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LANGUAGE, LAW, AND SOCIETY



Editor

Tihan Eusebiu Jean

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Tihan Eusebiu Jean**

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adopted by Esma AKSAKAL

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INTERSECTIONS OF LANGUAGE, LAW, AND SOCIETY

EDITOR

Tihan Eusebiu Jean

AUTHORS

Assoc. Prof. Dr. C. P. RASHMIC

Mihaela Laura TIHAN

Eusebiu Jean TIHAN

Adesanmi Moses ADEMOLA

Radhika HA

Mayuree PALB

Narjes Asgari VARTOONI

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PREFACE

This volume brings together a collection of scholarly contributions that explore the intersections of language, law, communication, and technology in contemporary societies. In an increasingly complex and interconnected world, the ways in which language shapes thought, power, and social interaction have become central to understanding both individual and institutional dynamics.

The chapters in this book address a diverse range of themes. The examination of psycholinguistics highlights the role of language in cognitive processes and profiling activities. The analysis of legal consciousness in literary expression offers insights into how law and power are interpreted and contested through cultural forms such as poetry. In addition, the discussion of conversational surveillance explores the growing influence of digital technologies on communication, raising important questions about privacy, regulation, and linguistic control. The exploration of translation theory and practice further emphasizes the evolving nature of language transfer and its pedagogical implications in a globalized context.

By adopting an interdisciplinary perspective, this volume integrates insights from linguistics, legal studies, communication, and translation studies. It contributes to academic discourse while also providing a broader understanding of how language operates as a tool of power, interpretation, and transformation in modern societies.

It is hoped that this book will serve as a valuable resource for researchers, students, and practitioners interested in language, law, and communication, while encouraging further critical engagement with the changing role of language in shaping contemporary realities.

Editorial Team
April 2026, Türkiye

CHAPTER 1
PSYCHOLINGUISTICS – ITS PLACE AND ROLE IN
PROFILING ACTIVITY

¹Mihaela Laura TIHAN

²Eusebiu Jean TIHAN

¹Tihan and Associates. Professional Civil Society of Psychology, Bucharest, Romania, Forensic psychologist, ORCID ID: 0009-0003-1820-1417

²Tihan and Associates. Professional Civil Society of Psychology, Bucharest, Romania, eusebiu.tihan@gmail.com, ORCID ID: 0009-0008-8316-3679

INTRODUCTION

Defining the Conceptual Framework

Psycholinguistics, as a discipline situated at the intersection of psychology and linguistics, studies how human beings acquire, produce, and understand language, as well as the relationship between linguistic structures and underlying psychological processes. In profiling activity, this discipline acquires fundamental importance, providing the necessary instruments to transform verbal products statements, letters, messages, online posts into sources of relevant psychological information.

The evolution of psycholinguistics from a predominantly academic discipline to an applied science with significant implications for forensic psychology and behavioral analysis represents a relatively recent but profoundly important development. This evolution has been driven by the growing recognition that language is not merely a transparent medium for transmitting information but a complex behavioral product that bears the indelible mark of the speaker's psychological characteristics. Every linguistic choice from lexical selection to syntactic structuring, from the use of metaphors to the management of discursive coherence reflects underlying cognitive processes, emotional states, and personality traits.

Psychological profiling, defined as the process of identifying personality traits, behavioral patterns, and demographic characteristics of an individual based on the analysis of their actions and products, finds in psycholinguistics an essential methodological ally. The integration of these two fields creates a powerful interdisciplinary framework that allows profilers to move beyond the limitations of traditional behavioral analysis. While conventional profiling focuses primarily on observable actions and their spatial-temporal coordinates, psycholinguistic analysis opens a window into the internal world of the subject their ways of thinking, their emotional regulation strategies, their defense mechanisms, and their fundamental assumptions about themselves and others.

Language, from this perspective, is not just a means of communication but a privileged window into the human psyche. This assertion rests on a substantial body of empirical research demonstrating consistent relationships between linguistic patterns and psychological characteristics.

For instance, the frequency of first-person singular pronouns has been shown to correlate with depression and negative emotionality; the use of certainty words reflects cognitive style and may indicate either confidence or rigidity; the proportion of positive versus negative emotion words provides insight into affective state; and the complexity of syntactic structures offers clues about cognitive processing capacity and style.

For the profiler, this means that every verbal product encountered in the course of their work whether a suspect's statement, a threatening letter, a suicide note, a series of social media posts, or the recorded conversations of a person of interest represents a rich source of psychological data that can be systematically analyzed and interpreted. The challenge, which this chapter addresses, is to provide the conceptual tools and methodological frameworks necessary to extract this psychological information reliably and validly.

The Relevance of the Topic for Professional Practice

In the contemporary context, psychologists profilers are increasingly called upon to analyze not only manifest behaviors but also the verbal products of subjects. Whether it involves analyzing a suspect's statements in a criminal investigation, evaluating the letters of a potential aggressor, examining messages posted on social networks by a person exhibiting suicidal behavior, or analyzing internal communication within an organization facing security issues, psycholinguistic competencies become indispensable.

The expansion of the profiler's role beyond traditional criminal investigation into areas such as organizational security, threat assessment, counter-terrorism, and cyber-psychology has further amplified the importance of linguistic analysis. In each of these domains, the profiler is confronted with vast quantities of verbal data that must be sifted, analyzed, and interpreted to identify potential risks, understand psychological motivations, and inform decision-making. Without systematic methods for linguistic analysis, this task becomes overwhelming and prone to subjective bias. Moreover, the digital transformation of communication has created new challenges and opportunities for profiling.

The proliferation of text-based communication emails, text messages, social media posts, forum contributions means that contemporary profilers have access to unprecedented quantities of verbal data. However, this abundance of data also requires sophisticated analytical tools capable of identifying meaningful patterns amidst the noise. Psycholinguistics provides these tools, offering both quantitative approaches (such as computerized text analysis) and qualitative methods (such as discursive procedure analysis) that can be adapted to the specific needs of profiling.

Despite the clear relevance of psycholinguistics to profiling, training programs for psychologist profilers often devote insufficient attention to this dimension, focusing predominantly on classical behavioral analysis and investigative interviewing techniques. This gap is particularly problematic given that many of the situations profilers confront involve subjects who are not available for direct observation or interview. In such cases threat letters from anonymous authors, online communications from unidentified individuals, historical documents from deceased persons linguistic analysis may represent the only available window into the subject's psychology.

The present chapter aims to fill this gap by providing a coherent theoretical and methodological framework for integrating psycholinguistics into profiling activity. It does so by drawing on established research in psycholinguistics, discourse analysis, and forensic psychology, and by developing practical tools that can be applied in diverse professional contexts.

The Interdisciplinary Bridge: Linguistics, Forensic Psychology, and Profiling

Before proceeding to the detailed exposition of psycholinguistic techniques for profiling, it is useful to clarify the conceptual relationships between the three fields that this chapter integrates: linguistics, forensic psychology, and profiling. Linguistics provides the foundational understanding of how language works as a system its structures, its functions, its variations, and its meanings.

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For profiling purposes, the most relevant subfields of linguistics include pragmatics (how context influences meaning), discourse analysis (how language functions beyond the sentence level), sociolinguistics (how language varies with social factors), and stylistics (how individual linguistic choices create distinctive patterns).

Forensic psychology applies psychological knowledge to legal contexts, encompassing areas such as criminal responsibility, competency evaluations, risk assessment, and the psychology of testimony. Within forensic psychology, there is growing recognition of the importance of linguistic evidence and the need for psychologically informed methods of analyzing verbal material.

Profiling, as a specialized activity within forensic psychology and investigative practice, involves the inference of psychological characteristics from behavioral evidence. When the behavioral evidence includes verbal products as it increasingly does profiling becomes dependent on psycholinguistic methods for extracting psychological information from language.

The intersection of these three fields creates what might be termed forensic psycholinguistics or investigative discourse analysis a specialized domain concerned with the application of psycholinguistic knowledge and methods to investigative and legal contexts. This emerging field draws on the theoretical resources of all three parent disciplines while developing its own distinctive methodologies tailored to the specific needs of forensic practice.

One of the key contributions of this interdisciplinary perspective is the recognition that language operates on multiple levels simultaneously, each of which can yield psychological information. At the most basic level, the content of what is said the propositions asserted, the facts reported provides information about the subject's knowledge, beliefs, and experiences. At the lexical level, the specific words chosen reveal aspects of the subject's cognitive and emotional world. At the syntactic level, the grammatical structures employed reflect cognitive processing style and may indicate emotional state. At the discursive level, the organization of the overall message provides insight into the subject's planning capacity, coherence of thought, and communicative intentions. At the pragmatic level, the way language is used to achieve effects on the audience reveals the subject's interpersonal strategies and relational patterns.

A comprehensive psycholinguistic approach to profiling must be capable of analyzing all these levels and integrating the information obtained into a coherent psychological profile. This is the ambitious goal that the present chapter pursues.

Objectives of the Chapter

This work pursues the following main objectives:

- Systematizing the psycholinguistic foundations relevant to profiling activity, with emphasis on the relationship between language and personality, and on the connections between linguistics, forensic psychology, and profiling.
- Developing practical discourse analysis instruments that allow the highlighting of the psychological profile through discursive procedures, with attention to the specific requirements of investigative, organizational, and clinical contexts.
- Elaborating evaluation grids for verbal behavior, applicable in diverse professional settings and adaptable to different types of verbal material.
- Illustrating the applicability of these instruments through detailed case studies that demonstrate how psycholinguistic analysis contributes to profiling in concrete situations.
- Proposing directions for integrating psycholinguistic competencies into the training curriculum for psychologist profilers, based on an analysis of the knowledge and skills required for competent professional practice.

Structure of the Work

The chapter is organized into seven main sections. Following this introduction, the second section presents the psycholinguistic foundations of behavioral analysis, exploring the relationship between language, cognition, and personality, with attention to the implications for forensic psychology. The third section develops the methodological framework for discourse analysis in profiling, including discursive procedures and their psychological significance. The fourth section proposes practical working instruments analysis grids and interpretation models that can be directly applied in professional practice.

The fifth section illustrates the applicability of these instruments through detailed case studies drawn from investigative, security, and organizational contexts. The sixth section discusses directions for integrating psycholinguistic competencies into professional training, proposing a curriculum structure and identifying priorities for future research. The final section synthesizes the conclusions and formulates recommendations for practice and further development.

1. PSYCHOLINGUISTIC FOUNDATIONS OF BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS

1.1. The Relationship Between Language and Personality

One of the fundamental premises of psycholinguistics applied to profiling is that language necessarily reflects the deep structures of the speaker's personality. Throughout life, each individual develops a specific verbal style, a linguistic "fingerprint" that individualizes them and that can be decoded through careful analysis.

The relationship between language and personality is not accidental or superficial but flows from the nature of personality itself. Personality can be understood as the organized set of characteristics that influence an individual's cognition, emotion, motivation, and behavior across different situations. Since language is one of the primary means through which cognition is expressed, emotion is communicated, motivation is articulated, and behavior is described and justified, it inevitably bears the imprint of personality.

Contemporary research in personality psychology has identified multiple correlations between personality traits and language characteristics, correlations that have been replicated across different languages and cultures:

Extraversion is associated with less formal language, with a higher frequency of personal pronouns, and with more frequent use of words with social connotations. Extraverts tend to use language that is more immediate, more personal, and more oriented toward social connection. Their speech is typically more fluent, more spontaneous, and less self-monitored than that of introverts. Neuroticism (or emotional instability) is reflected in an increased use of first-person singular pronouns, of words with negative connotations, and of adverbs of uncertainty.

Individuals high in neuroticism tend to focus on their internal experience (hence the "I" focus), to perceive and communicate negative aspects of situations, and to express doubt and insecurity about their judgments.

Conscientiousness correlates with more structured language, with longer sentences, and with a lower frequency of grammatical errors. Conscientious individuals tend to plan their verbal output more carefully, to organize their thoughts before expressing them, and to monitor their language for accuracy and appropriateness.

Agreeableness is associated with frequent use of positive words and with avoidance of direct verbal conflicts. Agreeable individuals tend to use language that maintains social harmony, that expresses positive evaluations of others, and that avoids confrontation even when disagreements exist.

Openness to Experience is reflected in the use of a more diverse vocabulary, of metaphors, and of more complex linguistic constructions. Open individuals tend to explore linguistic possibilities, to use language in creative ways, and to appreciate linguistic nuance and subtlety.

For the psychologist profiler, understanding these correlations offers a first level of interpretation, allowing the formulation of preliminary hypotheses about the author's personality based on the formal linguistic characteristics of a text. However, it is crucial to emphasize that these correlations are probabilistic, not deterministic. They indicate tendencies that must be interpreted in context and integrated with other sources of information.

1.2. Cognitive Processes Reflected in Linguistic Structures

Beyond stable personality traits, language reflects transient cognitive processes, emotional states, and psychological adaptation mechanisms. Cognitive psycholinguistics has identified numerous ways in which linguistic structures mirror mental functioning.

1.2.1. Discursive Coherence and Cognitive Functioning

The degree of coherence of a discourse the extent to which ideas are logically connected and transitions are clear and well-marked provides valuable information about the speaker's cognitive functioning.

A coherent, well-structured discourse typically indicates good cognitive planning capacity and thought organization. Such discourse suggests that the speaker has a clear mental representation of what they wish to communicate and is capable of organizing this representation into a linear, comprehensible form.

Conversely, a chaotic discourse, with abrupt transitions and unfinished ideas, may signal cognitive difficulties, mental confusion, or even intentions of dissimulation. The speaker may be unable to maintain a coherent train of thought due to cognitive impairment, emotional overload, or the cognitive demands of constructing a false narrative.

It is important to distinguish, however, between different types of incoherence. Some incoherence reflects genuine cognitive disorganization and may be associated with conditions such as psychosis, dementia, or severe emotional disturbance. Other incoherence reflects the speaker's attempt to manage multiple competing demands for example, the demand to tell a coherent story while simultaneously monitoring that story for consistency with a fabricated version of events.

1.2.2. Syntactic Complexity and Cognitive Style

Syntactic complexity the use of subordinate clauses, passive constructions, diverse verb moods and tenses reflects the speaker's cognitive style. Individuals with a more analytical cognitive style tend to use more complex sentences, embedding multiple clauses and expressing relationships between ideas through syntactic subordination. This style suggests a tendency to think in terms of hierarchical relationships, to distinguish main from subordinate ideas, and to process information in a structured, systematic way.

Individuals with a more intuitive or impulsive cognitive style prefer simple, paratactic syntactic constructions short sentences strung together with minimal subordination. This style may indicate a tendency to think in terms of immediate associations rather than hierarchical relationships, to process information more holistically, or to prioritize speed of expression over analytical precision. In forensic contexts, abrupt shifts in syntactic complexity can be significant.

A suspect who normally uses complex syntax but suddenly shifts to simple, paratactic constructions when discussing certain topics may be indicating, through this linguistic shift, that the topic is emotionally charged or that the narrative being presented is not the product of genuine memory but of cognitive construction.

1.2.3. Lexical Selection and Emotional Load

Word choice is never neutral. Lexical selection reflects attitudes, implicit evaluations, and emotional states. The frequent use of words with negative emotional load may indicate depression, anxiety, or hostility. For example, individuals with depression tend to use more words expressing negative emotions (sad, hopeless, worthless), more first-person singular pronouns (reflecting self-focus), and more absolutist words (always, never, completely).

Conversely, a vocabulary rich in neutral, technical terms may suggest a tendency toward intellectualization or emotional detachment. When discussing emotionally charged topics, some individuals adopt a technical, clinical vocabulary that allows them to maintain distance from the emotional content. While this can be an adaptive strategy in some contexts, in forensic settings it may indicate either a personality style characterized by emotional constriction or a deliberate attempt to avoid revealing emotional reactions that could be incriminating.

The analysis of lexical selection must also attend to what is not said. Absences can be as significant as presences. The systematic avoidance of certain words or categories of words may indicate areas of psychological conflict, topics that are too threatening to be directly addressed, or attempts to conceal information.

1.3. Defense Mechanisms Reflected in Language

A domain of maximum interest for the psychologist profiler is that of psychological defense mechanisms and how they are reflected in language. Psychoanalysis has, since Freud's work, devoted particular attention to language "slips," to omissions, and to indirect forms of expressing unconscious psychological conflicts.

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Contemporary research in clinical psycholinguistics has identified significant correlations between defense mechanisms and language characteristics:

Rationalization is reflected in elaborate explanations, detailed justifications, and frequent use of causal constructions. The speaker who rationalizes provides reasons, explanations, and justifications for their behavior, often in excessive detail. The language is characterized by causal connectors (because, since, therefore) and by an attempt to present the behavior as logically necessary given the circumstances.

Denial manifests through frequent use of negation adverbs, negative constructions, and euphemisms. The speaker may deny having certain feelings ("I'm not angry"), deny the significance of events ("It was nothing"), or deny responsibility ("It wasn't my fault"). The language is characterized by "not" and "no" and by formulations that explicitly reject interpretations that have not even been proposed.

