

## Analysis Of Domestic Language Crimes: A Forensic Linguistic Study

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### ABSTRACT

*Language crimes are the negative point of communication failure in the household, conversations with hurtful connotations implemented with hate speech or insults. This phenomenon is very relevant when studied through the perspective of forensic linguistics, a linguistic study that examines aspects of language use that have legal impacts. This study utilised a qualitative method with a literature review approach to determine the impact of language abuse in the household through forensic linguistic analysis. Data sources were collected from various sources, including interviews with 84 respondents who were housewives, to gather information about verbal abuse behaviour in the household, and several scientific journals, books, and laws and regulations on verbal abuse. The results of the study show that several forms of verbal abuse identified from the interviews include defamation, insults, hate speech, or slander that occur in the household. Even though they are not committed in public, they are found to be legal offences that constitute violations under the Civil Code, Criminal Code, PKDRT Law, and Human Rights.*

**Keywords:** *Language crime, Domestic, Forensic Linguistics*

### ARTICLE HISTORY

Published  
January 28<sup>th</sup> 2026



### ARTICLE LICENCE

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Urban dan Budaya*  
(Urban and Cultural  
Semiotics)

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## 1. Introduction

Crime is part of life that is inseparable from daily social activities (Rukmini, 2009). Likewise, language crimes are not much different from physical crimes; even language crimes are easier to occur anywhere and anytime, especially in domestic life, as a result of which many victims are threatened with the peace of their spiritual life (mental health) and physical life (physical health). Marriage, which was supposed to be a binding space for a couple of people, turned upside down into the most terrifying abyss for a woman (Alimi & Nurwati 2021; Sahib & Rahman, 2021; Abbas et al., 2024).

A phenomenon that has been rampant in society lately is the breakdown of domestic relationships due to acts of domestic violence (KDRT), according to the central statistics agency in the period 2019 to 2023 in (Handayani, 2024) the divorce rate in

Indonesia is the highest in Asia, where in the past five years the number of divorce cases has increased by 53.50% and among the 37 provinces the most cases occur in the province of West Java, Of the many factors of divorce, 21.9% were initiated by wives (divorce lawsuits) due to verbal and non-verbal violence in the household. Incidents like this indicate that crime does not look at gender, especially those committed by a husband, who should be a figure named by the Qur'an as a leader (*qowwamun*) in the family, is very inappropriate to behave rudely according to his lust and anger.

Various factors that cause acts of domestic violence, especially those committed by husbands against their wives, communication aspects and language crimes are the most significant polemics of other problems, one of which is the loss of ethics and politeness of language in the family such as desecration of the dignity of the wife (*Desfimisme*), hate speech, and other forms of language crimes that should not be committed in the domestic sphere.

This action is generally carried out by a husband who is often associated with patriarchal culture; the power relations within the household make him *free will*, free, and inclined to want to obey. Therefore, in a domestic relationship, a husband has an obligation to respect his wife and vice versa, a wife is obliged to have respect and obedience to her husband, when a husband and wife have maintained household etiquette, a harmonious relationship will certainly be established, the loss of ethics in every interaction, especially in communication, becomes a gap for unwanted actions.

From the above explanation, this study aims to determine the legal implications of verbal abuse in the household, as mentioned that verbal abuse is related to unlawful speech acts (Tiersma & Solan, 2012; Karubaba et al., 2024). This study is expected to raise public awareness about the impact of verbal abuse and, hopefully, enable prevention by the authorities.

## **2. Literature Review**

### **2.1 Previous Studies**

#### **2.1.1 Dharmayanti (2023)**

The research on "Language Crimes in the Trial Documents of the Brigadier J Murder Case: Forensic Linguistics Studies" has two cores that are the subject of the problem, namely how the form of language crimes contained in the trial documents of the Brigadier J murder case: Forensic Linguistic Studies and how the criminal law perspective on language crimes contained in the trial documents of the Brigadier J murder case: Forensic Linguistic Studies. It concluded that there were 20 data on language crimes and 20 data from the legal perspective of language crimes. There were 6 forms of language crime, namely 2 forms of hate speech data, 6 forms of fake news/hoax data, 1 form of sedition data, 7 forms of conspiracy data, 2 forms of threat data, and 1 form of false testimony data. From the perspective of language crime law, 2 hate speech data were found article 28 paragraph 2, 6 fake news/hoax data in Law of

the Republic of Indonesia Number 1 of 1946 concerning Criminal Law Regulations article 15, 1 data on incitement article 160 of the Criminal Code, 7 data on conspiracy article 55 of the Criminal Code, 2 data on threats of article 368 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Code, and 1 data on false testimony in article 242 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Code.

