Forensic Linguistics in My Friend Dahmer Movie Script

Andi Asnufta Khairani Ahmad*[1], Sudirman Maca[2], Andi Tenri Abeng[1]

[1]English Language and Literature Program, Education and Letters Faculty, Bosowa University
[2]English Program, Postgraduate, Bosowa University[2]
*Email: *1andiiranii05@gmail.com

Abstract

The research aimed at finding out the types of criminals and to describe the cause of the main character become a criminal in the movie script of My Friend Dahmer by Marc Meyers. The data were analysed through Sutherland's theory in which the data presented in the qualitative descriptive method. The results reveal that there were four types of criminals using in the script such as white-collar crime, violent crime, property crime, and consensual crime or victimless crime. Each criminology has a different meaning from each category in each forensic linguistics. The four criminal types that the cause of the main character to become a criminal person.

Keywords: Forensic Linguistics, Criminology, Movie Script, My Friend Dahmer, Crime.

1. INTRODUCTION

Literature is a work of art that captures the viewpoint of a society on how people live and interact in a way that society may appreciate, understand, and use (Stecker, 1996). Usually, the phrase is used to describe imaginative poetry and prose that stands out as a result of the authors' inspirations and perceptions of the literary brilliance of their own work. According to Rowe (2014) Literature can include any type of written work, but it is most often a creative or intellectual effort. Like painting, dance, music, and other beautiful arts, it gives readers a sense of aesthetic pleasure.

According to Olsson (2008) the science of forensic linguistics has rather wide range of application, with the potential to encompass all writings or objects that contain language. Forensic linguistics is the study of language used to identify criminal conduct in documents. However, according to Scott (2019), the easy way to think about crime is to adopt a legalistic perspective, where a crime is just an action that is against the law. It is illegal in specific.

Criminology is the study of crime, criminals, the law, the criminal justice system, and the larger social effects of crime. It requires work that is both theoretical and practical (Bowman, 2009). Those who commit crimes are considered to be criminals. According to the context and the law, the definition of "criminal" can change, although it almost always connotes something bad. Criminals are generally seen as reflecting specific traits or traits, as well as being a distinct type of person than law-abiding citizens. In spite of this, it is impossible to distinguish between criminals and law-abiding citizens based on any physical or mental traits (Fattah, 2000).

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Related to this research, there are a few researchers that have been achieved before.

2.1   Previous Studies

The researcher gathered information about forensic linguistic from several previous studies that involved analyzing kinds of forensic linguistic. Some previous studies related to this research topic include:

Dwiputra & Afnita (2022) this study aimed to describe the incorporation of the police jargon and narrative storytelling in the movie script for Knives Out (from a forensic linguistic perspective). The researcher used a descriptive qualitative approach. The movie script served as the data source. The data was collected and then examined through interpretation along with description. Based on the results, Harlan Thrombey committed suicide and used a knife to end his life. However, he was aware that his nephew Ransom would be the one to murder him by changing his morphine into an overdose.

Umiyati (2020) employed a descriptive qualitative methodology. A few different forensic linguistics-related books serve as the study's data sources. The research aims and analysis provide a solid foundation upon which to base its findings. The discussion that follows provides an explanation of the research's findings. Based on the study's goal, it can be deduced that speech and language are two concepts that cannot be distinguished from one another; they are interrelated.

Malini & Tan (2016) using qualitative method for this study and the data that she used for this research was derived from Josh Jones' 1941 book Virginia Woolf's Handwritten Suicide Note: A Painful and Poignant Farewell and Leonard Woolf's autobiography the Journey Not The Arrival Matters: An Autobiography of The Years 1939 to 1969. The aims of this study are to demonstrate the veracity if Virginia Woolf's suicide notes, identify the motivation behind them, and look into the true cause of her death. The result of this study confirms the statements of other psychologists that she had bipolar disorder, which contributed to her depression and was accompanied by cognitive and functional abnormalities that made her unable to work and ultimately resulted in her suicide.

