Types of Defamation Speech Acts on YouTube: A Forensic Linguistics Study
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Abstract
Social media is a highly advanced technology today, but it has several negative influences. One of the most common influences in Indonesia is the speech act of defamation. This research aims to explain the types of defamatory speech acts that occur on YouTube. The research method is descriptive qualitative, utilizing a pragmatic and forensic linguistic approach. The data consist of words, phrases, and sentences that contain elements of defamation, sourced from podcast content on YouTube. The collected data are identified, classified, and analyzed to reveal the types of speech acts through the words, phrases, and sentences spoken. The research results indicate that locutionary speech acts include news locutions and question locutions. Illocutionary acts were found in the form of 16 assertive utterances, 4 directives, 3 expressives, and 1 commissive. The perlocutionary speech acts identified include making the interlocutor aware in 3 utterances and making the interlocutor think in 1 utterance. Based on the analysis of these types of speech acts, it was found that speech often implies accusations or even intentional attacks on someone's reputation on social media. This could violate Article 310 concerning defamation.

Keywords: Speech Acts, Defamation, YouTube, Forensic Linguistic.

INTRODUCTION
Information and communication technology is currently developing rapidly worldwide, affecting various aspects of human life such as education, politics, economics, culture, and other social areas. Reporting and information dissemination via social media is faster and more detailed (Ahmad & Nurhidayah, 2020, p. 135). This speed and detail are possible because social media platforms like Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, TikTok, WhatsApp, and Facebook are easily accessible anywhere. These platforms can be used by children, teenagers, adults, and the elderly (Chang et al., 2023; Rahman et al., 2019; Hamuddin et al., 2022; Tenrisanna et al., 2024). However, the increasing advances in technology, if not used wisely, can lead users into negative situations.

People with social media accounts can easily upload their activities and thoughts, and this information spreads quickly to other users (Arjang et al., 2023; Rahman et al., 2019; Youngsun et al., 2024; Junaid et al., 2024). This scenario represents a speech act on social media, where the speaker performs the speech act, and the listener is the speech partner.

Speech acts are a pragmatic element that analyzes the meaning or intent behind someone's speech when communicating through various expressions such as affirming, blaming, stating, explaining, concluding, informing, and notifying. Different types of speech serve various functions, such as providing factual information, educating, appreciating, and associating (Searle, 1969). Pragmatic discussions focus not only on spoken language but also on written language (Tarigan, 2015, p. 32-33). Therefore, speech acts can occur anywhere, not just in the real world but also frequently on social media accounts, enabling quick information dissemination.

Speech acts in communication and social media use are interrelated because comments or opinions are written and then uploaded on platforms like Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook, serving as actions to provide or share information by social media users. This is evident on social media, where many videos and photos are uploaded to express creativity and personal conditions. All language used can be expressed in various forms of action.

Leech (2011, p. 15) states that pragmatics is the study of meaning conveyed by speakers (writers) and

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interpreted by listeners (readers). Therefore, understanding the meaning of the language used requires context to complement and help interpret the language more deeply. According to Saifudin (2019, p. 12), context is a conceptual framework that serves as a reference in speaking and understanding the meaning of speech. This framework includes tools or sets of roles and relationships that contribute to forming meaning.

Subyantoro (2019, p. 23) stated that forensic linguistics applies linguistic theories to various linguistic events involved in legal processes, including interactions in judicial proceedings and between individuals that result in certain legal implications, thus being useful in investigations. Forensic linguistics focuses on the language or speech used as legal evidence. The sentences analyzed in this research aim to prove the existence of legal violations or impacts such as defamation.

Therefore, it can be concluded that the presence of a linguistic expert is essential to provide insights and input based on their expertise regarding specific legal cases. Forensic science encompasses all knowledge related to crime problems and plays a crucial role in solving criminal cases (Bakhtiar, 2018, p. 12).

