

A FORENSIC LINGUISTIC STUDY: HATE SPEECH TOWARDS INDONESIAN BADMINTON ATHLETES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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Abstract: This study discusses the hate speech delivered by Indonesian internet citizens towards Indonesian badminton athletes on social media. This study aims to identify the types of hate speech addressed to Indonesian badminton athletes on the two social media platforms, Instagram and Twitter, and investigate whether the netizens violate the law of hate speech or not. The data are sourced from the official accounts of the Indonesian badminton federation @badminton.ina (Instagram) and @INABadminton (Twitter). The data were collected by documentation technique and then analyzed by using contextual analysis. The result of the study shows that 49 comments contain hate speech content including insults, defamation, denigration, unpleasant action, provocation, incitement, and hoax. From the result of the study, it is proved that the commenters violate the Chief of Police Circular Number: SE/06/X/2015 and the Information of Electronic Transactions Law.

Keywords: *athlete, badminton, forensic linguistics, hate speech*

INTRODUCTION

Language-related crime in forensic linguistics refers to criminal activities where language plays significant role. These crimes involve the use of language as a tool for illegal purposes or as evidence in criminal investigations. In addition, it can manifest in the form of an incitement, provocation, false information, hate speech, threats, extortion, and fraud. As Tiersma (2015) reported, the criminal acts that are from the use of language called language crimes. Further, language crime can be a defamation, insult, and blasphemy. In a defamation case, the actor consciously attacks an individual's reputation and dignity in a public space. The sufferer will feel their reputation dropped and destroyed

by the perpetrator's speech (Shuy, 2010). At this point, language crimes are speech and text that violate the law. It aims to break somebody's reputation, humiliate the individual in a certain way, promote propaganda, and create fright through threats.

The actors of language crime may commit their actions non-electronically and electronically. The non-electronic media of language crime are letters, banners, newspapers, and/or posters, whereas the social electronic media include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and WhatsApp. The Indonesian Ministry of Communication and Informatics reports that more than 800.000 Indonesian websites indicate spreading false information and hate speech (Pratama, 2016). It implies that technological advancement may lead to societal negativity despite modernity. The Indonesian government passes a law concerning language crime in a Criminal Code (KUHP) and a Bill of Act on Electronic Information and Transaction (UU ITE). They report that Indonesia's most common language crimes are false information, blasphemy, and hate speech.

Several studies focused on false information, which covers hoaxes (Tenriawali et al., 2021; Utami, 2019; Muhammadijah et al., 2023), fake news (Rahman & Tang, 2022; Tulga & Dian, 2022), and misinformation (McRae et al., 2022; Nasir et al., 2020; Suparno & Susilastuti, 2010). Some studies identified the hoax on the internet. Tenriawali et al. (2021) analyzed the language style of hoax news in Indonesian social media. Utami (2019) sought the intended meaning of hoax news in the Indonesian political setting and democracy. Moreover, Tulga & Dian (2022) discussed the correlation between social media and terrorism as a role in spreading the ideology of terrorism. Rahman & Tang (2022) criticized the Indonesian government's policy in combating fake news by shutting down the internet. In comparison, McRae et al. (2022) identified the Indonesian language on Twitter regarding the disinformation campaign pro-government material on Indonesian governance in Papua. Nasir et al. (2020) analyzed the Indonesian people's knowledge in response to misleading information about COVID-19. Suparno & Susilastuti (2010) focused on disinformation and media practices, especially in the Indonesian political area.

