ANALISIS VALIDITAS PENGGUNAAN BAHASA PADA BERITA ACARA PEMERIKSAAN (BAP) TERSANGKA DI UNIT RESKRIM POLRES GOWA (KAJIAN LINGUISTIK FORENSIK)

ANALYSIS OF THE VALIDITY OF LANGUAGE USE IN THE EXAMINATION MINUTES (BAP) OF SUSPECTS AT THE GOWA POLICE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION UNIT (FORENSIC LINGUISTIC STUDY

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the validity of the use of language in the Investigation Report (BAP) of the Suspect in the Gowa Police Criminal Investigation Unit through a forensic linguistic study. The focus of the research is directed at four linguistic aspects, namely diction, syntax, coherence, and ambiguity, which have the potential to affect the accuracy, clarity, and consistency of information in BAP documents. This study uses a qualitative approach with a case study design, involving five Suspect BAP documents as primary data analyzed through qualitative content analysis techniques using the interactive model Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña. The results of the study show that the use of diction in some BAPs does not fully reflect the suspect's literal statements, but is a narrative construction of the investigator that has the potential to cause meaning bias. In the syntax aspect, it was found that the sentence structure was long, ineffective, and layered so that it gave rise to the blurring of the subject of action and the flow of information. The aspect of coherence also shows irregularities in the organization of the chronology which results in the flow of events becoming illogical and making it difficult to understand the sequence of events. Meanwhile, referential and semantic ambiguity is found in a number of parts of the BAP, especially related to the use of unclear pronouns that open up the possibility of double interpretation. These findings indicate that the linguistic aspect plays a crucial role in the validity of BAP as a legal document. Linguistic inaccuracy has the potential to affect the interpretation of law enforcement officials and have an impact on the fulfillment of suspects' rights. This study emphasizes the need to improve language competence for investigators and the application of forensic linguistic principles in the preparation of investigation documents.

Keywords : Forensic Linguistics, Examination Minutes, Diction, Syntax, Coherence, Ambiguity.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis validitas penggunaan bahasa dalam Berita Acara Pemeriksaan (BAP) Tersangka di Unit Reskrim Polres Gowa melalui kajian linguistik forensik. Fokus penelitian diarahkan pada empat aspek kebahasaan, yaitu diksi, sintaksis, koherensi, dan ambiguitas,

yang berpotensi memengaruhi akurasi, kejelasan, serta konsistensi informasi dalam dokumen BAP. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan desain studi kasus, melibatkan lima dokumen BAP Tersangka sebagai data primer yang dianalisis melalui teknik analisis isi kualitatif menggunakan model interaktif Miles, Huberman, dan Saldaña. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penggunaan diksi dalam beberapa BAP tidak sepenuhnya mencerminkan pernyataan literal tersangka, melainkan merupakan konstruksi naratif penyidik yang berpotensi menimbulkan bias makna. Pada aspek sintaksis, ditemukan struktur kalimat panjang, tidak efektif, dan berlapis sehingga memunculkan kaburnya subjek tindakan serta alur informasi. Aspek koherensi juga menunjukkan ketidakteraturan organisasi kronologi yang mengakibatkan alur peristiwa menjadi tidak logis dan menyulitkan pemahaman terhadap runtutan kejadian. Sementara itu, ambiguitas referensial dan semantik ditemukan dalam sejumlah bagian BAP, terutama terkait penggunaan pronomina yang tidak jelas rujukannya sehingga membuka peluang penafsiran ganda. Temuan-temuan tersebut mengindikasikan bahwa aspek kebahasaan memegang peranan krusial dalam validitas BAP sebagai dokumen hukum. Ketidakcermatan linguistik berpotensi memengaruhi interpretasi aparat penegak hukum dan berdampak pada pemenuhan hak-hak tersangka. Kajian ini menegaskan perlunya peningkatan kompetensi bahasa bagi penyidik serta penerapan prinsip linguistik forensik dalam penyusunan dokumen penyidikan.

Kata Kunci : Linguistik Forensik, Berita Acara Pemeriksaan, Diksi, Sintaksis, Koherensi, Ambiguitas.

1. INTRODUCTION

Language has a fundamental role in the construction of a country's legal system. More than just a means of communication, language is an essential medium that underpins the entire law enforcement architecture, from regulatory formulation to investigation and court processes. In Indonesia, legal certainty is greatly influenced by the accuracy of language in legal documents which must be prepared precisely, objectively, and free from ambiguity. Linguistic inaccuracies in legal texts, including the Minutes of Examination (BAP), can open up a space for interpretive bias that threatens the integrity of the judicial process. Therefore, the accuracy of the use of language in all legal documents is a fundamental aspect that must be maintained.

