Opposition's Allegation against Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) in Indonesia: Is it Cyberbullying According to Forensic Linguistics?

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Abstract. Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) in Indonesia has been facing many serious allegations, particularly which aimed via social media. On the other hand, cyberbullying has become a huge apprehension to the linguists and law enforcers as a result of its negative influence to the victims. This study attempts to examine the legal significance of the use of cyberbullying language in Twitter and uses a descriptive qualitative approach. The data were taken from Twitter column reply which contains 69 replies with total 136 of clauses and sentences. The data are analyzed with Martin's attitudinal system and Willard's categories of cyberbullying. This study finds that 1) according to Martin, 86% of the language use of the suspected cyberbullies contain judgment, 32% contain negative appreciation, and 2% contain affect, 2) 58% contains harassment, 18% contain flaming and 52% contain denigration as categorized by Willard, 3) based on the attitudinal system and cyberbullying category analysis, forensic linguistic views the suspected cyberbullies' language use to violate the Law of the Republic Indonesia on the Electronic Information and Transaction.

Keywords: Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), Cyberbullying, Forensic Linguistics, Systemic Functional Linguistics, Twitter

1 Introduction

Social media is defined as those that facilitate online communication, networking and/or collaboration [1]. Following the rapid development of technology, social media have become the massive platform which contributes to the global spread of information as well as the communication technology. Based on the data from The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology of the Republic of Indonesia (Kemenkominfo) which was released in 2015, more than two-thirds of 400 participants were reported to use the internet to increase the number of their virtual friends [2]. This means that as the communication and information platform, social media have become one of the main tools with the highest users in the country.

Twitter is one of the examples of the global application in which people can express their opinions and thoughts without border. In Indonesia, Twitter is practically one of the most used social media. According to the research of Statista Research Department, the country has placed sixth place behind USA, Japan, India, UK, and Brazil in the countries with the most Twitter users in 2021. In Indonesia, Twitter is even used as one of the main political campaign platforms during political events. This is shown in the fact that numerous political figures have Twitter account and often voice their political thought through this platform.

However, not only social media do facilitate the freedom of expressing mind and beliefs, they also constitute countless cyber-risks to their users. For instance, it has been known that Twitter has become the world-wide cyberbullying platform. Following Olweus' previous definition on bullying [3], Smith described cyberbullying as an "aggressive intentional act carried out by a group or individual that used electronic forms of contact, repeatedly and over time against a victim who cannot easily defend themselves" [4]. The victims are often referred as the "bullied", whereas the perpetrators are called as the "bullies". Morover, although cyberbullying frequently happens through social media in which the victims do not get physical threat, they still can accept terrible emotional assault.

Since the recent case which afflicted the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) in Indonesia in which 51 officers were dishonorably discharged, the institution started gained numerous allegations. Some claim that the institution of KPK has been infiltrated by a world-wide-known as a terrorist political and military organization, Taliban. Others have been throwing accusation to one of the most influencing KPK figures that he is trying to weaken the commission itself. Those who oppose the institution and throw such allegation are allegedly come from the regime's buzzers on Twitter, particularly in certain reply columns.

Cyberbullies tend to use language to abuse the victims. Thus, the abusive language use is what becomes the main point of this research discussion. The writer decided to use Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) as one of many tools that are generally used in conducting any forensic linguistic study, particularly, Martin and White's appraisal theory [5] to understand the attitude of the bullies. Attitude, as defined by Martin and White is the use of language that deals with emotion or feelings [5]. In addition, the writer also used Willard's types of cyberbullying [6] to identify the language use of the bullies. According to him, there are seven types of cyberbullying: flaming, harassment, denigration, impersonation, outing and trickery, exclusion, and cyberstalking [6].