### **2.1.2 Ahmad Hamidi (2025)**

The research in the form of a thesis entitled "Pragmatic Analysis of Speech Charged with Criminal Offenses: A Forensic Linguistic Study" examines fifteen written speeches that are evidence of perpetrators of hate speech, defamation, and attempted treason. In this study, four main theories were used, namely presumption theory (Yule, 1975), speech theory (Searle, 1969), Conversation implications (Grice, 1975), and happiness conditions (Austin, 1962 & Searle, 1969), using qualitative methods this study resulted in fourteen speech data obtained from the examination minutes (BAP) of the *cybercrime* unitThe Directorate of Special Criminal Investigation of the West Sumatra Police (Ditreskrimsum Polda Sumbar) has met the elements of hate speech, defamation, and attempted treason, but one speech does not have strong evidence value.

### **2.1.3 Andi Rahmi Utami (2024)**

This Master of Linguistics student at Hasanuddin University (UNHAS), in his thesis entitled "Defamation Speech on Social Media: A Study of Forensic Linguistics," used the theory of Forensic Linguistics to identify the linguistic forms of defamatory speech on social media and interpret the semantic and pragmatic meanings in the defamatory speech. Data from social media X/Twitter, TikTok, and Facebook, found that the lingual form of defamatory speech is in the form of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences that can be important evidence in forensic linguistic analysis, and there is a semantic meaning that shows the true meaning of speech that refers to speech acts that show negative behavior such as insulting, insulting, and blasphemy.

## **2.2 Theoretical Basic**

### **2.2.1 Language Crimes**

Language crime is a crime that arises from oral and written speech that is contrary to legal and ethical norms, and has the potential to harm others by damaging someone's honor, reputation, or good name, even though it is not physically attacking a person, but psychologically, the behavior is very painful for the victim (Sholihatin, 2024; Panggabean et al., 2025; Abbas et al., 2022).

Crimes using language are basically still dangerous, because language expressed in the form of crimes has a bad impact on the victims, such as insults, hate speech, slander and fake news or other forms, as well as language crimes that are not much different from physical crimes, even language crimes are easier to occur anytime and anywhere, especially in the midst of the significance of technological advances (Dalyan et al., 2025; Nuryati et al., 2026; Sosrohadi, 2025). Language crimes are very

difficult to overcome, and their negative impact affects anyone indiscriminately, including ordinary people, officials, religious leaders, public figures, and even heads of state. In general, several types of behavior are included in language crimes, including: (1) defamation and insult, (2) hate speech, (3) false statements or defamation, (4) sedition, (5) threats, and (6) fake news or hoaxes (Handayani, 2024)

### 2.2.2 Linguistic Forensic

Forensic linguistics is a combination of two disciplines, namely linguistics and forensic science, which is the study of language and law (Olsson, & Luchjenbroers, J., 2014). The application of linguistic theories in a linguistic event aims to solve several cases, such as defamation, threats, extortion, language in murder, language in bribery, plagiarism, corruption cases, and so on (Shuy, 1993).

Forensic linguistics plays a role in analyzing several linguistic problems, such as language speakers based on dialect, speaking style, accent, and identifying writing to become evidence in court that there has been linguistic behavior that has a legal impact. The phenomenon that occurs in people's lives today is the abuse of language, both in electronic and non-electronic media, resulting in many people being entangled in legal cases due to mistakes made orally or in writing. Many of these cases can be identified by forensic linguistic observation. Language plays a very important role in raising and building public awareness in enforcing and complying with the law (Subyantoro, 2019; Askurny et al., 2024; Andini et al., 2026).

## 3. Method

This research method uses a qualitative type with a literature study approach. One of the objects of qualitative research is the phenomenon of language because it involves speech, lexical meaning of speech, speech events, people speaking, the intent and content of speech, speech situations, speech acts, and the impact of speech (Prastowo, 2012). Data collection was carried out by two techniques, the first through an interview process with semi-formal techniques to collect information about forms of language crimes in the household carried out in three places, namely study groups, posyandu activities, and members of the Family Welfare Empowerment (PKK) totaling 84 housewives at the Cibuluh village office, Kedung Badak Village, Bogor City on December 10, 2025 by asking four questions. First, "Has your husband ever said words or sentences that hurt feelings, such as degrading or insulting you as a wife? Second, "What is the cause/factor of the words being spoken? Third, "How do you respond or respond to the remarks? Lastly, "What is the impact of language crimes on you, your children, or your family, and also on domestic relationships?

