarga ku yang saya cintai karna Allah, semoga Allah kumpulkan ki di surga dan semua sodarahnya dan keluarga bapakku

Muh. Lukman Alfariz

SURAT 2.

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh Wasiat kepada orang yang saya cintai karena Allah

Wahai mamaku, maafin Zakiah yang belum pernah membalas pemberian keluarga. Mama,

ayah jangan lupa senantiasa beribadah kepada Allah SWT dan jangan tinggalkan salat. Semoga Allah kumpulkan kembali keluarga di surga.

Mama, sekali lagi Zakiah minta maaf. Zakiah sayang banget sama Mama. Tapi Allah lebih menyayangi hamba-Nya, Makanya Zakiah tempuh jalan ini sebagaimana jalan Nabi/Rasul Allah untuk selamatkan Zakiah dan dengan izin Allah bisa memberi syafaat untuk Mama dan keluarga di akhirat.

Pesan Zakiah untuk Mama dan keluarga, berhenti berhubungan dengan bank (kartu kredit) karena itu riba dan tidak diberkahi Allah.

Pesan berikutnya agar Mama berhenti bekerja menjadi Dawis yang membantu kepentingan pemerintah thogut.

Pesan berikutnya untuk kaka agar rumah Cibubur jaga Dede dan mama, iadah kepada Allah, dan tinggalkan penghasilan dari yang tidak sesuai jaran islam, serta tinggalkan kepercayaan kepada orang-orang yang mengaku mempunyai ilmu, dekati ustad/ulama, tonton kajian dakwah, tidak membanggakan kafir Ahok dan memakai hijab kak. Allah yang akan menjamin rezeki kak. Maaf ya kak, Zakiah tidak bisa membalas semua pemberian kakak...

Untuk Mba Leli agar memperingatkan Mama, jaga Mama ya Mba. Untuk Bp, jangan tinggalkan ibadah solat 5 waktu, maafin ya Mba, pe kalau ada salah lisan dan lainnya. Jaga mama, ayah, dede baik-baik.

Mama, Ayah, semua lihat di samping itu adalah tingkatkan amalan. Insya Allah dengan karunia Allah amalan jihad Zakiah akan membantu memberi syafaat kepada keluarga di akhirat. Jihad adalah tertinggi dalam islam.

Inti pesan Zakiah kepada mama dan keluarga adalah agar tidak mengikuti kegiatan pemilu. Karena orang-orang yang terpilih itu akan membuat hukum tandingan Allah bersumber Alquran-Assunah.

Demokrasi, Pancasila, UUD, pemilu, berasal dari ajaran kafir yang jelas musyrik. Zakiah nasehatkan kepada mama dan keluarga agar semuanya selamat dari fitnah dunia yaitu demokrasi, pemilu dan tidak murtad tanpa sadar.

Sekali lagi maafkan Zakiah ma, ayah, kakak, Mba Leli, awi, Bpe, ka Effa, dede, Baim, Kevin, semuanya. Maafkan bila ada salah kata dan perbuatan. Semoga Allah kumpulkan kembali di surga-Nya. Amiin....

