

Police Speak and Narrative Storytelling in *Knives Out* Movie Script (A Forensic Linguistic Perspective)

Ratminto Dwiputra Anantatur¹

¹English Literature Study Program, Language and Literature Department
Faculty of Humanities University of Halu Oleo
Corresponding Email: ratmintodwiputraanantatur@gmail.com

Abstract

This research aimed to describe Police speak and Narrative Storytelling in *Knives Out* Movie Script (A Forensic Linguistic Perspective). The method used by the researcher is descriptive qualitative, the data source of the researcher is taken from the movie script. This result was to focus on how the police speak and narrative storytelling depicted in the movie “*Knives Out 2019*” by Rian Johnson was focused in terms of its forensic linguistics. This research described the context of the data using Narrative and Storytelling and also how police detectives interview witnesses using Police speak, including control over topic and interactional focus, establish motive, establish knowledge, rapport building, and control of topic navigation by interpreting and describing data using police speak and narrative storytelling theory to reveal the language of the police investigation. From the findings that Harlan Thrombey found died cause he was suicide, Harlan took the knife to kill himself however Harlan knew about which one will be killed him by criminal, someone changed his morphine into overdoses and that was Ransom, his nephew.

Keywords: *investigative language, narrative, police speak, storytelling*

INTRODUCTION

A language is a structured system of communication. Language, in a broader sense, is the method of communication that involves the use of particularly human language. A language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for human communication (Wardhaugh, in Ramelan, 1984). Based on the definitions of a language above, the keyword by the language means communication. Communication is how the people get interaction to other people or it is about how the people get the information and the goal from conversation individual to individual or cluster to cluster, which is the people want to know what the main point of the language that be utterance by each people to make it true in the one of the conversation. In this study, the researcher tries to analyze language and this is about how the investigators investigate a case for interviewing witnesses and the witnesses will be revealed or respond to the question of the investigator, in the context of forensic linguistics in a movie script. This research will also

analyze police speak and the response of the witnesses in the context of the understanding that crime is an action or omission that constitutes an offense that may be prosecuted by the states and it is punishable by the law.

Criminal law is the body of law, which means how the law applies it to every criminal case, where with the language of law and criminal law, criminal cases can easily be resolved because the task of the law is to reveal the truth and claim the truth and crimes committed against criminals or suspects. Police speak is a form of investigation from the police, where police speak is the way the police investigator team conducts investigations into existing criminal cases. Police speak itself is in the form of investigator interviews with witnesses who see or present at the time the criminal case took place, and with investigators conducting interviews with witnesses then the police also took 5 steps in police speak in conducting interviews.

Narrative and storytelling are an approach that emphasizes the form of expression of the witnesses, so after the police ask the witnesses or during the interview, the witnesses will also provide their comments or responses to questions from the investigators. Where narrative is a form of statement or witness response that is in accordance with the facts or events that occurred, and storytelling is a form of lying from the witness and wanting to cover up the problem or divert the conversation.

Movie script is the process of writing the stories in the screenplay medium while writing down the movement, actions, expression and dialogue of the characters in the screenplay, in the screenplay format. Screenplay format is used to express the story visually. The formatting tells the reader where the characters are, or even where you're taking an audience of a major component of learning to write for a visual medium. The researcher will give the explanation of forensic linguistics where linguistic forensic is a branch of linguistics which talks about the criminal sense, with the language of the crime and trial of the law.

Forensic linguistics is a branch of linguistics that studies language concerned with the language, crime and law in the object. Olsson (2008 : 10), state that forensic linguistics has a fairly broad object, all texts or objects that have language is potentially to be forensic

linguistics, if the text relates to criminal acts in there, then that is forensic linguistics. Forensic linguistics, legal linguistics, or language and the law, is the application of linguistic knowledge, methods and insights to the forensic context of law, language, crime investigation, trial, and judicial procedure. Knives Out movie is being interesting to be analyzed using Police speak and Narrative Storytelling and also this theory is very much related to the cases that happened in the movie so an investigation is carried out in the form of an interview. This is because the story in the movie Knives Out tells of a criminal case that happened to the Thrombey family where Harlan Thrombey is found dead after his 85th birthday ceremony. The Researcher uses the theory of Police speak and Narrative Storytelling to dissect or analyze in the Knives Out movie.

In accordance with the explanation of Police speak and Narrative Storytelling such as an epistemic modality that connotes the speaker's assessment of the evidence for his or her statement where, evidential is a meaning of nature and statement of that is whether evidence exists for the statement and what kind of evidence exists. This theory is closely related to the Knives Out movie because the writer analyzes it by dissecting all the characters where in the Knives Out movie the police and the detective interview all the characters who reveal false arguments and also which characters express honest and true argumentation. So, the theory and object are very continuous because the theory used about exposing false facts and statements, while the object is the Knives Out movie which tells a detective and police trying to uncover and expose false facts and statements from all the characters in the movie. Based on the reason why the title of the research on Knives Out movie using investigative language from Forensic Linguistics Perspective because the research in using investigative language in the forensic linguistic perspective has not been studied and then there is a research on language investigation but not in a criminal context or low context but the language of investigation carried out in the context of children's learning in schools, so the research in the context of criminal investigation language has never been investigated whereas in other contexts or outside of the criminal has already been studied.

RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, the researcher used qualitative-descriptive method, which qualitative-descriptive research is a research method that described and depicted research objects based on facts that seems as if they are utilizing qualitative data and then described it descriptively. This method can help the researcher explain the research question: how is the investigating language described in “Knives Out Movie Script” viewed in terms of forensic linguistics qualitatively. This method is used to find out the answer to the research question which is to describe the investigative language in the movie of ‘Knives Out’ because qualitative research tends to use deep analysis, it is also useful to provide a general description of the background of the study and as a material for discussing the results of the study.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Data 1

Data 1	Characteristics of Policespeak and Narrative Storytelling	Utterances Used
<i>Okay, you and your husband Richard work for a real Estate Firmin Boston?</i>	<p>Evidentiality in Policespeak:</p> <p>Control Over Topic and Interactional Focus</p> <p>In data 1, it focused on Control Over Topic and Interactional Focus in 5 steps of Policespeak where the police wanted to get the information.</p>	<p><i>Just like your dad. You two were very close?</i></p> <p>Blanc asked Linda about his closeness to Harlan, because it was known that Linda was the first child of Harlan Thrombey and he had grown independently and it was very mature in terms of thought, so Blanc wanted to know about his closeness to Harlan, how close father and son were.</p>
	<p>Narrative and storytelling:</p> <p>Storytelling</p> <p>In data 1, it focused on Storytelling where in data 1, the witness gave the utterance was not clear, it meant that the witness would give the disclosure statement.</p>	<p><i>We had our own secret way of communicating. You had to find a game to play with him and if you did that, and <u>played by his rules.</u></i></p> <p>Linda told Blanc that her relationship with Harlan was complicated, she had a relationship with a secret way which meant that not everyone could guess whether the relationship was good or not, so when someone could play a game to him and if that person could do it then that person will be played with him and the rules will be made by Harlan. So Linda made a difficult argument and made the problem even more complicated.</p>

Table 1. Characteristics of Policespeak and Narrative Storytelling

Data 2

Data 2	Characteristics of Investigative Language	Utterances Used
<p><i>I'm just trying to get an accurate impression, Harlan took you to the party, when you returned you were chastened, what did Harlan say to you?</i></p>	<p>Evidentiality in Policespeak</p> <p>Control Over Topic and Interactional Focus</p> <p>In data 2, it focused on Control Over Topic and Interactional Focus in 5 steps of Policespeak, where the investigator wanted to get more information from witnesses.</p>	<p><i>What did Harlan say to you?</i></p> <p>Blanc interrogated Walter with the question of what Harlan actually said to him, with the intention of investigating what exactly was going on behind everything between them calling each other and which one told everything according to reality and whichever was just making up stories.</p>
	<p>Narrative and storytelling: Storytelling</p> <p>In data 2, it focused on Storytelling. The witness gave the disclosure statement where the witness talked about another one.</p>	<p><i>What, Richard said what? Jesus. No, <u>we didn't get "into it"</u></i></p> <p>Richard made questions that seemed to confirm him, as if he knew nothing and as if Richard had only said negative things about himself. But it turned out that Walter was just making up a story to justify himself, as if he was just being trapped with bad things.</p>

The Language of the Law

The relation between police speak and narrative and storytelling in legal language was where all the conversations were generated when detectives Blanc and Elliot conducted the interviews with each of the witnesses presented on that night of Harlan's 85th birthday celebration. Police speak was closely related to legal language because the police language that Blanc used in investigating the case also involved the legal language because every time they interviewed the witnesses, Blanc and Elliot immediately investigated and identified the problem through the utterance they said during the interview involving legal language in identifying the case.

Collecting Evidence

Police speak and narrative and storytelling had a relation in collective evidence where in collecting evidence Blanc conducted from interrogations, and asked several questions that

would be answered by witnesses, then Blanc would record and take a note of important things in each of the utterances they expressed. Blanc was more focused and full of perception in every interview because Blanc must thoroughly investigate every phrase uttered by each witness. So, that police speak and narrative and storytelling very closely related to collective evidence, through police speak, Blanc could conduct interviews by asking questions while collecting the truth and through the narrative and storytelling, Blanc could more easily see lying witnesses and honest witnesses so that it was even easier to collect evidence of the case.

Deception and Fraud from Linguistic Perspective

Based on the findings of the research, the relation between police speak and narrative and storytelling with deception and fraud from linguistic perspective, such as conversations and interactions between Blanc and witnesses, in interviews Blanc would interrogate witnesses with several questions and in interviews of them, Blanc would involve police speak in it was in order to further investigate the case determined and made a conclusion by showing the truth. So police speak and narrative and storytelling were closely related to deception and fraud from this linguistic perspective because how investigators investigated the case by looking at the conversation between witnesses and investigators by seeing the honesty of the problem and also witnesses who lie about the arguments they provided about that problem.

CONCLUSIONS

This research focuses analyzed the utterances of the conversation and interrogation among the detective and the witnesses who didn't see how Harlan Thrombey killed himself with the knife, the theory is about part of forensic linguistics that is Evidentially (Olsson, 2004) especially Evidentially in Police speak (Fox, 1993) and then the application of Narrative and Storytelling theory (Agenda, 1992) in the testimony data of the witnesses from the interrogation by detective of policeman. Based on the findings, in testimony data given by witnesses, there was not necessarily a direct evidence or indirect evidence that appeared in their testimony for police detectives conducting investigations in police speak and narrative and storytelling. Not only as well as the police speak and narrative and storytelling could also come from interrogations that did not ask for testimony, but also asked about certain things that

literally related to what was the topic of the testimony talking about, or simply, questions that related to the case but not to the point.

Narrative and storytelling in the testimony could be seen from how they reacted to the investigators questions, how each of their answers was carried out at the time of the interview, and also how they expressed the testimony whether it was in accordance with the events that had happened or on the contrary they denied or disclosure the incident hid it. Evidentially in police speak that the researcher used actually really appeared in several testimonies from direct witnesses and indirect witnesses and the researcher found the real facts in interviews and interactions with each other evidentially in police speak.

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