Furthermore, some studies on language crime also explored blasphemy (Kartika & Wihadi, 2018; Syahid et al., 2021) and hate speech from a political perspective (Iswatiningsih et al., 2019; Mintowati et al., 2019; Wulandari, 2022). Kartika & Wihadi (2018) identified the interpersonal meaning of the online news portals regarding Ahok's

blasphemy case. Syahid et al. (2021) analyzed the blasphemy element in somebody's speech on social media, and the researcher took the data from the Medan District Court. Iswatiningsih et al. (2019) discussed the hate speech spoken by the supporters of Indonesian presidential candidates on Facebook and Instagram. Mintowati et al. (2019) analyzed the content of hate speech delivered by the speaker to insult President Joko Widodo on Facebook. Wulandari (2022) investigated the hate speech spoken by Rocky Gerung on his official YouTube channel that he addressed to the Indonesian president, Joko Widodo. Besides hate speech from a political perspective, Nasution et al. (2021) explored the hate speech that occurs in the music industry. They analyzed the hate speech against K-pop idols and their fans on social media.

Since hate speech has severe legal and social consequences, it must be analyzed comprehensively by looking at the context of the speech because it determines its underlying motives and intentions. It may involve analyzing the social contexts in which an individual make the speech and the relationship between the speaker and the target audience. Hate speech has become a vital issue in Indonesian digital platforms that have massively concerned race and religion, threats, and harassment against individuals or groups. Through the digital media, hate speech has become the most frequent method for spreading threatening peace and discrimination. Thus, it leads the researchers conducting this study to focus on hate speech against Indonesian badminton athletes. Furthermore, this study delves into hate speech towards Indonesian badminton athletes on social media since none of the previous studies examined hate speech in sports, specifically badminton. Although badminton is one of Indonesia's most popular sports, the athletes may receive hatred when they lose a match in a tournament. The unfulfilled expectation of the supporters may cause the athletes to acquire much hate speech on social media.

The researchers identify the types of hate speech addressed to Indonesian badminton athletes on two social media platforms in which Instagram and Twitter have become the primary data sources. The researchers investigate whether the netizens violate the law of hate speech as in the Criminal Code (*KUHP*) and Bill of Act on Electronic Information and Transaction (*UU ITE*). This study is intended to give a theoretical contribution to developing the forensic linguistics approach, especially language as evidence in law enforcement. In addition, this study is expected to fill the gap of the previous studies that concern hate speech analysis by scrutinizing the hate speech content

in the field of sports. Practically, this study bridges the practitioners in the process of law enforcement. By conducting this study, it is hoped that the internet citizens will be more mindful of their language use in social media to avoid cybercrime issues.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Forensic Linguistics

Forensic linguistics is one of the applied linguistics branches which focuses on helping forensic cases (Umiyati, 2020). Forensic linguistics has been recognized as an essential tool for analyzing language in legal contexts. This field applies various linguistic theories and techniques to examine linguistic phenomena involved in legal processes, including legal products, judicial processes, and interactions between individuals resulting in legal output.

Coulthard et al. (2017) divided the focus of forensic linguistics into three categorizations such as language in legal products, language in courts, and language as evidence. Language in legal products includes discourse analysis, language structure analysis, and linguistics proficiency of the language users. In addition, the source of the language in legal products comes from written text only. Furthermore, the language in courts undertakes the language of honesty, the language style of the judiciary, the language of interrogation, forensic phonetics, and dialectology, which are in the form of oral speech. The other scope of forensic linguistics is language as evidence. The language as evidence can be in written and spoken form. This scope examines authorship attribution, cybercrime, and civil cases as legal evidence. Therefore, linguists play an essential role in analyzing language in legal settings, such as in cases of defamation, threats, extortion, murder, disputes, plagiarism, and corruption. Examining the linguistic aspects of speech can help resolve cases and provide evidence in court (Coulthard et al., 2017).

Hate Speech

Hate speech is the words, writings, or behavior made by individuals or groups in the form of incitement, provocation, or insult to other individuals or groups (Mangantibe, 2016). Hate speech covers many aspects, such as gender, color, ethnicity, race, disability, sexual orientation, and religion. By this far, hate speech is a negative expression intended to intimidate, dominate, discriminate, and create hostility. Hate speech can be produced

in verbal and/or nonverbal forms. The Indonesian government issued the Chief of Police Circular Number: SE/06/X/2015, which concerns hate speech. It is also stated that hate speech can be in the form of actions stipulated in the Criminal Code (KUHP) and other provisions outside the Criminal Code in the form of insult, defamation, denigration, unpleasant action, provocation, incitement, and spread of hoaxes (Mangantibe, 2016).

