

Forensic Linguistics Autopsy: Linguistic Meaning of Xi'an Student Suicide Letters

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Abstract. This paper aims to describe lingual specimens that contain elements of crime in language material referring to the purpose of crime in a suicide letter from the suicide case of a college student from Xi'an, China. The form of this research is descriptive qualitative using text analysis method. The analysis in this study using reading technique which has the following stages: dissecting evidences, mark words or sentences that contain elements of related crimes, analyze the data with linguistic rules, and describe the meaning of the related data. The focus of the analysis in this study is to understand and interpreting unusual meaning and refers to elements of crime. The result of this study is the suicide perpetrator use words that refer to describe traumatic situation during sexual harassment and continues become suicidal as a way to solve the trauma she had.

Keywords: forensic linguistics, suicide note, text analysis

1 Introduction

According to Rusdiansyah[1] language is the main communication tool in human life every day. Language cannot be separated from social life because with the existence of language, humans can convey their thoughts, ideas, concepts and also as a means to show a social behavior. This a proof that human are very depend on language for their daily life, not only for their conversation, but also for more important and complicated things.

Language is used in almost all aspects of human life, including law. In the legal field, language is the most important thing because all legal and judicial processes are delivered using language. Currently, linguists are also important witnesses in the judicial process of a legal case[2]. Language also used during the investigation of a criminal case[3]. The linguistic science used in the legal realm, more specifically forensic linguistics. Forensic linguistics applies linguistic theory to a linguistic event that is involved in the legal process, both in the form of legal products, interactions in judicial processes, and in interactions between humans that result in certain legal impacts. There is a connection between linguistics and evidence in law, a branch of forensic linguistics has emerged whose study is closely related to the purpose of law in the judicial system[4]. Matters studied in the realm of forensic linguistics include: 1) Analysis of

the language usage in the legal realm, 2) Investigation of language elements in evidence in legal proceedings, 3) Examine the use of language by law enforcement officers in the judicial process, both during investigations and during trials.

Subyantoro said that the role of language is very necessary in order to grow human awareness in creating and enforcing the law[4]. Language assistance is needed in every written legal activity such as legislation, jurisprudence, lawsuits, defenses, and case letters. Language skills are also used in professions related to law and justice such as notaries, police, lecturers, students and also legal journalists. The use of language assistance in the legal field is the result of legal cases involving language in its operations. Examples of legal cases that involve language in the process are cases of humiliation, defamation, threats, fraud, bullying, and even cases of murder or suicide also involve elements of language.

According to Hasan Shadly Suicide is an aggression directed at oneself[1]. Failure or disappointment usually evokes an impulse of aggression that can be channeled to him by suicide or in other words, suicide is an act of desperation because of a feeling of pain that is suppressed continuously, so that he loses the meaning of his life through suicide. The main cause of suicide is a person's mental imbalance where he can no longer think logically to solve the problem until he finally chooses to commit suicide. Mental health is an essential element of our general health and well-being and a basic human right. Mental health is influenced by a wide range of interrelated individual, family, community, and structural factors. Even while the majority of people are resilient, those who are exposed to unfavorable conditions, such as poverty, violence, and injustice, are more likely to suffer from mental health issues. Interventions to promote and safeguard mental health must transcend sectors because the factors affecting mental health are multisectoral. The report offers the most recent information on mental health. Improving mental health for everyone, according to the World Mental Health Report. Geneva: World Health Organization[5] Suicide, a leading cause of death in young people, accounts for more than one death out of every 100 worldwide. The main contributor to years spent disabled is still mental diseases. An estimated 970 million people in 2019 were coping with a mental illness. based on "Transforming mental health for all" from the World Mental Health Report. Geneva: World Health Organization[5] More than one in every 100 deaths worldwide are caused by suicide, a leading cause of death in young people. Mental illnesses continue to be the major cause of years lived with disability. A mental condition was present in 970 million people worldwide in 2019. Between 2000 and 2019, the estimated point prevalence of mental disorders remained steady, at 13% of the world's population. The most prevalent mental illnesses are anxiety and depression, which affect more women than men. An estimated 25% increase in anxiety and depression disorders was seen during the first year of the epidemic. However, only roughly one in three patients with significant illnesses like psychosis and depression receive mental health services globally in terms of service coverage. Suicide cases are one of the legal cases that can be analyzed by forensic linguistic studies. Generally the perpetrators of suicide cases leave a letter containing a will, a farewell message, the contents of their mind, the cause of suicide or a clue. Suicide letters are generally written by hand, but can also be written electronically such as e-mail or short messages.