In addition, the correct and fair use of language in legal contexts has a very strong ethical and morality dimension. From a normative perspective, integrity, honesty, and accuracy in the delivery of information are moral obligations for every party involved in law enforcement. This moral value is also strengthened in religious teachings, one of which is through Surah Al-Maidah verse 8 which emphasizes the importance of honest, fair, and free testimony from hateful impulses. The verse emphasizes that justice is part of piety, so any practice of linguistic manipulation or narrative distortion in legal documents such as BAP is not only a violation of legal procedure, but also a violation of the ethics of honesty of divine value.

The Examination Report (BAP) itself is an important document produced in the investigation process and contains information from suspects, witnesses, or experts. BAP is one of the main evidence that will be considered at the trial, so its validity must be maintained through the suitability between oral evidence and written narrative. The signing of the BAP by the party concerned is also an indicator of the validity of the document. Therefore, linguistic errors in the BAP—even if minor—can have implications for factual inaccuracies, which then have the potential to weaken the legal position of the parties being examined.

In practice, BAP is a document that is vulnerable to validity issues, one of which is marked by the many cases of revocation of information by defendants at trial. The revocation of the BAP is generally based on claims that the investigator did not follow the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code correctly, or that there was pressure, manipulation, and inaccuracy of language in the examination process. Although revocation is allowed, the defendant is obliged to include a logical and provable reason. This shows that the issue of linguistic validity is a core aspect that affects the validity of BAP as a legal document.

The situation of revocation is often related to the potential for coercion or linguistic bias that is carried out intentionally or unintentionally. The investigator as a verbalizer has the authority to compile a written narrative based on the suspect's oral statement. Inaccuracies in diction selection, syntactic structure, and narrative construction that lead to it can be a form of linguistic intervention that has a serious impact. When there are indications of bias or manipulation in the BAP, the judge can even summon investigators for further information. This situation underscores the urgency of the need for objective supervision of the use of language in investigation documents.

Forensic Linguistics (LF) comes as a relevant discipline in this context. LF is a scientific study that utilizes linguistic theories and methods for legal and forensic purposes. In criminal investigations, LF plays a role in analyzing language in legal documents, including examining interrogation patterns, sentence structure, word choice, and indications of bias or narrative manipulation. LF is able to uncover the pragmatic dynamics hidden in legal language, thus explaining how certain linguistic structures can impact the representation of facts in investigative documents such as BAP.

Previous studies have shown that linguistic errors in BAP, both at the morphological, syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic levels, can cause interpretive confusion that affects the judicial process. For example, the use of dynamic modalities can create subjective tendencies in the BAP narrative, thus opening up space for bias towards the facts of events. Linguistic validity, as a verification layer in Forensic Linguistics, allows the identification of subtle manipulations, such as the use of euphemisms or directive sentences that direct. Therefore, LF becomes an objective quality control tool to ensure that the BAP truly reflects the facts and not the subjective reconstruction of the investigators.

This study focuses on the suspect's BAP at the Gowa Police Criminal Investigation Unit. The selection of this location was based on the need to look at the implementation of investigation procedures at the regional level, where dialect differences, local language use, limited understanding of legal language, and lack of linguistic standardization often give rise to more complex linguistic problems than other regions. This condition makes forensic linguistic analysis even more important to assess the validity and objectivity of the language used in documents.

By integrating the criminal law framework (KUHAP) and Forensic Linguistics methodology, this research is directed to answer the fundamental problem regarding the legitimacy of the use of language in the suspect's BAP at the Gowa Police Criminal

Investigation Unit. The research focus includes the analysis of linguistic aspects such as diction, syntax, coherence, and ambiguity, as well as identifying potential linguistic deviations in BAP. This study also examines the implications of these findings on the law enforcement process and the protection of the human rights of suspects as parties who have a weak position in the investigation structure.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach with a case study design, because the focus of this research is to analyze in depth the use of language in the Suspect's Examination Report (BAP) document prepared by the Gowa Police Criminal Investigation Unit. The qualitative approach was chosen because this study emphasizes the understanding of the meaning and function of language in the legal context, so it requires data in the form of words, sentences, discourse structures, and linguistic patterns represented in the BAP text. The case study design allows researchers to examine these linguistic phenomena intensively, holistically, and contextually, so that every aspect of diction, syntax, coherence, and ambiguity can be analyzed sharply according to the perspective of forensic linguistics.