**Table 1.** List of Informants

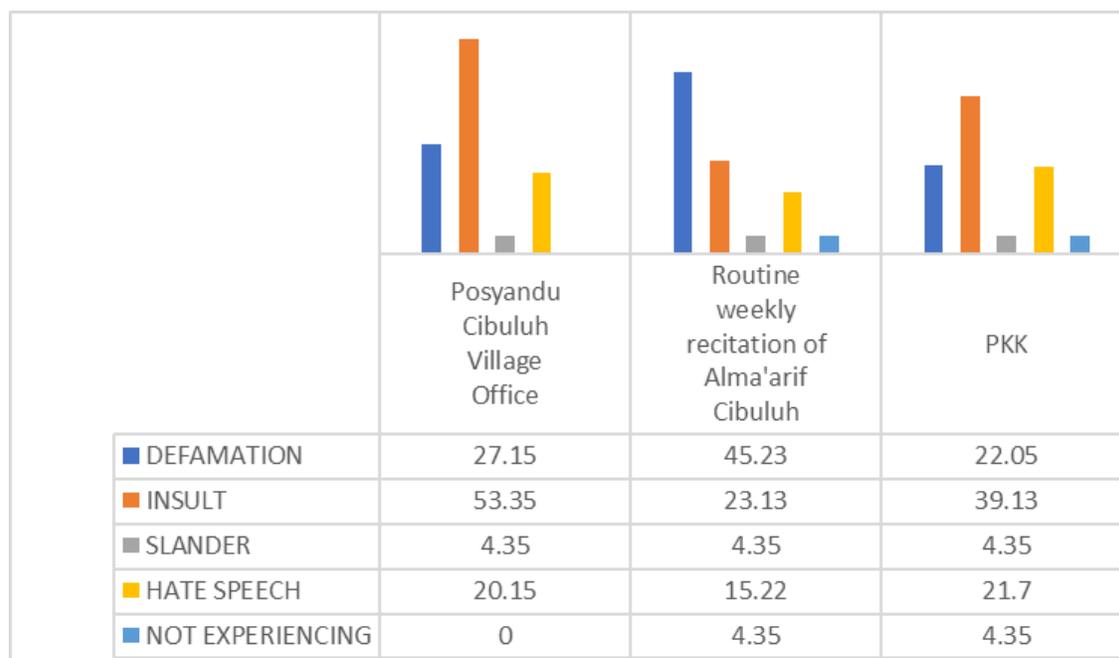
<b>Membership / Group</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Last Level of Education</b>	<b>Profession / Occupation</b>
<b>PKK</b>	23 people	Elementary School (SD): 19 people Junior High School (SMP): 4 people	Entrepreneurs: 2 people Traders: 6 people Not working: 15 people
<b>Routine Weekly Recitation of Al- Ma'arif Cibuluh</b>	52 people	Elementary School (SD): 43 people Junior High School (SMP): 5 people Senior High School (SMA): 2 people Not attending school: 2 people	Traders: 12 people Entrepreneurs: 4 people Assistant: 1 person Odd jobs: 9 people Not working: 26 people
<b>Posyandu (Cibuluh Village Office)</b>	9 people	Elementary School (SD): 2 people Junior High School (SMP): 1 person Senior High School (SMA): 4 people Bachelor's Degree (S1): 2 people	Entrepreneurs: 2 people Traders: 1 person Civil servant (teacher): 1 person Students: 1 person Not working: 4 people

Second, collect some relevant data from the results of research, journals, books, or scientific works on the legal impact of language crimes that occur in the household, as the topic of this study. These sources are analyzed to identify patterns, legal interpretations, and sociocultural contexts surrounding verbal abuse and other language-based offenses within domestic settings.

#### **4. Results and Discussion**

Based on interviews that have been conducted, respondents as many as 84 housewives from three places produced varied answers from 4 research questions about the form of language crime in the household, as shown in the following table, the data indicate that insults are the most frequently reported form of language crime in Posyandu Cibuluh Village Office and PKK, while defamation is more dominant in the routine weekly recitation of Alma'arif Cibuluh.

**Table 2.** Interview Results



The table above shows the number of forms of domestic language crimes from 84 respondents in three places, leading to insults, defamation, and hate speech, although there are forms of slander, but they have a small number.

Law No. 23 of 2004 concerning domestic violence, particularly against women (wives), which causes women to suffer physically, sexually, psychologically, or all of the above, as well as neglect within the household, including acts of coercion and loss of freedom within the home, including verbal abuse, as evidenced by data from interviews with 84 respondents showing that 98% of respondents experienced verbal abuse within the household perpetrated by their husbands, regardless of age, social status, educational background, or occupation. This is in line with data released by the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection since 1 January 2025, which shows that there have been 5,733 cases of domestic violence, with the majority of victims being women, reaching around 80%.