The content, style, and writing structure of suicide letters can be analyzed using forensic linguistics studies. Suicide letters can be analyzed with lexical semantics, grammatical, cohesion, persuasive language, coherence, locutionary and illocutionary. The analysis used in this study is lexical semantics. According to Chaer if the object of the lexicon investigation of

the language, the meaning of the semantic type is called lexical semantics[6]. Lexical semantics is the study of meaning related to words (according to the dictionary). The author is interested in analyzing the suicide case of a student from Xi'an who where a student studying at a university in Xi'an, specifically in the music department, was sexually harassed by a chief as well as a teacher in the music department, causing this student to feel depressed which led to suicide, and also because of the increasing number of suicides caused by mental health disorders, especially among young women based on A World Report on the Transformation Needed in Mental Health Care article.

There is a research on a legal case using forensic linguistic studies. There is previous research about suicide note analysis In the study "Meanings in a Suicide Note: An Analysis of Linguistics Pragmatics in Nusadi's Suicide Note" the use of forensic linguistics is within the scope of the meaning of existing sentences using analysis of the theory of relevance of adjectives, while in this study researchers use lexical semantic analysis in uncovering existing meanings in the existing evidence.

2 Method

The form of this research is descriptive qualitative using text analysis method. The data source of this research is a written document in the form of a suicide letter from a student from Xi'an, China. The analysis used in this study is a reading technique that has the following stages: dissecting evidence, marking words or sentences containing elements of related crimes, analyze using linguistic rules, and describing the meaning of the related data. The focus of the analysis in this study is to understand and interpreted of language which refers to the elements of crime.

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 About the suicide note

Li Jing, who rented a space outside of the school, committed suicide by hanging herself on December 22. She was 23 years old. A female student at the Xi'an Conservatory of Music named Li Jing. Li Jing's father, Liu Yu, discovered a suicide note that detailed Liang, the former party secretary of the piano department at the Xi'an Conservatory of Music, harassing Li Jing sexually. Liang was a member of the Shaanxi Provincial Musicians Association, according to records in the public domain. He was accepted to the Xi'an Conservatory of Music's Music Education Department in 1982. He remained in the library to serve as the technical department's director and an interviewer after graduating. He took part in the creation of the dance department in March 2000 and worked as the office director and department secretary. He was the dance department's party branch secretary in the start of 2007. He transferred the piano department at the start of 2009 while serving as the deputy party branch secretary (presided over the work), and he later held the position of secretary for the piano department. He has consistently received high marks for both his teaching and his participation in the college's social events. He has also judged literary and creative performances as well as dance and model competitions. After enrolling in the Xi'an Conservatory of Music in 2014, according to Liu Yu, Li Jing quickly rose to the position of secretary of the League branch in the class, whereas Liang was at the time the

secretary of the Party branch of the piano department. Li Jing obtained a medical certificate dated December 13, 2016, from the First Affiliated Hospital of Xi'an Jiaotong University. When Liu Yu gained control of it, he discovered that the medical record stated that Li Jing had been depressed for more than a year and had considered self-abandonment. The medical records also revealed that Li Jing had leapt off a building just three days prior to visiting the hospital and had been saved by her peers. Diagnosed as moderate depression. The doctor's directive was clear: Tell the guardian in order to avoid mishaps. Li Jing was diagnosed with moderate depression, and her medical file revealed that three days prior, she had attempted suicide but was saved by her classmates. Liu Yu examined the medical record. He felt terrified and flustered at the same time. He expeditiously handled his daughter's suspension procedures and returned her to her homeland of Henan for recuperation. This suicide note was belong to Li Jing's parent and tell about her reason to end her life. This suicide note contain about 873 chinese characters in 2 sheets of paper. Hand written by Li Jing. Liu Yu told reporters that after her daughter was harassed, she became depressed and had to take a leave of absence to recover. After returning to school, her daughter was harassed by Liang again and eventually committed suicide.



