

# **Forensic Linguistics Study on Cases of Insulting President Joko Widodo in social media**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This research aims to analyze the form of insulting President Joko Widodo cases on Facebook and describe how to convey this form in the study of Forensic Linguistics. The research data was in the form of a collection of news related to the cases from various uploads on Facebook as a media, which has legal implications as a form of insulting the symbol of the state. Methodologically, this research was qualitative, describing language as a forensic media. The results showed two things. First, the insulting form to President Joko Widodo concerned several aspects, namely aspects of religion, personal, family, position/profession, and work, accompanied by harsh words, degradation, and disrespect for a head of state. Second, the method of conveying insults to President Joko Widodo was carried out using language and non-linguistics, namely words contained in a sentence, memes, Figures, and animal symbols. Thus, in the study of Forensic Linguistics, the case of insulting President Joko was carried out in the form of non-linguistic evidence.

**Keywords**—forensic linguistics, insulting cases, President Joko Widodo, social media.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Forensic linguistics is the study of linguistics that aims to solve legal problems, and the existence of linguistics shows the

relationship between the two. When viewed from the perspective of forensic linguistics, there is lingual evidence such as hate speech, insults, fake news, and fraud. It is concluded as an act of language crime both in written and

oral form. When viewed from the lingual evidence, it is usually done and used on someone's social media with specific goals and purposes as technology advances rapidly (Latupeirissa et al., 2019). It facilitates the dissemination of information and various news opinions (Supadmi et al., 2020). It can trigger and increase the number of cases of language crimes on social media, such as insults, hate speech, fake news, and defamation. Social media often contains uploads of discourse that can have legal implications. It can be seen in writing on social media such as Instagram, Facebook, Twitter account, and many other social media, which is so rampant (Bratayadnya et al., 2021). With the development of information technology nowadays, social media is increasingly out of control, even becoming a form of excessive dependence. It can make a social media user express freely, thus potentially causing a crime. The crime in question, one of which is a language crime that can have legal implications, is committed on social media accounts.

Freedom to surf on social media allows someone to comment freely, insult, criticize when status updates, or upload things they are interested in. Sometimes these posts are offensive, insulting, sarcastic, or provide false information. According to Badara (2014: p.38), this is a form of marginalization because of the lousy portrayal of other parties/groups. In forensic linguistic theory, such things are part of one of the characteristics of defamation because it leads to a form of insult. Defamation cases, especially violations based on the ITE law, from day by day ensnare several social media users with various forms of violations. These include insults, defamation, threats, immorality, and hoaxes (Akbar et al., 2020). Lindayani et al. (2021) stated that the written language controversy on social media often becomes polemic, creates debates that tend to be disintegrative, and can even lead to users being entangled in legal cases.

In several uploads about Joko Widodo as President of the Republic of Indonesia, that was spread in the media, some were accused as a form of insulting the symbol of the state. Interested parties then report the uploading accounts as evidence of insults. There are various forms. Some are in the form of Figures

or memes and other lingual forms that contain elements of the violation.

The researchers used forensic linguistic theory with a semantic approach to analyze a form of the insulting case against President Joko Widodo. It includes potential denotative and connotative meanings and referential and operational meanings. Furthermore, this study used the pragmatic approach to illocutionary and perlocutionary speech acts to connect the text and its context.

Previous researchers have carried out forensic linguistic studies using different objects, theories, and research methods. Hartini, Aceng, and Sudana (2020) studied forensic linguistics in unpleasant acts on social media using pragmatic studies. This study shows that a lack of politeness in language can trigger social problems. They started with insults and unpleasant actions on social media and politeness in the language used by speakers on social media. Then, it results in actions and violations of the law in unpleasant actions on social media. The research applies the pragmatic theory of Brown and Levinson's politeness. Next, it is found that social media is a means of getting along with various communities so that there is no visible limitation of language politeness and language culture.

Furthermore, Suryani, Istianingrum, R., & Hanik, S. U. (2021) described hate speech against artist Aurel Hermansyah on Instagram social media. The study focuses on the forms of illocutionary- perlocutionary speech acts, taboo sentences, and hate speech on Instagram. The hate speech found in this study was a form of insult, defamation, and comments referring to the privacy of the account owner.