Projection is often accompanied by accusations against others, by attribution of negative intentions to those around them, and by frequent use of the pronoun "they" in negative evaluative contexts. The speaker who projects attributes to others the feelings, motives, or characteristics that they cannot acknowledge in themselves. Linguistically, this manifests in statements about what "they" think, feel, or intend, particularly when these attributions have no evidentiary basis.

Affective isolation is reflected in cold, technical language, lacking terms with emotional load, even when the subject speaks about events with traumatic potential. The speaker describes emotionally charged events as if they were neutral, objective occurrences, using technical terminology and avoiding any expression of personal reaction. This linguistic pattern may indicate either a personality structure characterized by affective constriction or a defensive response to overwhelming emotion.

Reaction formation manifests through exaggerations in the direction opposite to real feelings for example, excessive praise of a person toward whom the subject actually harbors negative feelings.

Linguistically, this appears as overstatement in the positive direction, with intensifiers (very, extremely, absolutely) attached to positive evaluations that seem disproportionate to the context.

Identifying these mechanisms through language analysis offers the profiler a deep perspective on the subject's psychological dynamics and on how they manage their internal conflicts. However, it is crucial to approach such interpretations with caution. The presence of linguistic patterns associated with defense mechanisms does not, in itself, establish the presence of those mechanisms. Interpretation must be contextual, cautious, and integrated with other sources of information.

1.4. Psycholinguistic Indicators of Simulation and Dissimulation

A special chapter in psycholinguistics applied to profiling concerns the identification of indicators of simulation and dissimulation in language. Research in deception detection through linguistic analysis has highlighted a series of patterns characteristic of insincere discourse.

1.4.1. Content Indicators

Vague and imprecise details Simulated discourse tends to be less rich in specific, verifiable details. The speaker who is constructing a false narrative often lacks access to the wealth of incidental details that characterize genuine memory. As a result, their account may be impoverished in sensory details, in contextual information, and in the minor, irrelevant particulars that authentic memories typically include.

Abundance of irrelevant details Sometimes, to compensate for the lack of relevant details, subjects who lie add peripheral details, unrelated to the substance of the matter. These details may be elaborated with apparent precision, but they do not contribute to the core narrative and may serve to distract from its essential vagueness.

Rigid chronological structure Simulated accounts are often too linear, too perfectly chronologically structured, lacking the hesitations and digressions characteristic of authentic memory.

Genuine recall rarely proceeds in perfect chronological order; it involves backtracking, anticipation, association, and correction. An account that is too neat, too orderly, may indicate construction rather than recall.

Lack of admission of memory limitations People telling the truth frequently admit that they do not remember all the details ("I don't remember exactly," "I think it was"). People who lie tend to avoid such formulations, as admitting memory failure might undermine the credibility of their account. Their account may be presented with unjustified certainty about details that a genuine witness would likely not remember with such precision.

1.4.2. Formal Indicators

Linguistic distancing – Frequent use of the passive voice, of impersonal constructions, avoidance of the pronoun "I" in incriminating contexts. The speaker who wishes to distance themselves from their actions may use passive constructions that omit the agent ("Mistakes were made") or impersonal formulations that obscure responsibility. The systematic avoidance of first-person pronouns when discussing certain actions can be a strong indicator of dissimulation.

Lack of spontaneity Simulated discourse is often less fluent, with longer pauses, with reformulations and corrections. The cognitive load of constructing a false narrative while simultaneously monitoring it for consistency and plausibility may slow speech production and increase hesitation phenomena. These effects are particularly pronounced when the speaker is under pressure or when the stakes are high.

Use of attenuators "sort of," "kind of," "somewhat," "perhaps," "maybe" words that reduce the force of assertions. Attenuators may indicate uncertainty, lack of commitment to what is being said, or awareness that what is being said may not withstand scrutiny. While all speakers use attenuators occasionally, their systematic and excessive use in contexts where certainty would be expected can be significant. Repetition of questions Subjects who lie often repeat the question before answering, gaining time to construct the response. This repetition may be literal ("What did I do then? What did I do then...") or may involve a paraphrase that serves the same time-gaining function.

The phenomenon reflects the additional processing time required for construction versus recall.

1.4.3. Discursive Inconsistencies

A major indicator of simulation is constituted by the internal inconsistencies of discourse contradictions between statements made at different times, between details provided spontaneously and those offered in response to subsequent questions, between the logical structure of the account and known objective data.

Inconsistencies can be of several types:

- Factual inconsistencies contradictions about what happened, when it happened, who was present, what was said.
- Logical inconsistencies accounts that cannot be true given what else is known or what the speaker has elsewhere asserted.
- Stylistic inconsistencies sudden shifts in language register, vocabulary, or syntactic complexity that suggest the intrusion of constructed elements into an otherwise authentic narrative.
- Pragmatic inconsistencies mismatches between the apparent purpose of the communication and the linguistic means employed to achieve it.

The identification of inconsistencies requires careful, systematic comparison of different parts of the discourse, as well as comparison between the discourse and external evidence. In the absence of external evidence, inconsistencies within the discourse itself can still be significant, as they indicate that the speaker is unable to maintain a coherent version of events.

1.5. Forensic Linguistics and Investigative Psychology: An Integrated Perspective

The application of psycholinguistic methods to profiling is part of a broader movement toward the integration of linguistic and psychological approaches in forensic contexts. Forensic linguistics, as an established discipline, applies linguistic knowledge to legal issues including authorship attribution, linguistic fingerprinting, the analysis of threatening communications, and the interpretation of language in legal proceedings.

Investigative psychology, developed by David Canter and colleagues, applies psychological principles to the investigation of crime, including the analysis of criminal behavior, the development of offender profiles, and the examination of geographical and temporal patterns in offending.

The integration of these two fields with profiling creates a powerful interdisciplinary framework. Forensic linguistics provides methods for analyzing language as linguistic evidence. Investigative psychology provides frameworks for understanding criminal behavior and inferring offender characteristics. Profiling provides the practical context in which these analyses are applied to support investigations and decision-making.

Within this integrated framework, the analysis of verbal material is not an isolated activity but one component of a comprehensive approach to understanding the subject. Linguistic evidence is combined with behavioral evidence, with geographical evidence, with temporal evidence, and with any other available information to construct a multi-dimensional picture of the individual.

This integration also has implications for training. The psychologist profiler who works with linguistic material needs not only psycholinguistic knowledge but also familiarity with the principles of forensic linguistics and investigative psychology. They need to understand how linguistic evidence is treated in legal contexts, what standards of proof apply, and how their analyses may be used in investigations or proceedings.

The following sections of this chapter develop the practical tools and methods that operationalize this integrated perspective, providing the profiler with concrete instruments for extracting psychological information from language.

2. DISCURSIVE PROCEDURES AND THEIR PSYCHOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

2.1. Typology of Discursive Procedures Relevant for Profiling

Discourse analysis in profiling activity involves identifying and interpreting specific discursive procedures that function as indicators of underlying psychological processes.

Drawing on contributions from discourse analysis [64] and applied psycholinguistics [65], we can systematize the following categories of discursive procedures relevant to profiling:

2.1.1. Discourse Structuring Procedures

These procedures concern how the speaker organizes and structures verbal material:

Table 1. Structural Discursive Procedures and Their Possible Psychological Significance

Discursive Procedure	Description	Possible Psychological Significance
Transition marking	Use of linguistic elements signaling the shift from one idea to another ("firstly," "on the other hand," "in conclusion")	Need for cognitive control, structured thinking, possible rigidity
Enumeration	Sequential presentation of ideas, arguments, or facts	Analytical thinking, tendency toward organization, possible obsessiveness
Recapitulation	Returning to ideas expressed earlier, synthesis	Need for clarity, tendency toward control, anxiety about not being understood
Reformulation	Repeating the same idea in different words	Insecurity, need for validation, tendency toward manipulation

Transition marking deserves particular attention as it reveals the speaker's awareness of the structure of their own discourse. Speakers who consistently mark transitions demonstrate a metacognitive awareness of their communicative process they are not simply speaking but are monitoring and guiding their own speech production.

This can indicate either high cognitive control (as in prepared or rehearsed speech) or a personality style characterized by need for order and clarity.

Enumeration, when used systematically, suggests a tendency to think categorically and to process information in discrete units. While this can be an effective cognitive strategy, excessive or rigid enumeration may indicate a cognitive style that struggles with ambiguity and nuance, preferring clear categories and boundaries.

Recapitulation serves multiple functions: it ensures comprehension, it emphasizes important points, and it allows the speaker to check that their message has been received as intended. Frequent recapitulation may indicate either genuine concern for the interlocutor's understanding or anxiety about being misunderstood. In forensic contexts, it can also serve to reinforce a particular version of events.

Reformulation is particularly significant in profiling contexts. When a speaker repeatedly reformulates the same idea, they may be attempting to find the version that best serves their purposes whether those purposes are accurate communication, impression management, or deception. The patterns of reformulation—what is added, what is omitted, what is changed can provide insight into the speaker's priorities and concerns.

2.1.2. Procedures for Supporting Ideas and Opinions

These procedures concern how the speaker argues their position and supports their assertions:

Exemplification is a powerful indicator of authenticity. Genuine accounts naturally include concrete examples that illustrate general statements. When a speaker makes general claims without providing specific examples, this may indicate either that the claims are not grounded in actual experience or that the speaker is avoiding the level of detail that would allow verification.

Analogy reveals the speaker's cognitive style and their way of understanding new situations. The choice of analogies what situations are compared to what other situations provides insight into the speaker's mental models and their interpretive frameworks.

Repeated use of certain types of analogies (e.g., military, medical, sporting) can indicate dominant cognitive schemas.

Table 2. Argumentative Discursive Procedures and Their Possible Psychological Significance

Discursive Procedure	Description	Possible Psychological Significance
Exemplification	Illustrating an idea through particular, concrete cases	Concrete-operational thinking, need for clarity, authenticity
Analogy	Comparing the analyzed situation with another, familiar situation	Cognitive flexibility, capacity for abstraction, possible manipulation
Citation / appeal to authority	Including references to persons, sources, or institutions considered authoritative	Conformism, externalization of decisional responsibility, anxiety
Comparison	Relating elements to highlight similarities or differences	Analytical thinking, need for clarification, possible rigidity
Generalization	Extending a particular observation to an entire class of phenomena	Dichotomous thinking, cognitive distortions, prejudices

Citation and appeal to authority serve to strengthen the speaker's position by anchoring it in external sources of legitimacy. While occasional citation is normal, systematic reliance on external authority may indicate either lack of confidence in one's own judgment or an attempt to evade responsibility for one's assertions. In forensic contexts, excessive citation can be a form of "expertise signaling" designed to enhance credibility. Comparison reveals how the speaker categorizes and evaluates. The dimensions along which comparisons are made, the elements chosen for comparison, and the conclusions drawn from comparison all provide information about the speaker's value system and cognitive organization.

Systematic comparison of self to others, particularly when the comparisons consistently favor the self, may indicate narcissistic tendencies.

Generalization is a powerful cognitive tool that allows us to extract general principles from specific experiences. However, excessive or inappropriate generalization extending conclusions beyond what the evidence warrants is a characteristic cognitive distortion associated with various psychological conditions. Generalizations that are absolute ("always," "never," "everyone," "no one") and that lack qualification are particularly significant.

2.1.3. Procedures for Attracting Attention and Involving the Interlocutor

These procedures reflect the relationship that the speaker establishes with the message's recipient:

Table 3. Interpersonal Discursive Strategies and Their Psychological Significance

Discursive Procedure	Description	Possible Psychological Significance
Rhetorical question	Question that does not seek an answer but aims for affective involvement of the interlocutor	Irony, passive-aggressiveness, need for control, manipulation
Direct appeal	Direct address to the interlocutor ("you see?", "look...")	Need for connection, persuasive tendency, empathy or manipulation
Expression of empathy	Verbalizing understanding of the interlocutor's emotional state	Emotional intelligence, authenticity or affective manipulation
Expression of personal opinion	Explicit introduction of one's own perspective ("I think that...", "in my opinion...")	Assumption, awareness of subjectivity, or egocentrism

Rhetorical questions serve multiple functions: they can engage the audience, they can imply answers without stating them, they can express attitudes indirectly, and they can challenge the interlocutor without direct confrontation. In profiling contexts, the use of rhetorical questions may indicate an indirect, manipulative communication style, particularly when the questions are accusatory or undermining.

Direct appeals create a sense of connection and involvement. When a speaker addresses the interlocutor directly, they acknowledge the interlocutor's presence and seek their engagement. The absence of direct appeals in contexts where they would be expected may indicate emotional distance, discomfort with intimacy, or a communication style characterized by abstraction and detachment.

Expression of empathy is a complex discursive procedure that can serve either authentic connection or manipulation. Genuine empathy involves accurate understanding of the other's emotional state and communication of that understanding in a way that feels supportive. Manipulative empathy involves the same verbal forms but serves the speaker's purposes rather than the interlocutor's needs. Distinguishing between the two requires attention to context, consistency, and the overall pattern of interaction.

Expression of personal opinion can range from humble acknowledgment of subjectivity ("it seems to me, though I may be wrong") to dogmatic assertion of personal perspective as truth. The way speakers mark their opinions whether they use subjective markers ("I think," "I believe"), whether they acknowledge alternative perspectives, whether they invite dialogue or close it down provides information about their cognitive style and their relationship to knowledge and certainty.

2.1.4. Procedures for Clarification and Nuance

Table 4. Clarificatory Discursive Procedures and Their Psychological Significance

Discursive Procedure	Description	Possible Psychological Significance
Definition	Specifying the meaning of terms or concepts used	Need for precision, conceptual thinking, possible rigidity
Paraphrasing	Restating an idea in other words to ensure understanding	Cognitive empathy, need for confirmation, anxiety
Nuancing	Softening or detailing a previous statement	Cognitive flexibility, complex thinking, avoidance of commitment

Definition reveals the speaker's relationship to conceptual clarity. Some speakers define terms carefully, ensuring that their meaning is understood. Others use terms loosely, relying on context and shared understanding. Systematic definition may indicate either a scientific or legal mindset (where precision is valued) or a defensive need to control interpretation.

Paraphrasing serves to check understanding and to ensure that communication has been successful. Frequent paraphrasing may indicate either genuine concern for mutual understanding or anxiety about being misunderstood. In forensic contexts, paraphrasing can also serve to test the interlocutor's reactions to different formulations of the same content.

Nuancing reflects the speaker's capacity to handle complexity and to qualify their statements appropriately. The ability to nuance to acknowledge exceptions, to soften over-generalizations, to qualify absolute statements is generally associated with cognitive flexibility and psychological health. Absence of nuancing, particularly in contexts that call for it, may indicate rigid, dichotomous thinking.

2.2. Psychological Interpretation of Discursive Procedures

Identifying discursive procedures represents only the first stage of analysis. The next stage, essential in profiling activity, is the psychological interpretation of these procedures correlating them with personality traits, emotional states, defense mechanisms, or specific communicative intentions.

2.2.1. Discursive Patterns and Psychological Configurations

Psychological interpretation is not carried out at the level of isolated procedures but at the level of discursive patterns assemblages of procedures that, through their frequency and manner of combination, outline a specific psychological profile.

The defensive discursive pattern is characterized by:

- High frequency of reformulations
- Use of attenuators ("sort of," "somewhat," "perhaps")
- Avoidance of direct answers through rhetorical questions
- Frequent generalizations that dilute personal responsibility
- Appeals to authority to externalize decisions

Possible psychological significance: anxiety, insecurity, tendency to avoid conflict, possible history of toxic relationships with authority. This pattern suggests a speaker who experiences communication as potentially threatening and who has developed strategies to protect themselves from perceived danger. The defensiveness may be situational (specific to the current context) or characteristic (reflecting a stable personality style).

The narcissistic discursive pattern is characterized by:

- High frequency of the pronoun "I"
- Excessive expression of personal opinions
- Abundant personal examples, even when not relevant
- Comparisons that place the subject in a superior position
- Selective citations that support one's own position

Possible psychological significance: increased need for validation, grandiosity, difficulties in empathic relating, underlying narcissistic vulnerability.

This pattern suggests a speaker whose primary concern is self-presentation and self-enhancement. The focus is on how the speaker appears rather than on what is being communicated.

The passive-aggressive discursive pattern is characterized by:

- Frequent rhetorical questions with ironic tone
- Generalizations that subtly include and undermine the interlocutor
- Reformulations that subtly distort the previous message
- Indirect expression of dissatisfaction
- Appeals to personal experience used to invalidate the other's perspective

Possible psychological significance: repressed anger, difficulties in direct expression of negative emotions, need for control, resentments. This pattern suggests a speaker who cannot express aggression directly but who finds indirect ways to attack, undermine, or control the interlocutor [86].

