

A Forensic Linguistic Analysis of Deceptive Interviews

Praveenkumar. Sri

Ph.D Research Scholar

Department of Linguistics, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore

Email id : Sridharan.sripraveen@gmail.com

Dr. N. Vijayan

Assistant Professor

Department of Linguistics, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore

Email id : vijayan733@hotmail.com

ABSTRACT

The development of technology made us dependent on the social media for our needs. Social media give us easy access to everything by satisfying our wants. The social is not only user friendly but it also serves as platform for providing more creative ways to deceivers. Deception in social media often involves spearfishing, smishing, spoofing, cyber bullying, stalking, fake news and also for creation of deceptive propagandas. Youtube serves as popular content platform, though it had many positive side like education, entertainment, documentation platform of culture, etc., though youtube has many positive sides it is also used as place for sharing deceptive information, presenting fake propagandas, fake news, promoting hatrednism towards particular group or individual etc. Deceptive information includes but is not limited to lies, fake news, and rumors disseminated to change peoples' cognition or beliefs This article investigates about the interviews of Mugilan(sivarasan) an aide of Veerappan in various youtube channels. Where he narrates his experience with Veerappan and his life in forests which created many issues and talk of the day, many says that his statements were highly deceptive. This article keenly investigates Mugilan's narration of various incidents with principles of discourse and narration analysis to identify the deceiving narration of Mugil. The data has been collected from three youtube channels (aadhan, behindwoods, idc)

Keywords: Deception, Mukil Interview, Narration Analysis, Forensic Linguistics.

Introduction

Language is a tool for communication and has a dynamic role in our day-to-day life. Language also serves as major medium of communication and interaction to express one's ideas, emotions, and opinions. Language can be manipulated to produce required effects like humour, anguish, fear, command etc. and to get one's aim fulfilled by motivating, exaggerating or could be moulded to any extent to get the speaker's motives accomplished. In the modern digital cyber world information is shared rapidly by means of online social media platforms, unlike other media social media doesn't have any censorship or restrictions to share an information. So, it is very easy for content creators to create and share information. As the restrictions are very less the veracity of the information shared become questionable. Many deceived interviews and fake news are telecasted in youtube Tamil channels. Recently many interview videos of Mr.Mukil an aid of Veerappan has gone viral and created several issues in Tamil Nadu. His information about Veerappan were questioned by many senior journalists. Many claimed that Mukil's information about Veerappan was mostly altered and manipulated. Hence a forensic linguistic study on his interviews gives a level of veracity in his statements.

After formation of special task forces of Tamil Nadu and Karanataka, there was a sudden downfall in the graph of Veerappan and many of his allies were arrested whereas few were killed in encounters. In the meantime, the Bandit queen of Chambal valley Phoolon Devi withdrew herself from all her charges by Uttar Pradesh Government and was given public apology. Many of the naxals and IUCN (kaplang) terrorists got surrendered to police were given public apology. These incidents made Veerappan to think about surrender and public apology. He thought that being a single man, the government denies his public apology so he thought to convert his bandit gang into revolutionary group. He got support from rebel group like Tamil teciya vitudalai padai , Tamilnadu meetpu padai etc. Many rebels joined hands with Veerappan severals motos were created for the group. Mukil was one among the rebels who was with Veerappan. Many said that the role of mukil was only cooking and carrying goods of the gang. Recently mukil gave many interviews various youtube channels about Veerappan's lifestyle in the forest, and describes various incidents even before his entry into Veerappan ally. His statements created various issues among media persons. Even many senior most Journalists who were close to Veerappan also claims that his statements were more deceptive. Hence a forensic linguistic can determine the veracity of mukil's statement with the help of Grice theory of conversation cooperation. This research attempts to learn the deceptive linguistic characters employed by mukil to fulfill his agenda.

Aim

This research articles aims to find out the deceptive conversational strategies used by Mukil in youtube interviews.