Sugiarto and Qurratulaini (2020) examined the potential for cybercrime in memes. The meme that was meant was a language expression that contains cybercrime with the theme of political issues. Rahman (2019), with the research title "The Use of Taboo Words in Social Media: Forensic Linguistic Studies," discussed many things from freedom in interacting on social media. The thing in question is that netizens often use words that have the potential to violate the law when expressing themselves on social media, one of which is by using taboo words. Rahman looked for the types of taboo words that netizens used on social media. The forms

found were grouped into words and phrases, later identified as part of taboo expressions based on circumstances, dirt, animals, religion, nature, actions, supernatural beings, government policies, and sexual activity. The expression serves to swear, show annoyance or anger, insinuate, demean, and poke fun at.

Agustin (2020) uses similar objects to previous studies. This can be seen in the research theme, namely "Tweets Containing Hate Speech on Twitter Social Media: Forensic Linguistic Studies." This study examines netizen uploads containing elements of hate speech in forensic linguistic studies. The model used is Hurtfulness and Harmfulness pragmatics by Carney to analyze tweets that contain hate speech. Pragma semantic studies in forensic linguistics are often used to identify the context of its production in the form of uploads and classified types of utterances.

All previous studies that have been found appear to be in line with this study which uses social media as a material object. Social media is an expressive area that uses language, symbols, and symbols as a means of expression. Thus, the role of forensic linguistics is to become a bridge to see the legal implications if the focus of the problem is language issues, both spoken and written or linguistic symbols. In this case, the characteristics of forensic linguistic research are essential to pay attention to the assertiveness of meaning, classification of syntactic structure, explanation of argument structure, etc. Dictionary analysis, summary, speech act consequences (in terms of illocutionary power) reference analysis is just different types of synonymous transformations (Baranov: 2017).

Cases of insults hate speech, and defamation is not new to be studied linguistically. However, its development must still be sharpened, considering the potential of language as a medium of freedom that is important to control. One of the roles of research is to provide scientific views and empirical references to be accounted for when required by relevant situations. The book *An Introduction to forensic linguistics Language in evidence* by Malcolm C. and Alison J. (2007: p.14-15) stated as follows.

"...that we draw on various interpretative tools, methods, and

theories when analyzing a text. In approaching a text in a forensic context, the analyst needs to consider how it is similar, what distinguishes it from other texts in other contexts, and which theories and methods are most appropriate for analyzing it. Often it is an eclectic selection of tools and a developmental approach to the methodology necessary. Nevertheless, well-researched, grounded linguistic theories are generally considered beneficial. Since the texts we shall be examining here are spoken, although we are dealing with written transcripts of recordings of the spoken interaction, the text will refer to both the written and the spoken. We will consider some of the critical features of approaching a forensic text."

## II. METHODS

The method in this library research was a qualitative content analysis method. It proposed the object of analysis, namely cases of insults to the 7<sup>th</sup> President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, on social media and Facebook. Thus, the supporting data were news of case claims and forms of text accompanied by Figures/memes or sentences printed on social media accounts from uploads that have legal implications. To maximize research results and to maintain data validity, the data were only taken in the 2019-2021 range.

In this case, some data, such as memes, were interpreted as a form of the image containing President Joko Widodo with an antagonistic character, images of animals such as dogs, pigs, and monkeys accompanied by text descriptions. The form of the text generally used words that contained elements of violence, hatred, and cursing that characterized the defamation, which was a form of insulting.

Sources of data in this study were news from the media, both printed or online, and accounts on Facebook social media, which were claimed to have legal implications for the case of insulting the state symbol in question. The data analysis technique was carried out using a content analysis approach (content

study). This approach was used to explore the content of the text or the content of the text related to memes or images.