Fig. 1. Evidence 1&2

3.2 Suicide note analysis

1st Paragraph

希望你们都好好的吧，毕竟我也管不了那么多了。大概是命吧。总之我不希望我父母去相信深了，我恨他，他诱导我跟他建立良好的关系，诱导我跟他叫爸。

Translation : I hope you are all well, after all, I can't control that much anymore. Maybe this is life. please, I don't want my parents to be too trusting me. I hate it. He persuaded me to have a good relationship with him and encouraged me to call him Dad.

Table 1. Paragraph 1

No. Word Analysis

1. 相信 Word “相信 *Xiāngxìn*” which translated as believe. It means to think that it is true and to believe in something without any doubt. This word has something to do with the psychological pressure that Li Jing feels because she has problems that she can't tell his parents.
2. 诱导 Word “诱导 *Yòudǎo*” which translated as persuade. Has the meaning of influencing someone to do a certain thing. This word has a relationship with the factors that caused Li Jing to commit suicide. Because Liang forced him to call him by a name that is less common and less comfortable when used in the scope of his education and work.
3. 建立 Word “建立 *jiàn lì*” which translated as to build. Has meaning as a process of making something out of nothing into existence. This word has a relationship with the factors that caused Li Jing to commit suicide. This word is used to describe Liang's compulsion to have a relationship with Li Jing.

2nd Paragraph

我别扭，但要求是他提出的，我拒绝很不好，或者说我不敢，我每次去他办公室都很不舒服，他总以长辈的名义，搂着我，或者让我坐在他腿上，摸来摸去，未来去，还给我讲他其他的女儿对他如何录密这样让我觉得很恶心，不舒服。

Translation: I was uncomfortable, but the request was made by him. It's so bad for me to refuse, or I don't dare. I feel uncomfortable every time I go to his office. In the name of seniority, he stripped me, or made me sit between his legs, groping. In another time, he told me how his other “daughter” called him dear, it made me feel sick and uncomfortable.

Table 2. Paragraph 2

No. Word Analysis

1. 别扭 Word “别扭 *biè niǔ*” which translated as awkward. Has the meaning of a condition where a feeling of discomfort arises when dealing with something new. This word has a relationship with the factors that caused Li Jing to commit suicide. Because this word describes the awkward feelings between Li Jing and Liang which suppresses Li Jing psychologically.

2. 要求 Word “要求 *yāo qiú*” which translated as request. Has the meaning of proposing certain desires or conditions, hoping to achieve a desire. This word is related to Li Jing's suicide factor. This word is used to describe Liang's request which is considered psychologically stressful for Li Jing.
3. 拒绝 Word “拒绝 *Jùjuē*” which translated as refuse. Has the meaning of a statement of disagreement, clearly express reluctance or reluctance to do so. This word is related to Li Jing's suicide factor. This word is used to describe rejection as Li Jing's form of self-protection against psychological pressure from Liang.
4. 办公室 Word “办公室 *Bàngōngshì*” translated as office. Has a meaning as a place where certain types of business are handled or where services are provided. This word has a relationship with the factors causing Li Jing's suicide. This word is used to indicate the place where Li Jing was abused by Liang.
5. 长辈 Kata “长辈 *Zhǎngbèi*” translated as someone who is older. In this context, an older person is meant as a senior in the job. This word is related to Li Jing's suicide factor where Liang used the name of seniority to persuade Li Jing to comply with Liang's request.
6. 摸 Word 摸 *Mō*” translated as touching. In this context it has the meaning of touching the surface of an object smoothly and gently. This word can be interpreted as touch. This word has a relationship with Li Jing's suicide factor where this word is used to describe the abuse Li Jing experienced by Liang.
7. 恶心 Word “恶心 *Ēxīn*” translated as nauseous. Has a meaning as a feeling where an uncomfortable feeling in the stomach that can cause the urge to vomit. In this context, what is meant by nausea is not a symptom that is felt physically, but psychologically or mentally. This word has a relationship with Li Jing's suicide factor where this word is used to describe Li Jing's feelings towards Liang after the abuse.