Insulting can be hurtful and damaging to a person's reputation and honor. Insulting can be based on their religion, race, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation, and it contributes to a culture of intolerance and prejudice. On the other hand, defamation refers to making false statements or spreading rumors about someone that harm their reputation or cause them to be ridiculed, shamed, or avoided by others (Umiyati, 2020). Further, Mangantibe (2016) defines denigration which refers to belittling or disparaging someone or something, usually derogatory or demeaning. It often involves making someone or something appear inferior or less valuable than they are. The other hate speech types called an unpleasant action which is a behavior or activity that causes discomfort, dissatisfaction, or negative emotions in oneself or others. Examples of unpleasant actions may include lying, cheating, stealing, bullying, or harassing others.

Meanwhile, provocation refers to a behavior intended to elicit a response or reaction from someone else. The aim of provocation is usually to incite anger, frustration, or other negative emotions in the targeted individual, often to gain control or assert power. Almost similar with provocation, incitement is encouraging or urging someone to engage in harmful or illegal behavior, but it can take many forms, such as making direct or indirect threats, promoting violence or hatred towards a specific group or individual, or encouraging others to break the law (Umiyati, 2020). Different from the previous types, hoax is a deliberate attempt to deceive or trick others into believing something false or fictitious. Hoaxes can take many forms, such as fake news stories, false advertisements, internet scams, or fake social media posts (Mangantibe, 2016).

METHOD

This study employed a descriptive qualitative method proposed by Bogdan & Biklen (1998). The data are in the form of utterances of internet citizens, which contain hatred, provocation, incitement, and insults addressed to Indonesian badminton athletes on social media, Instagram, and Twitter. The data were taken from the comment column

of the official Indonesian badminton federation's Instagram and Twitter accounts (@badminton.ina and @INABadminton). The data were collected by documenting the utterances of the internet citizen, and then analyzed using contextual analysis method to get an accurate understanding of the intention and to avoid misjudgment.

The data were collected only in a particular speech event and condition. The researchers assume that hate speech only appears when Indonesian badminton athletes lose a match or a competition. Therefore, the lost matches of the athletes triggered the occurrence of hate speech produced by internet citizens. Moreover, the indicated hate speech data were further classified based on Article 28(2) of Law Number 11 of 2008 as amended by Law Number 19 of 2016 on Electronic Information and Transaction (*UU ITE*) and Chief of Police Circular Number: SE/06/X/2015 to determine whether or not the language users violated the law. This study also analyzed speech acts to identify the underlying motives or intentions behind hate speech. By analyzing the linguistic features of such language, including its tone, word choice, and syntax, a speech act analysis can determine the intended meaning and effect of the speech act.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

This study found forty-nine comments which contain hate speech content including insults, defamation, denigration, unpleasant action, provocation, incitement, and hoax towards Indonesian badminton athletes on social media.