The research data consists of primary data and secondary data. Primary data is in the form of the Investigation Report (BAP) document of the suspect which is used in the investigation process. This document is the main source because it contains all linguistic representations analyzed, including the structure of the investigator's questions, the suspect's answers, and the narrative of the information constructed in the form of legal texts. In addition, secondary data was collected through interviews with investigators involved in the BAP preparation process to obtain the context of the investigation, recording procedures, and reasons for using certain forms of language. Observation of the process of preparing legal documents is also carried out as a support to capture contextual data that is not recorded in written documents.

The research instruments used consisted of researchers as the main instrument (human instrument) and supporting instruments in the form of forensic linguistic analysis guidelines. As the main instrument, the researcher plays a role in interpreting data, identifying linguistic patterns, and determining linguistic categories that have the potential to affect the validity of BAP content. Theoretical awareness and sensitivity to language symptoms are important capital in this study. Supporting instruments in the form of categorization sheets are compiled to map aspects of language such as diction, syntactic structure, discourse coherence, and potential ambiguity. This instrument helps researchers encode data systematically so that the analysis process is more directed.

The data collection technique is carried out through three methods, namely interviews, observations, and documentation. In-depth interviews were used to dig up information related to the BAP preparation procedure, the reasons for choosing certain languages, and the investigators' understanding of legal language standards. Observations were made to see the practice of recording suspects' statements, including verbal interactions that could affect the

form of BAP text. The documentation technique is the main technique used, because BAP documents are primary data that are analyzed using forensic linguistic methods to identify inaccuracies in the use of language, inconsistencies in facts, and ambiguities that have the potential to weaken the validity of BAP law.

Data analysis uses Qualitative Content Analysis with the interactive model Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña which includes data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion-extraction/verification. At the data reduction stage, the researcher selects parts of the BAP text that contain problematic linguistic symptoms, such as biased diction, blurred sentence structure, or information discontinuity. The data was presented through a linguistic categorization matrix that placed BAP citations in the relevant linguistic problem category. In addition, special analytical techniques such as Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), semantic analysis, and pragmatic analysis are also used to uncover power relations in investigative dialogues, implicit meanings, and extralinguistic contexts that affect the validity of language use.

The final stage of analysis is the drawing of conclusions and verification that is carried out continuously during the research process. The researcher interprets the linguistic findings by relating them to the context of law enforcement, specifically the linguistic implications for the clarity, consistency, and validity of information in BAP. The final findings are then formulated to provide recommendations for improvement in the preparation of the BAP, both in terms of legal language standards, recording procedures, and the protection of suspects' human rights in the investigation process..

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of this research were obtained through an in-depth analysis of five documents of the Suspect's Examination Report (BAP) issued by the Gowa Police Criminal Investigation Unit. The analysis focuses on four aspects of language, namely diction, syntax, coherence, and ambiguity. The following findings are presented based on real data obtained from the BAP documents—all of which have been disguised to maintain the confidentiality of the investigation.

a. Diction Aspect Findings

The analysis shows that there is an inappropriate use of diction or has the potential to cause meaning bias. For example, in the BAP of Suspect 02, the use of the word "fully admitted" was found in the suspect's answer, even though the information in the context of the interview showed that the suspect still showed doubts. Example of BAP quote:

Data 1 (BAP-02): "I fully admit that I committed the act."

Investigator's note: the suspect had doubts and asked for clarification.

In an interview, investigators stated that the phrase was a "standard record" and not a literal statement from the suspect. This shows that there is a diction intervention that can affect the validity of the statement. The use of diction in the analyzed Suspect's BAP showed that there was a language intervention from the investigator that had the potential to change the

original meaning of the suspect's statement. In Data 1 (BAP-02), the phrase "fully admitted" is recorded in the document as the suspect's statement, even though based on the investigator's records and interview reconstruction, the suspect still showed doubts and asked for clarification before giving an answer. The diction chosen by the investigator does not reflect the psychological or linguistic condition of the suspect when giving information. The use of diction like this creates the impression that the suspect gives a total confession when in fact this is not the case. This shows that there is an inaccuracy of language representation in the process of recording information.