As a sub-discipline of macro linguistics, the study of forensic linguistics still prioritizes the application of semantic and pragmatic theories. Three stages of analysis were carried out to prove the scientific productivity of the object of this research, namely: (1) after the data obtained were classified. The data were analyzed by looking at the characteristics of the text or images containing the text. Furthermore, relevant theories were applied to explore the characteristics of the language form, (2) present the data back with a description of data to answer the proposed research problem, and (3) conclude.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

To understand a form of insult, when viewed from a pragmatic point of view, based on Aziz's (2021) opinion, the indication of insult at the pragmatic level must first be noticed to the fulfilment of the conditions of happiness (felicity conditions). The Presence of a form of insult or not in a speech must meet three conditions of happiness, namely (1) preparatory conditions, namely the requirements of readiness, the accuracy of speech background, and absolute authority possessed by a speaker to do or not do something, (2) sincerity conditions, namely the condition of sincerity so that a speech can happen or not happen, which demands the honesty of the speaker is saying his speech, and (3) illocutionary intentions, which is the true meaning of a speech made. This condition provides clarity about the nature of the purpose of a speech. Of course, it is bound by the context following the trust of pragmatic studies. However, the underlying definition of attitude expression gives rise to severe problems because it requires intentions of a peculiar kind (Siebel: 2003).

In-text/nonverbal discourse such as social media, context is a bridge of reference for an interpretation. Therefore, context or situation often binds someone's interpretation when a text is uploaded or displayed. Multiple interpretations can happen. It is due to the absence of restrictions on the meaning of one's ideas or thoughts.

In the positive and negative semantic approach, the sensed value of a word often occurs due to using the word's referent as a symbol. If it is used as a symbol of something positive, it will have a positive value, and if used as a symbol of something negative, it will have an adverse taste. Denotative meaning involves objective factual information (Chaer, 2009: p.69). While the connotative meaning is the meaning of a word can be different from one community group to another, based on the view of life and the norms of assessment of the community group.

Ogden and Richards emphasized the relationship of three essential elements in semantics: the thought of reference (mind, as an element that presents a specific meaning, which has a significant relationship with the referent or reference). In another opinion, Lehrer argued that semantics is a vast field because it includes elements and functions of language closely related to psychology, philosophy, anthropology, sociology, and so on (Djajasudarma, 2016: p.2).

Forensic linguistics can be defined as applying linguistics in the legal field (Sawirman, Hadi, N. and Yusdi, 2015)). Next, forensic linguistics responds to legal questions involving language, which can be analyzed through the repetition of rhetorical discourse sets and deviations in grammatical features as measured against baseline levels calculated from large reference data sets (Leonard, 2006). Concerning what has been stated, the forensic linguistics study in this research saw the existence of a form of defamation language crime, namely insulting, as a form of criminal violation of the ITE law on social media. Thus, to explore and demonstrate the use of language that means crime, it is necessary to study the semantic and pragmatic meanings, which are carried out to find language facts (as a forensic element).

Besides that, Sholihatin (2019: p.5) stated that forensic linguistics is a scientific study of language in legal evidence that aims to solve legal problems to assist in upholding justice. It showed that the existence of linguistics was meaningful in solving legal problems regarding language crimes such as hate speech, insults, and defamation.

In the case of insulting President Joko Widodo on social media, a form of insult was found regarding religion, personal, family, position, and work. As for how to convey the

form of insults to President Joko Widodo on Facebook social media, it was done using language with photos and symbols.

#### A. Forms of Insulting Related to Religion

Figure (1) below is a picture resembling Joko Widodo hanging on a cross



Figure1.Forms of Insulting Related to Religion

Source:<https://makassar.terkini.id/viral-foto-jokowi-di-tiang-salib-netizen-penghinaan-agama-nasrani/>

The Figure above was a form of insult that had characteristics of degrading a person's dignity related to religion. It could be seen in the meme Figure that showed the cross as a symbol of Christianity with an edited Figure of President Joko Widodo on the cross.

The problem was that the upload was considered to have violated the ITE law and had legal implications. The sentence accompanied the use of the image, "Are you worshipping your God or bong." The denotative meaning of the word "bong" was defined as Jokowi's supporters. The sentence referred to a reference to supporters who were pro against the government of President Joko Widodo.