Houtman & Suryati (2018) Using qualitative and quantitative research methods, and literature reviews in this research. The aim of the study is to create an educational program for students who interested in careers in today's expanding research fields, specifically career opportunities for linguistics and professional researchers in the legal system. It is likely that forensic linguistics will be suggested as a branch of applied linguistics or as a separate science in the context of scientific studies at colleges (Ginting, 2012). This can be seen in the results analyzed below of how important it is to thoroughly research forensic linguistics. Many legal cases of defamation have been brought in recent years on the basis of their law, and the offenders can be held accountable in court.

Sarifuddin et al. (2021) Clarified the kinds of provocative speech actions on YouTube social media, namely those Natalius Pigai. YouTube is a social media site that was used as a data source for this study. The descriptive qualitative approach is the method that is used in this study, while viewing and documentation are the processes for gathering data. The results of this study show that Natalius Pigai uses literal indirect speech acts in her social media posts, whereas locutionary speech actions employ declarative locutions, expressive illocutions, and encourage hearer to think about perlocutions.

Ahmadi (2020) Used a qualitative methodology, which is related to Creswell (2017) statement that it enhances the researcher's capacity for the meaning of the text. The aim of this

study on criminal psychology is to analyze the criminal conduct presented in modern Indonesian literature. The study's data came from literary writings that depict criminal activity. Through the stages of identification, data analytic techniques were used. The results of the study showed that corruption, sexual crime, and international crime are all connected to criminal behavior in Indonesian literature.

Galantai, et al. (2019) Used the qualitative semi-structured interviews. This study focuses on child custody in Hungary, especially when a male parent's visitation is deemed harmful to the child's physical or mental health or safety. Visitation can be problematic because it gives the perpetrator a chance to keep power and influence over the female adult victim and the kid. Violence sometimes intensifies after separation. The results of this study are also showing the necessity for practitioners in Hungary to incorporate pre-separation IPV, coercive control, and custodial abduction into their professional vocabulary and standards of conduct.

Ceballos & Sosas (2018) Used qualitative study to describe violations on conversational maxims in Philippine court proceedings. The results of this study demonstrate that conversing in ways that violate the cooperative principle leads to messages being misconstrued, which leads to lengthy cross examination and additional court debate. Violation of a maxim implies negligence and sloppiness, which makes the participants in the dialogue appear worried, perplexed, and bewildered.

Based on the previous studies above, the similarity of this research with previous studies lies in the research method used which is descriptive qualitative method. Therefore, based on the previous studies above, the researcher was interested in conducting forensic linguistics research in a movie script by using Sutherland's theory of differential association to analyze the types and meanings of criminology in My Friend Dahmer.

2.2 Related Theories

People acquire the beliefs, attitudes, strategies, and motivations associated with criminal behavior through their contacts with others, stated by Sutherland (1998). The theories of criminal behavior based on differential association theory are the ones that garner the most attention. The focus of this theory will be on how criminal behavior is learned, not on why people commit crimes. Learning theory is not seen to be a continuation of the interactionist perspective, although having a close affinity to it. This is because interactionism is concerned with the establishment of boundaries in society and how people perceive them.

Criminal activity is a sort of aberrant conduct, according to Horton (in Marion & Farmer, 2003), deviance is any activity that is said to be against societal or group norms. Whereas that deviance is behavior that is viewed by a majority of people as repugnant and beyond the bounds of tolerance. Lawang (in Tupan & Natalia, 2008) makes the case that social deviations are behaviors that stray from the social norms that are prevalent and give rise to efforts on the part of the authorities to address this abnormal or deviant conduct.

Forensic linguistics can be accurately defined as the application of linguistic knowledge, methodologies, and understanding to the forensic environment of law, investigation, trial, punishment, and rehabilitation (Luchjenbroers & Aldridge, 2007). Law encompasses the authorities, the court procedures, legislation, legal disputes or proceedings, as well as legal conflicts that may only be partially about breaking the law or requiring the use of the legal system. When compared to other fields, such as fingerprint recognition and shoeprint analysis, which

have a long history and a strong presence in legal proceeding, forensic linguistics is a relative newcomer to the field (Kaplan, 1999).