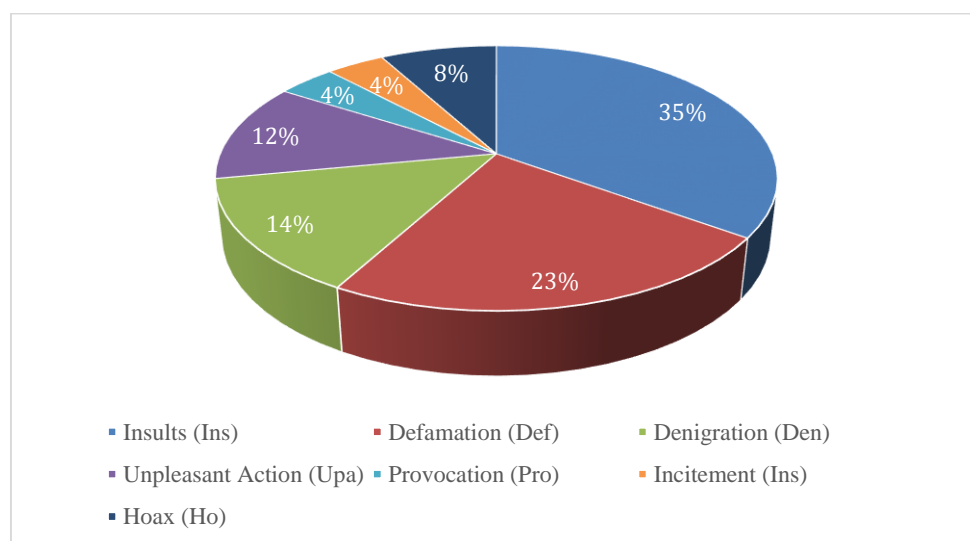


Figure 1. Types of Hate Speech towards Indonesian Badminton Athletes on Social Media

Based on the distribution chart in Figure 1, forty-nine data were classified into seven types of hate speech: *insults*, *defamation*, *denigration*, *unpleasant action*, *provocation*, *incitement*, and *hoax*. The most frequent type of hate speech from the data is *insults*, with seventeen occurrences (35%). Then, the following data is *defamation* with eleven occurrences (23%), and *denigration* has seven occurrences (14%). Furthermore, *unpleasant action* has six occurrences (12%), followed by *hoax* with four occurrences (8%). *Provocation* and *incitement* become the lowest with one occurrence.

Insulting

Excerpt 1

PAYAH LU TONG KAWIN AJA LU SANA !! LWN SYRIA AJA NGESOT ATAU GA PENSIUN FOKUS NGELAWAK AJA ATLET KAYA LU DILUAR SANA DIBUANG JAUH JAUH (sumando_11)

[AH, YOU SUCK. IT'S BETTER FOR YOU TO MARRY !! JUST DEFEATED AGAINTS SYRIA, OR YOU BETTER RETIRE, FOCUS ON COMEDY. SOMEWHERE OUT THERE, ATHLETE LIKE YOU WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED]

The statement of @sunando_11 above implies that he insults the badminton player who does not win the match against the Syrian player although the Syrian player is not as powerful as other players. Furthermore, the rank of the Indonesian player is higher than that of the Syrian player. Based on that fact, Sunando bullies the player and suggests that he should retire as soon as he loses the match. Sunando also states that the player had better be a comedian than a badminton athlete. He argues that the athlete's skill does not deserve to be compared with the other top badminton players, and he also analogizes the athlete to trash. Thus, the comment is considered as a verbal insult. As stated by (Mangantibe, 2016), verbal insults can take various forms, such as name-calling, mocking, belittling, or demeaning remarks. The comment involves the use of spoken language to intentionally hurt the athletes by name-calling them 'suck'.

Excerpt 2

LU HARUS DIRUQYAH !! ATAU UDAH KEHILANGAN AKAL SEHAT???? MAINN NYA ERORR LETOY SAMPAI KAPAN ?SAMPAI KIAMAT ATAU SAMPAI TUA?CUIHHHH (sumando_11)

[DO YOU HAVE TO RUQYAH !! OR HAVE YOU LOST YOUR SENSE????
FOR HOW LONG DO YOU WANT TO PLAY WITHOUT BEING SERIOUS?
UNTIL THE END OF THE DAY OR UNTIL YOU ARE OLD? CUIHHHH]

The other insulting statement of @sumando_11 is defined as a harsh comment. He addresses the comment to the athlete who plays with no fighting spirit and is full of errors. He suggests the athlete be *ruqyah* (exorcized). The word “exorcized” implied his annoyance towards the terrible performance of the athlete during the match. He states that the athlete has lost his commonsense. He also asks the offensive question until the athlete keeps playing worse and makes no significant progress. This comment is recognized as a verbal insult since it can affect the athlete's self-esteem, self-worth, and emotional well-being as an athlete. This is also in line with (Mangantibe, 2016), the speaker gives demeaning remarks by making negative comments about the athlete's capability and self-esteem.