The referential meaning of the sentence "are you worshipping your god or bong" was a condition that looked down on the supporters of President Joko Widodo and indicated an insult to religion, especially Christians. In addition, operationally, it means degrading the dignity of a head of state in a religious context.

Next, consider the following Figure (2), which was a meme accompanied by an explanation of the Figure. The upload from

Nabila Putri's account sparked controversy because it was interpreted as an attitude of contempt for Jokowi with the characteristics of regrading the dignity of a head of state with sarcastic sentences.

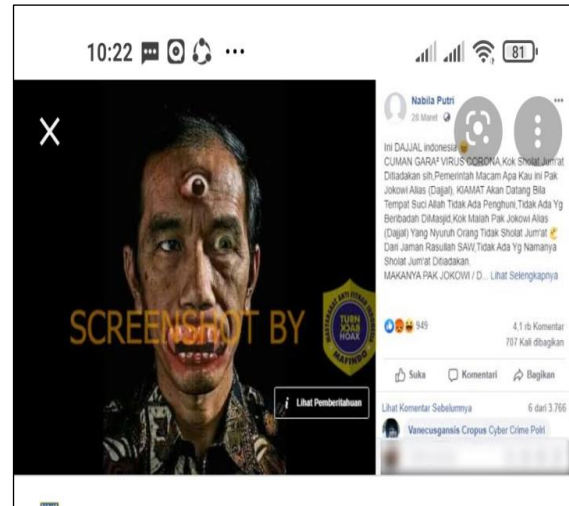


Figure 2. Meme of Jokowi

Source: <https://home.banjarkab.go.id/salah-pak-jokowi-yang-nyuruh-orang-tidak-sholat-jumat/>

If it was looked at the explanatory sentence in the Figure (2), the denotative meaning was "this is Dajjal Indonesia ."The meaning of the "Dajjal" is the devil who would appear before the coming doomsday, people who had terrible behavior, cheaters, and liars. The word "Dajjal" in the sentence above had the role of the whole in the upload, and the word "Dajjal" was interpreted as a figure whose reference was the Figure of Jokowi. Connotatively, of course, it had a negative meaning because it called Jokowi a "Dajjal ."It was an attitude of disapproval of the direction given by the government regarding the prohibition of performing Friday prayers in mosques and insulting the dignity of a President who was still in office.

Therefore, based on the perlocutionary act of the speech act, the two Figures above had the intention of being an act that was done intentionally. This was already stated in the defamation characteristic of the element of insults. The characteristic of having committed an insult is done intentionally and was shown to everyone by mentioning names. It is intended for the way or delivery of insults using language and non-linguistics in the form of Figures with intentions.

## B. Forms of Insulting Related to Personal/Himself

Degrading someone's dignity accompanied by personal attacks, hate speech was also an indication of a form of insult. To explain whether the meaning had fulfilled the insulting element was by analyzing the denotative and connotative meanings. The initial analysis step was to identify the true meaning (denotation), then add connotative value to complete the argument. Be noticed to the analysis of Figure (3) below.



Figure 3. Meme of Joko Widodo

Source: <https://www.matakepri.com/detail-news/2017/08/23/3451/Ini-Tersangka-yang-Menghina-Presiden-Jokowi-Ketangkap-Juga-Kan-->

Figure (3) was a photo of President Joko Widodo placed on the floor and then stepped on. Denotatively the word stampede meant "to put on something," in this case above the Figure of the President of the Republic of Indonesia. Furthermore, the connotative meaning of "stepped on" was explored. The connotation was related to the value of the taste/essence of the perpetrator's intention when uploading Figures using the word. The word "step on" in the concurrent sentence also had a negative connotation based on Figure references. Here, the referential meaning lies in showing a violent attitude toward Joko Widodo as President through Figures. Meanwhile, the operational meaning was an act of psychological violence by degrading the dignity of others via Figures. In this study of

speech acts, this form was a characteristic of perlocutionary acts.