Defamation is a form of "character assassination" that can be categorized as a violation of human rights. It is considered a societal issue, thus criminal law addresses it within the Criminal Code (Mintowati, 2016). Defamation involves the protection of an individual's honor and good name, even if that individual has committed a serious crime. Defamation, also known as insult, attacks someone's reputation and honor, causing them harm (Budiawan & Mualafina, 2016, p. 18).

Defamation can be defined as an act of attacking someone's honor and good name by accusing them of an act. According to Gustiana (2019), protecting against insult or defamation is essential because every individual has self-esteem that they wish to maintain and protect. The Criminal Code stipulates that defamation must fulfill two elements: an accusation and the intent for public dissemination.

Therefore, this research utilizes video or podcast content from YouTube, focusing on the speech acts used by speakers. YouTube is currently the most popular social media platform, with its popularity predicted to continue increasing along with the number of users. YouTube is regarded as the most extensive and diverse video database on the web, with a vast number of registered monthly viewers (Chandra, 2017, p. 414). This study analyzes the language used in the form of sentences using a pragmatic approach (locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary) and forensic linguistics to explain the types of defamatory speech acts on YouTube.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The objective of this research is to explain sentences that have the potential to be defamatory speech acts using forensic linguistics and pragmatic analysis. This study aims to identify speech acts that are produced, disseminated, and consumed by the public, which can serve as digital traces for individuals who feel their reputation has been tarnished.

Method and Sources of Data

Based on the problem formulation, this research employs a qualitative approach. According to Iskandar (2009, p. 11), the qualitative research approach involves a process of inquiry and understanding based on methods that investigate social phenomena and human problems. This approach aims to understand human or social issues by creating a holistic and complex picture, presented through speech and detailed reporting from various sources of information. Therefore, researchers must possess theoretical knowledge and broad insight to classify and analyze research objects more clearly. In this study, a descriptive method with a qualitative approach is used, enabling researchers to accurately describe the data pertaining to the research object.

The qualitative descriptive method is a research method that explains the status of a human group, an object, a set of conditions, a system of thought, or various events occurring in the present. This method aims to provide clear and precise interpretations of facts, indicating that the descriptive method involves a thorough search for facts and their accurate representation.

Ruslan (2010) states that qualitative research methods aim to gain a general understanding of social reality.
from the participant's perspective. This understanding is not predetermined but is obtained through the analysis of the social reality being studied, culminating in a general comprehension of that reality. According to Sugiyono (2014, p. 207), qualitative research is determined by the social situation being studied, including aspects such as location, actors, and activities. Qualitative research is used to uncover hidden meanings, understand social interactions, develop theories, and ensure the truth of data.

The data source for this research consists of words, phrases, and sentences uttered by speakers, which are then transcribed and discussed in the research. The speech originates from participants in video podcasts on YouTube. Data collection involved carefully listening to the speech in the podcasts. Techniques included documentation and note-taking. The collected data, comprising words, phrases, and sentences from YouTube podcast speeches, are analyzed to identify types of speech acts containing defamation based on pragmatic theory and forensic linguistics.

**FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

Speech acts are utterances that have a certain meaning. Each speech act has its own type which can be divided into several categories. The utterances analyzed are classified based on the types of locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary speech acts.

**Speech 1**

Haris: Oke, saya mau ke Bop sekarang. Jadi di temuan yang temen-temen riset ini semuanya. Eh, itu apa namanya, perusahaan mereka siapa aja nih yang, cabang pohonnya yang dapat satu main ID gitu? (Haris: Okay, I want to go to Bop now. So in the findings from our research team, what are the companies, the branches, that get a single main ID?)