Zakiah Aini

NO	KALDIAT	SL	Pron	Prep	Ver	Adj	Adv	Conj	CSS-SL	CSS-Pron	CSS-Prep	CSS-Ver	CSS-Adj	CSS-Adv	CSS-Conj
1	Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	-11,571429	-2,71429	-1,07143	-2,57143	-0,21429	-1,07143	-1,57143
2	Wasiat kepada orang yang saya cintai karena	8	1	1	1	0	0	2	-18,142857	-4,42857	-1,14286	-1,42857	-0,42857	-1,14286	-1,14286
3	Wahai Ummu'ku, minta maafka kalo ada salahka baik, pembilu maupun bisekka, jangan	23	5	1	5	0	3	3	-9,7142857	-2,14286	-1,21429	-1,71429	-0,64286	-0,21429	0,28571
4	Seneng Allah kumpulkan ki di Surganya	6	2	1	1	0	1	0	-18,285714	-2,85714	-1,28571	-1,28571	-0,85714	-0,28571	-1,28571
5	Ummu' sekali lagi minta maafka, ku sayang	13	2	0	3	1	2	1	-19,857143	-3,57143	-1,35714	-2,85714	-0,07143	-0,64286	-1,85714
6	Maharaya saya tempuh palenka sebhaginana	20	4	2	5	0	0	4	-14,428571	-2,28571	-1,42857	-0,42857	-0,28571	-0,42857	0,57143
7	Satu ij pesangka kowi kita ummy, berhenti	20	3	2	3	0	2	2	-9	-2	-0,5	-1,38-15	-0,5	0,5	1
8	Ini ada usang simpantekna dua guta tiga ratus	29	5	3	3	0	1	1	5,42857143	0,28571	1,42857	0,42857	-0,71429	0,42857	0,42857
9	Lima ratus mbu per budanya konna konna unbil	12	1	1	3	1	0	0	2,85714286	-1,42857	1,35714	0,85714	0,07143	-0,64286	-1,14286
10	Pitno, minta maafka kulan ada salahka dek,	13	4	0	2	0	1	2	1,28571429	-1,14286	0,28571	0,28571	-0,14286	-0,71429	-0,71429
11	Satu pesangka cunuk ken dek, juga ummy baek	8	2	1	1	1	0	0	-5,2857143	-0,85714	0,21429	-1,28571	0,64286	-1,78571	-2,28571
12	Kan nani bisa juga ummy dan jangan juga	18	2	0	6	0	4	2	-1,8571429	-1,57143	-0,85714	2,14286	0,42857	1,14286	-1,85714
13	Haripamah ki senema di jalan ini mah ummy,	28	7	3	3	0	1	5	11,5714286	2,71429	1,07143	2,57143	0,21429	1,07143	1,57143
14	Mah Luluman Alifari	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,3391E-15	-1,0E-15	6,7E-16	-2,7E-15	-5,6E-17	6,7E-16	8,9E-16
TOTAL		204	38	15	36	3	15	22							
AVG		14,571	2,714	1,071	2,571	0,21	1,1	1,571							

Cumulative Sum Strategy of letter 1

NO	KALDIAT	SL	Pron	Prep	Ver	Adj	Adv	Conj	CSS-SL	CSS-Pron	CSS-Prep	CSS-Ver	CSS-Adj	CSS-Adv	CSS-Conj
1	Cunuk kabaqar besarang	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	-3,545455	1,545455	0,545455	-0,909091	-0,1818	-1	-0,4545
2	Maafkan saya untuk semua kesialan yang telah aku buat	9	2	1	2	0	1	1	-1,090909	-1,090909	0,818182	0,181818	-0,3636	-1	0,09091
3	Saya bicar orang yang telah	7	2	1	0	1	1	0	-0,636364	-0,6364	1,636364	-0,2727	0,4545	-1	-0,3636
4	Maafkan aku karena sudah menyebarkan kulan senema ini	8	3	0	2	0	1	1	0,818182	0,81818	1,818182	0,63636	0,2727	-1	0,81818
5	Karena senema sudah bergasa di	8	2	1	1	0	1	1	2,272727	1,27273	1,727273	0,54545	0,09091	-1	0,72727
6	Tolong jangan beresangka apapun	4	0	0	1	0	2	0	-0,272727	-0,2727	1,272727	0,45455	-0,0909	0	0,27273
7	Ini senema kulan sudah kulan	5	2	0	0	0	1	0	-1,818182	0,818182	-0,6364	-0,2727	0	-0,81818	
8	Ini adalah hal yang aku lakukan dengan niat sendiri	9	2	1	2	0	0	0	0,636364	0,63636	1,363636	0,27273	-0,4545	-1	-0,6364
9	Maafkan aku karena menyebarkan kulan senema lagi	7	2	0	2	0	2	1	1,0909091	1,09091	0,90909091	1,81818	-0,6364	0	-0,0909
10	Aku ucapkan terima kasih dan	7	1	0	1	0	0	1	1,5454545	0,54545	0,45454545	1,09091	-0,8182	-1	0,45455
11	Senema kulan senema kulan kulan	5	1	0	0	1	2	0	-4,48-15	4,4E-16	-3,3907E-16	8,9E-16	-2E-16	0	-2E-16
TOTAL		72	17	5	12	2	11	5							
AVG		6,55	1,54545	0,45455	1,09091	0,18182	1	0,45455							