## C. Forms of Insulting Related to the Family

Insults accompanied by hate speech toward President Joko Widodo related to his family can be seen in Figure (4). From the sentence in the Figure, it was known that there was a prayer that all families of President Joko Widodo died and went to hell.



Figure 4. Posting Sentences Allegedly Offending Joko Widodo's Family

Source: <https://akuratnews.com/polisi-harus-bertindak-tegas-akun-facebook-ini-hina-presiden-jokowi/>

In Figure (4), it was categorized as having insulting characteristics. Therefore, the upload was considered to violate the Indonesian ITE law and the Criminal Code Chapter XVI Article 27 paragraph 3. Notice the denotative meaning of the word "female," synonymous with the female gender often used for animals or objects. So, the connotative meaning, of course, had a negative essence. It happened because of the additional taste value of the denotative meaning. The word "female" was synonymous with gender, used for animals. The word had a negative connotation because "female" was used to replace the mother's name of a head of state.

The whole sentences in the Figure (4) were characterized by defamatory defamation, namely using language for harassment of the dignity of others as "PKI female." It could be said as a form of insulting because it contained insults that lead to certain parties. It was an expression of condolences. Thus, the operational meaning of the sentence was an



attempt to insult, which had an element of cursing embedded in condolences.

The upload was an illocutionary act. There were actions in the form of condolences but accompanied by contradictory expressions, namely not expressions of sadness but expressions of happiness because President Jokowi's mother had passed away.

#### D. Form of Insulting in Terms of Position

An insulting post uploaded by the account owner with the initials SS was recognized as violating the Indonesian ITE law and the Criminal code chapter XVI article 27 paragraph 3. As we see in figures (5) and (6) below, it is proof of the statement above.



Figure 5. Meme of President Joko Widodo and Vice President Ma'ruf Amin

Source: <https://akuratnews.com/polisi-harus-bertindak-tegas-akun-facebook-ini-hina-presiden-jokowi/>

It was categorized as an insult because it displayed memes in the form of the President and vice president, which symbolized the head of a dog. The meme also included "ready to welcome Jok-Ma's inauguration for a more broken and debt-ridden Indonesia." When we observe the statement "ready to welcome Jok-Ma's inauguration...", it is followed by the statement "...for Indonesia is more devastated and has much debt". It showed the results of actions based on the intent of the previous statement. The statements behind the sentences

showed a belief that the Indonesian nation would be on the verge of destruction with the two being elected. Thus, the denotative meaning of the word "destroyed" was translated to contain a negative connotation.

The speech act above was an expressive illocutionary act. The basis was a statement expressing an attitude of disapproval, accompanied by the assumption that the election and inauguration of Jokowi and Ma'ruf Amin as President and Vice President would lead the Indonesian nation to destruction and the national debt would increase.



Figure 6. The form of insults is in the form of a Figure with a caption

Source:

<https://www.dutaislam.com/2019/10/oknum-guru-ini-sebut-pelantikan-jokowi-maruf-untuk-indonesia-lebih-hancur.html>

Figure (6) above was categorized as an insult to the position. From TA's upload on social media, Facebook, President Joko Widodo, his wife, and his parents were dogs. The post stated that the position entrusted to Jokowi had harmed TA personally and had a bad influence that would damage the next generation. Such an emotional upload ensnared TA as the account owner in the Indonesia ITE law. The Posts were categorized as a form of violation of the ITE law and the criminal code chapter XVI article 27 paragraph 3.

Based on the sentence in the post, some words contain defamation characteristics in the form of insults. The denotative meaning of the word "dog" meant an animal with four legs, which could be tamed and could not be tamed. However, the word "dog" in the sentence above had an additional meaning and a negative connotation. It was explained that

the word "dog" in the sentence was used to replace or equate a person's position or position with an animal. When referring to President Jokowi and his representative as a dog, this was an insult to the head of state, which equates him with animals. The referential meaning of the sentence referred to the antipathy to the performance of the President's position. The operational meaning of hatred was to mention President Jokowi as a dog because he thought he had been harmed. The illocutionary act was also the same as the case in Figure (5), namely expressive illocution.

