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FORENSIC LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF MISUSE OF PROTECTIVE LAWS THROUGH NARRATIVE MANIPULATION IN LEGAL COMPLAINTS

AUTHOR – HIMANSHU & MUKUL VERMA

LLM STUDENS AT FAIRFIELD COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY, AFFILIATED TO GURU GOBIND SINGH INDRAPRASTHA UNIVERSITY (GGSIPU)

Introduction

Protective laws are put in place to protect people from harassment, discrimination, domestic abuse, and other negative situations. But in recent years, worries about the abuse of these laws through fabricated, inflated, or carefully crafted legal complaints have increased. Such abuse damages real victims by undermining the legitimacy of safeguards, in addition to undermining the integrity of the legal system. Forensic linguistics, the scientific study of language in legal contexts, is important in this regard. In complaints that seem to be manipulated, it assists in identifying linguistic patterns, narrative inconsistencies, and signs of deceit. This essay investigates how narrative manipulation using forensic linguistic analysis can reveal the abuse of protective laws.

1. Using Narrative Manipulation to Abuse Protective Laws Creating a complaint that purposefully misrepresents events in order to gain legal advantage is known as narrative manipulation. People who abuse protective laws frequently fabricate tales to arouse feelings rather than provide accurate information. In order to analyse such narratives, forensic linguistics looks at coherence, narrative structure, emotional intensity, and lexical choices. Overgeneralisation is a prominent sign of manipulation where repeated accusations are devoid of precise time, location, or background information. False complaints frequently use overly sentimental language, like "continuous harassment" or "continuous abuse," without providing specific proof. Similar to this, narrative fabrication may be exposed by discrepancies in the chronology of events, such as abrupt changes in time or conflicting descriptions. By contrasting the complaint with recognised patterns of genuine victim testimonies—which typically involve impromptu,

detailed, memory based recounting—forensic linguistic analysis draws attention to these disparities.

2. Markers of Falsified Complaints in Language and Style The study of forensic linguistics also looks at stylistic elements that indicate coached narratives or outside influence. The use of formulaic terms such as "coercive behaviour," "criminal intimidation," or "mental cruelty" in complaints that too closely resemble legal terminology may be a sign of pre-fabricated narratives rather than authentic first-person accounts. Another crucial method is authorship analysis, in which stylometric tools assess vocabulary selections, sentence length, and punctuation patterns to ascertain whether the document adheres to the complainant's natural writing style. A complaint may indicate outside draughting or intentional manipulation if it seems exceptionally complex or legally polished in comparison to the complainant's known language skills. Intentional narrative polarisation is also evident in biassed discourse

tactics, which frequently lack the complexity present in actual interpersonal conflicts. Examples of these tactics include depicting the accused as uniformly hostile and the complainant as completely innocent.

Conclusion

In conclusion A crucial framework for identifying instances of protective law abuse through narrative manipulation in court complaints is provided by forensic linguistic analysis. Experts are able to distinguish between authentic testimonies and carefully constructed false allegations by looking at discourse strategies, linguistic features, stylistic patterns, and narrative structure. By doing this, false accusations and legal harassment are avoided, and the legitimacy of protective laws is preserved, guaranteeing that they continue to work for real victims. Finally, by providing unbiased linguistic insights into the veracity of legal narratives, forensic linguistics enhances the justice system's fairness and dependability.

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