3rd Paragraph

听到他讲别的女儿如何跟她搂抱，如何跟他亲，如何对他好，让我觉得我必须加倍对他好。他让我给他剪手脚指甲，并且多次炫耀他哪个女儿给他剪了指甲，还说这些女儿都是求着他把指甲留下来给她们剪，每到过节哪怕一个小小的平安夜他都在我面前炫耀谁给他发了什么祝福，还读给我听，经常说我不积极给他发短信，说什么女儿多久就给他发消息，天气不好也关心，说她们很聪明。很灵活，会办事之类。

Translation: Heard him talk about how other girls hug him, kiss him, and be nice to him makes me think I should be nicer to him. He asked me to trim his toenails, and repeatedly showed

off which daughter cut his nails. He also said that these "Daughter" asked him to keep his nails and cut them. He keep showing off in front of me who sent him gift, and He often say if he is not being active, they will text him, say if they haven't seen each other for a while, They will send their worries, Even when the weather is bad they worry about him, he says that they are very good, smart. Very agile, can do a lot of things and so on.

Table 3. Paragraph 3

No. Word Analysis

1. 搂抱 The word “搂抱 lǒu bào” is translated as hug. In this context it means to wrap your hands around other people's limbs. This word has something to do with the abuse experienced by Li Jing where Liang hugged him.
2. 指甲 Word “指甲 Zhǐjiǎ” translated as nails. Has a meaning as a member of the body which is located at the very end of the human hand or foot. This word has something to do with Li Jing's abuse process, it describes Liang's request for Li Jing to cut Liang's toenails. This is not uncommon in a teacher-student relationship or in any seniority relationship.
3. 炫耀 Word “炫耀 Xuànyào” translated as showing off. Has a meaning as deliberately showing things you recognize to others, to gain praise and admiration from others. This word has a relationship with the factors that led to Li Jing's suicide. This word describes the depressed feeling Li Jing felt as a result of Liang's words.
4. 灵活 Word “灵活 Línghuó” translated as flexible. It means a flexible and not rigid attitude towards something. This word has a relationship with the factor of Li Jing's suicide. This word has the context that Liang compares Li Jing to his former secretary. As a result of this word Li Jing felt psychologically depressed.

4th Paragraph

手术完让我给他按摩，洗头，洗脚，削水果，每一次都很别扭，估计是我很傻，总被他利用，还太容易相信人。后来每次去他办公室我都画妆，就是用鲜艳的。

Translation: After his surgery, he asked me to massage him, wash his hair, wash his feet, and peel some fruit for him. Every time i feel uncomfortable, he think I'm so stupid. I've always been used, and it too easy to take advantage of, easy to trust people. Lately, whenever I go to his office, I apply makeup using bright colors.

Table 4. Paragraph 4

No. Word Analysis

1. 手术 Word “手术 Shǒushù” translated as operation. In this context it means as a health procedure which is carried out with the surgical process of the human body to cure a disease. This word has a relationship with

the factor in Li Jing's suicide because it shows the chronology of the continued abuse he experienced.

2. 按摩 Word “按摩 *Ànmó*” translated as massage. Has a meaning as certain movements, touches or pressure in certain body parts to relieve a feeling of pain or discomfort. This word has something to do with the abuse experienced by Li Jing. Because in a teacher-student relationship or a senior-junior relationship, massaging someone is ambiguous.

5th Paragraph

口红涂一下，但还是免不了被他亲个脸。很害怕。他要求我每天早上或下午都去他办公室，有时候给个苹果，有时候给个鸡蛋。

Translation: Put on lipstick, but still can't avoid being kissed on the face by him. I'm afraid. He asked me to come to his office every morning or evening, sometimes he gave me apples, or sometimes eggs.