#### E. Forms of Insulting regarding the Profession/ Job

Several insults with lingual evidence in the form of text tend to ensnare the perpetrators in cases of hate speech because it was supported by the fragment, which was the text reference. As in the cases that had been stated, pragmatic studies were a means of connecting interpretation between the text and the context. What was the basis of reference so that the word/sentence had a connotative meaning? It can be answered by noticing the analysis of Figures (7) and (8) below.



Figure 7. Faces of President Joko Widodo and Vice President Ma'ruf Amin

Source:

<https://www.darirakyat.com/2020/02/penghinaan-luar-biasa-oleh-naliya.html?m=1>

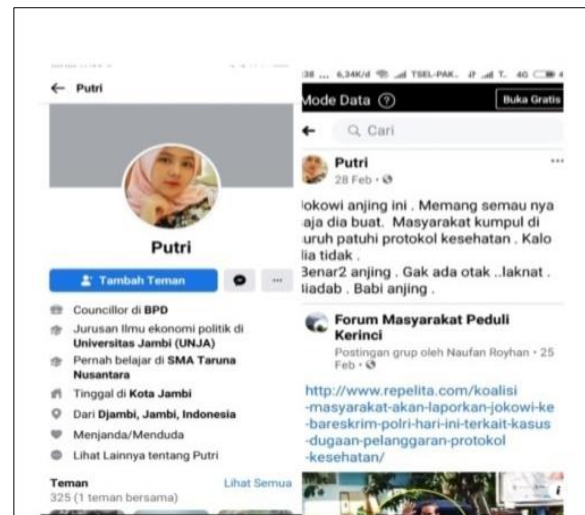


Figure 8. Screenshot of hate speech to the President Joko Widodo

Source:

<https://www.portalbuana.com/2021/04/hina-jokowi-presiden-ri-akun-fb-atas.html?m=1>

Figure (8) showed a Figure of a face accompanied by an explanatory sentence regarding the previous profession of President Joko Widodo, namely a furniture entrepreneur. Meanwhile, the representatives were in the form of satire on personal potential based on age. The sentence in question was, "one of the furniture craftsmen does not know himself. The other one, the old man, has also forgotten himself."

The uploader's attitude doubts the professionalism of the two as leaders of the country. The insult was carried out in satire, but the reference that could be ascertained was showing President Joko Widodo and his deputy through uploaded photos. Therefore, the denotative meaning of the sentence above also has a negative connotation. The referential meaning of the sentence was satire and contempt for work before becoming President and Vice President. In contrast, the operational meaning was an attempt to insult the statement that Jokowi and Ma'ruf Amin's faces were similar to monkeys. Therefore, the upload was a defamatory feature in the form of provocative stigma, which was considered a violation of the ITE law and could have legal implications.

Likewise, the Figure (8) sentence called Jokowi a pig and a dog, a savage, like a monkey, older man. The defamation was shown by the account owner trying to communicate his opinion to the public. The



aim can be suspected of an attempt to instill a negative stigma, which could affect the President's respect, reputation, and prestige and his deputy. The referential meaning was the attitude of disapproval of the work program of the Jokowi government. Meanwhile, the operational meaning was an attempt to make a statement by expressing hatred accompanied by contempt for the Jokowi government's work program in handling the Covid 19 case.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the Forensic Linguistics study, it was concluded that the case of insulting the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, on social media inter-evidentially and materially contained elements of a crime in the form of insults. The categories of evidence were lingual and non-linguistics. Lingual evidence was in the text, while non-linguistic evidence was in Figures or memes, symbols by symbolizing Figures of animals such as dogs and other creatures.

Methodologically, defamation was a form of insults involving religion, personal, family, education, position, and work of Joko Widodo as a President. Overall, the insulting form had fulfilled three conditions: preparatory, sincerity, and illocutionary intentions. These three conditions were part of the essential intention to know and determine the form of insults. Then it becomes the law's implementation because of its relationship with religion, personal, family, position, and work, which is the basis for violating the ITE Law of the Criminal Code Chapter XVI Article 27 paragraph 3 regarding insults.

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