The authentic-relational discursive pattern is characterized by:

- Balance between expressing personal opinion and openness to the other's perspective
- Balanced use of personal and general examples
- Explicit expression of empathy where appropriate
- Assumption of knowledge limitations ("I don't know," "I'm not sure")
- Coherence between different parts of the discourse

Possible psychological significance: psychological security, emotional intelligence, capacity for authentic relating, psychic integration. This pattern suggests a speaker who is comfortable with themselves and with others, who can communicate openly and directly, and who does not need to manipulate or defend.

2.2.2. Context and Communicative Intention

The psychological interpretation of discursive procedures cannot ignore the context in which the discourse is produced and the speaker's communicative intention. The same discursive procedure can have different psychological meanings depending on context:

- A generalization may indicate, in a therapeutic context, a cognitive distortion specific to depression; in an investigative context, it may be a dissimulation strategy; in an academic context, it may be a simple stylistic convention.
- A rhetorical question may express, in a political discourse, a deliberate persuasive strategy; in everyday conversation, it may be an individual stylistic marker; in an interrogation, it may indicate masked hostility.
- Appeal to authority may reflect, in a subject with low educational level, a strategy to compensate for lack of knowledge; in a specialist, it may be a marker of belonging to a professional community; in a psychopath, it may be a manipulation technique.

Context includes not only the immediate situation of communication but also the broader social, cultural, and institutional frameworks within which communication occurs. A discursive procedure that is normal in one context may be highly significant in another. The profiler must be attuned to these contextual variations and must interpret linguistic patterns in light of the specific circumstances in which they appear.

2.3. The Temporal Dimension of Discourse

A comprehensive psycholinguistic analysis in profiling activity cannot limit itself to a cross-sectional view of discourse but must include the temporal dimension how discourse evolves over time, in response to different contexts and demands.

2.3.1. Discursive Stability vs. Variability

Persons with a well-integrated psychological structure tend to present a high degree of stability of discursive patterns over time. Their characteristic ways of speaking their preferred procedures, their typical stylistic choices remain recognizable across different situations and topics.

In contrast, persons with personality disorders, intense psychological conflicts, or intentions of dissimulation may present significant variations in discourse depending on context and interlocutor. These variations may take several forms:

- Situational variation – discourse changes dramatically depending on who the interlocutor is and what is at stake.
- Thematic variation – discourse about certain topics is markedly different from discourse about others, suggesting areas of conflict or special concern.
- Temporal variation – discourse changes over time in ways that cannot be explained by normal development or adaptation.

The identification of significant variations and, equally importantly, the identification of unexpected stability in contexts where variation would be expected provides valuable information for profiling.

2.3.2. Evolution of Discourse Under Pressure

A valuable test in profiling activity is observing how the subject's discourse changes when they are subjected to difficult questions or when inconsistencies are pointed out. Reactions may be of:

- Flexible adaptation – the subject acknowledges the inconsistency, offers clarifications, nuances their position. This response suggests psychological security, cognitive flexibility, and genuine commitment to truthfulness.
- Defensive rigidity – the subject repeats the same formulations, becomes irritated, accuses the interlocutor. This response suggests anxiety, rigidity, and possible investment in maintaining a particular version of events regardless of its truth.
- Confusion and disorganization – the subject loses discursive coherence, enters into contradictions. This response may indicate genuine cognitive difficulty, emotional overload, or the breakdown of a constructed narrative under pressure.
- Manipulation – the subject attempts to turn the discussion, to change the subject, to minimize the inconsistency. This response suggests strategic awareness and investment in impression management rather than truth-telling.

Each of these reaction patterns provides valuable information about the subject's personality and about their relationship to truth.

3. PRACTICAL INSTRUMENTS FOR HIGHLIGHTING THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE

3.1. The Discourse Analysis Grid for Profilers

Based on the theoretical and methodological framework presented above, we propose a discourse analysis grid intended for psychologist profilers. This grid can be used both in the analysis of oral discourse (interviews, interrogations, conversations) and in the analysis of written documents (letters, statements, electronic messages, social media posts).

Table 5. The Discourse Analysis Grid – PAD Model (Profiling through Discourse Analysis)

Category	Indicator	Description	Scale (1-5)
A. Discourse Structure	A1. Global coherence	Extent to which ideas are logically connected	1 2 3 4 5
	A2. Transition marking	Presence of elements signaling shifts between ideas	1 2 3 4 5
	A3. Recapitulations and syntheses	Frequency of returning to previous ideas	1 2 3 4 5
	A4. Reformulations	Frequency of restating the same idea in different words	1 2 3 4 5
B. Argumentation	B1. Exemplification	Use of concrete examples to support ideas	1 2 3 4 5
	B2. Analogies and comparisons	Use of relating to other situations	1 2 3 4 5

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Category	Indicator	Description	Scale (1-5)
	B3. Citations / appeal to authority	References to external sources considered authoritative	1 2 3 4 5
	B4. Generalizations	Unjustified extension of particular observations	1 2 3 4 5
C. Relationship with Interlocutor	C1. Direct appeals	Explicit address to the interlocutor	1 2 3 4 5
	C2. Rhetorical questions	Questions without intention of receiving an answer	1 2 3 4 5
	C3. Expression of empathy	Verbalizing understanding of the interlocutor's state	1 2 3 4 5
	C4. Detachment / involvement	Degree of emotional involvement in discourse	1 2 3 4 5
D. Lexical Selection	D1. Emotionally loaded terms	Frequency of words with affective connotation	1 2 3 4 5
	D2. Technical / specialized terms	Use of professional or scientific jargon	1 2 3 4 5
	D3. Personal pronouns	Frequency and distribution of pronouns (I, you, he, we, they)	1 2 3 4 5
	D4. Attenuators	Use of words that reduce the force of assertions	1 2 3 4 5
E. Simulation Indicators	E1. Vague details	Absence of specific, verifiable details	1 2 3 4 5

Category	Indicator	Description	Scale (1-5)
	E2. Too perfect structure	Excessively linear account, without hesitations	1 2 3 4 5
	E3. Internal inconsistencies	Contradictions between different parts of discourse	1 2 3 4 5
	E4. Linguistic distancing	Use of passive voice, impersonal constructions	1 2 3 4 5

3.2. The Seven Cognitive Questions Model (7D) in Profiling

A complementary instrument of psycholinguistic analysis is the Seven Cognitive Questions Model, which allows a systematic exploration of discourse from the perspective of psychological dimensions relevant to profiling.

Table 6. The Seven Cognitive Questions Model as a Tool for Psycholinguistic Discourse Analysis

Question	Dimension Analyzed	Discursive Indicators	Psychological Significance
Who?	Narrative identity	Self-perception, assumed role in discourse, manner of referring to self	Identity disorders, grandiosity, victimization, narcissism
What?	Semantic action	Dominant verbs, nature of described actions	Latent intentions, level of aggressiveness, prosociality vs. antisociality
How?	Procedural architecture	Degree of detailing, precision, planning	Cognitive style, level of organization, impulsivity vs. premeditation

Question	Dimension Analyzed	Discursive Indicators	Psychological Significance
In what way?	Discursive style	Emotionality, formality, symbolism, metaphors	Cognitive rigidity, flexibility, manipulative tendencies
Where?	Psychological geography	Real vs. imagined spaces, recurring places	Trauma, obsessions, rituals, comfort zones
Why?	Deep motivation	Justifications, rationalizations, declared causes	Defense mechanisms, real vs. declared motivations
For whom?	Social echo	Targeted audience, declared beneficiaries of action	Narcissism, social awareness, relational orientation

3.2.1. Applying the 7D Model in Discourse Analysis

The 7D Model is not applied mechanically, by simply identifying answers to each question, but by exploring the relationships between these dimensions. The interactions between different questions reveal complex psychological configurations:

- The conflict between "Who?" and "For whom?" when the subject declares they act for others, but their discourse is excessively self-centered, it may indicate a "narcissistic savior" profile. This configuration suggests that the declared altruism serves primarily to support a grandiose self-image rather than to benefit others.
- The dissociation between "What?" and "How?" when the described actions are abstract, grandiose, but the methods are detailed, technical, it may indicate a "violent utilitarian" profile. The subject has clear, practical means but vague, idealistic ends a combination that can be particularly dangerous when the ends are used to justify any means.

- The placement of "Where?" in relation to "In what way?" the places where actions occur and the emotional manner in which they are described offer clues about the symbolic significance of space for the subject. Recurring locations, or locations described with particular emotional intensity, may indicate areas of psychological significance trauma sites, comfort zones, symbolic territories.
- Double motivation – "Why?" and "For whom?" the relationship between declared motivation and targeted beneficiaries reveals the authenticity or the instrumental character of declared altruism. When the declared beneficiaries are vague and abstract ("for justice," "for humanity") while the actions are specific and concrete, suspicion may be warranted.

3.3. The Psycholinguistic Profile Sheet

To synthesize the information obtained through applying the PAD grid and the 7D model, we propose a psycholinguistic profile sheet that integrates the data into a coherent image of the analyzed subject.

Psycholinguistic Profile Sheet

General Data

- Subject: [code/anonymized]
- Type of material analyzed: [] interview [] written statement [] correspondence [] online posts [] other type
- Context of production: [description]
- Analysis date:

General Discursive Profile

Dimension	Description	Score (1-5)
Coherence/Organization		
Lexical richness		
Emotional load		

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Dimension	Description	Score (1-5)
Relational involvement		
Cognitive complexity		

Dominant Discursive Patterns

- Defensive pattern
- Narcissistic pattern
- Passive-aggressive pattern
- Authentic-relational pattern
- Mixed pattern (specify)

Psychological Indicators Evidenced

Category	Indicators Present	Interpretation
Personality traits		
Dominant emotional states		
Defense mechanisms		
Cognitive distortions		

Authenticity Assessment

- Authentic, coherent discourse
- Dissimulation indicators (specify)
- Simulation indicators (specify)
- Inconclusive

Synthetic Psychological Profile

[Narrative description of the psychological profile evidenced through discourse analysis]

Recommendations

[Recommendations for continuing investigation, for approach in subsequent interviews, for specific measures]

4. CASE STUDIES

4.1. Case Study No. 1 – Analysis of a Statement in an Investigative Context

Context: Subject X, aged 34, is interviewed as a witness in a financial fraud case. A psycholinguistic analysis of his statement is requested to assess credibility and to identify possible psychological profile elements relevant to the investigation.

Statement Fragment:

"I want to be honest, I have absolutely nothing to hide. I'm the kind of person who calls things by their name. All my colleagues know I'm fair. I followed the procedures, at least as I understood them. If mistakes were made, I think the blame should be shared, right? Anyway, it's not the first time something that wasn't my responsibility is being imputed to me. In life you have to learn to move forward. I, for one, did everything I could."

Application of the PAD Grid:

Indicator	Observations	Score
A1. Global coherence	Relatively coherent discourse, but with thematic jumps	3
A2. Transition marking	Few transitions, abrupt shifts	2
A3. Recapitulations	Absent	1
A4. Reformulations	Present ("I want to be honest," "I have absolutely nothing to hide")	4
B1. Exemplification	Absent – no concrete examples	1

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Indicator	Observations	Score
B2. Analogies	Absent	1
B3. Citations / authority	Appeal to colleagues ("all my colleagues know")	3
B4. Generalizations	Frequent ("all colleagues," "it's not the first time," "in life you have to")	5
C1. Direct appeals	One rhetorical question ("right?")	2
C2. Rhetorical questions	One present	2
C3. Expression of empathy	Absent	1
C4. Detachment/involvement	Relative detachment, justificatory tone	2
D1. Emotional terms	Few, neutral	2
D2. Technical terms	Minimally present ("procedures")	2
D3. Personal pronouns	"I" frequent, "me" once	4
D4. Attenuators	Present ("at least," "I think")	3
E1. Vague details	Total absence of concrete details	5
E2. Too perfect structure	Discourse is constructed, but not excessively perfect	3
E3. Internal inconsistencies	Not evident in this fragment	1
E4. Linguistic distancing	Present ("is being imputed to me" – passive)	3

Application of the 7D Model:

Question	Identified Answer	Interpretation
Who?	"I'm the kind of fair person"	Positive self-perception, need for validation
What?	Followed procedures, but does not detail	Avoidance of commitment to compromising details
How?	No procedural details provided	Lack of assumption, externalization
In what way?	Justificatory, defensive discourse	Anxiety, fear of authority
Where?	Not mentioned	-
Why?	Motivations not explicit	-
For whom?	For self, with appeal to colleagues	Egocentrism, need for social support

Psychological Profile Evidenced:

- Communicative style: defensive-justificatory, with tendency to avoid concrete details.
- Dominant defense mechanisms: rationalization, externalization, denial through generalization.
- Suggested personality traits: anxiety in relationship with authority, increased need for social validation, possible avoidant pattern in confrontational situations.
- Credibility assessment: presence of dissimulation indicators (absence of concrete details, frequent generalizations, defensive reformulations) recommends additional analysis and confrontation with objective data.

Recommendations:

- Request specific, verifiable details about the procedures followed.
- Confront with statements of the invoked colleagues.
- In subsequent interviews, directly address inconsistencies and request clarifications.

4.2. Case Study No. 2 – Analysis of a Letter in a Security Context

Context: An organization receives an anonymous letter containing threats against a manager. A psycholinguistic analysis is requested to contribute to profiling the author.

Letter Fragment:

"Justice will finally come. For all those who have suffered because of him, he will pay. No more with the lies and the power. I have waited enough. Now it's my turn. They will all see who really has power. It's not about revenge, it's about justice. For those who had no voice."

Application of the 7D Model:

Question	Identified Answer	Psychological Interpretation
Who?	"I" (implied) – "now it's my turn"	Assumption of avenger identity, transition from victim to "avenger"
What?	"Justice will come," "he will pay"	Vague actions, implicit – indirect threat
How?	Not specified	Intention, not planning – possibly author at fantasy level, not necessarily action-oriented
In what way?	Metaphorical, rhetorical language, with biblical echoes ("voice")	Symbolic thinking, possible identification with a "holy" cause
Where?	Not mentioned	-

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Question	Identified Answer	Psychological Interpretation
Why?	"For justice," "for those who had no voice"	Pseudo-moral motivation, idealistic justification of violence
For whom?	"Those who have suffered," "those who had no voice"	Identification with victims, projection, possible unhealed personal trauma

Analysis of Discursive Patterns:

- Dominant pattern: moral justification of violence, with elements of grandiosity ("they will all see who really has power").
- Defense mechanisms: projection (evil is externalized onto the designated victim), rationalization (violence is justified as "justice").
- Cognitive distortions: dichotomous thinking (good vs. evil, justice vs. injustice), personalization, overgeneralization.
- Risk indicator: transition from "we" (those who have suffered) to "I" (now it's my turn) – personal assumption of action.

Synthetic Psychological Profile:

The author presents as a person who has accumulated trauma or a series of frustrations related to the targeted person (or to what that person represents). They strongly identify with a category of victims ("those who have suffered") and construct a moral narrative in which violence becomes legitimate. The lack of procedural details ("how?") suggests that, at least at the time of writing, the author functions more at the fantasy level than at the level of concrete planning. However, the explicit assumption of action ("now it's my turn") and the transition from "we" to "I" indicate a potential transition from fantasy to intention.

Forensic Psychological Interpretation:

This linguistic profile is consistent with what threat assessment literature describes as the "righteous avenger" – an individual who has experienced (or believes they have experienced) significant injustice, who has constructed a narrative in which they are morally justified in seeking redress, and who has begun to move from generalized grievance to targeted intention.

The absence of specific threats ("he will pay" rather than "I will kill him") and the lack of procedural detail suggest that the author may still be in the fantasy stage, but the personalization ("my turn") indicates escalation.

Recommendations:

- Monitor the evolution of communications – appearance of procedural details would indicate escalation of risk.
- Analyze possible previous victims of the organization or of the targeted manager – to identify persons who might feel "entitled" to act.
- Enhanced security measures for the targeted person, especially in public contexts.
- Consider the possibility that the author may be known to the organization or to the victim, given the personalized nature of the grievance.

4.3. Case Study No. 3 – Analysis of an Interview in Personnel Selection

Context: A candidate for a management position in a multinational organization is interviewed. A psycholinguistic analysis of their responses is requested to complement the standard psychological evaluation.

Interview Fragment:

"I consider that authentic leadership means inspiring people, not controlling them. In my team, I have always promoted autonomy and responsibility. People know they can count on me, but they also know that I expect performance. There's a famous saying: 'lead people as if they were the best' and that's exactly how I proceeded. The results speak for themselves: my team was the most performant for three consecutive years. And not because I forced them, but because people felt valued."