Defamation

Excerpt 3

*MAIN UDH KAYA LEVEL RT AJA . GA NUNJUKIN KELAS DUNIA.....MAIN
AJA MEDSOS SANA..!!ENAK HABIS INI PADA LIBURAN KE DUBAI
(@renoryanirawan)*

[YOU PLAYED LIKE A LOW LEVEL. YOU DON'T SHOW A WORLD
CLASS.....YOU JUST PLAY ON SOCIAL MEDIA..!! IT IS GOOD AFTER
THIS ON A VACATION TO DUBAI]

The defamation statement of @renoryanirawan is to damage and harm the reputation of the athletes. He makes malicious statements that are intended to reduce their credibility. His statement can also make the athletes seem less worthy and valuable by undermining their credibility or legitimacy. He claims that the athlete's skill is low, not showing how world-class should be. He also suggests to the athlete not to play badminton anymore, and start to have vacation and focus on social media. This comment categorized as a defamation because it is false and harmful to the athlete's reputation. Referring to (Umiyati, 2020), the comments can harm the athlete's reputation by spreading rumors or false information. Also, it takes in the form of written statements that are communicated to a third party (the public) and that can damage the reputation of the athlete being targeted.

Excerpt 4

WR I ni bosss (@labibal.ilmi)

[This is WR I]

The statement of @labibal.ilmi complements the athlete for achieving the first-world rank. On the other hand, if it is seen with context, the statement is recognized as a sarcastic expression. It occurs when the athlete in the first world rank loses to the other badminton player with a lower rank. At this point, a sarcastic expression is the words opposite or contrary to the literal interpretation. It is used to convey irony. The sarcastic comment by @labibal.ilmi is used as a form of satire or social commentary and can be used to criticize or mock the athlete. Also, it aims to defame the honor of the athlete who has a first-world rank. Not only the hate speech address directly, but it may also possibly utter by using sarcastic language (Umiyati, 2020). The aim of sarcastic expression is similar to the usual defamation comments which is to damage the athlete's reputation by giving negative comments, but it takes implicitly.

Denigration

Excerpt 5

MELAWAN TIM BAYANGAN NEGARA LAIN BUKAN FULL TEAM UTAMA MASIH AJA GABISA TEMBUS FINAL AMPUNNNNNN DAHH KALIAN DI PELATNAS NGAPAIN AJA TIDUR SOSMED IKLAN ENDORSE TIKTOK KAN AJA TERUS ... INI BUKAN PERSOALAN MENANG KALAH TAPI MARTABAT SUATU BANGSA ... TANPA DIPERKUAT MINIONS SAMA THE DADDIES KALIAN TIDAK BISA BERBICARA BANYAK ! SANGAT KECEWA . (@protectofairport)

[AGAINST THE SHADOW TEAM OF OTHER COUNTRIES, NOT THE MAIN FULL TEAM, STILL CAN'T BREAK TO THE FINAL, OH MY GOD. WHAT DO YOU DO AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER? SLEEP, SOCIAL MEDIA, ENDORSE ADVERTISING, KEEP ON TIKTOK... THIS IS NOT ABOUT WINNING OR LOSING BUT THE DIGNITY OF A NATION... WITHOUT MINIONS WITH THE DADDIES, YOU CAN'T TALK MUCH! I AM VERY DISAPPOINTED.]