Through this research, the legal implications of verbal abuse occurring within the household can be understood. Essentially, verbal abuse is a crime that arises from words that contradict legal and ethical norms and have the potential to harm others by damaging their honour, reputation, or good name (Sholihatin, E. 2024). Although these actions do not physically attack someone, psychologically or emotionally, this behaviour is very painful for the victim, through spoken words that contain elements of intimidation, insults, words with crude connotations, or a harsh tone that are inappropriate to say, making the victim feel threatened, belittled, humiliated, or defamed in terms of their reputation and dignity.

## 4.1 Forms of Language Crimes

Language crimes occur according to their type, so to know whether speech can be said to be defamation, insult, hate speech, or others, it is necessary to understand the meaning of these forms of language crimes, as will be described below:

### 4.1.1 Defamation

Lexically, defamation, according to the Language Development and Development Agency in KBBI Online (2016), is a process, way, or act of humiliating someone, which means degrading, looking down on, and damaging someone. In the Criminal Code, article 310 concerning defamation mentions several forms of behavior that are included in defamation, namely paragraph (1) blasphemy verbally (*smaad*) and paragraph (2) blasphemy with writing (*smaadschrift*). The prohibited acts referred to in the Criminal Code above are acts that intentionally attack the honour or defame the reputation of another person. Therefore, the elements of defamation or insult under Article 310 of the Criminal Code must meet four criteria, namely:

1. Intentional;
2. Attacking someone's honour or reputation;
3. Accusing someone of committing an act;
4. Disseminating the accusation so that it becomes public knowledge.

Words or sentences that constitute defamation in a statement are subjective to the listener, so it often happens that the perpetrator does not realise that the content of their statement has hurt another person. As stated by Projodikoro (1967), each person has a different sense of honour, so that a statement considered insulting by one person may not necessarily be considered insulting by another. This makes it difficult for law enforcement officials to determine the legal offence of a statement.

### 4.1.2 Hate speech

Hate speech has no specific meaning or special meaning, because it has a general meaning and a global meaning such as verbal harassment, insult, or cruelty to someone such as the word dog or pig. Therefore, it is necessary to learn by the community, especially for those who are married, to learn how to use language to realize welfare and peace in marriage, as well as understand how to advise without criticizing (mocking or degrading). Ritzer in (Handayani, 2024) stated that in a household, quarrels for a long period of time can trigger divorce.

### 4.1.3 Insults

Insults derived from verbal insults are not much different from the meaning of defamation, both have similar actions, namely degrading or attacking the dignity of

others. In general, insulting behavior has been regulated in the Criminal Code with several articles, namely; Article 209 of the Criminal Code concerning insulting the State Ideology of Pancasila, article 238 (1) insulting the president and vice president, article 257 (a) insulting the state emblem by damaging or desecrating it, article 328 insulting religion, article 261 insulting one or more groups of the Indonesian population, then articles 156 and 157 concerning insulting a group of people/groups/organizations.

#### 4.1.4 Slander

One of the elements of language crime is defamatory behavior, where this perpetrator is directed at someone who makes a statement about another person without evidence (false statement). In the Criminal Code Article 311 paragraph (1) it is stated that the deliction of slander (*lasterdelict*) is aimed at the person who commits the crime of blasphemy and is allowed to prove the truth, as well as a person who broadcasts an accusation that another person has committed adultery, even though this element of deliction occurs if there is a complaint by the party who suffers from the accusation, the behavior is still included in the act of blasphemy.

Regarding the behavior of this defamatory speech, there are several things related to the legal position of the perpetrator, including proving the truth or not of what the perpetrator is accused of, and regarding Article 314 of the Criminal Code, which regulates the crime of defamatory speech, which allows several things, namely:

- 1) The accuser or slander (defendant) does not get punishment if the accused has obtained the judge's decision and is proven guilty or what is alleged to be true as mentioned in Article 314 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Code, (1) If the insulted, with the judge's decision that becomes permanent, is found guilty of the thing accused, then punishment for slander is impossible. Another case is that if the alleged thing is not true, the accused person is declared free, as contained in Article 314 paragraph (2) of the Criminal Code.
- 2) The accuser or slanderer is criminally entangled in a criminal act, namely a person who commits a criminal act without evidence with a criminal charge of defamation, as mentioned in Article 311 Paragraph (1) If the person who commits the crime of defamation or written defamation cannot prove it, and the accusation is made contrary to what is known, then he is threatened with defamation with a maximum prison sentence of four years.