Theoretical Background

Grice theory of conversation concerns with the means and ways through which meaning can be communicated not only by what is said but also through how it is said

(1975). A successful communication is the one in which all the participants are efficient in producing information that is conveniently audible and comprehensible by all. In order to perceive how effective and successful a conversation is, he has given the theory of cooperative principles which tells us to make our conversational contribution such as is required(2004). This theory gives four maxims, namely

- Maxim of quantity
- Maxim of quality
- Maxim of manner
- Maxim of relevance

These four maxims helps us to identify the quality relatedness of conversation. Previous researches suggest that violation of these maxims results in deception. This research focuses on analyzing the statement given by Mukil to identify if the violation of these maxims exists in his statements.

Review of literature

S.Ammar Haider Zaidi.et.al., (2020), In their research article entitled A Critical Analysis of the Language of Beggars in Islamabad with reference to Gricean Maxims: A case Study. Aimed at analyzing the violation of gricean maxim in the utterances of sampled beggars of Islamabad and to check that with gricean maxim is more frequently violated in their utterances.

Hannah.S.Brooks, M.A.,(2018), ‘Linguistic persuasion techniques in Phishing emails: A corpus and Critical Discourse Analysis. This research thesis examines the language of phishing emails in persuasion manner also employed speech act theory .

Vijayan.N.(2018) ‘Deception: the language of luring in cybercrime’. This research discussed about the linguistic characteristics like adjectives, emotional terms, adverbial expressions of deception in the form of luring in cyberspace.

Malcolm Coulthard, David Wright, John Alison, (2010), ‘ An introduction to forensic linguistics [Language in evidence]. The book divided into two main parts the language in legal process and language as evidence. It also gives idea about critical theoritaci and methodological approaches in language in legal settings, forensic phonetics, authorship attribution and on textual borrowing. It serves as bible for forensic linguistic research.

John. R. Schafer (2007), ‘Grammatical Differences between truthful and deceptive written narratives’. The research investigated the grammatical variations of truthful and written narratives. The researcher employed statement analysis and scientific content analysis to study the usage of text bridges, hedges, spontaneous negations in deceiver’s language.

Stephen. B. Porter (1994), ‘The language of deceit: are there reliable verbal clues to deception in interrogation context’ a dissertation which gives clear idea about deception factors like perspectives on memory accuracy, perspectives of emotional and motivational approaches, unnecessary connectors as reliable clues to deception during interrogation.

Data:

The researcher collected ten interviews of Mukil in various youtube channels like IDC Tamil , Aadhan media, Behindwoods etc.

Research methodology

The researcher employed mixed research methods (qualitative and quantitative). The statements of Mukil were analyzed qualitatively to understand the maxims violated by him and quantitative in sense that this research has found out which one of the maxims is violated more in his conversation.

Sampling

To identify the deceptive conversation strategy used by Mukil, the research employed convenient sampling method.

Analysis

Violation of maxim f quantity:

Maxim of quantity describes that the speaker should not exceed the answer and he or she should contribute as much as it is required. Here the researcher furnished some of the examples of Mukil's answers which violated the maxim of quantity in his utterances while being interviewed by the interviewer.

Example 1:

Question: kattukulla unka toṭakakala payanatta patti sollamuṭiyuma?

Answer: nicciyamaka ... perumatipirkuria mika ciranta perumpora:li talaivan annan supa. Muttukuma:r avarkal talaimaiyilae tamil teciya mi:tcci paṭai enkira makatta:na makkal iyakkattilae naan ce:ntu i:lathirka:na neraiya naan vantu sollirukken neraiya cenciruko:m anta vakayila vi:rappana:ruṭaiya va:na:ntira vanapakutikku cellavenṭum entru meliṭatiliruntu kaṭṭalaikku piraku purrapaṭa tayara:nen na:n purapattatu oru iravu payanam na:n cenṭratu penkalur poyi penkalurlaruntu aan camrajnakar valiyaka kunṭal pe:ṭṭaikku poyi kunṭalpe:ṭṭaila iruntu oru palliku:ṭatula tankavaccu mi:ndum anka iruntu anta kalmanṭitotṭi puram vanatthirkullata:n naan ka:ttukulla nolancen, pacavanna enkira oru napar than enna ka:ṭṭukulla alacciṭu po:naru ...

