Forensic Analysis in
The Will of The Suicidal Bomber

Widyashanti Kunthara Anindita
University of Surakarta
wk.anindita@gmail.com

Abstract

There are many suicide letters that can be found in various online media. The letter was allegedly written by the suicidal bomber in front of the Makassar Cathedral Church gate. The purposes of this study are to prove the authenticity of the wills of suicidal bomber, determine the emotional tone and find out the motive. The LIWC (Linguistics Inquiry and Word Count) Program will be easier to determine the authenticity of the letter and emotional tone. The motive will be analyzed by using forensic semantics. According to McMenamin in Asfar (2020), forensic semantics is a science that interprets words, phrases, sentences, texts, ambiguities in texts and laws, and interpretations of meanings in oral discourse. The research method is descriptive qualitative because the researcher describes the findings obtained from the linguistic phenomenon (suicide letter) used by the language user in a society. From the LIWC analysis, it can be concluded that the suicidal bomber's will is considered fake and has positive tone. The motive is because the suicidal thinks of his mother's debt in a bank that has usury.

Keywords: suicide letters, forensic semantic, LIWC Program.

INTRODUCTION

The increasing number of legal actions involving language is the definition of forensic linguistic. This science requires other branches of linguistics to identify legal cases both in the courtroom and outside the courtroom. The branches of linguistics are grammar, syntax, pragmatics, phonology, dialectology, sociolinguistics and semantics.

The object of this research is the will of the suicide bomber. The letter is authentic evidence that can be found the reason why the perpetrator carried out the bombing or suicide. As expressed by Mcmenamin (2002) in (Ariani, Sajedi, and Sajedi 2014), a suicide note is a physical evidence document that is subject to forensic analysis.

According to Jones & Bennel (Ilzam 2019), common linguistic features found in suicide letters are the use of nouns referring to surrounding people and objects, the use of verbs adding more feelings and thoughts. For some cases, sequence analysis needs to be done to find out whether the letter was written by the suicide victim (real) or by someone else (artificial) to cover up the real motive for the action.

Several approaches to the study of suicide letters have been carried out, such as the first study was entitled "Revealing Language Motives and Behavior in Suicide Records". It was conducted by Ilzam (2019). He categorized words based on word class to find prominent linguistic features, lexical semantic analysis to find the author's message and pragmatic

semantic analysis and relevance theory to find the underlying motive. The second study was entitled "The Case of Kurt Cobain's Suicide Note: Analysis of Forensic Linguistic Profiles" by Sudjana and Fitri (2013). The purpose of this research is to identify the authenticity of Cobain's suicide note and to find out the subject's motives for committing suicide. This study tends to create a profile of Kurt Cobain's writing based on the use of negative lexicals related to the psychology of the perpetrator. The third study is entitled "Forensic Linguistics Analysis Of Virginia Woolf's Suicide Notes' by Malini and Tan (2017). The purpose of this study was to prove the authenticity of Virginia Woolf's suicide note, reveal the true intentions and true motives with the Linguistics Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC) program and semantic forensic analysis in the perspective of forensic linguistics.

All of the above studies use language as the main point for analyzing suicide letters. The difference between this research and other research is that the research data is in the form of wills of suicide bombers in Indonesian and analyzed using the Linguistics Inquiry and Word Count (ILWC) Program. This program is a text analysis software program designed by James W. Pennebaker. LIWC counts various word categories in various texts such as emails, speeches, poems, and others. By clicking the button, you can see how much the text uses positive or negative tones, self-references, causal words, and more. This study uses 5 dimensions of language, namely my word (*aku, ku*), social words, positive tone, negative tone, cognitive processes. The purpose of this study was to prove the authenticity of the wills of suicide bombers, determine the emotional tone and find out the motives. This LIWC will be easier to determine the authenticity of the suicide letter and emotional tone. The motive for the deed will be analyzed from forensic semantics. According to McMenamin in Asfar (2020), forensic semantics is a science that interprets words, phrases, sentences, texts, ambiguities in texts and laws, and interpretations of meaning in oral discourse.

