

The Digital Deception: Linguistic Framework and Discourse Analysis of Crime Communications

OPEN ACCESS

Volume: 12

Special Issue: 1

Month: December

Year: 2023

P-ISSN: 2320-2645

E-ISSN: 2582-3531

Received: 20.10.2023

Accepted: 05.12.2023

Published: 14.12.2023

Citation:

R, Bavyaa, and M. Ashitha Varghese. "The Digital Deception: Linguistic Framework and Discourse Analysis of Crime Communications." *Shanlax International Journal of English*, vol. 12, no. S1, 2023, pp. 346–48.

DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.34293/rtdh.v12iS1-Dec.113>

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Abstract

This paper deals with understanding the crimes that are happening in internet culture in different fields in online communities. There are many reasons behind these crimes: follows phishing, hacking and piracy etc., In every culture and subculture language plays a major role and it forms the base of the community. Apart from that, the language has many characteristics, it also has a connection with emotional and psychological wellbeing of a person. There are many types of crimes happening online but this research mainly focuses on the crimes that are happening through online communities. The important reason that the victims are trapped, is through the language and words which are used to trigger or attract the victim towards the target by the offender. It is easy to attract or trigger someone in person through effective communication when they have a good connection with each other, by understanding the emotional and psychological stand of each other. But in online culture it is hard to make a trap for people through communication when they don't know each other. But this happens when we select the appropriate language and words to trigger a person. When the offender chooses the language and the words for the communication, he should be very wise and careful because it is not only for the single person, it is for a different number of people who have different physical, psychological, mental and emotional background. So, a language plays a major and important role. Even after the crime, language is the only thing that has a major role. The offender after the crime or after achieving his targets, he has a set or collection of words and language to handle the aftermath of the crime.

Keywords: Cyber, Crime, Language, Discourse, Psychology.

Introduction

The contemporary or the digital age has ushered in an era of unprecedented connectivity, information sharing and communication. Alongside these, there lies a deception in the cyberworld. Utilizing digital tools and the online platform the individuals or groups in the darker side are manipulating people to become a victim and part of their crime activity. The major tool for the manipulation is the language. The language and the selection of the appropriate words the manipulation happens. This is creating consequences to individuals,

institutions and to the entire society. They also create emotional and psychological harm to an individual.

Objectives

- Understanding the power of language in internet culture.
- Improved understanding of the linguistic framework and discourse analysis employed by perpetrators of online crimes.
- Identification of specific linguistic techniques and discursive patterns used to exploit psychological vulnerabilities.
- Genre mapping to validate the communication explicitly and implicitly.

Research Statement

Understanding and analysing the linguistic framework and discourse analysis in the sense of effective communication in crimes happened through online communities by exploiting the psychological vulnerabilities.

Hypothesis

Perpetrators of cybercrimes utilize specific linguistic techniques to establish credibility and rapport with potential victims by targeting specific psychological vulnerabilities of potential victims in online communities.

Analysis

Cybercrimes are the most important thing that should be well focused on in this contemporary world. They occur in every different field on the internet, like education, medical, corporate and romance. These crimes happen through phishing, hacking and piracy. The major reason for these crimes is manipulation. The appropriate way for the manipulation is done to attract the victim and trap them into the crime activities. The best and most important tool for manipulation is the language. The appropriate use and selection of language and words is used to manipulate a person. There are many agencies who collect the information of an individual of different fields and areas and sell them to another agency. They go through the details of an individual and identify the needs and drawbacks of a person. The most relatable profiles are collected together and the phishing mails are sent to them to manipulate a person according to their needs. For example, if the details collected from the pharmacies, then the profiles of those who are buying medicines for high costs are collected and the phishing mails are sent in a very attractive way to manipulate a person using phrases such as low-cost medicine, buy one get and discounts on medicines. Really whoever, are in need of this will get manipulated. Here at least half of the total count will open and read the mails and half of those people will be manipulated and reply to those mails. Every crime that happens online is not only money oriented. They also have different reasons and opinions behind doing these things. Some crimes are long term processes and some are short term processes. For example, on the pharmaceutical crimes a person buys a medicine on daily or monthly basis which profits an offender a very long time. Like in the educational and institutional crimes it is the short-term profit process like giving counselling, selling books, admission fees etc.

This is the place where the language is used as a tool. The language has both emotional and psychological connect. When the perpetrator chooses the language or the words, he should be very careful. It is not easy to send phishing mails and messages. It needs a lot of effort and ideas. The perpetrator should think and act wise. It is easy to manipulate someone in real time. But it is hard to manipulate a person online who is unknown. It is a collective process. When the perpetrator

chooses the set of people, he should select the language and words that suit the whole group and at the same time attract a person personally. The group has different emotional, psychological and mental stands.

This type of crime affects a person psychologically rather than emotionally. When the victim enters into the crime is a psychological process, manipulating a person psychologically. Though, the process has emotional connection but it is more psychological. Because it is the mental process. Even the aftermath of the crime also has a psychological effect. Even here, language is the tool which manipulates a person mentally. Language has more power than actions.

The linguistic framework includes specific vocabulary related to their criminal activity like technical terms, slangs or keywords that are associated with the crime. The deception markers are used to create deception or manipulation like hedging language, vagueness and extensive use of intensifiers. And importantly the emotive language to create a fear or urgency to the victim. The discourse analysis of the crime communications can be done through content analysis, multi modal analysis and social network analysis.

Conclusion

The crime communications and its patterns are very different from the other types of communications. Through the specific linguistic tools and discourse analysis the communications of the crimes can be learned. When we say communication language plays a very major role in it. Language has the ability to create something at the same time it has an ability to destroy what it had created. Here, the trust and values occurred by the language during the early stage of manipulation is destroyed at the end of the activity. And also, they affect the victim more psychologically. Even in the aftermath of the crime language is the thing which helps in overcoming the difficult situations.

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