In example 1, reporter asked mukil about his first visit to the forest. Mukil starts his narration by explaining his rebel group Tamilnadu meetchi padai and his leader. He claims that he did many things for Tamilelam from he received orders to join Veerappan. He explains about his travel from Bengaluru to Gundalpet where he was guided by a local guy. By analyzing his statement we can clearly say that he didn't give proper answer to the question and he exaggerates more about his experience in working with LTTE and his travel to forests.

Example :2

Question: motala vi:rappanin ku:ṭṭa:liyaka arjunan eppo ulla pona:ru?

Answer: vi:rapa:ṭiya kaṭṭapommanuku epaṭi u:maituraiyo

peria marutirku epati cinna marutuvo

piṭal kaṣṭrovukku epati ra:l kaṣṭrovo ataipola i:ṭu inaiatṛra mika periya po:rpaṭai talapatiya:ka conta annanuku conta tambiyaka kalatilae ninṭravartan perumathipirkuriya ciriannan arjunan avarkal .

avarkal kudumpathilae mu:nṭru aa:nkal renṭu penkal enṭru na:n kaṭanta ka:noliyilae pativuṭeṭṭirunten atilae vi:rappana:ruku tampiyakum annan ma:taiyanuku iranṭa:vatu tampiyakavum purantavar e:lmainilaiyil va:ṭiya kuṭumpattai tu:kki nirutuvatarka:ka

ka:tukalanikalil vet̄tai payanathai tuṭankiya perumatipirkuriya annan vi:rappana:ruku i:ṭu inaiya:ka vet̄taiku cenṭravar ta;an matipirkuriya cinnanān arjunan avarkal a:yirati tolayirati anyta tonu:ru tonnuti onnukalilae u:rpanka:likal enkira muraiyilae cila kasapunarvukal e:rpattatarku piraku ka:tukalil vet̄taiyatuvatilar po:ṭṭi po:rramai uruva:natharku piraku ṭankavelu ma:taiyanai kallatt̄i enkira iṭatilaē vatam ceitapotukutavaē irrutu payanitavar ta;n perumatipirkuriya ciryavar annan arjunan. Athilae avarkalutaiya panakalipu aca:tiya pankalipu.

In example 2, the reporter puts the question about Veerappan's brother Arjunan and his entry reason for his entry to forests. Mukil in his way starts the narration about the family of Veerappan and arjunan and their kinship hierarchy. He also gives examples from history to show the level of brotherhood relationship of Arjunan and Veerappan. He narrates their earlier stage of hunting and then comes to the point. By analyzing the above mentioned examples it is very clear that Mukil violates the maxims of quantity by exaggerating the answer with the help of stories, his experience etc. According to Grice (2004), a speaker should only deliver that amount of information in a conversation that is required and there is no need to make contribution that is not required.

Violation of the maxim of Quality:

Maxim of quality describes that an utterance should be true in what is being asked, in other sense, it is giving the right information and not speaking such for which there is no evidence.

Example 3: *vanattirkul va:lvai ṭotankia perumatipirkuria periyar avarkal vanamca:rnta tolilai maiyama:ka konṭu va:lntu vanta:rkal anta ka:la kattatil orucila yanaikal ve:ṭṭai a:ṭiirukala:m*

Example 4: *k.p.sundaramba;lin uravukarar enpathal avarkalai dspyoṭu anupirrukala:m enpatu ennai poruttamattil unmai*

By analyzing the above mentioned example, Mukil was not sure about his statement, he employed many hedges like *cila* and *irrukala:m*, *anupirrukala:m*, *enpatu ennai poruttamattil unmai* in many of the situations when mukil is asked about Veerappan's crime and mischief he often uses hedges and violates the maxim of quality in his statements. A speaker should not say what he/she believes to be false and for what there is a lack of evidence. This Maxim requires genuine and true information from a speaker in a conversation (Dornerus, 2005).

