

Engineering Language: Forensic Linguistics: A Condensed Overview

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ABSTRACT

Forensic linguistics is a budding field in the linguistic science. Trifocalizing their new and prominent field, linguistics scientist appropriately and unequivocally a great application of linguistics. Linguistics scientists help lawyers, justice people, police, and legal authorities find the justice and authentic evidences precisely. This application involves language expertise and computational software. This focuses on comparative and contrast stylistics research of an individual's use of vocabulary and forensic phonetics.

Keywords: Authorship, Crime, Forensic linguistics Law, Forensic phonetics.

Introduction

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Forensic Linguistics: Definition

Linguistic theory and application are appropriately much needed in learning language. This area of study can be divided in two:

General Theory and Application of Linguistics.

Special Theory and Application of Linguistics

General Theory of Linguistics: which defines that a language environment. This theory and application, in older sense that it is an instrumental to learn, acquire and practice with auditory stimuli and textual framework. Moreover, it is widely used to involve syntax, semantics, morphology, phonetics, grammar and lexical units. *Special theory of Linguistics:* which is not in the definition, but to make use of all linguistic knowledge far and wide, precisely, clearly and contextually. This special theory and Praxis of linguistics can be prevalent in: *Forensic linguistics, Ecolinguistics, Forensic phonetics* and the like. This kind of specialized theory and

practice involve finding out the authorship, textual analysis, and speech identification in Forensic linguistics. Forensic linguistics started from 1950s and 1960s. At present in this area of scientific linguistics has spread its impact and critical application in the legal practicing field. (Olsson, 1) The Linguistic scientific field called Forensic linguistics came into its existence in 1968. Svartvik is the pioneer of using the term Forensic linguistics in the case of Timothy John Evans. Svartvik re-studied the altered statements of police on the basis of textual analysis. This information is finely put in the essay titled 'Exploring state-of-the-Art Software for Forensic Authorship Identification' by Victoria Guillen and et al published in *International Journal of English Studies*. There is a prominent research journal for the knowledge of Forensic Linguistic Science.

International Journal of speech, languages and the law

John Olsson is a leading researcher in the field of Forensic linguistics. He has published a number of research articles in the field of Forensic linguistics. Besides, he is the director of the Forensic Linguistics Institute. He defines the new and significant adjunct field, Forensic Linguistics as:

'Forensic Linguistics is the application of Linguistics to legal issues' (Olsson, 1)

Forensic linguistics can be alternatively called by using the terms of either language and law or legal linguistics.

This scientific field involves

- a) *Context of Judicial Administration*
- b) *Context of Legal proceedings*
- c) *Context of trial and Investigation*

The General Linguistic language practitioners are tended to cull out the *meanings lexically* from the vocabularies

used. But in Forensic linguistics the scientific language practitioners are tending *not* to simply bring out the meaning of words, but to make *possible interpretations* of words contextually and psychologically.

Language Acquisition and Forensic Linguistics

At present Language Acquisition (LA) has a number of researches. To acquire language skills one must undergo various phases:

- a) *Psychological phase*
- b) *Cultural phase*
- c) *Sociological phase*

Language Acquisition and Language skills are not *inherent* entity or quality in peoples mind. But it crosses various phases, especially the three important phases said above. Therefore, a criminal utters speech he has a pattern of set structure of language skills. Not does only a criminal, but also the statements, reports, investigation statements made by police. Legal terms, justice concluding statements, legal languages, criminals' responses and witnesses' statements either written textually or speech (Phonetics) can be subject to interpretation or re-interpretation in order to bring out the proper judgment and justice in the world. The need of Forensic linguistic help is not necessary for all the cases. But in certain complicated and sensitive cases Forensic linguistics assistance can be had. In some of the Common Law Countries Forensic linguistic Scientists are called to help justice to write judgment appropriately.

Need of Forensic Linguistics

- i) Legal Language and terms are not common to lay people
- ii) Police may manipulate testimonials and the criminals statements

iii) Criminals may manipulate the actual incidents

Major areas of Focusing:

- a) Interpretation of mobile phone texts, voice identification
- b) Speech authenticity analysis (Forensic Phonetics)
- c) Suicidal notes or letter
- d) Interpretation of witness' statements
- e) Interpretations of police report
- f) Interpretation of criminals statement
- g) Interpretation of threat communication (hoax call/ransom demanding)
- h) Identification of Authorship
- i) Interpretation of discourse analysis
- j) Interpretation of stylistics (Forensic Stylistics).

The above said major areas are covered parallel with scrutinized manner. These said interpretations and major areas might definitely help the legal fields. From this standpoint, it is completely believed that Forensic Linguistics needed in the Judicial Administration.

Need of Idiolect and Dialect:

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English defines for Idiolect and dialect. *Dialect*: a form of language which is spoken only in one area with words, grammar with slightly different from some others is of the same language. (*Longman, 465*).