RESEARCH METHOD

The object of this research is a will on the suicide bombing of the Makasar Cathedral Church which occurred on 26 December 2021. The letter was left by the suicidal in front of the church. The letter was published in one of the national online news media. The steps taken for this research are. First, the writer translated the source language, namely Indonesian into English without changing the meaning or sentence. Then, the writer entered the English text sentence into the LIWC

Program to determine the emotional tone of the letter. The program reads the text and calculates the percentage of words that reflect different emotions. Then, the writer read many times on phrases, clauses and sentences in the letter by semantic forensic theory. Finally, the results of the LIWC analysis and semantic analysis are connected to Prokofyeva's (2013) psychological theory. The research method used is descriptive qualitative because the researcher describes the findings obtained from the linguistic phenomenon (suicide letter) used by the language user in a society (Zaim 2014).

RESULT & DISCUSSION

The percentage of total words in a text reflected by LIWC. I-words is the percentage of first person pronouns used (I, me, my). The percentage of positive tone is indicated by words that reflect positive tone. The percentage of negative tone is indicated by words that reflect negative tone. The percentage of social relationships and activities indicated by social words. The percentage of cognitive processes is indicated by words that reflect cognitive processes. The composite research-based summary variables were converted to a 100-point scale, where 0 = the lowest along the dimensions and 100 = the highest. Analytical thinking is related to Analytic or formal thinking. Authentic is a language

property that reflects when a person speaks in an unfiltered and spontaneous way. Emotional tones are rated higher when they are perceived as more positive than negative. The table below shows the will of suicide bomber by noting the percentages and comparing them to the personal writing averages.

Table 1. LIWC analysis results of suicide letters

Traditional LIWC Dimension	Your Data	Average for Personal Writing
I-words (I, me, my)	7.98	10,75
Positive Tone	5.46	3.26
Negative Tone	1.26	1.93
Social Words	7.56	5.47
Cognitive processes	7.56	14.89
Allure	8.82	9.26
Moralization	1.26	0.19
Summary Variables		
Analytic	13.93	14.05
Authenticity	99.43	87.66

The word count is 194 words in Indonesian. While, after translated the count becomes 238 words. The translation needs to be done because the program cannot read another language except English. However, the structures of the

sentence are still the same as the source language. The writer did not change active sentence to be passive or conversely. Percentage of I-words (I, me, my) is 7.98, lower than the average, which is 10.75. The text shows positive tone based on the usage of verbs, nouns, and adjectives like "gather", "love" and "good care" with a percentage of 5.46, higher than the average (3.26). Conversely, negative tone gets the lowest percentage (1.26) compared to positive tone. This negative tone is the words such as "sorry" and "usury", which is lower than the average (1.93). The percentage of social words, used in "Ummy, I'm sorry if there's something wrong in my behavior or speech," is 7.56, higher than the average, which is 5.47. Cognitive processes used in "So, I follow my path", and the use of exclusive words (e.g., but), gets the percentage of 7.56, lower than the average, which is 14.89.

The percentage of analytic word is 13.93 lower than the average (14.05). The word is such as "Stop taking bank money." The percentage of authenticity is 99.43, higher than the average (87.66).

According to Newman et al. (2003) liars tend to use fewer self-references, fewer cognitive words and more negative tone. Cognitive processes (cause know, ought) can be seen by the use of exclusive words (but, except, without,because, know, ought) and motion verbs (walk, move, go).

Exclusive words are used at higher rates among people telling the truth (Newman et al., 2003). Based on the percentages of table 1, this suicide bombing letter is considered ingenuine. This conclusion is made by three things. First, because the use of self references (I-words such as *I, me, my*) is fewer (lower, 7.98) than the average (10.75). Second, cognitive processes gets lower (7.56) than the average (14.89). Third, negative tone gets fewer percentage (1.26) than the average (1.93) and positive tone (5.46). This suicide letter have a positive emotional tone. It is also supported by the statement (Newman et al. 2003) 'Emotional tones are rated higher when they are perceived as more positive than negative".