Application of the PAD Grid:

Indicator	Observations	Score
A1. Global coherence	Coherent, well-structured discourse	5
A2. Transition marking	Clear, logical transitions	4

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Indicator	Observations	Score
A3. Recapitulations	Present ("that's exactly how I proceeded")	3
A4. Reformulations	Few, natural	2
B1. Exemplification	General example ("results speak") – lack of concrete examples	2
B2. Analogies	Present (the quotation)	3
B3. Citations / authority	One famous quotation, well integrated	3
B4. Generalizations	Present ("always," "people know") – moderate	3
C1. Direct appeals	Absent in this fragment	1
C2. Rhetorical questions	Absent	1
C3. Expression of empathy	Implicitly present ("people felt valued")	3
C4. Detachment/involvement	Involved, but professional	4
D1. Emotional terms	Positive ones present ("inspire," "valued")	3
D2. Technical terms	Field-specific terms ("leadership," "autonomy")	4
D3. Personal pronouns	"I" present, but balanced with "people"	3
D4. Attenuators	Few, natural	2

Application of the 7D Model:

Question	Identified Answer	Interpretation
Who?	"I" – authentic leader, who inspires, not controls	Positive self-perception, aligned with organizational values
What?	Promoted autonomy, obtained performance	Actions aligned with discourse
How?	Through inspiration, through valuing people	Methodology coherent with declared philosophy
In what way?	Professional, balanced discourse, with elements of motivational rhetoric	Professionalism, possible familiarity with managerial discourse
Where?	In their team	Clear professional context
Why?	For performance, for people's development	Motivations aligned with the role
For whom?	For the team, for the organization	Prosocial orientation, organizational loyalty

Psychological Profile Evidenced:

- Communicative style: professional, well-structured, balanced between self-assertion and team orientation.
- Suggested personality traits: increased conscientiousness, moderate extraversion, agreeableness, openness to experience.
- Authenticity: coherent discourse, without major dissimulation indicators; examples are lacking, but in the context of a short interview, this is not necessarily concerning.
- Role adequacy: discursive profile is aligned with the requirements of a management position.

Organizational Psychology Interpretation:

The candidate demonstrates the ability to articulate a leadership philosophy, to connect it with concrete outcomes, and to balance self-presentation with team orientation. The absence of defensive patterns, the natural flow of discourse, and the integration of professional concepts suggest genuine familiarity with managerial thinking and practice. The lack of concrete examples is the only potential concern, but this may reflect interview brevity rather than any underlying issue.

Recommendations:

- Request concrete examples of leadership situations in subsequent interviews.
- Verify professional references to confirm declared performances.
- Include in evaluation some situational simulations to observe real behavior, not just discourse.

5. INTEGRATING PSYCHOLINGUISTICS INTO THE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING OF PSYCHOLOGIST PROFILERS

5.1. Essential Psycholinguistic Competencies for Profilers

Based on the preceding analysis, we can identify a set of essential psycholinguistic competencies that any psychologist profiler should develop:

5.1.1. Theoretical Competencies

- Understanding the relationship between language, thought, and personality
- Knowledge of the main psycholinguistic theories relevant to behavioral analysis
- Familiarity with the typology of discursive procedures and their psychological significance
- Knowledge of psycholinguistic indicators of simulation and dissimulation
- Understanding of the interdisciplinary connections between linguistics, forensic psychology, and profiling

5.1.2. Methodological Competencies

- Ability to apply discourse analysis grids in diverse contexts
- Skill in using the seven cognitive questions model in investigations
- Competence to integrate psycholinguistic analysis with other profiling methods
- Capacity to synthesize data into a coherent psychological profile
- Familiarity with both qualitative and quantitative approaches to linguistic analysis

5.1.3. Practical Competencies

- Ability to conduct investigative interviews with attention to psycholinguistic indicators
- Capacity to analyze written documents from a psychological perspective
- Competence to formulate recommendations based on discourse analysis
- Skill in communicating analysis results to multidisciplinary teams
- Ability to adapt analytical methods to different types of verbal material and different professional contexts

5.2. Proposed Curriculum for Training in Applied Psycholinguistics

Incorporating psycholinguistics into training programs for psychologist profilers can follow the following curricular structure:

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Module	Main Themes	Hours	Assessment
Module 1: Theoretical Foundations	Language-personality relationship; Cognitive psycholinguistics; Communication theories; Forensic linguistics introduction	20	Theoretical test
Module 2: Discursive Procedures	Typology of procedures; Identification and classification; Psychological meanings; Contextual interpretation	25	Practical applications
Module 3: Discourse Analysis in Investigative Contexts	Interview techniques; Statement analysis; Inconsistency detection; Credibility assessment	30	Simulations, case studies
Module 4: Analysis of Written Documents	Letters, messages, online posts; Profiling through text; Simulation indicators; Threat communication analysis	25	Document analyses
Module 5: Instruments and Analysis Grids	PAD Grid; 7D Model; Psycholinguistic Profile Sheet; Computerized text analysis tools	20	Practical applications
Module 6: Integrated Case Studies	Investigative cases; Organizational cases; Clinical cases; Threat assessment cases	30	Final project
TOTAL		150	

5.3. Future Research Directions

The field of psycholinguistics applied to profiling offers numerous opportunities for future research:

- Instrumental validation – studies on the validity and reliability of the PAD grid and the 7D model in different professional contexts, including forensic, organizational, and clinical settings.
- Cross-cultural correlations – research on cross-cultural variations of psycholinguistic indicators and adaptation of instruments to different cultural contexts, essential given the increasingly global nature of forensic work.
- Longitudinal studies – investigation of the temporal stability of discursive patterns in different categories of subjects, including offenders, victims, witnesses, and individuals undergoing psychological change.
- Integration with digital technologies – development of software tools for computer-assisted psycholinguistic analysis, including natural language processing applications adapted to profiling needs.
- Applications in related domains – extending research to areas such as cybersecurity (analysis of online threats), radicalization risk assessment (analysis of extremist discourse), suicide risk assessment (analysis of warning signs in language), and insider threat detection.
- Neurolinguistic correlates – investigation of the neural underpinnings of the relationship between language and personality, potentially integrating psycholinguistic analysis with neuroimaging data.

CONCLUSION

Psycholinguistics occupies a central place in profiling activity, providing the theoretical and methodological instruments necessary to transform verbal products into sources of relevant psychological information. Through the analysis of discursive procedures, communicative patterns, and psycholinguistic indicators, the profiler can highlight personality traits, emotional states, defense mechanisms, and communicative intentions that would otherwise remain hidden.

The interdisciplinary integration of linguistics, forensic psychology, and profiling creates a powerful framework for understanding human behavior through language. This integration recognizes that language is not merely a neutral medium for transmitting information but a complex behavioral product that reflects the speaker's cognitive processes, emotional states, personality structure, and communicative intentions.

This chapter has systematized the main techniques for highlighting the psychological profile through psycholinguistic procedures, offering practitioners:

- A comprehensive theoretical framework regarding the relationship between language and personality, cognitive processes reflected in linguistic structures, and defense mechanisms evidenced in discourse, with explicit connections to forensic psychology.
- A detailed typology of discursive procedures relevant to profiling, together with their possible psychological meanings, grounded in empirical research and clinical observation.
- Practical working instruments – the PAD Grid for discourse analysis and the 7D Model for systematic exploration of the psychological dimensions of communication, both designed for direct application in professional practice.
- Interpretation models for discursive patterns and for constructing the psychological profile based on language analysis, with attention to context and individual variation.
- Case studies illustrating the applicability of these instruments in investigative, security, and organizational evaluation contexts, demonstrating how psycholinguistic analysis contributes to profiling in concrete situations.
- A curricular proposal for integrating psycholinguistic competencies into training programs for psychologist profilers, based on an analysis of the knowledge and skills required for competent professional practice.

The fundamental conclusion emerging from this analysis is that language is not only a means of communication but also a privileged window into the human psyche.

For the psychologist profiler, developing psycholinguistic analysis competencies is not a luxury but a professional necessity, one that can make the difference between a superficial evaluation and a deep, relevant, and actionable one.

The integration of psycholinguistics into profiling activity opens new perspectives for understanding human behavior and for anticipating future actions, thus contributing to increasing the accuracy and practical utility of psychological profiling in all its domains of application. As the digital transformation of communication continues to generate ever-larger quantities of verbal data, the importance of these competencies will only grow.

Ultimately, the goal of this chapter has been to provide a bridge between the rich theoretical resources of psycholinguistics and the practical demands of profiling work. It is our hope that the instruments and methods presented here will prove useful to practitioners and that they will stimulate further research and development in this fascinating and important interdisciplinary field.

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CHAPTER 2
LAW, POWER, AND PROTEST: LEGAL
CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE POETRY OF NIYI
OSUNDARE

¹Adesanmi Moses ADEMOLA

¹General Studies Department, Federal University of Technology (former Federal Polytechnic), Ilaro, Nigeria, moses.adesanmi@federalpolyilaro.edu.ng, ORCID ID: 0009-0007-9790-2033

INTRODUCTION

The Legal Consciousness of Poetry in Nigeria

The connection between law and literature has been the subject of growing academic interest, especially in the interdisciplinary study of law and literature. According to scholars, literary works are rich sources of information on how societies conceptualize justice, power, and institution of authority (White, 1985; Weisberg, 2009). Literature in several postcolonial cultures such as in Nigeria has been used in most cases to heavily criticize social injustice and highlight the hypocrisies inherent in political and legal institutions (Gikandi, 2001). Traditionally, poets and other writers in Nigeria have employed writings to challenge systems of domination, corruption and inequality that make up the experiences of the common citizen (Ojaide, 2001). Niyi Osundare is one of such writers who hold a central place in the list of socially concerned poets whose works engage the social issue and promote democracy all the time. Having begun as a literary figure in the lively era of Nigerian literature in the late twentieth century, Osundare is generally recognized through his anthropocentric poetic vision and oppressions against dictatorial rule, environmental destruction and economic exploitation (Ojaide, 1996; Nwoga, 1988). The Yoruba oral tradition is greatly used in his poetry, but he is also quite devoted to social activity, which is why it is quite easy to access and quite strong in relation to communal interest (Egya, 2011).

The purpose of literature in the historical context of Nigeria is that it usually served as a political opposition especially during the military governments in which freedom of expression and civil rights were harshly suppressed (Falola & Heaton, 2008). Between 1970s and 1990s, Nigerian politics was characterized by military rule, which subverted constitutional governance and deteriorated institutions that should have ensured justice and accountability (Diamond, Kirk-Greene, and Oyediran, 1997). In that situation, authors became cultural critiques and moral commentators, which creative expression helped them to overcome the abuses of power and emphasize the discrepancy between legal ideals and political realities.

A helpful term to analyze this interrelationship between literature and law is legal consciousness that is defined as the attitudes of ordinary individuals to legal authority, their interpretations of its meaning, and reactions to it in daily life (Ewick and Silbey, 1998). Legal consciousness goes beyond formal law institutions and examines the working of law in the cultural social imagination of the citizens. In this respect, literature turns out to be a significant location in which conflicting accounts of justice, rights and power are expressed and argued out (Sarat and Kearns, 1998). Literary works create a medium through which the lived experience of people with voices that are not usually represented in the official legal discourse can be heard through narrative, metaphor, and symbolic representation. These dynamics have been most fruitfully explored in the poetry of Osundare. He often examined the conflict between authority and righteousness in his poems, where he made picturesque descriptions of corruption, destruction of the environment and the excluded citizens. Simultaneously, his poetry glorifies the power of people as one and the radical opposition, thus indicating that justice belongs to the moral conscience of the populace and not just to the institutions of the state. *The Eye of the Earth*, *Moonsongs*, and *Horses of Memory* are examples of this social criticism and civic involvement. The poetic voice of Osundare has always been observed by critics to show a strong interest in justice and accountability in the Nigerian society. His work opposes repressive systems and promotes democratic spirit that is based on shared accountability and leadership of morality (Egya, 2011; Ojaide, 2001). Osundare creates a poetic presentation based on strategic application of satire, symbolism, and nature-inspired images which reveal ineffectiveness of the political power, and demand a more humanized social system. By so doing, his poetry leads to larger discussions concerning governance, human rights and rule of law in modern-day Africa.

This chapter thus discusses how the poetry of Osundare expresses a unique legal awareness that questions the power regime and tries to redefine justice as viewed by a common citizen. In the analysis of the selected poems, the paper shows that the work of the poet challenges the connection of law, power, and social responsibility in Nigeria.

Finally, the chapter holds that this poetry of Osundare serves as a cultural commentary as well as a civic action and provides a different conception of justice based on the principles of democracy and communalism.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY IN OSUNDARE'S POETRY

The environmental degradation is one of the most topical socio-political problems in modern Nigeria. Although the protection of natural resources and the well-being of the citizens are the main aim of the Nigerian constitution and a number of environmental laws, the actual situation in the country tends to show a certain inconsistency between the laws and their enforcement. The lacuna has often been addressed through literature, which presents alternative spaces where the issue of environmental injustice and state neglect can be critically analyzed. The poetry of Niyi Osundare offers a very strong instance of such an intervention, in his treasured volume *The Eye of the Earth*. Osundare anticipates the setting in this work not only as a landscape of nature but also as an essential element of social injustice and collective existence. Environmental awareness of Osundare is a bigger issue of ecological misuse and the collapse of political systems to protect people in terms of resources. It has been noted by environmental scholars that ecological crises have been strongly associated with modes of governance and economic inequalities as well as the lack of efficient regulation in most African societies (Falola & Aderinto, 2010). Deforestation, soil erosion, oil pollution, desertification and other related problems are some of the issues that have impacted the livelihood of the people in rural Nigeria. These environmental issues do not only represent the ecological issues, but also are the questions of law and ethics of the state and corporate actors in relation to the environment protection.

In the eye of the earth, Osundare creates poetic universe where nature acts as an object and observer in human activities. The collection also underlines several times the close connection between the human communities and nature, the environment is described as a common legacy that should be cared about and preserved. The poet uses bright imagery and rhythmic language to stress the devastating effects of environmental negligence and bring in the issue of ethical duty to maintain balance in the ecological environment.

The use of language and images based on everyday life and easy to understand language is one of the prominent aspects of the environmental poetry written by Osundare. In contrast to very abstract forms of poetry, his poems often use metaphors that are based on farming activities, countryside and collective life. Such a stylistic device shows the desire of the poet to make his work sound as close as possible to the common reader, especially to those whose lives are directly influenced by the environmental destruction. The poetry that Osundare writes as his critics have noted, tends to be in the collective voice, and it by changing the personal poetic voice into the collective voice of the community makes social issues to be voiced (Egya, 2011).

In this poetic context, the environment has been made a figurative place where questions of right and wrongfulness are discussed. The fact that the exploitation of natural resources in a carefree manner brings about imbalance is a common theme in the poems by Osundare. In most cases the poet shows nature as one who is agonized in the hands of human greed and political irresponsibility. These descriptions also doubt the usefulness of legal systems in place to safeguard the environment. The limits of institutional governance are revealed when the damage to the ecological system is experienced due to the absence of law enforcement. The way the poet has treated the environmental problems also relates to the larger debate on environmental justice. Environmental justice focuses on fair allocation of environmental benefits and ecological burden and the identification of disproportionately affected communities on ecological harm. The rural people in Nigeria are usually affected by the act of environmental degradation the most, even though, they have little contribution in the economic activities that lead to the degradation. This paradox is reflected in the poetry of Osundare that anticipates the voices of the communities whose lives merge with the land.

Other features in the aspect of Osundare environmental poetry are the elements of personification and symbolic imagery. The concept of a river, forest and soil as living creatures with the ability to suffer, remember, and an ability to respond to human activities is frequently represented. This poetic approach is a reinforcement of the moral aspect of nature conservation as it implies that nature as such has intrinsic value beyond that of its economic use.

Osundare ascribes agency to the natural components thereby rebelling against anthropocentric views that regard the environment as a mere exploitation tool. In addition, the poems of Osundare often create a continuity of the past and the present environmental practices. The Yoruba culture that the poet draws his inspiration out of had an elaborate system of ecological management that was based on cultural beliefs and societal traditions like those of the traditional African societies. These traditions focused on nature respect and on interdependence of human well-being as well as environmental well-being. However, these old ecological relations have been frequently broken by modern trends in industrialization and extraction of resources. By his poetry, Osundare implicitly criticizes this change, and it is possible to conclude that some of the modern environmental crises are partly due to the loss of ecological wisdom.

The environmental negligence, as criticized by the poet may also be viewed as a wider criticism of failure in administration. Environmental degradation has the propensity of being a symptom of lack of deeper structural issues in politics and law systems. The attempts to protect natural resources are often weakened by the lack of enforcement of the environmental regulations, corruption, and poor institutional capacity. According to the Nigerian political historians, the post-colonial state has been unable to achieve a balance between economic growth and environmental sustainability (Falola and Heaton, 2008). The poetry of Osundare resonates these issues by describing destruction of the ecology as a disease of a lack of accountability of the leadership and misplaced priorities of the policy-makers. Notably, the environmental poetry of Osundare is not one that only mourns on the ecological loss; it has a big perception of resistance and advocacy. His poems tend to urge people to act collectively to solve environmental issues. Focusing on the interdependence of human societies and nature, the poet helps the reader to perceive environmental protection as a collective civic responsibility, not a state issue. Such point of view is consistent with the ethos of participatory citizenry that most of the works of Osundare are based on. Moreover, the performative aspects of the poetry by Osundare contribute to its contribution in the formation of environmental awareness even more.