Therefore, from this use of dialect analysis a criminal's speech, especially from hoax call' or blackmail letters can be interpreted. It clearly shows that language is not merely inherent but cultivate from psychological cultural and sociological phases. It is better understood that in a written text or speech (Forensic Phonetics), can be analyzed and inferred

the authentic identification. The influence of the area and condition would be prevalent in one's speech defines dialect. *Idiolect*: the same lexicon defines idiolect that the way in which a particular person uses language From this idiolect point of view by means of comprehensive and thorough investigation with criminal the authenticity of authorship is identified. From the psycholinguistic perspective, it is said to have understood that a particular pattern of using or executing vocabulary or grammatical structure is programmed through the above said three phases. Therefore, dialect and idiolect analysis is mostly an instrumental in Forensic linguistics.

Stylistic Analysis: Forensic Linguistics

As above mentioned the importance of dialect / idiolect for profiling one's individuality and stylistic analysis is a part of it. 'Stylistic analysis as an approach to authorship identification in literary contexts is based on the assumption that it is possible to *identify, describe* and *measure* a writer's individual style or idiolect by careful linguistic observation and analysis of his / her unique set of Linguistic choices'

(Victoria Guillen – Nieto et al 4)

Victoria Guillen – Nieto et al clearly examines to produce the knowledge of stylistic analysis. To make a clear comprehension about the linguistic interpretation one part in the legal / idiolect is taking a seminal part in the legal cases / proceedings stylistic analysis needs much more and comprehensive local / regional / common / and acceptable knowledge in linguistics and in particular language. This sort of knowledge and skills in of linguistics in Linguistics scientists to help complete and produce justice is needed in practicing Forensic linguistics.

Analysis of First person pronoun and Third person pronoun in Forensic Linguistics

In General linguistics all grammatical items are carefully examined. Keeping this in the same line, when interrogating / investigating a case, which claims for textual analysis / linguistic interpretation, conscious use of 'pronoun' is to be examined to interpret the textual meanings contextually.

A petty Case Study and Analysis:

If a criminal uses third person singular / plural, the criminal wants to escape from the scene. And, that is why *he / she, (He, She, it)* consciously uses the third person pronoun of singular / plural. The innocent person / a person who did not involve a crime would use first person singular that is *I*. In my village there was an incident of 'fisticuffs' and a severe wordy altercation between two people occurred. That incident is described in short. There were two drunkards came to a public place, where many uses that in for the relaxation. A 16 year old boy was sitting casually. The duo scolded him filthy on a case of previous enmity. The duo went on using filthy language. The boy got angry with them and he also scolded it degenerated into fisticuffs. On hearing the incident, I went and enquired to make peace the situation and pacify them. A short conversation when I enquired both separately as follows:

(Enquiry 1 (to the duo))

Me: what happened actually?

Duo: He (boy) was sitting there. As soon as we got down from the bike, he scolded with filthy words. So we started scolding, then his mother came and scolded us. That's all.

(Enquiry 2 (to the boy))

Me: What happened actually?

Boy: I was sitting alone in the place; they got down and used filthier words. I asked, 'why' and 'what'. Again, they scolded me. And I also responded with the scolding. Then my mother came and picked up a quarrel with them.

Speech Analysis of the Conversation I

From these two conversations, it is to identify that who is the first cause and false statement of the incident, when textual or speech analysis. In the first conversation the duo used '*He*' in the beginning. Then, said '*he*' scolded, then *his* mother came..... This conversation began with third person singular '*He*', '*She*'. It is used to hide the duo's entry in the incident. Moreover, they want to blame the boy and his mother.

Speech Analysis of the Conversation II

The boy replied, using first person singular '*I*', I was sitting, I asked....., I also responded..... my mother..... From this conversation, let us make a sense of real thing happened in the incident. The boy tells the true story of the incident. Taking a cue from this analysis the Forensic linguistic Scientist can come to a concluding remark that who is the primary cause for the incident of '*fisticuff*'.

Computational Software

Victoria Guillen - Nieto et al have suggested a few software to strengthen the Forensic linguistic field exactly. But, in this research article the names of the software suggested as follows for further research or practices:

- 1) Jvocalyse V2.05
- 2) Copy Catch Gold v2
- 3) Signature Stylometric System v 1.0
- 4) Wordsmith Tools v4. 0
- 5) Simple Concordance Program v 4.09

- 6) Textanz v 2.4.1.0
 7) Ant Cone v3.2.1
 8) Yoshikoder v.0.6.3
 9) Lexicon v3
 10) T. LAB Pro 5.4 (Victoria
 Guillan et al, 6)

Concluding Remarks

To conclude this research article Forensic linguistic is an essential field of Linguistic science to assist legal proceedings, police, and to seek for a proper verdict in the language related cases, because in the society language plays a vital role. Language is a person and a person in the use of language. Moreover, there are a number of computational software which can assist and strengthen the field of Forensic linguistics.

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