In addition to reducing the objectivity of the document, the selection of diction that is a template or recording standard also presents the potential for bias in legal interpretation. When phrases such as "fully confess" are used routinely without considering the nuances of the suspect's language, the BAP no longer captures authentic information, but the result of the investigator's interpretation. In the context of forensic linguistics, this kind of diction intervention can reduce the validity of BAP because it changes the status of linguistic evidence from verbatim testimony to constructed narrative. Thus, the aspect of diction is a crucial factor that needs attention to ensure the accuracy of the representation of suspect information.

b. Syntax Aspect Findings

Syntax errors are found in some parts of BAP, especially long sentence structures that combine multiple information at once, causing ambiguity of meaning. Example data:
Data 2 (BAP-03): "At that time I was at home then brother R came and asked for money and I gave it but the money was not my money but it belonged to a friend I lent."

The above sentence shows a layered structure and a lack of punctuation, which leads to ambiguity as to who the real moneylender is and how the flow of events unfolds. The syntactic structure in some BAPs shows the ineffectiveness of sentence preparation which has an impact on the clarity of information. Data 2 (BAP-03) shows long sentences that combine multiple events at once without adequate use of punctuation. Sentence : "At that time I was at home then brother R came and asked for money and I gave it but the money was not my money but it belonged to a friend I lent it." It contains several different propositions, such as the location of the suspect, the arrival of other people, money transactions, and information on money ownership. When all this information is combined in a single compound sentence construction without clear separation, the meaning becomes blurred, especially with regard to who the subject is actually doing the act of giving money.

This syntactic ineffectiveness opens up the opportunity for multiinterpretation. For example, it is unclear whether the suspect gave money voluntarily, whether the act of giving money occurred before or after the request, or whether the possession of the money is relevant in the context of a criminal act. In addition, the use of layered structured sentences also makes it difficult for other parties such as prosecutors, legal counsel, or judges to interpret the flow of events accurately. In the study of forensic linguistics, ineffective sentence structure is one of the main causes of the decline in the reliability of legal documents. Therefore, clarifying the

syntactic structure through breaking the information into separate sentences is important in maintaining the validity of BAP.

c. Findings of Coherence Aspects

The coherence between paragraphs was found to be inconsistent in the two BAP documents. One example is in BAP-05, when the chronological narrative is not arranged in chronological order. The following quote shows the irregularity:

Date 3 (BAP-05):

Paragraph 1: The suspect admitted to being at home at 19.00.Paragraph 3: The suspect said he went to the victim's house at 17.00 to meet a friend. Paragraph 2: The suspect said that at around 18.00 the victim met him on the street.

The sequence of paragraphs does not follow the sequence of events and instead results in a chaotic temporal coherence that obscures the actual flow of events. The coherence between paragraphs in several BAPs was found to be inconsistent, especially in the preparation of the chronology of events. Data 3 (BAP-05) shows that the sequence of paragraphs does not follow a logical temporal flow: the information at 7:00 p.m. is in the first paragraph, the event at 17:00 is written in the third paragraph, and the event at 18:00 is placed in the second paragraph. This irregularity makes it difficult for the reader to build a complete chronological picture. In legal documents, temporal coherence is a fundamental aspect because it determines whether the flow of events can be accounted for logically and factually.

These irregularities can also affect the interpretation of advanced investigators and the judicial process. The incoherent BAP opens up the possibility of doubts about the consistency of the suspect's statement, even though the main problem lies in the preparation of the narrative by the investigators. In addition, inconsistencies in coherence can give rise to defense gaps because BAP is considered not to represent information chronologically and systematically. These findings confirm that coherence is not just a common linguistic aspect, but an important element that determines the narrative integrity of investigative legal documents.

d. Ambiguity Aspect Findings

Ambiguity is found in the form of referential ambiguity and ambiguity of meaning. For example:

 Data 4 (BAP-01): "He gave the money after I asked him beforehand."

The sentence contains a referential ambiguity because it is not clear who the first "he" and the second "he" are. The role of the investigator as a recorder is very much about clarity, but in the document there is no clarification.

Ambiguity is the most significant finding in several BAPs, especially in the form of referential ambiguity. Data 4 (BAP-01) shows the sentence "He gave the money after I asked him beforehand." which contains two references to the pronoun "he". Without explicit clarification, the reader cannot determine whether the two pronouns refer to the same person or different individuals. In the context of legal documents, errors like these are crucial because the identification of the perpetrator, victim, or other party in a legal event is highly dependent on the clarity of references.