His poems are meant to be read out and listened to using the oral traditions, which provide a chance to engage the community in discussion of the issues that the poems bring up. The rhythms, repetition and musicality incorporated in his verse provides a poetic expression into a discourse of the masses. It is in this performative aspect that environmental issues are incorporated into a larger cultural discourse of justice, responsibility and the future of the nation. The manner in which Osundare treats the environment eventually shows how the ecological questions can be interrelated with the legal and ethical aspects. The idea of environmental laws is supposed to control the way humans relate to nature, and the success of the process requires the desire of both the government and individuals to follow their ideals. Where laws are ineffective in safeguarding the environment, literature can be a second way to criticize and act. The poetry by Osundare fits this description as he reveals the environmental injustice and develops a vision of ecological balance based on communal ideas.

Moreover, Osundare owes his wider concern with social justice to the fact that the poems he created are also environmentally oriented. To the poet, environmental degradation cannot be dealt with without first addressing issues of poverty, inequality, and political responsibility. Communities are mostly left without their major source of livelihood, since the demolitions of forests, rivers and farmlands often leave them without a livelihood. In bringing out such associations, Osundare illustrates how environmental protection is basically a question of justice and human dignity. *The Eye of the Earth* in this regard can be interpreted as a poetic, as well as a very potent criticism on environmental mismanagement. The collection makes the readers rethink the relationship with the natural world and acknowledge the ethical consequences of ecological negligence. The poem with its rich imagery and easy language encourages one to contemplate the obligation that comes with humanity being at the mercy of the earth.

Ultimately, the environmental poetry of Osundare is a part of a larger cultural conversation of sustainability and justice in Nigeria. The poet motivates the reader to get more involved in the legal and moral aspects of environmental stewardship by anticipating the voices of the affected community and revealing the impacts of environmental exploitation.

His work proves that poetry could be an important factor in developing the public awareness about environmental problems and supporting more responsible ruling. By deploying environmental justice, the poetry of Osundare brings out the interrelationship between law, power, and nature. Whereas formal legal institutions might not be able to touch the ecological problems adequately, the literary expression presents the arena in which these problems can be critically discussed and discussed publicly. By so doing, Osundare strengthens the notion that the fight against environmental degradation cannot be separated of the fight against injustices and democratic accountability in the Nigerian society.

2. THE POLITICS OF JUSTICE, MEMORY, AND HISTORY

Questions of justice can hardly ever be limited to the present. They are frequently thoroughly entangled in historical memory and the experiences of a society. The role of memory in most African literary traditions is not just as a memory, but as an effective tool of questioning authority and challenging injustice. This dynamic interaction between history and justice can be seen throughout the poetry of Niyi Osundare especially in his collection the horses of memory. Osundare uses historical consciousness in this work to explain how previous events of oppression, colonial domination and political struggle still affect the contemporary perceptions of law, authority and civic responsibility in Nigeria.

The role of historical memory has the dominating role in the African literature as the past continues to have a dynamical role in the political and cultural life of most postcolonial societies. African literary critics have tended to argue that, in addition to preserving communal memory, writers actually re-write history in a manner which criticizes official discourse of power (Gikandi, 2001). Political institutions in Nigeria have been subject to colonial rule and governmental military regimes, and thus literature in Nigeria often returns to uncover the origins of modern injustices. By participating in them, writers forge other histories, which anticipate the experience of the average citizen, instead of that of the political elite.

The poetic journey by Osundare that aims to recount the history of Nigeria in *Horses of Memory* serves as a critique of the political and legal circumstances of the post-colonial Nigerian society. Even the title creates associations with the concept of the memory as the active and strong power that can move across times and space. Horses represent motion, stamina, and the capability to transport the load of the past to the present day. Using this image, Osundare implies that the knowledge of the struggles of the past is still infused into the moral and political awareness of the country. Many poems of this collection often bring out the long-term effects of colonialism on African political and legal organizations. Colonial regimes had put in place governance structures where they usually gave precedence to control and extraction of resources as opposed to justice and democratic engagements. These colonial buildings produced legacies that impacted on the post-independence legal systems. It has been observed by many African scholars that the postcolonial states had inherited legal systems that did not necessarily correspond with the culture or traditional communal sensibilities of justice (Falola & Heaton, 2008). Consequently, there was a tendency to have tensions between official legal bodies and the experience of citizens.

The poetry of Osundare captures these contradictions in terms of the way historical injustices are still echoed in the current society. Vivid imagery and the use of language help the poet to recollect the period of struggle, resistance, and common sufferings which influenced the national movement to independence and democratic rule. These memories are not introduced as remote historical events, but they are integrated in the present days as a reminder of incomplete fights of justice and responsibility.

Osundare also uses memory as a resistance to political amnesia in his poems. In most societies, leaders of power seek to manipulate history accountability to justify their leadership. Political leaders are able to construct the historical image of the past by selective recollections or forgetting of a particular event to influence how the past is perceived by the population. Literature, however, tends to resist such manipulation by holding on to other memories that oppose official records. Osundare's poems help in this resistance because they remember history which reveals the mechanisms of exploitation, repression, and popular revolts.

One of the important characteristics of *Horses of Memory* is the focus of the poet on collective memory, not on an individual one. The poems are commonly based on the voices and experiences of the populations that appear to have suffered political oppression and economic hardship. This societal outlook is representative of a larger African concept of identity and history as perceived within the context of the collective, as opposed to the individual. Through foregrounding communal memory Osundare emphasizes that people have fought common historical battles and also emphasizes the need to stick together to achieve justice. Moreover, historical imagery by Osundare is usually focused on continuity between inequality in the past and in the present. The use of memory on the part of the poet is also indicative of his general civic duty. Osundare makes readers look back to the struggle of the previous generation who seek justice, reminding them about the sacrifices that were offered by the previous generation in their fight against injustice and the democratic ideals. In this regard, memory is a moral stock that encourages both the present and future action. The poet replaces the scenario where historical pain is lost to history, but instead he makes it eventually a catalyst to social consciousness and political participation.

The other point of interest about the historical poetry of Osundare is the high usage of symbolism and metaphors. As bearers of the historical meaning, natural imagery, animals, and landscapes are often used. The effect of these symbolic components is the development of multiple layers of poetic language with the help of which complicated political facts can be conveyed. As an example, topography damaged by war or exploitation can denote the long-term consequences of the past injustice on the landscape as well as the social life in the country. Another way in which Osundare touches on memory is by the way he criticizes political leadership. The poems imply that the leaders that do not listen to the lessons of history may repeat the previous errors. The poet appeals to historical memory by doing so to demand a more thoughtful and conscientious attitude toward government. This criticism is consistent with other trends in African fiction in which the authors locate themselves as moral critics of the behavior of political elites. Oral cultures which shape the poetic style of Osundare also shape the way he treats history.

The oral cultures practiced by Africans have always been based on storytelling, praise poetry, and communal performance as a source of historical information. These cultures focus on the need to memorize and pass on shared experiences to new generations. Osundare takes the aspects of these oral works and uses them in written poetry where there is a dynamic play between the traditional ways of telling stories and the new methods of literary presentation. This amalgamation of oral and written traditions by the poet strengthens the notion that history does not emanate singly out of official institutions but is the possession of the people. Memory is a shared warehouse that holds the verisimilitude of lived experience even in the face of the silence or distortion of the official records. Using this cultural tradition, Osundare places his poems in the context of a larger tradition of African intellectual and artistic opposition.

Notably, *Horses of Memory* poems are not all about the pain of the past, but the poems also speak of triumph and hope. The collection also features the moments of bravery, unity, and solidarity in addition to the memories of injustice. Such good memories remind us that societies have the ability to resolve oppression and create a fairer system of governance. Thus, the poet strikes a balance between criticizing but also providing a hope, a picture of justice, which is still achievable regardless of the difficulties of past times. The discussion of memory by Osundare ends up giving a greater insight into the interpretation of historical memory in legal and political thought. Legal consciousness focuses on how people and groups of people understand law in terms of their experiences and cultural histories. The historical memory is a vital component of this process of interpretation and its effect on the legitimacy and effectiveness of legal institutions is experienced by the citizens. Through the appeal to the past, Osundare shows that the collective memory of the injustice can inform the expectations of justice and accountability in the present.

Literature can also serve as an excellent place to contemplate the subject of political transitions and institutional reform in the Nigerian context, which in many instances were followed by public discussions about the question of historical responsibility. The poetry by Osundare encourages the readers to reflect on the influence of the past on the current challenges on achieving democratic regimes and the rule of law.

The poet encourages citizens and leaders to address unresolved injustices, as well as seek a more inclusive vision of justice, through his thought-provoking approach to history.

In the end, *Horses of Memory* demonstrates the fact that the poem can serve as a memory store of historical consciousness and a springboard to the reflection on politics. Through a blend of personal memory and collective memory, as well as the national history, Osundare develops a poetic text that sheds light on the relationship between past and present that is not that simple. His work shows that the search of justice cannot be detached of the historical memory because it is with the help of memory that societies manage to understand how to see injustice and even to envision the aspect of change.

3. POETIC PROTEST AND THE LANGUAGE OF RESISTANCE

Poetry has always played a monumental role in political protest especially in a society whereby political institutions do not have the means to express dissent. The poets in most African settings have taken the role of cultural commentators who take on the challenge of confronting injustices, defiance with authoritarian regimes and speaking out the hopes of the common citizens. In the Nigerian literature, this school of protest poetry has been notably alive, due to the political tumult of the country and the perpetual battle over democratic governance. The tradition of Niyi Osundare is very notable. In a unique combination of the simple language, rhythmic charge, and socially active use of the imagery, the poetry of Osundare constantly raises the questions of the political suppression, social injustice, and civic role. His book *Moonsongs* is a good example of how poetic expression can serve as the language of opposition to domination structures.

The context that *Moonsongs* came into being is extremely important to the political meaning of it. The history of post-independent Nigeria is full of each military rule, political instability, and power struggles over democratic governance. This was common in the late twentieth century especially between the 1970s and 1990s when military regimes often curtailed civil liberties and concentrated political authority.

According to the scholars of Nigerian history, these times were marked by the censorship, repression of opposition and undermining of the democratic institutions (Falola and Heaton, 2008). Writers in this context found literature as an outlet to engage in a political commentary and keep up a wider discussion on the issues of justice and freedom. The poetry of Osundare is like a reflection of this historical fact as he touched on the moral and political aspects of authoritarian rule. In *Moonsongs*, the poet uses a lyrical and social commentary voice that swings back and forth. The poems often present a picture of a society that was loaded with injustice but that was brought alive by the longing of freedom. Osundare creates a poetic language using metaphor, symbolism, and rhythmic repetition thus revealing the oppression at the same time reasserting the strength of the human spirit.

The dramatic attributes of the poetry of Osundare also contribute to the creation of the poem as a means of resistance. His poems are often rhythmic, repetitive, and musically-driven, inspired by oral Yoruba traditions and are therefore easily recited publicly. Poetry in most African cultures has been performed in social places with the audiences playing a vivid role in interpreting and passing on the meaning. The interest of Osundare in this tradition enables his poetry not only to be a piece of written literature but a certain cultural performance as well. Performance is a significant element that contributes to the language of protest since it reduces poetic expression to a community experience. Reciting poems aloud creates gaps in which communities are able to think about some of the common issues and re-affirm their desire to see social change. In this regard, the poetry of Osundare breaks through the book, and it is integrated into a larger cultural phenomenon that asserts injustice and promotes democratic ideals.

The accessibility of protest poetry by Osundare is one of its major defining features. His language sticks to the common pattern of speech and the culture in contrast to much more obscure or experimental styles of poetry. This style is a reflection of the approach of the poet to communicate with the large audience and not with the small circle of literature professionals. As critics have noted, Osundare intentionally appeals to oral traditions, such as praise poetry and performance by the community, in order to produce a poetic voice that appeals to common people (Egya, 2011).

In the process, he makes poetry a way of communal talk that can be used to raise social consciousness and communal thinking. In *Moonsongs*, nature has been used as a focal point to express the themes of resistance and renewal. Even the moon itself serves as a repetitive image that helps to light the darkness of political oppression but creates an impression that the change might take place. In such a symbolism, Osundare is able to create a poetic terrain whereby the physical world reflects the emotional and political violence of human societies. The repetitive action of the moon reminds the thought that the dark times are always succeeded by some bright ones, supporting the inner concept of the poet about the final success of justice.

It is in line with the overall trends in the poetic style of Osundare to use nature as an imagery. In most of his collections, nature is used as a metaphor to social and political reality. One can find rivers, forests, winds, and celestial bodies which are commonly described as the witnesses of human behaviour and which reveal the ethical impact of the political decisions. These components are used in *Moonsongs* to create symbolic language, as a result of which the poet criticizes the systems of domination and creates a new space of possibilities where the society could live.

The other notable aspect associated with the protest poetry by Osundare is his application of satire. Satire has always been considered a powerful literary device of unveiling hypocrisy and authority. Through irony and exaggeration, authors are able to demonstrate the absurdity of the political power without having to be confrontational. The nature of satire during the authoritarian times in Nigeria provided writers with an effective way of dissent in a less explicit but strong way. Osundare often uses this device to bring out the discrepancies between the rhetoric and reality on the ground. The poet uses satirical imagery to reveal how political leaders are morally deficient because they put their own interests above the interests of citizens. These criticisms are not made abstractly but are based on colorful accounts of daily sufferings and social injustices. Osundare raises the moral aspects of governance by comparing the fortunes of political elites with the plight of the common man. According to his poetry, political authority has a certain responsibility of maintaining justice and ensuring the dignity of citizens.

Besides satire, the poetry of Osundare tends to use rhetoric questions that leads the reader to think critically about how the society is. These questions serve as points of interaction, prompting viewers to reflect on their position in the wider political environment. Instead of identifying himself as an apathetic observer, the poet puts himself and his audience in the context of the endless fight of justice. This communicative nature adds political influence to the poems as they are turned into dialogues and not statements.

The dramatic attributes of the poetry of Osundare also contribute to the creation of the poem as a means of resistance. His poems are often rhythmic, repetitive, and musically-driven, inspired by oral Yoruba traditions and are therefore easily recited publicly. Poetry in most African cultures has been performed in social places with the audiences playing a vivid role in interpreting and passing on the meaning. The interest of Osundare in this tradition enables his poetry not only to be a piece of written literature but a certain cultural performance as well. Performance is a significant element that contributes to the language of protest since it reduces poetic expression to a community experience. Reciting poems aloud creates gaps in which communities are able to think about some of the common issues and re-affirm their desire to see social change. In this regard, the poetry of Osundare breaks through the book, and it is integrated into a larger cultural phenomenon that asserts injustice and promotes democratic ideals.

Another interesting thing about Moonsongs is the focus on hope and rejuvenation even though it is a grim novel that describes the harsh realities. Although most of the poems criticize corrupt politics and social inequalities, there is a form of unending optimism regarding change. This critical affection is what makes Osundare protest poetry unique and not just the negative accounts of political failure. The poet does not depict oppression as an unchangeable state, but focuses on the power of people and communities to create their future. The focus on hope is a stronger tradition in African protest literature. Authors tend to mix political stinging remarks and statements of endurance and solidarity. In this way, they help the readers speculate about other social structures based on justice and equality. The poetry of Osundare reflects this tradition because the resistance is not only the struggle against the authority but the positive attempt to create a less inhumane world.

Moreover, the protest poetry of Osundare is part of the interpretation of the influence of cultural expression in the perception of law and authority by the people. Where the legal institutions can be seen as either remote or inefficient, literature might be a significant place of expressing other images of justice. Poets are able to address ethical questions by metaphor and narrative which might be disregarded by formal legal discourse. The work by Osundare is a good example of this role as it focuses on the ethical aspects of government and the significance of responsibility.

The protest language in *Moonsongs* is therefore multiple. On the one hand, it reveals the injustices related to authoritarian regime and social inequality. On a different level, it makes readers imagine a society in which the principles of democracy and human dignity can be truly achieved. Combining critique, satire, symbolism, and performance, Osundare develops a poetic discourse that works against the status quo and points to hope of a change. Finally, *Moonsongs* shows that poetry might also serve as an effective civic action. Where political arrangements might suppress free opposition, literature provides a platform of contention, discourse and opposition.

CONCLUSION

Literature and Future of Justice in Nigeria

The study of the theme of environmental justice, historical memory and poetic protest in the works of Niyi Osundare indicates how deep literature can penetrate the issues of law, power and social responsibility. In the book collections like *The Eye of the Earth*, *Horses of Memory* and *Moonsongs*, Osundare develops a poetic vision that criticizes injustice but also provides the hope of a democratic renewal. Among the main lessons that have come out of this analysis is that poetry may serve as a critical arena of exploring the ethical aspects of governance. Although the legal institutions offer a formal mechanism of controlling the social behavior and solving a dispute, literature is another field where one may find the moral consequences of law and power. Poets can through the use of metaphor, symbolism, and narrative imagination bring out into the limelight the actual lives that tend to be concealed in formal legal discourse.