Violation of maxim of relevance

It is said that a person speaking should keep his utterance relevant to the topic on which the discussion is going on, or the context in which the conversation is being carried on

Example 5, *avar vantu ta:lava:ṭi vanapakutikalila mudhan mudhalil santipu naṭantatu....ama ama ipa iruti kalankalla anka ta:n iruntaru. Kannaṭa superstar rajkumara kaṭatitu ponatum anta ka:ṭṭkut a:n... baby vi:rappanai kantave:lu cuṭṭu poṭṭatum anta ka:ṭuthan atu aṭarnta innum sollapona ta:lava:ṭi vanapakutikalilae kurānitathu onpatu mataka:lam ankayetanki irruthen enku teriyum naan ka:lpata:ta itankalae illai ta:la:vaiyilae...innum collapona samatalaka:tu malaitotar ka:tukalku:ta kitaiyatu*

cinnacinna malaikuntrukal anka than periyavar ta na:n keten oru malaiyila enna mutal mutala era vakiranka ivalo uyarathulaya eranum nu keten ...enna pa ippaṭi kekurinya Itu malai illa pa chinmna metu aana anta malaiya era mutila.

In example 5, when mukil answering a question about tupa:kki sitthan he explains his life and his meeting and suddenly he starts explaining about ta:la:vadi forest range and various murder occurred there. He also says about his experience in ta:lava:ti region. He deliberately changes takes turn in his speech. If any one of the speakers deliberately gives out information that is not related to the main topic of the discussion, then, there is violation of the maxim of relevance. (wager., 2015)

Violation of the maxim of manner

According to the maxim of manner, in order to be understood by others in a conversation, one should not use utterances in a clear way; it should not be vague and ambiguous (Dornerus, 2006).

5. ata:vatu na:n tavaru enpatai otukolkire:n a:na:l va:lnta:rkal enpatu unmai...a:nal enna:l velipataia:ga pesamutiyatu. Na:n vantu kavalturaiya epovume: nampuratilai adhikum kuripa anta vijayakumar enkira oru naparai muṭriluma:ka na:n nampuvatilai a:na mika periya natikar avaru, avarutaiya puttakatilae a:nkilathilae eluthapatirukira putakatilae kuta babyvi:rappanota ceyalpatukala pati vimarsanam ceitata:ka ennitatilae conna:rkal....

Here mukil gave an ambiguous statement about tupa:kki cittan and baby Veerappan. He claims that he is saying truth. He also says that he wont believe police department and also Vijaykumar IPS even in his book he registered something bad about baby Veerappan's activities. Here we have to see that he is not believing Vijaykumar sir but finds the proof from his book that was very ambiguous to the viewers and also sounds deceptive.

Other Deceptive Conversation techniques used by Mukil

Addressing terms

Mukil uses difference addressing terms to refer a person.

6. *permatipirkuria peryavar*
7. *a:dutirudi goapalkrishanan*
8. *kodupavi dinesh*
9. *perumporali chinnavar*

Here, mukil uses different addressing terms for veerappan , SP Gopalakrishnan, SI Dinesh and Sethukuli Govindhan. By analyzing the addressing terms of the mukil whenever he addresses veerapan and his allies, Mukil uses dignified terms to promote the positive attitude towards them and when he addresses police personnel he use undignified terms to create bad impact on police men.

Use of pronoun

When the statements of mukil were analyzed, he always make his commitment through the statement.

10. *periyavar avarkal ennidathil ku:rina:r*
11. *cinnavar avarkalidam na:n than kurinen*
12. *na:n than mutalil kanden*

13. *ennai periyavar tukina:r*

Here mukil wanted to project himself as a very close aid to veerappan he always uses more first person pronoun to deceive the audience.