In addition to the referential ambiguity, the sentence also raises the ambiguity of the role of the action: is the suspect asking someone for money, or is the request occurring at a different time from the act of giving money? This ambiguity can cause interpretation bias, especially in the context of proving criminal elements such as motive, intentionality, or cause-and-effect relationships. This kind of ambiguity should not appear in legal documents because it can obscure the facts and potentially harm the suspect and the evidentiary process. Thus, handling ambiguity is an important step in improving the linguistic validity of BAP.

e. Discussion

The discussion of this research shows that linguistic aspects play a central role in determine the validity of the Examination Report (BAP) as a legal document that functions to capture the suspect's information authentically. The findings on the aspect of diction show that the choice of words used by the investigators does not always represent the true intention of the suspect, as reflected in Data 1 (BAP-02). The phrase "fully admitted" does not correspond to the conditions of the interview where the suspect still shows doubts. This phenomenon indicates the existence of constructed language added by the investigator as a form of standardization of recording. Such practices can affect the interpretation of confessions in legal proceedings, so the distinction between verbatim testimony and investigator-constructed narrative needs to be affirmed as an important issue in the linguistic validity of BAP.

The syntactic aspect in the BAP shows that the sentence structure used by the investigator still does not meet the principles of effectiveness and readability in legal documents. Data 2 (BAP-03) shows a complexly structured long sentence that combines multiple propositions in a single sentence without adequate separation. The sentence causes confusion regarding the subject of the action, the sequence of events, and the ownership of money. In the perspective of forensic linguistics, ineffective syntax structures have the potential to obscure meaning and reduce the transparency of information, thereby weakening the power of BAP as evidence. This syntactic ambiguity can also have an impact on the interpretation of prosecutors and judges, which require clear and non-multi-interpreted information to assess the elements of a criminal act.

The inconsistency of coherence, especially in the preparation of chronology, is an important finding that indicates weaknesses in the organization of narratives in the BAP. Data 3 (BAP-05) shows paragraphs that are not arranged in chronological order, where the events of 17:00, 18:00, and 19:00 are placed not in logical order. Temporal coherence is a fundamental element in legal documents because chronology greatly determines the analysis of the motive, flow of events, and proof of elements of criminal acts. The irregularity in the preparation of paragraphs in the BAP causes the flow of events to become blurry and can give the impression that the suspect provided inconsistent information, even though the inconsistency most likely comes from the preparation of the narrative by the investigator, not from the suspect. These findings confirm the need for investigators to apply the principle of discourse coherence in recording BAP.

The ambiguity aspect is the most crucial finding because referential and semantic ambiguity directly affect the identification of roles in criminal events. Data 4 (BAP-01) shows the use of the pronoun "he" which refers to two different individuals without clarification. This ambiguity can lead to misunderstandings about who performed certain actions, thus having a serious impact on the evidentiary process. Ambiguity in legal documents such as BAP has the potential to cause inaccuracies in the interpretation of elements of action, party involvement, and cause-and-effect relationships. In the framework of forensic linguistics, the elimination of ambiguity is an absolute demand because the investigative document must represent the facts in a firm, explicit, and non-multi-interpreted manner. Thus, these findings emphasize the importance of linguistic validity as the foundation of BAP legality and the protection of suspects' rights in the criminal justice process.

4. CONCLUSION

This study concludes that the validity of the language in the Investigation Report (BAP) of the Suspect at the Gowa Police Criminal Investigation Unit still faces a number of language problems that have the potential to affect the accuracy and reliability of investigation documents. Four linguistic aspects—diction, syntax, coherence, and ambiguity—show variations in fallacy that are directly related to the clarity and accuracy of the representation of suspect statements. The use of certain non-literal diction and sentences constructed by investigators show the existence of narrative constructions that do not fully reflect the suspect's statements.

The findings of the study show that syntactic errors and chronological coherence inconsistencies are also factors that can obscure the sequence of events and information structure in BAP. This inaccuracy opens up the opportunity for misinterpretation by other law enforcement officials, such as prosecutors and judges, who rely on the BAP as one of the important documents in decision-making. The referential and semantic ambiguities found further emphasized the importance of standardization and precision in the preparation of BAP texts so that there are no misinterpretations regarding the perpetrators, actions, or context of events.

Overall, this study confirms that the validity of language is one of the main foundations for the integrity of BAP as a legal document. Linguistic ambiguity in the BAP not only has an impact on the quality of the investigation process, but also has the potential to cause violations of the principles of justice and the protection of suspects' rights. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the linguistic competence of investigators as well as the development of more systematic forensic linguistic guidelines to ensure that each BAP prepared meets the standards of clarity, accuracy, and legal validity.

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