Subsequently, Barlett et al. [7] analyzed the attitude measure of the development of cyberbullies's. Supriadi et al. [8] also examined the bullies' attitude on Twitter. Research on Bullies' attitudes on Twitter: A Forensic Linguistic Analysis of Cyberbullying (Systemic Functional Linguistics approach) did not specify the type of cyberbullying which mainly focuses on the negative forms. Presupposition Analysis in Twitter Reply Columns in Alleged Cyberbullying Case also did not use SFL to analyze the bullies' utterances. This study will improve the previous studies' to gain linguistic proofs in a political institution. Other than that, while other previous studies mostly focused on the cyberbullying influence on the victims, this study examines the legal consequence which may be faced by the cyberbullies. Based on the analysis employing the abovementioned theories, the writer would be able to analyze if the suspected bullies' language use has violated the Law of the Republic Indonesia on the Electronic Information and Transaction.

2   Research Method

To avoid the broader discussion, this study is limited in order to intensify the research analysis. The researcher comes up to answer three research questions: 1) how does the Systemic Functional Linguistics identify if the bullies' utterances contain cyberbullying language?, 2) what are the types of the language use of the bullies?, and 3) is there a legal consequence of the use of cyberbullying language in the opposition's allegations toward Corruption Eradication Commission in Twitter? The objective of this study is to find the types of the suspected

cyberbullies' language use in the opposition's allegations against Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) in Indonesia and identify whether it has violated the Law of the Republic Indonesia on the Electronic Information and Transaction. The word opposition refers to those who fall into category of accounts that confront KPK. The significance of this research is to give contribution and knowledge in understanding the forms and types of cyberbullying and impacts of it, particularly the legal consequence that would be faced by the suspected bullies so that people would be more cautious in voicing their thoughts online.

This study uses qualitative descriptive method. According to Stake, the purpose of this research is to present comprehensive, holistic and intensive study by presenting the case and suggesting the complexities for further information and further investigation [9]. Thus, the writer used this method to get the clear information which appropriate with the research topic. Then, the data of this study are 69 tweet replies of a tweet about KPK in the form of clause and sentence. First, the writer identifies and collects the Tweet replies of a thread, a sequence of attached tweets of one user, which contain allegation toward the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK). Then, the writer transcribes the comments in the form of clause and sentence, and identifies them using the theory of Martin's attitudinal system and Willard's categories of cyberbullying. Finally, the writer examines whether the suspected bullies' utterances violate the Laws of The Republic of Indonesia or not.

3 Finding and Discussion

This study focuses on finding the types of the suspected cyberbullies' language use in the opposition's allegations against the Opposition's Allegation against Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) in Indonesia and identify if it has violated the Law of the Republic Indonesia on the Electronic Information and Transaction.

3.1 SFL Analysis on the Language Use of the Suspected Cyberbullies

To answer the kind of language that the suspected cyberbullies use, the researcher employs Martin' interpersonal meaning theory which consists of affect, judgement and appreciation. Affect focuses on positive and negative emotion, judgment concerns on the attitude related to behavior, whereas appreciation is related to individual's evaluation on things and how we value them [5]. The writer finds that 69 tweet replies show the evidence of attitude. Table. 1 below shows the attitudinal system identified in the data.

Table 1. Total Clause and Sentence of the Tweet

Amount of the Tweet	69
Amount of the Clause and Sentence	136
Total Percentage	100%

Table 2. Distribution of the Attitudinal System

Attitude	Clause and Sentence	Percentage
Affect	2	1,5%
Judgment	86	63%
Appreciation	32	23,5%
Total	**120**	**87%**

As the table 1 above shows, the writer finds 69 tweet replies contain negative allegation toward the KPK. However, the writer eventually also finds that most of each tweet has more than just one clause or sentence, with total 136 clauses and sentences. Table 2 shows that judgment appears to be the most dominant attitudinal system with 86 clauses and sentences or 63%, followed by appreciation with 32 clauses and sentences or 23,5% and affect with only 2 clauses or 1,5%. In sum, it is finally revealed that 120 clauses and sentences contain attitudinal system or 87% of the total clause and sentence.