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The poems of Osundare show that cultural articulation can be significant to construct social concepts of justice. The poet challenges the readers to consider the bigger implications of governance and policy choices by tackling concerns like environmental degradation, historical memory and political accountability. According to his work, the validity of political power finally lies in its capacity to support the dignity and well-being of people.

The environmental motif in the *The eye of the earth* brings out the interrelatedness between ecological sustainability and social justice. When environmental degradation takes place, it does not only affect the survival of natural ecosystems but also jeopardizes the livelihood and well being of communities whose existence largely relies on the ecosystem. In his pictorial representation of the surrounding nature, Osundare emphasizes the moral value that both governments and individuals have in conserving the environment as a common good. On the same note, the interaction with the historical memory in *Horses of Memory* indicates how the past has been shaping modern injustice battles. Reminiscing about the past experiences of colonial subjugation, political oppression and popular uprisings, the poet does not fail to remind the readers the fact that the quest of justice is a process that is perpetually driven by the shared experience. Memory also turns out to be an effective tool of cognition about the origins of the current troubles and leading to the way of equal systems of governance.

The protests aspects of *Moonsongs* also reveal the ability of the poetry to defy dictatorial systems and provoke the citizens. Osundare is able to express a language of resistance through satire, symbolism, and rhythmic intensity that reveals injustice and reaffirms the people of ordinary. His poetry is therefore an act of cultural activism which instigates the reader to envision and strive towards other ways of seeing the world.

Combined, these thematic strands can demonstrate the versatility of literature in the life of people. Poetry does not simply mirror social realities but it is involved in their social construction in that they will affect how people think about their role as citizens. Such cultural involvement may help create a more thoughtful and participatory political-social sphere in the course of political-social change. The implications of the poetry of Osundare are greater than just the Nigerian situation.

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Writers around the globe are still struggling with the issues of justice, human rights and environmental sustainability. Placing these problems in a poetic context, Osundare shows that literature can be an effective tool that can be used to relate individual experiences to a broader issue in the world. His work reminds the readers that the process of pursuing justice is not only the prerogative of legal institutions but also the common human process that demands ethical considerations, culture and action. Therefore, the literature of Niyi Osundare gives credence to the fact that literary expression remains relevant in a discussion on governance and social responsibility. Osundare provides a poetic vision to resolve the dichotomy between the artistic creativity and civic activity through his adherence to simple language, shared values, moral clarity. His work makes people think about injustice and create hopes on the way of future based on democratic ideals and human dignity. By doing so, the poetry of Osundare still has a role to play in the current discourse on the issue of law, power, and justice in Nigeria and elsewhere. His poems are a tribute to the power of literature to change the world and make it a better and fairer place by revealing to us the human impact of political choices and challenging us to reevaluate the values that shape the way of life of communities.

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CHAPTER 3
ALGORITHMIC EAVESDROPPING: THE LEGAL
AND LINGUISTIC DIMENSIONS OF
CONVERSATIONAL SURVEILLANCE IN MODERN
BROADCASTING

¹Radhika HA

²Mayuree PALB

³Assoc. Prof. Dr. C. P. RASHMIC

¹Department of Media Studies, Presidency University, Bangalore, India, :
radhikahariharanviscom@gmail.com, ORCID ID: 0009-0007-8921-6682

²Department of Media Studies, Presidency University, Bangalore, India,
mayureepal18@gmail.com, ORCID ID: 0009-0001-7583-3889

³HOI, Associate Professor, Amity School of Communication, Amity University, Bengaluru,
India. Emailciate Professor, Amity University, Bangalore, India, cprashmi1@gmail.com, ORCID
ID: 0000-0001-7722-6006

INTRODUCTION

Background and Context

The situation of broadcasting has changed dramatically within the last ten years and experienced a paradigmatic shift. What was earlier on a one-way, or one-way flow of audio-visual information to mass-markets has developed into a two-way, or bi-directional information digital-ecosystem characterized by interactivity, personalization, and mass-harvesting of data everywhere. The old-fashioned terrestrial TV and analog radio, which were characterized by technologies that made the relationships between the provider and the user one-way communication, have been replaced or complemented by smart television platforms, web-based streaming portals, and companion mobile apps that radically change the communicative contract between the media supplier and user (Couldry & Mejias, 2019). This move, in some markets is faster like that of Bangalore, India, which represents a city synonymous to high digital adoption and a highly advanced consumer base, and according to this case study, makes the region a significant and a limited case study to investigate the implications of interactive broadcasting.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become embedded in the environment of media ecosystems, advertising, and content delivery especially, leading to a novel compartment of complexity to this already shifting relationship. Recommendation engines, natural language processing (NLP) modules, and ambient audio recognition systems are currently integrated into the technology of numerous broadcasting platforms and their corresponding companion applications that are powered by AI. Such systems do not merely monitor the type of content a user is consuming, but are now more likely to monitor the manner in which users talk, the nature of the discussions common in a household setting, and the emotional undertones of verbal interactions in the atmosphere of the ambient space (Zuboff, 2019). The expressiveness of language as an inherently human tool which used to be viewed as a privy, short lived type of communication has become a marketable asset which can be effectively mined to create advertising profiles and forecast consumer behaviour with a the level of specificity never seen before.

This chapter explores the convergence of three phenomena in three ways: the digitalization of broadcasting infrastructure, the introduction of AI-based ambient audio processing into broadcast-associated applications, and the legal-linguistic regimes governing or, in some respects, apparently not governing the new surveillance behaviors. The high-speed digitization of the Indian media market, or more specifically at Bangalore is used as a geographically and technologically limited case on which one can shed light on the overall global trends. The Personal Data Protection environment of India, standing on a crossroad after the enactment in 2023 of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA) and its further operationalization, is a particularly promising field of such analysis (Government of India, 2023).

The Problem Statement

The very core of this question is the disturbing asymmetry; as the broadcasting institutions have expanded their digital reach into the privacy of living rooms (through the use of smart TVs that can listen, through mobile applications that can access the microphone permission and through streaming services that can record voice search history), legal tools which were originally created to guard the privacy of users has yet to keep up with the technicality of these technologies. Broadly perceived as tools of opaqueness, the main bodies of cloudy law that broadcasters use to convey their data policies to users are End-User License Agreements (EULAs) and privacy policies (McDonald and Cranor, 2009; Obar and Oeldorf-Hirsch, 2020).

The issue is never only technical and legal by itself, but is essentially linguistic. The terminology that is being used in these documents often conceals, instead of shedding light on the nature of data collection practices. Constructions, including the one that says we may gather information to make your experience better or some features may need access to device features, are structurally ambiguous, legally defensible and cognitively unclear to the everyday user. This type of lingo weaseling generates what this chapter refers to as a surveillance semantic gap a zone where data bundle gathering is carried out beyond what the user can practically understand, despite the fact that nominal approval has been secured (Solove, 2020).

Such a gap is increased in the switch and circuit arrangement of broadcasting in particular, as the user has a reasonable expectation in the broadcasting arrangement that he is interacting with a content delivery model, rather than with an incessant ambient surveillance system.

Table 1. Comparative Overview of Broadcasting Platforms and Their Data Collection Vectors (2024)

Platform Type	Data Vector	AI Technology Used	Legal Instrument	User Awareness Level
Smart TV App	Ambient Audio / ACR	NLP + Voice Recognition	EULA / Privacy Policy	Low
Radio Companion App	Microphone Access + Usage Logs	Sentiment Analysis	Terms of Service	Very Low
Web Streaming Portal	Behavioural Analytics + Cookies	Recommendation Engine	Cookie Consent Banner	Moderate
Podcast Platform App	Voice Search + Skip Patterns	NLP + Predictive AI	Privacy Policy	Low
OTT Broadcast App	ACR + Location + Microphone	AI Ad Targeting	EULA + Privacy Policy	Very Low

Theoretical Framework

The two theoretical traditions form a strong interpretive framework upon which this chapter will be grounded to analyze algorithmic eavesdropping in broadcasting.

Surveillance Capitalism (Zuboff, 2019): Zuboff (2019) is one of the foundational theories of the digital era: according to her argument, the logic of extracting data on human behavior translates into on-demand forecasting and altering future behavior (so-called behavioral surplus) to benefit commercial goals. When applied to broadcasting, this model sheds light on how the ambient audio information that is collected in the living rooms and the kitchens of the users is not a by-product of service delivery, but it is a key economic resource.

The chat logs of the broadcast audiences (their conversations at home, their background responses to the content, their voice commands, etc.) represent exactly those types of the raw material that surveillance capitalism cultivates. This theory enables us to redefine the relationship between a broadcaster and a user as one of content provision to behavioral extraction.

Contextual Integrity (Nissenbaum, 2004, 2019): A contextual integrity is the normative framework of privacy violation in the work of Helen Nissenbaum, according to which information flows are reasonable when they align with the standards of the situation of their emergence. When a user activates a radio station application, they would want the information to run in accordance with the standards of describing the broadcast media consumption-content delivery and maybe even getting it personalized besides basic usage analytics. The fact that ambient audio conversation is harvested, however, is a radical break of these contextual norms, a violation of contextual integrity despite the technological consent being given in the form of EULA acceptance. This model is specifically useful to consider the ethical (as opposed to just legal) aspects of the broadcasting-proximate surveillance.

1. METHODS

1.1 Research Design

This study applies a qualitative document approach, which is a combination of thematic coding and critical discourse analysis (CDA) to the analysis of the linguistic construction of privacy and data collection practices via the legal texts of the broadcast media platforms. This question is especially well-addressed using qualitative document analysis, as it can be used to conduct the systematic analysis of naturally occurring texts without the reactive processes that can characterize researches of this type based on interview and observation (Bowen, 2009; Prior, 2011). Thematic coding was used to reveal categories of concepts that were repeated throughout the documents and allowed cross-document analysis and recognition of patterns.

To not only question what the documents say, but how they are said the thematic framework was overlaid with critical discourse analysis, which is interrogative of not only what the documents say but also how they are said, the modality choices, grammatical construction, the euphemism, and syntactic complexity that deliquescently anonymize the broadcaster, yet remain legally defensible to the court of law (Fairclough, 2015; Owl, 2025). The lens of analysis relies extensively on the Solove (2020) taxonomy of privacy issues and the contextual integrity model developed by Nissenbaum (2019) to consider the linguistic patterns detected in the identified cases and to measure them against the normative privacy regulations.

1.2 Sampling Strategy

The purposive sampling method was used to choose platforms and documents to be analyzed based on two main criteria: (1) prominence in the Indian broadcasting market in terms of audience reach, digital engagement metrics, and Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) registration data; and (2) the presence of digital extensions, such as companion mobile application, web streaming portal, or smart TV application, in which the ambient audio or natural language processing may conceivably be performed.

There are three interrelated reasons why Bangalore has been chosen as the main geographical area of focus. To start with, its demographics include some of the most digitally literate customers in India, which makes consumers of the media in Bangalore one of the most technologically advanced user populations that is heavily impacted by the use of digital extensions in the broadcast and contributed disproportionately to their data-based behavior. Second, the fact that India is the technology capital of this country implies that a large percentage of its population collects their wages in the same industries that produce the AI and data analytics tools being implemented by broadcasters, which results in an ironic situation: the most educated of the potential victims of surveillance capitalism is well-concentrated in one locality. Third, Bangalore is a geographic and demographic area with a reasonably confined area, which although not representative of the whole country, gives a coherent and internally consistent case study.

Table 2. Sampled Broadcasting Platforms and Digital Extensions (Bangalore Focus, 2024)

Platform	Type	Companion App	Microphone Permission Required	Privacy Policy URL Disclosed
Radio City 91.1 FM	FM Radio	Radio City App (iOS/Android)	Yes	Yes
Big FM 92.7	FM Radio	Big FM App	Yes	Yes (partial)
Sun TV	Regional TV	Sun NXT App	Yes	Yes
Star Vijay	Regional TV	Disney+ Hotstar	Yes	Yes
Zee Kannada	Regional TV	ZEE5 App	Yes	Yes
All India Radio	Public Broadcast	Newsonair App	Yes	Limited
Times Now Navbharat	News TV	Times Now App	Yes	Yes
Republic Bharat	News TV	Republic World App	No	Yes

1.3 Data Collection Procedure

The privacy policies, Terms of service, and EULAs of each sampled platform were obtained directly on official site platforms and listing in apps stores between January and March 2025. In case there were several versions of these documents (e.g., a general site privacy policy and a separate mobile application policy), they were all amassed and compared. A systematic logging URL procedure was used in documenting documents to facilitate retrieval and authentication of the documents.

All the documents were read first, chosen to be quoted and to comment on with the help of NVivo qualitative analysis software (version 14). A coding framework was co-produced as a result of the a priori codes, established on the basis of the theoretical literature (e.g. 'data minimization language,' 'consent ambiguity,' 'purpose limitation framing'), as well as the emergent codes, which were formed when close reading the documents themselves.

Inter-rater reliability was evaluated by a parallel coding team involving a research assistant where the result was a Cohen Kappa coefficient of 0.81 which showed a high-level inter-rater reliability.

1.4 Analytical Framework

The analytical process division was in stages. The first step involved thematic coding of documents to designate all of the passages relating to data collection, AI processing, ambient audio, voice recognition, and advertising personalization. At the second stage, coded passages were analyzed through critical linguistic analysis which involved modality (specifically, the use of hedging language, the use of deontic modals), nominalization (turning dynamic processes into a statistic noun phrase with a view of obscuring agency), and lexical selection (especially the application of technical jargon, euphemism, and vagueness). The third step involved the examination of identified practices concerning the compliance requirements of DPDPA (2023), GDPR (2018) and the Information Technology Act (2000, amended 2023) with the view of determining the regulatory adequacy of disclosed practices.

2. FINDINGS

2.1 Thematic Analysis: Dominant Patterns in Privacy Policy Language

The review of the privacy documentation of the eight sampled platforms produced five thematic clusters that dominate and have overall represented the linguistic territory of how broadcasting platforms data are governed.

2.1.1 The 'Enhancement Euphemism' Cluster

The most ubiquitous linguistic tendency he found within documents consisted of what this chapter refers to as the so-called data mining line the regular use of positive, user benefit-inducing language to frame knowledge practices of data extraction. On all eight platforms, the access to the microphones and the processing of ambient audio was always defined in the variable of the enhancement of user experience, provision of customized content, or improvement of service quality.

The passive voice was used with unconvincing frequency in order to beat around the bush and omit the name of the person collecting the data, in such sentences as audio data may be gathered to give optimal advice. This building clouds the issue of who by what particular commercial enterprise and how long this data will be stored (Solove, 2020).

It is consistent with what van Dijk (2018) claims is a process of legitimization by rationalization the forging of self-interested acts into a rhetoric spectrum of service and benefit. Being discursively placed as the beneficiary and not the subject of extraction, this makes the user psychologically prepared to receive data harvesting as a service trade and not as a surveillance practice (Owl, 2025).

2.1.2 Conditional Consent and Modal Hedging

The second most common trend concerned the systematic application of deontic modal auxiliaries, especially the may, might, could and certain ones, to make the consent forms as comprehensive as possible and avoid excessive implication of coercion. Such statements as we may share your data with advertising partners and some of your features might need access to your devices microphone were taken by 7 out of the eight sampled documents. The modal may in these constructions works both as a hedge (implicating that even though the practice could not happen, it may happen) and a consent capture clause (definiting that the user has agreed to the practice should it happen).

Such an ethical grey area has a legal implication: in both the GDPR and the DPDPA, the valid consent should be explicit, informed, and unambiguous (European Parliament, 2018; Government of India, 2023). The conditional language is systematically used in a way that the specific and unambiguous criteria are subjugated by condensing a limitless number of possible data exploitation into one, non-differentiated consent action when installing the application or first accessing the platform.

2.1.3 Technical Opacity and Jargon Density

Technical jargon ACR (Automatic Content Recognition), NLP, 'device fingerprinting', 'cross-contextual advertising' was used widely in documents about its application, with no feature of providing a lay analysis.

The scores of sampled documents in terms of readability measured with the help of the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level formula were between Grade 14 to Grade 19 and the understanding is between two to seven years of post-secondary education. This is quite important in the Indian context wherein the media literacy of the English-language is widely differentiated based on the socioeconomic strata and where the percentage of audiences served by their regional channels like Zee Kannada and sun TV can end up poorly equipped with linguistic capital to decipher complex legal-technical materials.