The Framework & Semantic Forensic of Suicide Bombing Letter:
Date
The writer of the letter did not compose both the date and the day of the letter.
Greeting
 The writer opened the letter by using Moslem salutation "Assalamualaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatu" to his family whom he loves because of Allah SWT.
Content
1. First Paragraph
O Ummy, I'm sorry if there's something wrong in my behavior or speech. Don't forget, let's worship Allah and don't leave

prayer. May Allah collect Ummy in his paradise. Ummy once again I'm sorry, I really love but Allah loves His servants more.

The writer begins the will by apologizing in advance to his mother physically and spiritually. This is in accordance with the findings of Jeklin (2016) that suicide perpetrators will write their apologies using active sentences rather than passive sentences. This is done as an expression of the perpetrator's strong will. In the next sentence, he reminds his mother not to forget the prayer and hopes that one day he can gather with his mother in heaven. The perpetrator apologized again but he did not mention the reason why he apologized a second time. This indicates that the perpetrator is going far away and will never come back to see his mother. He loves his mother very much but the perpetrator believes that Allah loves His servants more who walk in the path of Allah. From the language used, the perpetrator uses direct language that is easily understood by the reader. Negative adjectives are not often used in this first paragraph except the word 'sorry'.

Body of the Letter

2. Second Paragraph

So, I follow my path as the way of the Prophet / Messenger of Allah to save us and we can gather in heaven again. One message I have for you, Ummy, stop taking bank money, because bank money is usury and is not blessed by Allah.

In the first sentence, the perpetrator does not explain what kind of way of the Prophet can save people and can gather in heaven? The sentence is so ambiguous that it makes the reader confused and does not understand the correlation. In the Qur'an and Hadith, Allah commands jihad to uphold Islamic law as did the Prophet Muhammad. In this context, the writer bombed himself in the Makasar Cathedral Church indicating that he had enforced Islamic law like what the Prophet / Messanger of Allah did so that he and his family could gather in heaven. In addition, the writer ordered his mother not to take bank money because in Islam, an usury is unlawful and not blessed by Allah SWT. In this second paragraph, the writer uses direct language even though in the first sentence there is an ambiguous sentence. In translating the ambiguous sentence, the witer must also relate the writer's cultural background which is very strongly adheres to Islamic law.

Purposes of the Letter

3. Third Paragraph

Here is my 2,350,000 deposit to pay the credit at the bank. That's my house contract money, I still have 5 months in the laundry employee, Mus. 500.000/month rented will

be taken by Meri every month. Save it Ummy to pay credit.

As an alternative way of not being allowed to take bank money,the perpetrator wrote the amount of money he saved to his mother so that she could pay off the bank credit (debt). Actually, the money saved is to pay for the perpetrator's rented house. This indicates to the reader that his mother should just take the perpetrator's deposit of Rp. 2,350,000 because the perpetrator still has the money saved for the house he rented for 5 months at Mus' Laundry. If her mother does not take it, then Meri usually takes the money every month. The perpetrator does not explain who Meri is in this sentence. The perpetrator uses directive sentences to his mother to take and save the perpetrator's money so that his mother can pay off the bank debt. Looking at the context of this sentence, the motive for the perpetrator's suicide was because he was burdened by something (Prokopyefa, 2013). The perpetrator thought of his mother's debt in the bank. He wants to save his mother to be free from usury by using his saving money so that her mother can pay off her debt in the bank.

4. Fourth Paragraph

Pitto, I'm sorry if there's anything wrong with me, brother, whether it's my words or what I did before. One message I have for you brother, take good care of Ummy. You are Mommy who can take care of Ummy and don't be lazy to pray and don't hang out a lot, just focus on helping Ummy.