Cumulative Sum Strategy of letter 1

Based on the analysis of the first letter, a graph of parallel relationships is obtained between SL and CSS-SL, Pron and CSS-Pron, Ver and CSS-Ver, Adv and CSS-Adv, and Conj and CSS-Conj. Meanwhile, there are still lines that intersect in the graph of the relationship between Prep and CSS-Prep and Adj and CSS-Adj. This indicates that the first letter is genuine, considering that the number of graphs showing parallel relationships is more dominant than those with intersecting lines.

Furthermore, based on the results of the analysis of the second letter, it is found that there is an intersection of lines on all indicators between SL and CSS-SL, Pron and CSS-Pron, Prep and CSS-Prep, Ver and CSS-Ver, Adj and CSS-Adj, Adv and CSS-Adv, and Conj with CSS-Conj. This indicates that the second letter is fabricated, considering that the entire graph is experiencing an intersection of lines. The advantage of the cumulative sum calculation strategy in forensic analysis of the contents of a letter is the ease in determining an original or engineered letter through the relationship chart obtained from the seven specified indicators, namely SL and CSS-SL, Pron and CSS-Pron, Prep and CSS-Prep, Ver and CSS-Ver, Adj and CSS-Adv, and CSS-Conj.

Conj. If the number of graphs showing parallel relationships is more dominant than the number of graphs showing parallel relationships, then the letter is engineering.

The drawback of the cumulative total calculation strategy in forensic analysis of the contents of letters is the need for more consistency of each indicator in determining whether a letter is genuine or fabricated. An indicator that shows a parallel relationship does not necessarily indicate directly that the letter is genuine or fabricated. Likewise, an indicator with crossed lines does not necessarily indicate directly that the letter is genuine or fabricated.

IV. CONCLUSION

The result shows that Based on the analysis of the first letter, a graph of parallel relationships is obtained between SL and CSS-SL, Pron and CSS-Pron, Ver and CSS-Ver, Adv and CSS-Adv, and Conj and CSS-Conj. Meanwhile, there are still lines that intersect in the graph of the relationship between Prep and CSS-Prep and Adj and CSS-Adj. This indicates that the first letter is genuine, considering that the number of graphs showing parallel relationships is more dominant than those with intersecting lines. The advantage of the cumulative sum calculation strategy in forensic analysis of the contents of a letter is the ease in determining an original or engineered letter through the relationship chart obtained from the seven specified indicators, namely SL and CSS-SL, Pron and CSS-Pron, Prep and CSS-Prep, Ver and CSS-Ver, Adj and CSS-Adj, Adv and CSS-Adv, Conj and CSS-Conj. If the number of graphs showing parallel relationships is more dominant than the number of graphs showing parallel relationships, then the letter is engineering.

REFERENCES

Coulthard, M., & Johnson, A. (2010). *Handbook of forensic linguistics*. Routledge.

John Olsson. (2008). *Forensic Linguistics: An Introduction To Language, Crime and the Law* (2nd ed.). Bloomsbury Publishing.

McMenamin, G. . (2004). *Forensic linguistics: Advances in forensic stylistics*. Cambridge University Press.

Olsson, J. (2004). *Forensic linguistics: An introduction to language, crime and the law*. Continuum.

Sudjana, E. T. S., & Fitri, N. (2013). Kurt Cobain's Suicide Note Case: Forensic Linguistic Profiling Analysis. *International Journal of Criminology and Sociological Theory*, 6(4), 217–227.