Fatia: Jadi sebenarnya di atas main ID itu juga ada banyak, tadi Bang Owi udah nyebutin ada Freeport Indonesia juga atau PTFI, tapi di besarnya itu ada namanya Tobacom dan itu merupakan anak perusahaan Toba Sejahtera Group. Jadi, si Tobacom Del Mandiri ini direkturanya adalah pemawirawan TNI namanya Paulus Prananto. Nah, kita tabu juga bahwa Toba Sejahtera group ini juga di miliki sahamnya oleh salah satu pejabat kita namanya adalah Luhut Binsar Panjaitan. (So actually above the main ID, there are many. Earlier, Bang Owi mentioned Freeport Indonesia or PTFI, but on a larger scale, there's a company called Tobacom, which is a subsidiary of Toba Sejahtera Group. Tobacom Del Mandiri's director is a retired TNI officer named Paulus Prananto. We also know that Toba Sejahtera Group is partially owned by one of our officials named Luhut Binsar Panjaitan.)

Fatia: Lord Luhut. Jadi Luhut bisa dibilang bermain di dalam pertambangan-pertambangan yang terjadi di Papua hari ini. Nah selain itu, selain apa namanya Toba Sejahtera group tadi ada juga PT Antam dan di PT Antam itu juga ada beberapa komisaris. Nah tapi yang menarik disini PTFI itu sekarang komisarnya juga ditempati oleh Kepala BSSN yaitu Pak Hinsa Siburian bekas Pangdam Cenderawasih. Jadi di tahun 2015-2017 dia teryata sudah menabung sampai akhirnya jadi komisaris hari ini. (Lord Luhut. So Luhut can be said to be involved in the mining activities happening in Papua today. Besides Toba Sejahtera Group, there is also PT Antam, which has several commissioners. But what is interesting here is that PTFI now has a commissioner who is also the Head of BSSN, namely Mr. Hinsa Siburian, a former Pangdam Cenderawasih. So from 2015-2017, he apparently saved up and eventually became a commissioner today.)

**Context:** Explains the parts of a mining company, mentions the names of mining companies and the people who have power or contribute to the companies mentioned.

The locutionary speech act in the aforementioned data takes the form of a declarative locution. This type of locution serves to convey information, aiming to capture the attention of the audience. In this context, the speaker informs the podcast audience about the involvement of officials in facilitating the acquisition of permits or concessions, thereby enabling the establishment of mining companies in Papua.

Illocutionary speech acts are employed to express the speaker's beliefs. Assertive speech acts, in particular, aim to affirm the speaker's convictions, thereby guiding the listener toward accepting the truth value of the statement. This type of speech act is exemplified by the speaker's own declarations, where the utterances reflect the speaker's genuine beliefs and convictions. Examples of such speech acts include stating, concluding, reporting, and insinuating.
Declare

The declarative speech act is exemplified in the sentence "So actually above the main ID, there are many. Earlier, Bang Owi mentioned Freeport Indonesia or PTFI, but on a larger scale, there's a company called Tobacom, which is a subsidiary of Toba Sejahtera Group." This statement aims to clarify that beyond the primary ID companies, there are numerous private mining companies involved in obtaining concessions for gold processing. It emphasizes that both government-managed and private mining entities secure permits to manage gold resources in Papua.

Summing Up

The summative speech act is illustrated in the sentence: "Well, what's interesting here is that PTFI's current commissioner is also occupied by the Head of BSSN, namely Mr. Hinsa Siburian, former Commander of the Cenderawasih Regional Military Command. So in 2015-2017 he apparently had saved until he finally became commissioner today." This passage concludes that Mr. Hinsa Siburian strategically prepared himself to assume the role of commissioner at PTFI, supported by the term "saved," which denotes financial savings. The connotation implies that Mr. Hinsa's preparation involved accumulating financial resources to secure his promotion to the commissioner's position. The speaker indirectly suggests that financial means were utilized by Mr. Hinsa to obtain his role.

Report

The reporting speech act is demonstrated in the sentence: "Well, apart from that, apart from the Toba Sejahtera group, there is also PT Antam and at PT Antam there are also several commissioners." This statement informs the audience that, in addition to PTFI and the Toba Sejahtera Group, PT Antam also exists as another mining company, with several commissioners who are retired TNI and Police officers. The speaker aims to convey that it is common for mining company commissioners to have backgrounds in the TNI and Police.