@protectofairport's statement is considered a denigration. His statement involves intentionally discrediting the athletes who aim to undermine their credibility or diminish their perceived value as an athlete. He denigrates the athlete by making negative

comments or spreading false rumors. He assumes that the athlete only focuses on endorsement and does not exercise seriously; consequently, they were early exits in the tournament. He also compares the Indonesian badminton squad to the other nation's squad. He reminds the athletes to be more responsible since they carry national dignity. The comment is categorized as a denigration since it is used to reinforce prejudice and discrimination against the athlete, and can contribute to a hostile or unsafe environment for the athlete who are targeted. As seen in (Mangantibe, 2016), denigration is a form of hate speech that seeks to diminish the worth or dignity of a person or group through the use of derogatory language.

Unpleasant Action

Excerpt 6

Yang buat kalah Indonesia, pulang nya naik kapal laut aja! bertanding koq gak semangat utk menang, ngabisin biaya2 aja! 🙄 (@ervan_ruli)

[To those who made Indonesia lose, they went home by ship! why don't they have the enthusiasm to win, they just spent money 🙄]

The comment of @ervan_ruli implies that he committed an unpleasant action by suggesting that the Indonesian badminton athlete who lost during the tournament come back to Indonesia by ship, which the athletes do not commonly use. He criticizes that they have less ambition to win the tournament. He also adds that they only waste the fund budget given by the federation. He emphasizes his statement by giving a thumb-down emoticon. Thus, the hate comments delivered by @ervan_ruli can lead to unpleasant actions and behaviors that can harm the athletes who are targeted. Such actions can range from verbal harassment and intimidation which is in line with (Mangantibe, 2016). The intimidation can be extremely distressing for the athlete, and can contribute to feelings of fear, anxiety, and vulnerability.

Provoking

Excerpt 7

Bagus indonesia terus lah kalah dan berjuang untuk memburuk itulah indonesia dengan segala keragamannya (@faisal_mutaqinn)

[It's good that Indonesia continues to lose and struggles to get worse, that's Indonesia with all diversity]

The Instagram user with the username @faisal_mutaqinn attempted to provoke the Indonesian athlete through his comment. He used a scare pattern in provoking the athletes by using words that were contradictory to one another. The phrases “*teruslah kalah*” and “*berjuang untuk memburuk*” are described as paradoxical. A linguistic paradox is a figure of speech in which a statement appears to contradict itself. He seems not to provoke the athletes, but he does. Therefore, his comment seems well-founded, but it proves contradictory or absurd when investigated. The provocative comment is intended to stimulate a strong emotional response or reaction in the internet citizen. This is in line with (Mangantibe, 2016), provocation is often used to provoke or inflame others, and can be a form of aggression or manipulation.

Inciting

Excerpt 8

Nanti Sudirman Cup tidak usah berharap banyak teman² soale negara lain yg ngirim pelapis, bisa mengalahkan tim Indonesia yang banyak mengirim tim Utama. Apalagi nanti kalau Cina, Jepang, Korea Selatan, Thailand dll mengirim tim utamanya? Mungkin tim Indonesia sudah kalah di awal [REDACTED] (@galuhseptianingrum)

[Later, in the Sudirman Cup we don't have to expect much guys because other countries that send shadow team can beat the Indonesian team which sent a lot of the main team. What if China, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, etc. send their main team? Maybe the Indonesian team had lost at the start [REDACTED]]

The @galuhseptianingrum's statement is classified as incitement. She tries to persuade the other badminton enthusiasts not to support the Indonesian team anymore. She said that when the most prestigious badminton mixed team tournament comes, the fans should not expect a great result from the Indonesian team since the team has already lost in the lower-level tournament. Although Indonesia brought their main squad to the lower-level tournament, they did not make a remarkable result. She also compared with the other national teams from different countries that did not send their main squad but still achieved the best result in the tournament. Her statement indicates incitement since she motivates others not to support the Indonesian team and spreads pessimism over the Indonesian badminton athletes. Depending on (Umiyati, 2020), this comment classified

as incitement because it is intended to encourage or provoke others to engage in violent or illegal behavior. Furthermore, the comment can lead to violent or destructive behavior and undermine social order and stability. It can also contribute to a fear and mistrust, and can perpetuate prejudice and discrimination against the Indonesian badminton athletes.