Actions in the form of speech that are classified as defamation have been explained by the above articles, namely, a person's statement about another person that cannot be proven and is not true.

## 4.2 Legal Impact of Domestic Language Crimes

Apart from the rules that have been enshrined in the Criminal Code regarding language crimes, other rules are applied to every perpetrator of domestic language crime, commonly called domestic violence, which are as follows;

### 4.2.1 UUPKDRT

In the UUPDKRT it is stated that several rules regarding acts of domestic violence including verbal violence, one of which is Article 5 of the PKDRT Law No. 23 of 2004 which states that everyone is prohibited from committing domestic violence against people within the scope of a household, including Psychological Violence which results in fear, loss of confidence, loss of ability to act, feelings of helplessness and others. In an effort to prevent and at the same time have a deterrent effect for perpetrators of verbal violence, the PKDRT Law also regulates legal sanctions in Article 44 which states that "Every person who commits Domestic Violence as referred to in Article 4 paragraph (1) shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a maximum of 15 (fifteen) years and/or a maximum fine of Rp. 15,000,000,000.00 (fifteen billion rupiah)." Sanctions are a form of the state's seriousness in preventing acts of verbal violence in the domestic by providing appropriate punishment for the perpetrators. The PKDRT Law in its concept, is a complaint from the victim's initiative to the court.

Pragmatically speaking, a husband who deliberately utters words that are derogatory to his wife, even though he considers them appropriate, such as when he wants to give advice, but not so according to his wife as his conversation partner, where the words spoken to her are perceived as hurtful criticism, as when someone's words directed at a particular party are said to be an 'attack' on their honour, which is only understood by the victim, because they are the ones who feel insulted, belittled, or humiliated (Sitompul, 2012).

### 4.2.2 Civil Code

Married couples in a domestic relationship have rights and obligations to each other; this has been regulated in the Civil Code Article 103: "Husband and wife must be loyal to each other, help each other, and help each other". Likewise, it is stated in Article 107 "Every husband is obliged to receive his wife in the house he occupies. He is obliged to protect his wife, and to give her whatever is necessary, according to her position and ability." Several articles of the Civil Code provide sufficient grounds for prohibiting a husband, as the head and leader of the household, from engaging in behaviour that leads to misery in the household, whether it be treating his wife harshly, neglecting the household, abandoning his obligations, or behaving inappropriately as a husband.

The behaviour that constitutes a criminal offence of domestic violence is the result of neglect and suffering of the wife or children, as stated in the above article. Strauss A. Murray in (Sriwidodo, 2021;13) states that the dominant factor is men

(husbands) as the central figures of domestic violence (marital violence); first, men (husbands) are considered superior to women (wives) and have the right and ability to regulate and control women (wives); second, discrimination and restrictions on women (wives) to work, which leads to economic dependence on husbands; thirdly, the burden of childcare is generally left to the wife, so that if something unexpected happens to the child, the husband will unilaterally blame the wife and commit violence; and finally, it is cultural, where there is an assumption in the social structure that the wife belongs to the husband and the husband has more power than the wife, which causes power in the household to reside solely with the husband.

#### 4.2.3 HAM (Human Rights)

The definition of Human Rights itself is based on Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 39 of 1999, which is a set of rights inherent in the nature and existence of human beings as creatures and the grace of God Almighty, which must be respected, protected, and upheld by the state, law, government, and all mankind. Based on this understanding, every human being, regardless of gender or social status, has the same rights over himself, including a wife in the household, as mentioned in the 1945 Constitution in Chapter XA concerning Human Rights, namely the right to self-protection, honor and dignity Article 28G paragraph 1 which reads "Everyone has the right to personal self-protection, family, honor, dignity and property under his control, and the right to a sense of security and protection from the threat of fear to do or not do something that is a fundamental right".

Regardless of being a wife, a woman has been given protection, rights to honour, dignity, and reputation so that she is free from all forms of discrimination and abuse. In the household, a woman has more rights, namely the rights of a wife such as financial support, shelter, clothing, as well as protection, all of which are the responsibility of the husband.

## 5. Conclusion

From the process of this research, which began with interviews with 84 respondents, and then collected several literature reviews on language crimes, it was concluded that language crimes in the household are not much different from language crimes in general that occur in the community, but the legal impact of language crimes that occur in the household leads to violations of the rights of husbands to wives as in the PDKRT Law and the Criminal Code Civil.

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