3.1.1 Judgment

Judgment is the kind of attitude which concerns on evaluating behavior [5]. It is categorized into social esteem and social sanction. Social esteem judgment is related to "normality" (how unusual a person is), "capacity" (how competent he or she is), and "tenacity" (how determined they are). Whereas social sanction judgment is associated with how honest someone is (veracity) and (propriety) how ethical they are [5]. To evaluate the bullied's behavior, cyberbullies oftentimes use judgment. In the data analyzed by the writer, judgment appears to be the dominant attitude employed by the cyberbullies. For instance, one of the tweet replies below indicates negative judgment toward one of the KPK figures.

1) *Punya gorengan lain lagi ya?? Yang itu saham pabrik beer mau di jual sama penprop dki, ternyata yang bikin sulit satu got sama loe... koclok..wkwkwk*

Translation: Having another business, aren't you?? That beer factory share is actually going to be sold to the Jakarta provincial government, turns out the person who's making it so hard is in the same ditch with you… you are insane, hahaha

This tweet replies another tweet with a news link containing insult toward the KPK figure. Here, the word crazy is classified as a negative capacity of social esteem judgment that is used to evaluate the victim's mind because the context of the clause is a critique toward the bullied. Therefore, the word crazy is considered to have negative impact on the victim since it is aimed to offend him. Another example of the tweet with judgment toward the same person below shows the same pattern of the suspected cyberbullies' language use.

2) *Lhaa fungsi dia apaan... letoi.*

Translation: So what is actually his role? He's weak.

This tweet is another reaction on the same previous one. Here, the word weak indicates the incapability of the victim on his professional role. The word weak is also categorized as a negative critique toward the victim since it is identified to abuse the person.

3.1.2 Appreciation

Martin and White's appraisal theory defines appreciation as things that concern with people's evaluation and natural phenomenon [5]. Appreciation can also be described as a reaction to something or someone and its value. In the data, the writer finds that 32 clauses and sentences of 69 tweets contain negative appreciation toward the same person.

3) *Si picek lagi,, picek lagi. haddueh*

Translation: Here comes this blind person again, hufft

This tweet is also another reaction toward the same previous tweet. The word blind and minor clause *hufft* here are classified as negative appreciation that is used to evaluate a person's look. Appreciation is a reaction to the quality of things or ones that is used to indicate whether they like the thing they evaluated or not [5]. Moreover, since the word blind and the minor clause *hufft* indicate the disliking of the user to the KPK figure, they then may cause negative effect on the victim as well.

3.1.3 Affect

According to Martin and White, affect shows one's negative or positive feelings toward something or someone such as sad, happy, fear, like and dislike, anxious, confident etc. [5]. It is deeply related to people's emotion, how the text draws a phenomenon and how language is employed as an instrument in responding to the behaviour [5]. In this study, the writer finds only two tweets indicates affect which both shows negative emotion.

4) Kasihan….
Translation: Poor guy…
5) …Sangat menyedihkan, ternyata kpk menjadi ladang subur sekalian di jadikan bemper bagi mereka. Makanya NB cs ngeyel.
Translation: How pathetic, turns out that KPK has become a playground as well as a shield for them. No wonder NB has been rebelling this whole time.

These are the tweets commenting a post about different news on the same KPK figure containing an inaccurate information about the commission. The word poor and pathetic both indicate negative emotion felt by the users about the person and the institution. Here, they use the language to react to a certain person's behaviour negatively. Therefore, these tweets are also considered to have negative impact on the victim.

3.2 Cyberbullying Types of the Suspected Cyberbullies

To identify the types of the suspected cyberbullies' language use, the writer employs Willard's cyberbullying classification. From the seven types of cyberbullying proposed by Willard –flaming, harassment, denigration, impersonation, outing and trickery, exclusion, and cyberstalking, the writer finds three of them to dominate the 69 tweets containing cyberbullying language use which are flaming, harassment and denigration. Table 2 shows the cyberbullying types identified in the tweets.