Hoax

Excerpt 9

Duit nya kecil jd gak semangat (@surya_diroxy)

[The money is small so they're not enthusiastic]

The Instagram user, @surya_diroxy, assumes that the Indonesian badminton national team lost the competition because of the low prize money. He implies that the low prize money offered by the competition becomes the main reason the Indonesian badminton national team did not give their best during the match and had no fighting spirit while playing against the other opponent team. This assumption is not based on fact and sounds like an accusation. As national athletes, they must be professional and have a responsibility to raise the Indonesian flag in every competition regardless of how much the prize is offered in the tournament. Thus, the comment of @surya_diroxy is considered a hoax because it is a deliberately fabricated or misleading story or piece of information that is spread with the intention of deceiving people (Mangantibe, 2016). In addition, the hoax is in the form of accusation. The hoax accusation is made against the athlete who is sharing false information about the athlete's motivation in competing the badminton tournament.

Discussion

Forty-nine comments are considered hate speech. All the data were obtained from the official account of the Indonesian badminton federation. The hate speeches include insults, defamation, denigration, unpleasant action, provocation, incitement, and hoax. The hate speech type that occurs the most is insults. It occurs frequently because when the commenters feel angry, frustrated, or resentful, they may lash out and insult the athletes as a way to express their negative emotions. This factor usually makes them need something to vent their frustration. Hate speech frequently occurs in a particular situation

when Indonesian badminton athletes lose matches. This situation triggers Indonesian social media users to express their hatred addressed to the lost athletes. When the athletes win the matches, and hate speech is rarely found in the comment column. At this point, it indicates that all Indonesian badminton fans believe their athletes are the greatest ones the world has ever seen. Because of the love for the athletes, the fans set their expectations so high without considering other possibilities that the athletes also have a chance of losing the matches.

The way the commenters spread hatred towards the Indonesian badminton athlete varies. Excerpts 4 and 7 show that the commenters hide their malicious intention for the athletes. This strategy is used to blur the intention's clarity and make the utterance's meaning ambiguous. It is also to create less aggressivity through the use of sarcastic language. If the utterances exclude the context, the utterance's meaning will be contradictory and may sound like a cheerful expression. Therefore, sarcasm is often used to criticize or mock the athlete and can effectively communicate a message indirectly. The phenomenon aligns with Colston (2017) who explained that sarcasm is a type of verbal irony characterized by using words to express something different from or opposite to their literal meaning. It involves some incongruity between what is said and the situation in which sarcasm is used. Lestari (2019) adds that verbal irony also aims to entertain and to tease the readers.

The commenters also have particular language styles in uttering hate comments. They bolded their comments, as in Excerpt 1, Excerpt 2, Excerpt 3, and Excerpt 5. In the context of hate speech, boldness can be used to intensify the offensiveness of the messages. The commenters used bold font to highlight derogatory comments about the athletes. The use of boldness in hate speech can have a powerful impact on the reader, as it draws attention to the most offensive parts of the utterance. However, it is essential to note that boldness alone does not constitute hate speech; the message's content and intent determine whether it is offensive. In addition, emoticons can be used to convey offensive messages and to signal that the message is meant to be humorous or sarcastic. For example, in Excerpt 9, the commenter used a laughing emoticon after a teasing comment to signal that the comment was meant to be taken sarcastically. However, the use of emoticons in hate speech is, therefore, highly context-dependent. Therefore, it is vital to

consider the utterance's intention and the social and cultural norms of the context in which it is used.