Table 5. Paragraph 5

No. Word Analysis

1. 免不了 Word “免不了 *Miǎnbùliǎo*” translated as inevitable. Has meaning as a condition where a person is forced to face something and there is no other way to avoid that thing. This word relates to the circumstances in which Li Jing received sexual harassment from dai Liang. This is a factor that causes Li Jing to commit suicide.
2. 害怕 Word “害怕 *Hàipà*” translated as fear. Has a meaning as a human psychological condition where feelings of worry, anxiety, and discomfort arise about something. This word is related to the cause of depression experienced by Li Jing so that he decided to commit suicide.

6th Paragraph

我真的不想要，他还觉得他对我很好，每次拿完还要藏着不被别人看见跟做贼一样，还有的时候他给我一些快坏的水果或者已经坏了的水果。总之是帮他处理一些东西吧，他们吃不了，太多了。他自己说他跟很多人都谈得来之类的，结婚多人谈心，开导人。

Translation: I really don't want him, he still thinking that he treats me very well, and every time he gave it, he has to hide it from others, like a thief, and sometimes he gives me fruit that almost went bad or fruit that almost rotten. He said he can't finish it, it's too much. He said that he could talk to many people, get married, and give enlightenment to others and so on.

Table 6. Paragraph 6

No. Word Analysis

1. 贼 Word “贼 *Zéi*” translated as thief. Has the meaning of someone who takes other people's property by force. This word was used by Li Jing to describe the way Liang gave food to her. This method put a psychological burden on Li Jing.

7th Paragraph

我受不了，他很多时候都在讲他女儿的事，各种成功的，听他劝说的，听话的，他最后帮助的，反过来各种孝敬他如何，估计见谁就讲吧，我真的不想听了。

Translation: I can't bear it anymore. He talks about his “daughter” a lot of the time, all kinds of their successes, those who listen to his persuasion (“his daughter”), those who are obedient, those who help him in the end, and how to honor him in various ways, I guess whoever sees them will talk about it, I really don't want to hear it anymore.

Table 7. Paragraph 7

No. Word Analysis

1. 成功 Word “成功 *Chénggōng*” translated as success. In this context it has the meaning of something or event that reaches or reaches a certain value scale, thus obtaining the expected results, which is called success. This word showed that Liang compared Li Jing to his previous secretary and made Li Jing feel psychologically depressed.
2. 劝说 Word “劝说 *Quànshuō*” translated as to persuade. means a person's efforts to persuade others to fulfill his goals. This word is related to the factors that caused Li Jing to commit suicide. This is because persuasion that is carried out continuously will affect a person's psychology.

8th Paragraph

他经常暗示我，好好听他话，像别的女儿一样。我除了别扭，什么都没有。我后来开始回避他，他叫，也推脱，叫吃饭也不去。他叫女儿去吃饭，就是有求他办事的人请他或是他女儿请用他，我去了几次就再也不去了。

Translation: She often gave me sign, to listen him, like any other girl. I have nothing but awkwardness. Then, I started avoiding him, and when he called, I avoided him, when he called me to eat I didn't go either. He asked his “daughter” to go out to dinner, but someone who asked him to do errands told him or his “daughter” to use it. I went there several times and never went there again.

Table 8. Paragraph 8

No. Word Analysis

1. 暗示 Word “暗示 *Ànshì*” translated as sign. Has meaning as a special sign as a means of communicating with others without revealing its original meaning, and only certain parties know the special sign. This word has a relationship with the factors causing Li Jing's suicide. This word shows that Liang is putting pressure on Li Jing indirectly to get him to obey Liang's wishes.
2. 回避 Word “回避 *Huíbì*” translated as avoiding. Has the meaning of trying to avoid or stay away and reduce interactions with certain people and for certain reasons as well. This word has something to do with Li Jing's process of seeking safety by avoiding requests from Liang.