Table 3. Cyberbullying Types Distribution

Cyberbullying type	Clause and Sentence	Percentage
Flaming	18	13%
Harassment	58	42,6%
Denigration	52	38%
Impersonation	0	0%
Outing and trickery	0	0%
Exclusion	0	0%
Cyberstalking	0	0%
Total	128	93,6%

As the table 3 shows, the writer finds that 18 clauses and sentences of the total 136 clauses and sentences contain flaming with 13%, followed by harassment with 58 clauses and sentences or 42,6% and denigration with 52 clauses and sentences or 38% of the total clauses and sentences. In a word, it is finally revealed that 128 clauses and sentences contain three cyberbullying types or 93,6% of the total clause and sentence.

3.2.1 Flaming

Flaming is defined as online "war" by delivering messages with angry, rude or vulgar language [6]. In social media such as Twitter, negative comment about anyone or institution can

be easily found by typing the name of the victim's account since the cyberbullies tend to mention it in their tweet, thus flaming and other form of cyberbullying may have snowball effect since other users can also see their comment which potentially would affect their impression of the victim. One of the examples of flaming in this study is shown below.

6) *KPK ibarat laki2 tukang selingkuh...... kalo di rumah lemah syahwat..... Kalo di luar rmh napsu "tegang" mulu..*

Translation: KPK is like a cheater… impotent in the house but "hard" when he's outside..

Here, the word "hard" which refers to "men's erection" that the user throws against the commission is seen as a vulgar language. Moreover, since the use of this word is seen as a very improper way to refer to someone's behaviour, the user also calls the institution as a "cheater" which implies the unfaithfulness of the victim. Thus, it can be concluded that the user's language use has negative impact on the victim.

3.2.2 Harassment

According to Willard, harassment is described as delivering message that is offensive, abusive, and insulting [6]. Furthermore, since harassment can make the victims feeling humiliated and intimidated, cyberbullies in Twitter apparently tend to use this method to attack their victims to show their domination and power over them. For instance, one of the tweets below indicates form of harassment toward one of KPK's figure.

7) *Novel sbg apa sih, kok bisa koar koar ke sana sini? Penyidik? Seriusan? Bukan tukang obat keliling tuh yg suka koar koar?*

Translation: What is actually Novel's role? Why is he so capable of shouting around? Is he an investigator? Are you sure? Isn't he like a brash drug dealer?

The tweet above shows harassment indication in its context. By questioning about the person's actual role in his professional work, the user indirectly shows his or her ignorance toward the victim. Moreover, guessing that the victim is a drug seller indicates an insult toward the person since "drug dealer" has negative connotation. Thus, it can be inferred that this tweet also has negative impact to the victim.

3.2.3 Denigration

Denigration is described as "dissing" a person online by delivering messages that mention his or her bad attitude to damage the victim's reputation [6]. In many Indonesian cases, it is often used by certain social media users to bring public's opinion. For example, in 2018, when a criminal case happened, a group of Twitter users started to spread false information about the suspected. The other users who saw this news immediately believed it, causing two innocent individuals to be brought into trial. From the data found by the writer, there are 52 clauses and sentences that found to contain denigration toward KPK.

8) *Justru si mata satu ini yg melemahkan kpk, dasar Taliban*

Translation: Turns out that this one-eyed is the person who's been weakening KPK, you Taliban

9) *Si Novel itu pasti nyimpen pistol dirumahnya. Mungkin dia punya izin, tapi coba dievaluasi lagi @DivHumas_Polri*

Translation: Novel must have a gun in his house. He's probably got a permission, but please re-evaluate this (mentioning Indonesian National Police's public relation account)

In sample 8, the user claims that NB, the KPK figure who apparently gets most cyberbullying attack, is actually the person who has been trying to weaken the commission itself. Moreover, by labeling the person as a Taliban member, the world notorious radical

political and military movement, he or she also tries to bring public's opinion into believing the person as an evil extremist person. This is also emphasized by other user's statement in sample 9 by accusing that NB is hiding a gun in his house as the word gun represents violence.