Table 3. Readability and Transparency Scores of Sampled Platform Privacy Policies (2025)

Platform	Flesch-Kincaid Grade	Avg. Policy Length (words)	AI/Audio Clause Specificity	Consent Mechanism
Radio City 91.1 FM	Grade 15	3,200	Low	Implied (app install)
Big FM 92.7	Grade 14	2,800	Very Low	Implied (app install)
Sun NXT (Sun TV)	Grade 17	5,400	Moderate	Tick-box
Disney+ Hotstar (Star Vijay)	Grade 18	8,200	Moderate-High	Granular toggle
ZEE5 (Zee Kannada)	Grade 16	6,100	Moderate	Tick-box
Newsonair (AIR)	Grade 12	1,900	Very Low	Implied
Times Now App	Grade 14	3,500	Low	Implied
Republic World App	Grade 15	3,000	Low	Tick-box

2.2 Linguistic Analysis: The Architecture of Ambiguity

In addition to the thematic patterns, the critical discourse analysis also found systematic corresponding structure of ambiguity- a collection of mutually supporting language methods providing the resultant creation of documents, which can be considered legally valid and practically inexplicable at the same time. This architecture has five main mechanisms as it works.

The most important of these mechanisms in terms of structure was nominalization. The active processes can be transformed into noun phrases, i.e. the collection of audio data instead of we collect your audio data, which makes the description of data harvesting systematically amenable to the removal of human agency. The broadcaster is no longer present in grammatical subject position, but abstract processes that are supposed to just happen and not the conscious decisions of such a business entity (Fairclough, 2015).

Constructions involving the use of indefinite scope -including but not limited to, such as, among other things- were found in each of the eight documents and they were used to make the consent practically open-ended. Section of specific data types was always followed by these broad qualifiers to make sure that any particular practice of data collection could be left out of the user consent on non-disclosure ground.

Another similar aspect was third-party transparency. In instances where information was shared with advertisers, the latter were always never named, but broad constructs like trusted third parties were used, or such as participants in the ecosystem of advertising. This is plainly not in accordance with Article 13 of GDPR that the identities of data recipients shall be outlined at the time of collection, and creates difficulties with Section 7 of DPDPA that equally needs specification in the description of the processing purposes (European Parliament, 2018; Government of India, 2023).

2.3 Compliance Assessment

The compliance test conducted assessed practices and disclosures based on three legal frameworks, India Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA, 2023), and the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR, 2018), and Information Technology (Reasonable Security Practices and Procedures and Sensitive Personal Data or Information) Rules, 2011 (IT Rules), which address the Indian platforms. Although the GDPR is not directly applicable to Indian-domestic platforms, the articles are mentioned as an international standard of benchmark adopted across the world, which is actively implemented by Indian legislators and judges.

Table 4. Compliance Gap Analysis Across Key Legal Frameworks

Legal Requirement	DPDPA 2023	GDPR 2018	Platforms Compliant (of 8)	Common Violation Pattern
Specific, informed consent	Section 6	Art. 7	2 / 8	Implied consent via app install
Purpose limitation	Section 7	Art. 5(1)(b)	3 / 8	Unlimited 'improvement' clauses
Data minimisation	Section 7	Art. 5(1)(c)	1 / 8	Blanket microphone access
Right to withdraw consent	Section 6(4)	Art. 7(3)	4 / 8	No granular revocation option
Third-party recipient disclosure	Section 9	Art. 13(1)(e)	0 / 8	Generic 'trusted partners'
Automated decision-making notice	Section 16	Art. 22	1 / 8	AI processing undisclosed
Data retention period disclosure	Section 8(7)	Art. 13(2)(a)	2 / 8	Vague 'as long as necessary'
Child data protection	Section 9	Art. 8	3 / 8	No age-verification mechanism

Based on the compliance assessment above, the non-compliance is a systemic trend that cuts across all sampled platforms, and all the assessed legal frameworks. Of remarkable importance, specifically, is the impossibility to disclose the identities of data recipients generated by third parties everywhere—a clause that is specifically provided in both DPDPA Section 9 and GDPR Article 13(1)(e). This joint non-compliance will indicate that this particular disclosure policy is not just an oversight but a strategic decision taken by broadcasting platforms probably because of the commercial sensibility of the connections with advertising partners.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Algorithmic Eavesdropping as Surveillance Capitalism

The results of this work are convincing arguments to endorse the thesis stated by Zuboff (2019) according to which surveillance capitalism has invaded the previously perceived areas as personal and not commercial.

The shift of the digital extensions of the broadcast media to ambient surveillance tools is a particular form of this larger logic: the home listening space, which had been the endpoint of a one-way system of content delivery, has been reconfigured as a place of unremitting collection of behavioral information.

The distinguishing aspect of broadcasting-proximate surveillance by comparison to other models of digital data collection is its reliance on the presence of a particular trust relationship. Radio and televisions are institutions of broadcasting with considerable cultural power in terms of their information and entertainment. By expanding their reach through companion applications that glean ambient audio, these institutions can monetise the trust that the audience has opened to them as a content provider by gaining access to a data stream that is way beyond the content delivery scope. This confusion of trust is extremely high in situations of local language broadcasts, which can be the case with Kannada-language TV, where the cultural embeddedness of the broadcasting institution in the life of the local community forms a particularly asymmetric institution-audience relationship of power (Couldry and Mejias, 2019).

3.2 Contextual Integrity Violations in Broadcasting Contexts

The framework of contextual integrity presented by Nissenbaum (2019) may be an analytically accurate way of describing what is ethically wrong with broadcasting-adjacency ambient audio harvesting, even within a legal setting where nominal consent has been obtained. Social roles and expectations of a broadcasting situation, that is, a broadcaster provides materials, and a listener or viewer receives it, and more basic forms of feedback (viewing figures, click data) may flow back to the former to provide attention to the relevance of content.

The ambient conversational audio gathering is radically in these contextual norms. When a user triggers the companion app of a radio station to play music in his or her kitchen, has not by the test of contextual integrity agreed to having their domestic conversations monitored and analyzed- even though the user has perhaps clicked on his or her EULA, which more or less silently does reveal this option in sub-clause 7(b)(iii).

The transmission of information between what the user is doing in the kitchen and the advertisement analysis software contravenes all norms of establishing the broadcasting context, which this chapter refers to as a contextual betrayal, a violation not just of the standards of human behavior law but of the social contract on which the very existence of the broadcasting is based.

3.3 The 'Surveillance Semantic Gap' and Its Policy Implications

The theory of the surveillance semantic gap that was presented in the current chapter as the notion of the gap existing between the nominal agreement with a given law and the actual understanding of it has immense implications on the designing of the policies. Existing data protection laws, such as the DPDPA, are based on a model of informed consent that is procedurally sufficient and substantively hollow: the user is assumed to have consented to it once presented with a privacy policy and clicking the accept button, whether or not they have read, comprehended, or retained any knowledge about the contents of such a document (Obar and Oeldorf-Hirsch, 2020).

This linguistic analysis used in the present work proves that this hollowness is not unintended. The feature of ambiguity observed in sampled documents can be regarded as an architectural feature of combining strategically selected ways of linguistics in order to reach the maximum consent and the minimum understanding. The responses to policy should thus shift the focus off the procedural consent models to the substantive comprehension requirements. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) viewpoint on algorithmic transparency in media platforms (2024) provides one model, with platform disclosures to a person that may be expected to have a reasonable understanding of these products through relatively clear language, that is, written in plain language at the level of eighth grade (Office of Technology Blog, 2025). The current form of the DPDPA of India is a milestone legislation yet it lacks the similar plain-language requirements, which is a huge loophole in its consumer protection framework.

3.4 Recommendations for Policy and Practice

Based on the above discussion, this chapter makes five suggestions to policy-makers, broadcasting regulators and organizations in the civil society:

- **Plain Language Requirements:** Data protection boards such as Data Protection Board of India under the DPDPA ought to produce binding guidance that the privacy disclosure involving the use of AI and ambient sound collection should be in a language that can be understood by the readers with a secondary-school qualification in every official language that the site targets as its main audience.
- **Granular and Dynamic Consent:** The platform must be made to use granular consent procedures where the user can either decline or assent to ambient audio collection separately of any other data processing operation. The consent must be retractable on the moment, using readily available settings in apps.
- **Transparency Registers:** Publicly available registers of data users by third parties: The broadcasting services that share behavioural data with third-party advertisers should be obligated to maintain and publish, at least quarterly in line with DPDPA Section 9 and in line with the standards of GDPR Article 13(1)(e), a register of third-party data users.
- **AI-Specific Disclosure Rules:** The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and Ministry of Broadcasting is supposed to come up with industry specifications regarding AI disclosure guidance of broadcasting sites, which should also incorporate the explicit requirements on publication of any AI system, which is capable of handling ambient audio, voice, or conversational data.
- **Independent Algorithmic Auditing:** Broadcasting platforms that make use of companion applications with the capability to produce ambient audio ought to be required to undergo an independent third-party annual algorithmic audit, and the audit report published so that it can be scrutinized by civil society.

Figure 5. The Surveillance Semantic Gap Model — From Data Collection to User Awareness (Conceptual Framework)

Stage	Broadcaster Action	Legal Status	User Awareness	Contextual Integrity
1. App Installation	Microphone permission requested	Compliant (permission sought)	Low — generic prompt	Partial
2. EULA Presentation	Data collection disclosed in legal text	Compliant (disclosure made)	Very Low — not read	Violated
3. Audio Harvesting	Ambient audio processed via AI	Contested — purpose unclear	None	Violated
4. Data Monetization	Behavioral data sold to ad partners	Likely non-compliant	None	Severely Violated
5. Ad Targeting	User receives personalized ads	Compliant (outcome)	Low — effect noted	N/A

CONCLUSION

This chapter has proposed that digitalization of broadcasting such as passive delivery of content, instead of interactive delivery ecosystem with enhancement provided by AI has indeed created a sort of conversational surveillance that functions within a well-crafted veil of juridical language. Basing the analysis on the critical discourse analysis, thematic coding, and compliance assessment, the research has shown that the privacy policies and EULAs of the key broadcasting sites use linguistic strategies, euphemism, modal hedging, nominalization, and indefinite scope, placed systematically to obtain the users consent to the ambient audio processing without allowing such users understand the meaning of their consent.

Combined, the theoretical models of Surveillance Capitalism and Contextual Integrity have shown the ethical and politics aspects of the practices. The broadcasting platforms do not simply capture data by the side, they are mining behavioral surplus in the domestic conversation space, and are using decades of content delivery to gain a surveillance asset of unprecedented intimacy and market reliability.

This is a systematic breach of contextual integrity in the meaning of this term by Nissenbaum: Information that starts in the domestic broadcasting context is pushed outward to advertising ecosystems in ways that no responsible member of that context would expect or approve.

The emerging data protection framework in India and its DPDPA (2023), in particular, can be seen as a critical piece of legislative progress, though its versions at present have serious blemishes that, notably, plain-language disclosure principles, granular consent, and third-party transparency, allow maintaining practices of surveillance that can be observed in India today in a zone of legal uncertainty. The way ahead involves, not only the legislative change, but also the redefinition of the very concept of informed consent in the age of algorithmic eavesdropping: a change of the procedural notice-and-consent, to the substantive understanding and actual freedom of conversational information.

The research question that can be extended in future studies is to carry out the operationalization of the DPDPA in the form of the Data Protection Board longitudinally to understand how this operationalization approach influences the adherence to the law of platform behavior and to conduct comparisons with such linguistic and legal trends in other fast-digitizing economies, such as Nigeria, Brazil, and Vietnam. It would seem the algorithmic eavesdropper is a worldwide thing; the effort of putting it to book should be as well.

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CHAPTER 4
TRANSLATORS' TYPOLOGY AND THE
TEACHABILITY OF TRANSLATING: A SPECTRUM
OF IDEAS

¹Narjes Asgari VARTOONI

¹Department of English Language and Literature, University of Isfahan,
naO14asgari@fgn.ui.ac.ir, ORCID ID: 0009-0003-1740-5936

INTRODUCTION

Language, as Kondali (2012: 102) writes, “has never constituted a facile or definite means of communication”. Culture and language, according to Kavalir (2015: 29), “are inextricably linked”. They are both involved in the act of translating and make it a real challenge (Ordudari 2008). “Far from being neutral,” as Kondali (2012: 102) points out, “language inscribes the struggles and suffering of a whole culture, and acts as a mnemonic repository, encapsulating and passing on the history of a people, as well as the cultural subtext shared by the members of a community.” According to Guldin (2016: 2), “the cultural turn in translation studies fundamentally redesigned the significance of translation, emancipating it from the straitjacket of a purely linguistic definition.”

Culture “can be expressed via language” (Afrouz 2022b: 2); however, “there are some concepts and terms specifically related to the SL culture. These terms, also called culture-bound terms (CBTs) or culturallybound expressions, are among the most challenging translation problems” (Afrouz 2024a: 204; Afrouz 2020b, 2022d, 2023). They include “foods, games, or family traditions which feel typical in the homeland and the source culture, but seem odd when sought in a different culture” (Aghakhani Chegeni et al, 2025: 119). They can even encompass proper names and “Onomastics” (Afrouz 2022a: 1). PNs are actually among the challenges that literary translators “grapple with” (Afrouz 2024b: 199). It is also asserted that the challenges posed by religious or sacred texts is due to the the fact that these texts are rooted deeply in their own specific culture (Afrouz 2022c, 2022e). Interestingly, as is argued by Afrouz and Asgari Vartooni (2025a: 726), “the direction of translation from minor to major cultures and the other way round” may have an impact on the strategies selected by translators.

Translation is culturally determined and is affected by the passage of time. The elapse of time can “cause cultures, languages and translations to experience some changes. In the case of translations, such change sometimes appears in the form of a revised (self-)edition of the translation or the production of (re)translations by other translators” (Afrouz, 2025: 3).

According to Grosman (1987, as cited in Bratož 2004: 96), a translator is primarily “a reader of the text and as a reader their interpretation is temporally, culturally and socially determined,” that is “why a translation is meant primarily for the contemporary reader and why it becomes old and less interesting for future generations”.

The concept of ‘culture’, as Culpeper (2015: 137) asserts, “must surely stand as one of the most controversial, most difficult to define concepts in academia”. Besides, one of the most challenging problems in the way of translators is to find equivalents for the SL culture-specific terms in the TL (Afrouz & Mollanazar 2016; Afrouz 2019a, 2020a, 2021a). Furthermore, the central “focus of modern Translation Studies”, seems to be “the ever changing challenges of successful cross-cultural communication” (Burazer 2013: 127). It is easier said than done “to present a foreign culture through literature to a target culture, since the translator must be able to adapt foreign words or on many occasions add footnotes to explain what an exotic word actually means” (Kočan Šalamon 2015: 213).

Translators attempt to “reproduce” source texts in the target language, and translations can possess their own “life” in the TL and have a sort of “independent identity” (Afrouz 2019b: 32; 2022f: 1). Regarding linguistic and cultural differences and their impact on the possibility of translation and creation of such identity, some linguists like Catford (1965) and Mounin (1963) are said to have held a more moderate position than Sapir and Whorf. Mounin (1963) and Catford (1965) believe that universals bridge cultural and linguistic differences. As Catford (1965: 50) argues, equivalence can be detected when the source and target textual materials “are relatable to (at least some of) the same features of substance, where ‘substance’ can signify a relatively fixed range of linguistic features, levels and categories, as well as a potentially infinite series of cultural situations.”

Relativity is considered as a notion that in previous decades has consistently presented translating as an unfeasible or impossible act. Mounin (1963, as is cited in Venuti, 2000:121), throwing this very notion into question, points that equivalence is on the basis of “universals” of culture and language.

Whether being denied or not, translation, as product, had been produced, is now being produced, and will be produced in the future.

But the question is ‘can we overlook what is stated by those scholars who have had a different idea?’ That is the very motivation behind writing the present paper to review a Spectrum of (contradictory) Ideas.

Another question is ‘Why is the issue of translation and its teaching significant?’ According to Lei (1999: 199), “not everybody recognizes the importance of translation teaching, but there is perhaps no other discipline of language and literature that so comprehensively reflects new research in linguistics, literature, aesthetics and other areas.”

Translation, via the instrument of language, makes communication feasible. Translation can also be used as an instrument for learning language. As far as the utilization of translation as component for languages teaching is concerned, Nadstoga (2008: 109) points out that “ever since language learning was recognized as a conscious and intellectual process within the cognitive code-learning theory, translation has become a learning device frequently incorporated into the curriculum”.

Scrutiny to the performance of translatology students at a number of universities and higher education institutions have prompted the researcher to propose that special care should be given by translation teachers on a number of issues.

In the present paper, the two crucial concepts of “translatability” and “untranslatability”, and the possibility of translator training will be considered.

1. TRANSLATABILITY AND UNTRANSLATABILITY

The issue “of whether translation is” possible or impossible, “and to what degree, and just what that means, has been exercising translators and translation-watchers practically since the dawn of human language, or at least since humans realized they had more than one language at their disposal” (Polizzotti 2016: 10).

The act of translating, in contrast to the act of theorizing about translation, has a long history. Translation theory is undoubtedly rooted in translation practice. However, Cronin (1995), drawing a bold distinctive line between translation theory and practice, points out that “theory destroys the ‘naturalness’ of the translation experience” (p. 229).