Sarcastic

The sarcastic speech act is evident in the sentence: "Lord Luhut. So Luhut could be said to be playing in the mining that is happening in Papua today." This statement insinuates that Luhut holds significant power over the mining concessions in Papua. The term "playing" is used sarcastically, suggesting that Luhut's involvement in mining activities is driven by personal interests and influence, rather than formal duties.

Luhut arbitrarily exercises his authority to grant permissions to mining companies for gold processing. This satirical statement is further emphasized by the use of the term "Lord," which in Indonesian carries a noble connotation. The term "your excellency" is traditionally a respectful address for someone in the highest position of authority, whereas in reality, Luhut is merely a minister assisting the president in managing governmental affairs.

The directive speech act in this utterance is manifested as a question in the sentence, "Uh, what's that called, whose company is it, which branch of the tree gets one main ID like that?" This form of speech seeks to elicit more detailed information about the topic under discussion, as indicated by the use of the word "who" to inquire about someone or something relevant to the context of the conversation.

The expressive speech act in the utterance is a form of praise, found in the sentence: "F: So, the director of Tobacom Del Mandiri is a retired TNI officer named Paulus Prananto. Well, we also know that the Toba Sejahtera group is also owned by one of our officials, his name is Luhut Binsar Panjaitan." "H: LBP. The lord, the lord." This statement suggests that Luhut holds significant power over the Toba Sejahtera Group, implying that decisions within the company are based on shareholder agreements. The term "Lord," which in the Indonesian online dictionary denotes "noble one," reinforces the notion that Luhut has a substantial role in granting the company permission to process gold.

The speech also includes a perlocutionary act that informs the audience about the profitability of mining in Papua for officials. The speaker asserts that numerous mining companies, not just Freeport, operate in Papua,
and many of these are private companies where top officials also hold government positions. The implication of this speech is expressed through assertive speech acts. This is evident in the use of the word "play," which influences the audience to believe that Luhut and other mentioned officials have committed serious offenses for personal gain at the expense of society. This can provoke a sense of indignation from the named officials, who may feel unjustly accused. Additionally, the terms "saving" and "gift" indirectly suggest that it is unduly easy for officials to attain high positions in mining companies, further implicating them in unethical practices.

Speech 2

Haris: Antam ini yang memiliki main ID ya? (Antam is the one with the main ID, right?)

Fatia: Iya di bawah-bawahnya. (Yes, under it.)

Haris: Oke PTFI, Main ID sama Toba Group tadi itu ya? (Haris: Okay, PTFI, main ID, and Toba Group as well?)

Fatia: Betul, terus kalau ditarik secara konteks politiknya ternyata orang-orang ini juga terlibat dalam tim pemenangannya Jokowi ditahun 2014-2015. (Correct, and when viewed in a political context, it turns out that these people were also involved in Jokowi's winning team in 2014-2015.)

Haris: Oke. Sebagian besar nama-nama itu terlibat dalam tim pemenangannya Jokowi. Gimana caranya perusahaan-perusahaan itu kita ambil alih enggak ada dalam situ ya hahaha? (Okay. Most of those names were involved in Jokowi's winning team. How do we take over those companies without being part of it, right? Hahaha.)

Fatia: Enggak dong, gimana dong, jadi penjahat juga kita. (No, we can't, how could we, we'd become criminals too.)

Haris: Oke. Apa rekomendasi dari riset ini? Owi mungkin mau mulai rekomendasi dari riset itu bagaimana? (Okay. What are the recommendations from this research? Owi, would you like to start with the recommendations from this research?)