3.　METHOD

In this research, the qualitative method used to analyze the research data. The qualitative method was used to analyze the words from the data. The researcher chooses to use a qualitative descriptive method to know and describe the kinds of criminology used in the dialogue in My Friend Dahmer movie script but also to know the meaning of differential association found in the movie script. The data source used the script of the movie My Friend Dahmer which consist 110 pages written by Marc Meyers. Then, the researcher analyzed kinds of criminal used Sutherland's theory of differential association and also to describe the meaning of the criminology that the character used in the movie script. In analyzed the data, the researcher used descriptive method. The researcher identified the data that described the criminal behavior in the movie My Friend Dahmer, which kinds of criminal used in Sutherland's theory to identify the differential association.

4.　RESULTS

Based on the objectives of this study, the writer divided the data into two part as follows:

4.1　The Types of Criminology that Used in the Dialogue My Friend Dahmer Movie Script Written by Marc Meyers

White-Collar Crime

According to Edwin Sutherland, "crime committed by a person of respectability and high social status in the course of a professional occupation" is what he meant when he coined the phrase "white collar crime."

In list data of white-collar crime table, the sentence My Dad's a Chemist emerged. I can get it easily. Because Jeffrey is passionate about biology and has easy access to scientific equipment, he displays an air of pride in his father's work career in this situation. Because Jeffrey thus demonstrated that he was capable of breaking the law, his actions fell into the category of white-collar crime. (My Friend Dahmer, 2017, p. 6)

In list data of white-collar crime table, the sentence Dad, is there a stronger chemical I could use? Something that works faster? It seems understandable that Jeffrey wanted to take benefit from the fact that his father was a scientist; as a result, he was easily in need of more acid. As a result, Jeffrey's actions qualify as white-collar crimes. (My Friend Dahmer, 2017, p. 8)

Violent Crime

Violence is defined as "behaviors by individuals that intentionally threaten, attempt, or inflict physical harm on others" by an influential National Research Council study, which is accepted by the majority of criminologists, but not all of them. This concept covers a wide range of actions, including murder, assault, robbery (theft committed with force or threat of force), rape, torture, and boxing.

The utterance Hey, faggot. There you are. Due to the aggressive manner in which he attacked his companion, this behavior qualifies as violent crime. (My Friend Dahmer, 2017, p. 15)

The utterance Jeff, did you hear? Oliver Zlatka committed suicide two days ago. Because there are activities that lead to someone taking their own life as a result of severe stress and

depression, it is taken seriously in this data under violent crime because he was unable to live with the abuse that he was receiving from his schoolmates. (My Friend Dahmer, 2017, p. 60)

Property crime

Crimes against property include those that are not committed deliberately against particular targets. Instead, these crimes are directed at property. Property may be damaged or destroyed as a result of property crime. However, there is a chance that people could be hurt, as in the case of arson, even though the goal is typically directed against gaining or vandalizing the target property.

The utterances You have any respect for property? Any sense of decency, young man?! Because of Jeffrey's nasty joke that went too far, he had ruined property in his store. Jeffrey had broken the property in the manager's shop, so this activity was seen as a property crime. (My Friend Dahmer, 2017, p. 43)

Consensual crime or Victimless crime

Consensual crimes are those that affect the system's broad interests, such as sexual morality, and have as their victim the state, the legal system, or society at large. Although similar in essence, victimless crimes frequently involve single-person activity. Drug consumption is often seen as a victimless crime, however drug sales involving two or more people are seen as consensual crimes.