Far away from translation theories that have gained momentum in the interdisciplinary of translation studies, it seems that translation students are still in need to learn how to become professional translators.

Benjamin (1923/2018:1) points out that, “translatability is an essential quality of certain works, which is not to say that it is essential that they be translated; it means rather that a specific significance inherent in the original manifests itself in its translatability.” Therefore, translatability of a text, in his view, “is independent of whether or not such text can be translated” (de Pedro, 1999: 547).

Some people believed in untranslatability of some texts simply as a result of their belief about the “sacredness” of such text (Steiner 1957: 136). Moreover, “even some translators seem to think translation is impossible, judging by the self-defeating discourse they maintain when commenting on it” (Polizzotti 2016: 10).

Untranslatability can arise in the case of translating formal features of a text, such as pun, in which the form plays an essential role in the text since, according to Nida and Taber (1969:194), “anything that can be said in one language can be said in another, unless the form is an essential element of the message.” They believe that connotative meaning resists translation and remains untranslatable.

Therefore, translatability seems to be, at least, restricted when connotative meaning is taken into consideration. Hervey and Higgins (1972) believe that there are 6 kinds of connotative meaning: (i) attitudinal meaning, (ii) associative meaning, (iii) affective meaning, (iv) reflected meaning, (v) collocative meaning, and finally (vi) allusive meaning. (p.103)

Connotative meanings, being defined by Hervey and Higgins (1972: 102) as “associations which, over and above the literal meaning of an expression, form part of its overall meaning”, are recognized by House (1973:166) to be “too elusive to be rendered correctly in translation because of their inherently indefinable nature.”

According to Shastri (2012: 5), Van den Broeck (1981) has proposed the following laws of translatability to determine the degree of translatability of a text:

(1) The larger the unit of translation, the larger the translatability would be, and vice versa. (2) The smaller the amount of information, the less complex the structure would be and the greater the translatability, and vice versa. (3) Translatability is greater when there is a degree of contact between the source language and the target language. (4) Translatability is greater when the source language and the target language are on an equal cultural level of development. (5) Translatability is greater between two non-related languages, if the conditions in 3 and 4 are applicable and attention is given to 'faux amis' (apparent similarities). (6) Translatability can be influenced by the expression possibilities of the target language. No two languages are similar. During the translation process some cultural colouring and nuances will be lost, but could also be gained due to the vocabulary and lexical diversity of the target text.

When meticulous attention is devoted to 'faux amis' and iii and iv are applicable, then we can claim that translatability would be greater between two non-related languages.

Newmark's (1988: 17) solution for dealing with "the untranslatable" includes transferring the SL item and providing explanation for it. He postulates that translators can render the main ST message by resorting to such indirect methods, and therefore make everything "translatable".

In respect with the linguistic barriers, Bassnett-McGuire (1988: 80) asserts that "the degree to which the translator reproduces the form, meter, rhythm, tone, register, etc. of the SL text, will be as much determined by the TL system as by the SL system and will also depend on the function of the translation."

Willingham (1992: 79) claims that form creates effect; therefore, it is absolutely essential in translation of pun to be preserved as much as possible. Sometimes the goal of translators is possibly to create a target ext that has the same meaning as the original text, but is conveyed in the natural form of the TL. There are, however, other cases in which style of the writer and the form (or manner of expression) of the small units, such as pun, comes to be significant and its preservation is considered almost as a must.

Taking deconstruction school into consideration, Gentzler (1993: 147) asserts that, "in translation, what is visible is language not referring to things, but to language itself."

Derrida seems to be conscious of the losses that are bound to take place when offering the ST in the TT. Hence, as Gentzler (1993: 146) maintains, “with each meaning gesture, Derrida suggests a footnote, a note in the margin, or a preface also is in order to retrieve those subtle differing supplementary meanings and tangential notes lost in the process of transcription.”

Both Quine’s (1992: 37-59) and Kuhn’s (1994: 162-65) reject the possibility of translation. Nonetheless, Kuhn (1994: 165) accepts that “approximate” translations are feasible, and Quine (1960: 88-90) acknowledges the translatability of “observation sentences”.

Catford (1965: 32) refers to two types of untranslatability: ‘linguistic untranslatability occurs when there is no lexical or syntactical substitute in the TL for a SL item’ and ‘cultural untranslatability is due to the absence in the TL culture of a relevant situational feature for the source text.’

Pym and Turk (1995: 273) believe that, “the question of untranslatability is also sometimes used to illustrate general methodological or philosophical concepts.” They maintain:

any agreement over what is or is not translatable, and exactly what criteria constitute translatability, will thus crucially depend on the different sectors of practice and research involved: the question of translatability may focus on the source or the target of translation; it may refer to the translation of literary, cultural, referential or pragmatic texts, or to the translation of entire life worlds and cultures. (Pym and Turk, 1995: 273)

Nevertheless, Derrida and Woolf, among many others, maintain that translation is “ultimately impossible” (Ping 1999: 3). However, as Pym and Turk (cited in Baker 1995: 276) state, “if something is not translatable here and now, in the particular translation situation we are looking at, it may nevertheless be quite translatable in another time and place, in a past or future state of the target language and culture.”

Echoing the similar view point as Hervey & Higgins (1972), Manafi (2001) points out that connotative meaning of a word is “that which is conveyed in addition to the explicit or denoted meaning” (p. 98). In this regard, Raof (2001:9) states:

The intrinsic syntactic, semantic and pragmatic differences in language lead to cases of both non-equivalence and untranslatability between languages; we are, therefore, shackled by these limitations.

The translator, however, has to free himself/herself of these shackles in order to achieve an acceptable, informative, and effective translation by observing the TL linguistic and cultural norms. Thus, the source text suffers structural changes which are inevitable in any process of translation.

The innermost focus of any discussion concerning translation seems to be language. However, problems arising during the process of translation do not seem to have their roots merely in the TL and the SL. The issue of untranslatability, according to Manafi (2003: 21), “is often caused by sociocultural, linguistic, religious, philosophical, or methodological barriers.”

Lexical gap is claimed to be one source of untranslatability of a text:

Quite often, a text or utterance that is considered to be "untranslatable" is actually a lacuna, or lexical gap. That is to say that there is no one-to-one equivalence between the word, expression or turn of phrase in the source language and another word, expression or turn of phrase in the target language. (Untranslatability, s.d.)

Untranslatability seems to be a feature of an ST for which no equivalent target-text (TT) can be detected. In such cases, as Manafi (2003: 22) puts it, “one may apply a proper type of translation in order to produce acceptable rendering by using structural and semantic adjustments.” However, it seems noteworthy to bear in mind that no ST is exclusively translatable or untranslatable; rather, it seems to be dependent on the ST lexico-structural nature and the translators’ abilities.

It appears incredibly intricate to transfer all the linguistic features of a pun from one language into another. Although linguistic-bound features pose great challenges to translators in literary texts, the challenge seems more serious in the case of facing with culture-bound terms (CBTs) or culture-specific items (CSIs). As Terestyényi (2011: 13) writes, CSIs or culture-bound expressions refer to the objects and “words that signify concepts that are related to a specific culture”. CSIs are believed to “constitute translation problems”, and thus translators should “adopt” specific translation procedures “to solve these problems” (Yılmaz-Gümüş 2012: 120). It should be noted that the type of strategy highly affects equivalent choice (Parvaz & Afrouz 2021; Latifi Shirejini & Afrouz 2021a, 2021b; Afrouz 2021b, 2021c, 2021d).

There are some procedures (Untranslatability, s.d., p.5) for dealing with the problem of untranslatability as follows:

- Adaptation: whereby translators substitute a source-text (ST) socio-cultural reality with a corresponding reality in the TT; it is supposed to be more tangible to the TT readership.
- Borrowing: whereby translators use a (usually) transliterated SL word in the TT.
- Claque: whereby translators translate the elements of an SL phrase or expression word for word.
- Compensation: whereby translators try to solve the problem through substituting some aspects of the ST with similar aspects in the TT.
- Paraphrase: whereby translators substitute an ST word with a TL phrase or expression.
- Translator's note: whereby translators provide additional information (for instance, in parentheses, footnotes or endnotes). (Untranslatability s.d., p.5)

According to Eco (2001: ix), “every sensible and rigorous theory of language shows that a perfect translation is an impossible dream. In spite of this, people translate”. It seems more realistic and logical to think of the concept of untranslatability as a phenomenon in which some drastic difficulties in the process of translation arise; consequently, it poses a real challenge to the translator, the result of which seems likely to emerge in the shape of enormous cases of translation loss through the whole work.

1.1 Possibility of Teaching Translation Skills

As is emphasized by Afrouz and Shahi (2020c: 160), “people can be trained to be translators”. Mentioning that the development of teaching translation skills relies on guidance from translation theory, Lei (1999: 1) concludes that successful “translator training must incorporate the research and development of translation teaching theories”; consequently, “teachers of translation must pay attention to translation studies as well as translation teaching theories”.

Weller (2008: 39) argues that translation is “a method for language teaching and testing” and as such it is quite known “to scholars and actually has prevailed for many centuries”. Now the question is whether translating, or better, translation skills, can be considered as something teachable or not.

But before discussing the possibility of teaching translating, we should categorize different types of translators. Translation theorists have categorized translators in different groups.

Kiraly (2000) in his book “A Social Constructivist Approach to Translator Education: Empowerment from Theory to Practice”, gives a definition for native speaker as someone who has constructed his/her own “language system through a process of authentic acculturation.” More specifically related to translation studies, Kiraly (1995) in “Pathways to Translation: Pedagogy and Process Translation Studies” defines native translator as “an individual having certain innate translation capabilities not duplicated in any other translator.” Non-native translator is considered as another element of the dichotomy.

1.2 Translators’ Typology

Recently, Translation Studies “have been pivoted toward scrutinizing the impact of translation on politico-social relations and the decision-making process of translators” (Latifi Shirejini & Afrouz, 2023: 320).

Translators undoubtedly need “a thorough knowledge of both the source and the target culture to re-create a text that enables” the readers “to enjoy reading, and to gain some (inter- or cross-) cultural knowledge” (Rot Gabrovec 2015: 236). As far as “native” and “non-native” translators are concerned, it seems more practical to think in terms of a continuum rather than a dichotomy. We can place “native” and “non-native” translators at each end of the continuum. The middle ground would be occupied by half-native translators.

Therefore we can refer to these three kinds of human (versus machine) translators:

- native translators
- half-native translators
- non-native translators

1.2.1 Native Translators

By native translator we mean a bilingual translator who translates from his first language into his second language or vice versa.

Native translators, as is asserted by Afrouz (2017: 41; 2024c: 2), are expected to have detailed familiarity with the culture of their language. Regarding the possibility of training native translators, it can be said that this group of translators are the easiest to be trained. However, it is necessary to mention that most of the time these translators are self-trained. They usually become professional translators by translating more and more and by meticulously studying the details of grammatical rules of SL and TL.

1.2.2 Half-Native Translators

By half-native translator we mean a translator who translates from a foreign language into his/her mother tongue or vice versa. Most of the translators nowadays can be categorized in this group.

Regarding the possibility of training half-native translators, it can be stated that this group of translators need to be trained by improving their proficiency in the foreign language they are translating into (as the TL) or translating from (as the SL). However, it does not mean that they do not need to be an expert in their mother tongue.

In the majority of the universities in the world, the curricula are designed to train such kinds of translators. It is believed that translating to someone's mother tongue is usually easier than translating from it. Among other things, the difficulty seems to be rooted in the grammatical structures, collocations, and idiomatic expressions. The final products of non-professional translators who attempt to translate from their mother language into a foreign language would almost always fall short of adequate level of naturalness and fluency.

There can be found some institutions where instructors merely focus their attention on training translators who are only capable to translate into their mother tongue. They usually complain that the proficiency of their students is so low that it seems imposible to train them as translators capable of translating from their own mother tongue into any foreign language.

Translating from one's mother tongue into a foreign language requires the translator to have a high level proficiency in the foreign language. In this case, student translators usually have grammatical errors or mistakes. It indicates that the first two years of B.A., which mainly focuses on the student's proficiency, is quite crucial in training them as translators.

The first common problem facing freshmen at most of the English departments in Iran seems to be related to vocabulary.

Being graduated from high schools, the majority of students usually have a modest repertoire of words. However, they have to learn and use more words. Learning new words of the foreign language is important for students to read and understand the meaning of a given text they are to translate.

Therefore, the first courses are better to focus on absolutely essential words to be learnt, and, of course, the methodology that should be used in order to help them learn new words and expand their repertoire of words. It does not, of course, mean forcing students memorize bilingual lists of words.

The second typical challenge facing translatology freshmen at most of the colleges and institutions in Iran can be claimed to be related to grammar. Frequent errors in students' translation result from their lack of understanding of some syntactic rules of the foreign language. Apparently, grammar courses can be taken into consideration as one of the main elements at most of the translation departments especially for those university instructors of translation courses who try to train translators interested in translating from their own mother tongue.

In the last two years of B.A., students are offered different courses related to translating texts of various types and genres. Some of the courses, for instance, "translation of journalistic texts" are offered in two subsequent semesters. Unfortunately some trainers may just concentrate on translating into the student's mother tongue. However, as far as the requirement of such courses are concerned, it seems more logical to specify the first course in the first semester to translating into the student's mother tongue; and the next course in the next semester, to translating from the student's mother tongue.

In general, it seems that there are other important courses that need to be added in the last year of B.A program, such as translation criticism, discourse analysis and cultural studies. Moreover, it is highly recommended to put the course 'literary translation' among the courses being presented in the last year of B.A program since, as Rose (2008: 18) has correctly asserted, "training in literary translation simply assumes that the students already have their skills in foreign and native language usage under control and lets them proceed to develop their own resources as writers."

1.2.3 Non-Native Translators

By non-native translator we mean a translator who translates from a foreign language into another foreign language. The number of such translators naturally seems to be the lowest comparing to the two abovementioned types of translators. The specialized institutions or colleges to train such translators seem to be rare in general. In order to be an expert translator, these translators need the highest possible proficiency in the two foreign languages: SL and TL.

Since neither languages is the translator's mother tongue, some may surmise the success of such translators fairly low. However, based on a number of studies (e.g. Ordudari 2015; Afrouz 2017), such hypotheses have been rejected.

Nowadays, some institutes and universities are planning to offer two foreign languages in BA programme for students of translation studies. In this way, after studying about 4-5 years in those institutes, the BA graduates would become a multi-language translator/ interpreter.

CONCLUSION

I have tried so far to shed light on what I feel to be an important point in the field of translation studies. Translation seems generally to be possible. Denial of its feasibility cannot solve anything. What seems impossible is the production of a perfect translation which ideally and simultaneously preserves criteria of 'accuracy', 'clarity', 'naturalness', 'beauty' and 'brevity'. The creation of such an illusory or dreamlike translation would have required translators to find perfect equivalents, which would sound unfeasible, at least in the case of specific text-types (e.g., expressive texts).

Nowadays, with the advance in technology, translation seems to be more essential and, even, in some cases, more feasible we can observe the revolution in the science of machine translation.

As was argued in the present paper, translators can potentially be divided into three distinct categories: native translators, half-native translators, and non-native translators. Training these categories of translators does not seem to pose the same degree of challenges to the trainers.

First, it needs to be clearly indicated that teaching all three types of translators seems quite practical, as is already prevalent in most countries where Translation Studies is established as a (semi-)independent field of study.

Native-translators are the easiest to be trained (due to their familiarity with the source culture), then are the half-natives (who are well-acquainted with either the source culture or the target cultural system). Finally, it can safely be claimed that translator trainers would face greatest challenges training non-native translators who have the least familiarity with the two languages and cultures involved in the process of translation. All together, however, it needs to be reemphasized that it is just a matter of the degree of difficulty, not the question of possibility or impossibility.

In the era of Artificial Intelligence (AI), “while technology can significantly help us in terms of translation speed, it should be remembered that professional or specialized human translators can play a pivotal role in capturing the cultural nuances and emotional resonance” of the original text (Asgari Vartooni & Afrouz, 2025a: 112). Research, being “broadly defined as a systematic search for answers to gaps in our knowledge” (Afrouz & Shahi 2024: 364) needs to be carried out on the effects of technology on the future of translation as a discipline and/or profession. Therefore, future studies can concentrate on “the evolving role” of AI in translation of “literary” texts (Asgari Vartooni & Afrouz, 2025b: 103). Researchers can also work on the capacity of AI as a translator trainer. Afrouz and Asgari Vartooni (2025b) define “a good translator trainer” as someone “who knows what ‘good translation’ means and possesses enough theoretical knowledge and practical experience in the field” (p. 1010).

In near future, instead of issues such as the feasibility of translating or teaching translating, one of the main questions would be: ‘Is it still necessary to teach translation in the age of AI?’, ‘Are machines and AI going to take the place of human translators and trainers?’

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