Owi: Kalau rekomendasi yang dari sini ada beberapa poin ya, ada sekitar enam itu yang pertama misalnya pemerintah pusat belum menarik nih seluruh anggota keamanan TNI Polri yang diselesaikan secara non organik di tanah Papua. Yang kedua ya Pemerintah perlu menindak tegas aparat militer yang melakukan pelanggaran HAM lalu pemerintah harus mencabut perizinan perusahaan yang tidak mendapat persetujuan dari masyarakat lokal, sempat tadi yang dibahas (For the recommendations from here, there are a few points, about six of them. First, for example, the central government has not yet withdrawn all the TNI-Polri security members deployed non-organically in Papua. Second, the government needs to take firm action against military officers who...
commit human rights violations. Then, the government must revoke the licenses of companies that do not get approval from the local community, as was discussed earlier.)

**Context:** Discussed TNI and Polri officials who were involved in Jokowi's 2014 winning team

The form of the locutionary speech act in this utterance utilizes a declarative locution to provide information to the discussion participants and the podcast audience, urging the government to cease military operations in Papua. The utterance also includes an interrogative locution used by the speaker to inquire more deeply into the research conducted by the organization members.

Illocutionary speech acts in the assertive category express the speaker's beliefs, which guide them toward a truth value. This form of speech act is demonstrated by the speaker themselves, where the words spoken align with the speaker's beliefs and convictions. Examples of such words include stating, concluding, reporting, and insinuating.

**Declare**

The form of the stating speech act is seen in the utterance: "Correct, and when viewed in a political context, it turns out that these people were also involved in Jokowi's winning team in 2014-2015." This utterance conveys those officials' holding positions in mining companies were also involved in political affairs, such as the 2014 election as part of Jokowi's winning team. After obtaining positions in mining companies, the term "these people" refers to TNI and Police officers who are still involved in political matters.

**Concluding**

The form of the concluding speech act is exemplified in the utterance: "Okay. Most of those names were involved in Jokowi's winning team." The speaker draws a conclusion from this utterance, indicating that the retired TNI and Police officers mentioned played a significant role in Jokowi's winning team, contributing to his election as president.

**Insinuating**

The form of the insinuating speech act is illustrated in the utterance: "No, we can't, how could we, we'd become criminals too." The word "criminals" denotatively means individuals who commit wrongdoings. Connotatively, this utterance is used to sarcastically refer to officials who wield power solely for personal gain, disregarding the adverse impacts on the local community caused by the mining companies to which they grant concessions. The term "criminals," when heard by the interlocutor, inherently carries a negative connotation.

The directive speech act in the form of questions is evident in the utterances “How do we take over those companies, isn't it included there hahaha?” and “What are the recommendations from this research? Owi, would you like to start with the recommendations from that research?”. These utterances serve to emphasize and deepen the search for information regarding the context of the speech act, marked by interrogative words such as “what,” “how,” and “in what way” to express a question in order to obtain answers about something that is sought to be known.

The commissive speech act in the form of an offer is reflected in the utterance, “There’s no plan to sue for the permit, right? I’m willing to be the lawyer if needed.” In the sentence “There’s no plan to sue for the permit, right?” the speaker implies that if the local community and Walhi intend to sue the mining company’s concession, Haris is willing to be the lawyer and defend the community whose rights have been violated by the military and officials who granted the mining company’s concession.

This is reinforced by the context provided by Subyantoro (2019), who asserts that language is a crucial practical tool for creating laws within society, which can then create assumptions among listeners. For instance, in the speech where Fatia directly states that individuals involved in mining, including the Military (TNI) and Police, were part of Jokowi's winning team in 2014-2015.
The perlocutionary act can be seen in the utterance “No, of course not, how could we, we would become criminals too,” which makes the listener reflect on the intended meaning of the speaker’s words. The term “criminal” can provoke thought in the listener due to its negative connotation when heard by others. The listener might infer that the officials mentioned in the podcast discussion are benefiting significantly from the gold mining company.

The term “criminal” refers to someone who engages in unethical behavior. This word can imply accusations or even attack the honor and reputation of the mentioned officials, as the speaker assigns a negative label to them. However, if the claims made lack strong evidence, the speaker could be subject to the Criminal Code article 310 on defamation.