In the insulting comment, it contains a lexical indicator which is a word or phrase that is used to express negative attitudes or prejudice of the commenter towards the athlete's credibility. As seen in Excerpt 1, the commenter used the lexical indicator of "*payah*" to denigrate the addressed athlete. Thus, the lexical indicators of "*payah*" can be used to amplify the message of hate speech. Lexical indicators in hate speech might also include terms that suggest inferiority or subordination, such as "uncivilized" or "primitive." In Excerpt 3, the phrase of "*kaya level RT aja*" recognized as a lexical indicator that indicates the inferiority expression tackled to the athletes.

The most frequent types of sentences also identified in hate speech comments which are imperative and interrogative sentence. Imperative sentences can be used in hate speech to issue commands, threats, or incitements to harm others. This can take the form directly or indirectly. As seen in Excerpt 1, Excerpt 2, Excerpt 3, and Excerpt 6, the comments aim to dehumanize and harm the athlete. The phrase of "*KAWIN AJA LU SANA !!*" in Excerpt 1 and "*MAIN AJA MEDSOS SANA..!!*" in Excerpt 3 exemplify the imperative commands which has negative contextual meaning. The commenters may also express a suggestion which has negative interpretation, as in Excerpt 2 and Excerpt 6, the phrase of "*LU HARUS DIRUQYAH !!*" and "*pulang nya naik kapal laut aja!.*" Furthermore, the interrogative sentence can also be used in hate speech to convey derogatory attitudes towards the athletes. As in Excerpt 2, the phrase of "*ATAU UDAH KEHILANGAN AKAL SEHAT????*" is typically in the form of rhetorical questions that are intended to belittle the athlete.

This study reveals that not only the illocutionary act can analyze the hate speech, as in the previous researches reported (Nasution et al., 2021; Oktaviani et al., 2022; Ubaidillah & Wijana, 2021), but it can also be identified by looking at the use of paralinguistic features. The paralinguistic features may become a tool to interpret the nuances of the commenter's attitudes, emotions, and intentions. In this present study, the emoticons, as one of the paralinguistic features, can provide clues about the sarcasm and anger of the commenters. In addition, hate speech may be seen by from the perspective of impoliteness as in the study conducted by (Manik et al., 2022; Pasaribu, 2021; Riyadisty & Fauziati, 2022). However, hate speech can also be scrutinized by considering

the stylistic features, including punctuation and syntax, which contribute to uncover the style of hate speech. The use of question mark, exclamation point, and type of sentence can affect the pacing and emphasis of the hate speech.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusions

This study reveals that forty-nine comments contain hate speech content including insults, defamation, denigration, unpleasant action, provocation, incitement, and hoax towards Indonesian badminton athletes on social media. The commenters hate the Indonesian badminton athlete because of the unfulfilled expectation. When the athletes are defeated in the match, it significantly increases the intensity of hate speech. Ironically, the commenters who express hateful speeches are recognized as fans or supporters of the Indonesian team. They do not accept their athletes losing, so they bully the athletes offensively. Some do not explicitly express hateful comments but employ sarcastic language to hide the intention. Moreover, the use of paralinguistic features emphasize their hate speech by inserting negative-conveyed emoticons. Also, the stylistic elements like sentence structure, punctuation, and bold-typed text can signal the hate expression. Additionally, the imperative sentence and interrogative sentences are used to intimidate, threaten, or insult the athletes. Such sentences can also be used to incite violence, encourage harmful behavior, or to express the commenter's anger or frustration towards the athlete.

Suggestions

This present study has not covered all the issues related to the hate speech of language users on social media. This study only discusses the types of hate speech and the language style of the commenters. Furthermore, this study aims to examine whether social media users violate the law of the Criminal Code, which concerns hate speech content or not. The researcher suggests that the upcoming research examine the forensic linguistics related to hate speech by approaching other macro linguistics. They can analyze hate speech by using a corpus to identify its meaning; thus, it will have a more comprehensive analysis.

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