In this paragraph, the perpetrator apologized to his younger sister named Pitto. He gave a message to his sister to take good care of her mother, don't forget to pray, don't play too much, and just focus on helping her mother. It is clear in this paragraph that the perpetrator says goodbye to his sister that the perpetrator will go away forever. Negative adjectives are not also often used in this fourth paragraph except the word 'sorry'.

Closing

Istiqomah all on this path, well, ummy, Pitto and my family whom I love because of Allah, may Allah collect us in heaven and all of his brothers and my father's family.

The perpetrator ended his letter by giving a message to his mother and sister, Pitto, to always be istiqomah. Istiqomah means always being in obedience and on the straight path in worshiping Allah SWT by staying away from usury, not forgetting to pray, and so on. Because the virtue of istiqomah is a guarantee of heaven for those who carry out worship activities. Therefore, the perpetrator really hopes that the entire family of the perpetrator can gather in the paradise of Allah SWT.

Conclusion

From the LIWC analysis, it can be concluded that the suicide bombing wills are fake because based on table 1 there is less percentage of self-reference (7.98), less percentage of cognitive word count (7.56) than the average percentage of personal writing, namely (14.89) and lesser percentage of negative tone (1.26) than the average percentage of personal writing (1.93). The emotions expressed in the notes towards his family were positive, whether they were directed at his mother or his sister. The perpetrator apologized a lot and offered his money to his mother. Table 1 also shows that the percentage of positive tone (5.46) is higher than that of negative tone (1.26).

The writer agrees with Basmin's statement in (Ilzam 2019) that cultural values are an additional analytical tool that is needed because human behavior is also strongly influenced by the culture in which the suicide bomber lives. In this case, the suicide bomber is very strong in embracing Islamic law.

From the semantic analysis of forensics, the perpetrator carried out a suicide bombing because his mind was burdened by something. The perpetrator thought of his mother's debt in the bank. He wants to save his mother to be free from usury by using his saving money so that her mother can pay off her debt in the bank.

References

Ariani, Mohsen Ghasemi, Fatemeh Sajedi, and Mahin Sajedi. 2014. "Forensic Linguistics: A Brief Overview of the Key Elements." *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences* 158: 222–25. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2014.12.078.

Asfar, Dedy Ari. 2020. "Linguistik Forensik Teks Hoaks Isu Covid-19 Yang Ditangani Polres Bengkayang , Kalimantan Barat Forensic Linguistics of Hoax Text About Covid-19 Issues That Handled By Police Station of Bengkayang , West Kalimantan." *Prosiding Seminar Nasional Linguistik dan Sastra (SEMANTIKS)*: 218–27.

Ilzam, Mahfudurido. 2019. "Revealing Motives and Language Behavior in a Suicide Note." *IDEAS: Journal on English Language Teaching and Learning, Linguistics and Literature* 7(1).

Jeklin, Andrew. 2016. "済無No Title No Title No Title." (July): 1–23.

Malini, Ni Luh Nyoman Seri, and Venessa Tan. 2017. "International Journal of Education." *International Journal of Education* 9(1): 53–58. http://ejournal.upi.edu/index.php/ije/article/view/3718/pdf.

Newman, Matthew L., James W. Pennebaker, Diane S. Berry, and Jane M. Richards. 2003. "Lying Words: Predicting Deception from Linguistic Styles." *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* 29(5): 665–75.

Prokofyeva, Tatiana. 2013. "Language Use in Two Types of Suicide Texts."

Sudjana, Eva T S, and Nurul Fitri. 2013. "Kurt Cobain's Suicide Note Case: Forensic Linguistic Profiling Analysis." International Journal of Criminology and Sociological Theory 6(4): 217–27.

Zaim, Muhammad. 2014. "Metode Penelitian Bahasa: Pendekatan Struktural."

https://ntb.inews.id/berita/tulis-punya-utang-di-bank-hingga-larang-riba-ini-surat-wasiat-pelaku-bom-bunuh-diri.