Hedges

The statement of mukil have many hedges when describes about hunting, smuggling, and describing murders of veerapan

14. *a:ramba ka:latil periyavar avarkal sila Santana marankalai vettiirrukalam*

15. *oru sila yanaikailai varumain ka:ram:ka atithirukala:m*

When he was talking about police and STF he was very clear about his statement. he never use hedge he give direct accusation

16. *DFO Srinivas avarkal than akka mariyammavai kondrar*

Adjective

Mukil uses more adjectives to create positive attitude towards Veerappan and his allies

17. *perumathipirkuriya periyavar*

18. *perumporali muthukumar*

19. *ma:vi:ran vi:rapana:r*

20. *tu:ya pora:li sethukuli kovindhana:r*

Wordly justification by Mukil

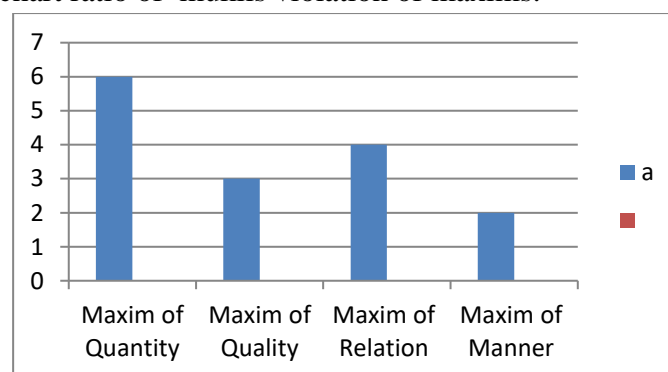
Mukil in his statement while describing about the murders committed by Veerappan, he justifies the crimes in various occasions.

21. *Ankae ta:n DFO srinvasan vatam natantatu*

22. *SI dinesh vatamum appatita:n*

23. *Itanai terinta periyavar vatam ceiya tittam ceikiraa:r*

It is very clear that from all the instances of violation of conversational maxims discussed above, that cooperative principle in Mukil's conversation is violated in terms of Gricean maxims. Findings of this study show that Mukil's conversations all the for maxims of conversation in his utterances. Mukil violates maxim of quantity higher than any other maxims. The below chart ratio of mukils violation of maxims.



Conclusion

The study aimed at analyzing the conversation of mukil in various youtube channel were studied with the help of very important theory in the field of forensic linguistics called 'Theory of Conversational Maxims' by Grice. The main focus of the study was to find the deceptive conversational linguistic characters employed by Mukil. The study shows that mukil violated the maxims and also proved that maxim of quantity was violated more. Moreover he exaggerates more, used many hedges to make his statement commitment less. He also employed various deceptive linguistic techniques like adjective, pronoun, textual embedding etc. to make the audience to give positive emotion towards Veerappan and negative emotions towards Policing agencies. Further researches may also throw more light on Mukil's interviews with respect to speech act theory.

References

- Ammar Haider Zaidi.S.et.al (2015), A Critical Analysis of the Language of Beggars in Islamabad with reference to Gricean Maxims: A Case Study. Pakistan Journal of Social Sciences (PJSS) Vol. 40, No.2 (2020), pp. 709-720*
- Dornerus, E. (2005). Breaking maxims in conversation: A comparative study of how scriptwriters break maxims in Desperate Housewives and That 70's Show.*
- Grice, H. P. (2004). Logic and conversation. Berkeley: University of California.*
- Hannah.S.Brooks, M.A.,(2018), 'Linguistic persuasion techniques in Phishing emails: A corpus and Critical Discourse Analysis.*
- John. R. Schafer (2007), 'Grammatical Differences between truthful and deceptive written narratives'.*
- Vijayan.N (2018); Deception: the language of luring in cyber crime; working papers in linguistics; Bharathiar university; Coimbatore.*
- Waget, A. (2015). Violations of Grice's Maxims in The Prince and the Pauper Movie. Language And Language Teaching Journal, 18(01)*