9th Paragraph

我讨厌跟不熟的人吃饭，还讨厌听他们说话，讨厌梁各种吹嘘讲经历吧，反正我不喜听，几次不回应他之后，他就会说我是不是不想啦，是不是心里没他啦。然后我就不理你啦。

Translation: I hate eating with people I don't know, and I hate listening to them. I hate all kinds of bragging about my experiences. After all, I don't hear. After I didn't respond a few times, he would say if I don't want him, well I don't have him in my heart. Then I ignored him.

Table 9. Paragraph 9

No. Word Analysis

1. 讨厌 Word “讨厌 *Tǎoyàn*” translated as hate. Has the meaning of a person's psychological condition characterized by anger and discomfort to others for a reason. This word is related to Li Jing's suicide factor because it describes the psychological pressure in the form of hatred for Li Jing because he has acted outside normal limits.
3. 反正 Word “反正 *Fǎnzhèng*” translated as anyway. Meaning as a condition where the situation cannot be changed. This word relates to the description of Li Jing's condition where he really doesn't like Liang.
4. 回应 Word “回应 *Huíyīng*” translated as to respond. Means a person's attempt to respond to an action of another person. This word is related to Li Jing's suicide factor. This word describes Li Jing's attitude which no longer responds to Liang's request.

In the presentation of the data above, it was found that the reason behind Li Jing's suicide was psychological pressure and also sexual harassment from the supervisor and secretary of the piano department of Xi'an Conservatory Music. Following are the details of Liang's actions towards Li Jing based on the suicide letter written by Li Jing:

1. Liang persuaded Li Jing to have a good relationship with him. Liang also persuaded Li Jing to call him "Daddy" which is an unnatural and inappropriate address when used in the scope of work, education or as a seniority designation considering they are not blood related and also do not have the intimacy to reach the level of calling "Daddy".
2. The occurrence of awkwardness and discomfort between Li Jing and Liang because of Liang's request to Li Jing.
3. There was sexual harassment in which Liang stripped Li Jing naked and deliberately made Li Jing sit between her legs and Liang groped Li Jing's body.
4. There was psychological stress where Liang constantly bragged about things that didn't need to be said.
5. There was an unreasonable request from Liang to Li Jing where Liang asked Li Jing to cut Liang's toenails, asked Li Jing to wash Liang's hair, and also asked Li Jing to massage Liang's body.
6. Liang often compares Li Jing's treatment with her former assistant. Liang also often compares Li Jing's performance with the performance of his former assistant.
7. Liang committed another sexual harassment by kissing Li Jing's face.
8. Liang treated Li Jing with disrespect by giving him food that was barely edible.
9. Liang tricked Li Jing under the pretext of inviting Li Jing to dinner, but instead took Li Jing to meet someone else and asked them to "Use" Li Jing. The context used here can be interpreted negatively considering that after that incident Li Jing never again attended Liang's invitation.

From the data above, it can be concluded that the depression experienced by Li Jing is a form of The Rape Trauma Syndrome (RTS). According to Burgess and Holmstrom (in[7]) RTS is a post-rape psychological trauma syndrome experienced by the victim. This syndrome affects the state of physical, emotional, cognitive, and interpersonal behavior. Many rape victims find it very difficult to open up to others that they have been raped. There are 2 phases in the RTS, namely the acute crisis phase and the long term reaction phase. In the case of Li Jing's suicide, in the acute crisis phase he experienced a disorderly response that emerged in the form of withdrawal behavior from the social world and tended to be alone. Then in the long-term reaction phase Li Jing undergoes a lifestyle change where he seeks a lifestyle that is completely opposite to his previous lifestyle. In Li Jing's case, he decided to be alone and ended up committing suicide. Efforts to change this lifestyle are carried out as a symbol of changing self-identity which is considered worthless due to rape or sexual harassment.

4 Conclusion

With the results of lexical semantic analysis on the existing data, it was found that Li Jing used words that refer to the description of the traumatic situation he experienced during sexual harassment and continued to suicidal as a way of solving the problem. There is also a description that there was interference from a man named Liang who was the boss and

secretary of the piano department of the Xi'an Conservatory Music where the suicide bomber studied. It is described that this man was the root of the perpetrator's fear and decided to commit suicide.

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