The utterances Doctors don't know what I need. Shhh, I've been taking these since I was pregnant with you, just shhh, leave me alone. Joyce is enjoying her drugs in this situation, and Jeffrey gives her a good reason to stop taking them. Her behavior in this situation is under the category of consensual crime. (My Friend Dahmer, 2017, p. 37)

The utterances I found a new spot on the woods across the street from my house, it's deep in, where no one ever goes. Storin' my road kill. And good place to get high. For the purpose of participating in criminal activity with him, Figg is invited to Jeffrey's hidden location for using drugs. The fact that Jeffrey invites his friends to commit crimes that do not affect other people places this behavior under the victimless crime category. (My Friend Dahmer, 2017, p. 52)

4.2 The Types of Criminology that Used in the Dialogue My Friend Dahmer Movie Script Written by Marc Meyers

Differential Association

Differential association predicts that a person will choose the criminal course of action when the definitions for breaching the law outnumber those for upholding it as soon as possible. This does not disprove the idea that crimes could have useful motivations (Sutherland, 1998, p. 77-98).

The utterances I like to study bones. It-it interests me. What's inside… Given that he starts developing attitudes that suggest a fascination with dangerous things, this behavior works under the category of differential association by motivations. (My Friend Dahmer, 2017, p. 7)

The utterances Stop. Fighting. Seriously. The fact that his parents fight in front of him and his younger brother every day has Jeffrey quite sick of it, his situation falls under the category of differential association by attitude. (My Friend Dahmer, 2017, p. 22)

The utterances I just wanted to see what it looked like. In this instance, Jeffrey represents a psycho who is obsessively fascinated by the body's organs, his conduct fits into the differential association by motivation. (My Friend Dahmer, 2017, p. 49)

The utterances Your palms are less black. You think your insides are the same color as

mine? Is my stomach and your stomach the same color? Jeffrey asked his friend Charlie whether the color of Charlie's body would be similar to the color of his skin. This action falls under the category of differential association by motivation. (My Friend Dahmer, 2017, p. 64)

The utterances It's just… My parents are splitting up and I'm pretty depressed about it and I thought drinking might help— Because that is where Jeffrey's character develops gradually into a criminal, this situation falls under the category of differential association by motivation. (My Friend Dahmer, 2017, p. 80)

5.   DISCUSSION

5.1   Types of Criminals

White-Collar Crime

The author describes white-collar crime as a criminal act that uses a person's social standing in order to undermine the law. White-collar data can be found in table 1 (data 1 - 2) on pages 6 and 8.

Violent Crime

According to the author, a violent crime is one that involves murder, sexual assault, bullying, rape, kidnapping, or accidently murdering someone. Violent crime data can be found in table 2 (data 3-7) on pages 15-109.

Property Crime

Property crime, according to the author, can be described as a criminal act that either purposely or inadvertently messes with the property of someone who might accidentally die as the consequence. The data could be seen in table 3 (data 8) page 43.

Consensual Crime or Victimless Crime

According to the author, consensual crime or victimless crime is a crime that does not harm people, such as self-harm, drug use, underage drinking, or driving without a license. The data could be seen in table 4 (data 9-13) pages 37-105.

The explanation above concluded, there were 4 types of criminals based on Sutherland's theory in My Friend Dahmer movie script such as white-collar crime, violent crime, property crime, and consensual crime or victimless crime.

5.2   Cause of the Main Character to Become a Criminal

The Most often, a criminal starts by describing why they did the things that committed and what motivated them to do it. The causes of motivation for considering committing the crime itself will also be explained by this theory, along with the origins of conduct, beliefs, tactics, and motives. There is just 1 data that found in *My Friend Dahmer*. In *My Friend Dahmer* movie script out of 21 total of data in 14-34 pages that turns out to be a motivating factor in criminal behavior in *My Friend Dahmer* movie script.

Based on the description provided above, the researcher concluded that differential association in *My Friend Dahmer* movie script that cause of the main character to become a criminal. The problem in the My Friend Dahmer movie script is the lack of parental oversight and taking care of kids, which causes the child's personality to be out of control and eventually leads them in order to commit crimes.

The writer found in the script for the movie My Friend Dahmer that there are many types

of crimes that take place in our society that we ourselves are not even aware of, and these crimes could begin from ourselves. As an example, in the movie script for My Friend Dahmer, a young child that his parents had no idea that he had a passion for collecting dead animals was rejected by them, leading to the youngster's increasing incapacity for control. In order to prevent him from growing up to be a criminal, there should be something like someone watching over the child.