3.3 The Beneficence of Attitudinal System and Cyberbullying Types in the Criminal Investigation of Alleged Cyberbullying Case

This study finds that 87% of the total clause and sentence of the 69 tweet replies contain attitudinal system and 93,6% of them are categorized in three cyberbullying types –flaming, harassment and denigration (see table 2 and 3). In Indonesia, several similar cases that warranted criminal charges in Information and Electronic Transaction Law had happened in the past, the writer finds that the Laws of the Republic Indonesia number 11 (2008) Article 27 Paragraph (3) and the Laws of The Republic of Indonesia number 11 (2008) Article 28 Paragraph (2) have been violated through these tweets.

According to the Constitutional Court Decision number 76 (2018) that defines the 'intergroup' means in the Laws of The Republic Indonesia number 11 (2008) Article 28 Paragraph (2) to not limited to ethnicity, religion, and race, it also includes more than that which are all entities that are not represented by those terms (ethnicity, religion, and race). Hence, by seeing this, the writer considered that the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), including all its officials is a part of the intergroup elements in the two abovementioned laws.

Forensic linguists play a central role in investigating criminal case of cyberbullying. Their proficiency is a necessity in examining if a statement is considered as intimidating, humiliating or hurtful which demonstrated in this research. 69 tweets in the data which alleged to be a cyberbullying case are identified to violate the Laws of the Republic Indonesia number 11 (2008) Article 27 Paragraph (3) and the Laws of The Republic of Indonesia number 11 (2008) Article 28 Paragraph (2), and consequently to be charged under the Laws of The Republic of Indonesia number 19 (2016) Article 45A Paragraph (2) which states the criminal consequences for the violators of the two laws.

As the linguistic proofs show that the tweets contain 87% negative attitude –affect, judgment, and appreciation, and 93,6% have cyberbullying types –flaming, denigration, and harassment, they are also considered as an act of provoking hatred, defamation, and affront toward specific individual or group based on intergroup, which in this case is The Corruption Eradication Commission and one of its officials. In consequence, these cyber bullies are potential to be sentenced to jail for six years at most and/or required to be fined for one billion rupiahs at maximum according to the Laws of The Republic of Indonesia number 19 (2016) Article 45A Paragraph (2).

4   Conclusion

This study aimed to examine the possibility of cyberbullying case toward the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) in Indonesia happened in Twitter using Systemic Functional Linguistic approach. Employing attitudinal system and cyberbullying types theory, the result shows that the language use of the suspected cyberbullies in 69 tweet replies of a thread contain 87% of negative attitudinal system which consists of judgment with 63%, negative appreciation with 23,5% and affect with 1,5% of the total 136 clauses and sentences. In addition, the study also finds that 42% of the data indicates harassment, 38% indicate denigration and 13% indicate

flaming. The abovementioned data reflect that these tweets are potentially to be criminally charged under the Law of the Republic of Indonesia number 19 (2016) Article 45A Paragraph (2) since the linguistic proof show the evidence of the provocation of hatred, defamation and affront toward the Corruption Eradication Commission and its specific official which stated in the Laws of the Republic Indonesia number 11 (2008) Article 27 Paragraph (3) and the Laws of The Republic of Indonesia number 11 (2008) Article 28 Paragraph (2). Therefore, the suspected cyberbullies are then possible to be charged to jail for six years at most and/or required to be fined for one billion rupiahs at maximum according to the Law of the Republic Indonesia. Furthermore, the writer hopes that legal consequence that possibly could be faced by the cyberbullies can be taken thoughtfully as a lesson for the community to be more cautious in voicing their thoughts online.

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