Context: Mentioning the names of mining companies and the officials who hold power within those companies.
The form of locutionary act in this utterance is seen from Fatia's speech, which refers to news to inform her discussion partner that many public officials also hold important positions in mining companies. The utterance above is a locutionary question because there are several utterances in the form of questions, such as the sentence "Okay, who are the people in each of these companies?" used by the speaker to ask for the names of the officials who hold power in the mining companies.

The assertive speech act is a speech act that expresses the speaker's belief that drives them towards a truth value. Examples of these words include stating, concluding, reporting, insinuating.

**Declare**

The form of stating speech act is present in the sentence “Indeed, three of them, Hinsa, Luhut, and what's his name, Prananto, Paulus Prananto, are still active, and some of them are still advisors to BIN like Muhammad Munir.” This sentence provides information that the names of the mentioned officials are people who hold power in their respective mining companies.

**Concluding**

The form of concluding speech act is seen in the sentence “Agus Surya Bakti, then there is also Police Commissioner General Bambang Sunarwibowo in Antam. So, actually, Antam is mostly filled with retired commissioners. Besides that, there’s also Muhammad Munir and retired TNI officer Doni Monardo, besides Hinsa, Luhut.” In this utterance, the speaker concludes with the phrase “So, actually,” indicating that many officials from the TNI and Police hold high and important positions in mining companies.

**Report**

The form of reporting speech act is seen in the sentence “There’s Paulus Prananto, Luhut, and Hinsa Siburian. Hinsa, Lord Luhut, and Paulus Prananto, but there are also several others from retired Police and TNI, there are many.” “One more is Hinsa, Doni Monardo, and Muhammad Munir, not the contrast Munir.” This utterance is categorized as reporting because, according to Fatia, there are still many TNI and Police officials who hold power in mining companies that have not been mentioned.

**Claiming**

The form of claiming speech act is seen in the conversation “H: Okay. In the report that your friends compiled, there are names of retired Army Generals.” “F: Correct, some are also from the Kopassus elite.” In this speech, Fatia affirms Haris's statement according to the research obtained. The speaker clearly mentions the positions of the high-ranking TNI officials who are involved in the mining companies.

**Sarcastic**

The form of insinuating speech act is seen in the sentence “And they still hold public positions today.” Following the previous utterance that mentioned the officials’ names, this speech indirectly comments on the greed of the officials who hold more than one position in the government and companies, exploiting their positions for personal gain.

The form of directive speech act is found in the sentences “So, is the main ID's stock filled or parallel?”, “Okay, who are the people in each of these companies?”, “So, Toba, how many companies are there and they are the ones in main ID?”, “Who else?”, “What's his name?”. These utterances are in the form of questions emphasized by the words "who" asking about people and "how many" asking about the quantity of something. Many questions were asked by Haris to Fatia with the intention of mentioning many officials' names so that the public would be informed. There are many government officials involved in the establishment of mining companies in Papua.

Based on the analysis, the perlocutionary act in this utterance is to make the interlocutor aware. In the above utterance, the interlocutors who watch the YouTube broadcast can learn from Fatia's statements about the names of officials who hold power in mining companies, making it easy to obtain concessions.
CONCLUSION

The analysis of the forms of speech used in the podcast content on YouTube shows the legal implications of the language used. It can be concluded that using pragmatic theory through Searle's speech act approach analysis has revealed that the speech data contained in YouTube podcast content has forms of hate speech. In this study, in addition to locutionary data, illocutionary and perlocutionary forms were also found. There were 16 assertive illocutionary acts, 4 directive illocutionary acts, 3 expressive illocutionary acts, and 1 commissive illocutionary act. The perlocutionary acts in this speech include making the interlocutor aware (3 utterances) and making the interlocutor think (1 utterance) on social media YouTube. Based on the analysis, implications of defamation were found, such as accusing or even attacking someone's reputation, which can violate Article 310 on defamation.

REFERENCES