6.   CONCLUSIONS

The types of criminals which have been identified based on the data discussion in the My Friend Dahmer movie script acts in which had several types of criminal activities. In which became the roots of crime in the social context. In the movie script, there were four types of criminal behavior that were found in the movie script. White-collar crime with 2 data, Violent crime total 5 data, Property crime total 1 data, and Consensual crime or Victimless crime total 5 data. The differential association which cause of the main character becoming a criminal.

REFERENCES

Ahmadi, A. (2020). Study of Criminal Psychology in Indonesian Literature. In International Journal of Criminology and Sociology (9).

Bowman, B. A. (2009). Classical literature for the criminal justice classroom. Journal of Criminal Justice Education, 20(1), 95–109.

Ceballos, C., & V. Sosas, R. (2018). On Court Proceedings: A Forensic Linguistic Analysis On Maxim Violation. Journal of Nusantara Studies (JONUS), 3(2), 17.

Creswell, J. (2017). Types of qualitative research. California: Sage Publications Inc.

Dwiputra Anantatur, R., & Afnita Asfar, N. (2022). Police Speak and Narrative Storytelling in Knives Out Movie Script. IJFL (International Journal of Forensic Linguistic), 3(1), 59–68.

Fattah, E. A. (2000). Victimology: past, present and future. Criminologie, 33(1), 17–46. http://dx.doi.org/10.7202/004720ar

Galántai, J., Ligeti, A. S., & Wirth, J. (2019). Children Exposed to Violence: Child Custody and its Effects on Children in Intimate Partner Violence Related Cases in Hungary. Journal of Family Violence, 34(5), 399–409.

Ginting, W. (2012). Mana Di Mana Linguis(tik) Forensik Kita?. (1). http://lidahibu.com/2012/03/19/mana-dimana-linguistik-forensik-kita

Houtman, H., & Suryati, S. (2018). The History of Forensic Linguistics as an Assisting Tool in the Analysis of Legal Terms. Sriwijaya Law Review, 2(2), 215.

Kaplan, C. (1999). Interviewing Children: A Guide for Child Care and Forensic Practitioners. By M. Aldridge & J. Wood. Wiley, Chichester, 1998. pp. 230. £16.99 (pb). The Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry and Allied Disciplines, 40(7), 1141-1142.

Luchjenbroers, J. & Aldridge, M. (2007). Conceptual manipulation by metaphors and frames: Dealing with rape victims in legal discourse. , 27(3), 339-359. https://doi.org/10.1515/TEXT.2007.014

Malini, N. L. N. S., & Tan, V. (2016). Forensic Linguistics Analysis Of Virginia Woolf's Suicide Notes. International Journal of Education, 9(1), 50.

Marion, N. E., & Farmer, R. (2003). Crime control in the 2000 presidential election: A symbolic issue. American Journal of Criminal Justice, 27(2), 129–144.

Olsson, J. (2008). Second Edition Forensic Linguistics. Continuum International Publishing Group.

Rowe, F. (2014). What literature review is not: Diversity, boundaries and recommendations. In European Journal of Information Systems (Vol. 23, Issue 3, pp. 241–255). Palgrave Macmillan Ltd.

Sarifuddin, S., Tadjuddin, M., & Iswary, E. (2021). A Hate and Provocative Speech Act in Social Media: A Forensic Linguistics Study. ELS Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities, 4(3), 363–368.

Scott. (2019). What is Crime?. The Open University. (1). https://www.open. edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/criminology/what-crime

Sutherland, E. H. (1998). Differential association. Criminology Theory: Selected Classic Readings,, 77-98.

Tupan, A. H. & Natalia, H. (2008). The multiple violations of conversational maxims in lying done by the

characters in some episodes of Desperate Housewives. English Department, Faculty of Letters, Petra Christian University, 10(1), 63-78.

Umiyati, M. (2020). A Literature Review of Forensic Linguistics. IJFL (International Journal of Forensic Linguisti, 1(1), 23.