



Language Cases Against UU ITE in Indonesia



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Abstract

Since the law's enactment in 2008, language cases against the *Undang-Undang Informarmasi dan Transaksi Electronic Republik of Indonesia* (hereafter UU ITE), also known as the Electronic Information and Transaction of Republic of Indonesia Law, have risen year after year. One source of language cases against the law is social media messages, which are the result of their users' lack of legal and intellectual comprehension. Defamation, hate speech against specific persons or SARA (ethnicity, religion, race, intergroup), threats, decency, and obscenity are all prevalent components of the unpleasant content of legal-related social media text messages. The issues addressed in this study are (1) the category of language offence and (2) the microlinguistic and macrolinguistic analysis of the text type of offence. The objective, which is supported by a qualitative descriptive method within the Forensic Linguistics approach, is to identify a system of violations that could be justified based on linguistic facts. The findings demonstrate that texts with the potential to become legal cases can be proven by microlinguistic facts like word choices and grammatical structure, while macrolinguistic facts can support the microlinguistic elements like disregard for language ethics, lack of social media literacy, and lack of editing steps before text publication.

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1 Introduction

Since the issuance of *Undang-Undang Informasi dan Transaksi Elektronik Republik Indonesia Nomor 11 tahun 2008*, also known as The Electronic Information and Transaction of Republic of Indonesia Law Number 11 of 2008 (abbreviated as UU ITE Number 11 of 2008) and *Undang-Undang Informasi dan Transaksi Elektronik Republik Indonesia Nomor 19 tahun 2016*, also known as The Electronic Information and Transaction of Republic of Indonesia Law Number 19 (abbreviated as UU ITE Number 19 of 2016), the number of linguistic cases involving these laws has increased. The rise of linguistic cases connected to the UU ITE can be attributed to at least three variables. First, there is a transition in Indonesian society from a society with an oral tradition to a society with a written tradition or from a society that communicates in a limited space to a society that communicates in a public space. The oral tradition with loose social relations has distinctive communicative characteristics compared to the written tradition which is characterized by formal and social distance. Spoken language is delivered in direct mode and unedited (unless recorded before being communicated), while written language is expressed indirectly and can be edited before being sent to the public (Jackson, 2002). Second, Indonesians, especially social media users, seem to pay less attention to legal norms governing information and electronic transactions, such as the UU ITE, so many of them are exposed to legal cases. Third, the lack of language ethics and media literacy means that the texts they produce have the potential to lead to legal cases. Texts that have the potential to cause legal cases are texts that contain elements of defamation, hate speech against SARA (individuals and/or ethnicity, religion, race, intergroup), threats, pornography, and slander. The role of the Forensic Linguistics approach is to identify and prove the linguistic facts of texts that are considered unlawful (Akbar et al., 2023).

Linguistic facts that have been tested theoretically can be used as a basis by law enforcement in deciding cases that originate from a text. Based on this background, this paper examines two research issues: (1) categories of linguistic violations and (2) analysis of microlinguistics and macro-linguistics of textual violations. The objective is to find out the characteristics of texts that are considered to contain violations through Forensic Linguistics studies (Udina, 2017).

2 Materials and Methods

The Observation method was applied in the data collection process with structured and directed observation steps to find out selected texts. They are spoken and written texts collected from social media platforms, particularly *YouTube* channels (<https://tv.youtube.com>). Textual data that was formerly there in the primary source but is no longer obtained from the secondary source. For instance, a court case material that was initially published on the Instagram website (<https://www.instagram.com>) is no longer accessible there. The text is obtained from this medium because it is later aired by local news outlets like *iNews.id* (<https://www.inews.id>). The spoken texts were listened to carefully before being transcribed and selected for analysis purposes. Data that are considered to meet the criteria of the topic, research problems, and theoretical approach are collected in one corpus. The corpus is a collection of texts, which in this case are social media texts that are considered to have potential legal cases related to UU ITE Number 11 of 2018 or UU ITE Number 19 of 2016. The texts in the corpus are selected, guided by the parameters of Forensic Linguistics as a theoretical framework for the analysis. According to Luchjenbroers & Olsson (2014), Pastika (2021), forensic linguistics is an aspect of language related to legal violations, and it includes language used as legal facts and language as legal texts (that is, the language of laws, regulations, texts of court debates, interpersonal texts, or publicly accessible texts that may lead to a legal case).

The analysis method employed is Descriptive Qualitative, which is a methodological approach to looking at the text of language facts to determine potential legal infractions (Hermer-Vazquez et al., 2001). Within the framework of the Forensic Linguistic approach, the linguistic paradigm is a basic component to find possible violations of the law from the messages conveyed in the text. Microlinguistics summarizes the fundamental components such as phonology, morphology, and syntax. Because the confirmation of linguistic facts is dependent on these core components, forensic text studies cannot be conducted without them. As a consequence, the microlinguistic structure determines the macrolinguistic domains (Dijk, 1972; Pastika, 2018), particularly the semantic aspect, because the meaning of the text cannot be known without representation of the sound system, word formation system, and phrase, clause, and sentence structure system. In addition, in straightforward structure and meaning, Descriptive Linguistics theory is considered sufficient to explain linguistic facts. However, in tacit structures and

meanings, a more sophisticated linguistic theory is needed. In this paper the theory of Generative Linguistics (Chomsky, 1965) is applied, to explain implied structures and meanings into explicit ones with validly provable linguistic facts. Meanwhile, macro-linguistics, guided by Implicature theory and Speech Act theory (Austin, 1975; Grundy, 2000; Sadock, 2004; Searle, 1969) can determine aspects of the message that relate to social, political, ideological, and cultural contexts. In addition, Semiotic and Semantic theory (Barthes, 1964), is utilized to explain non-verbal texts such as images, emblems, codes and symbols. Figure 1 below is the flow of the Forensic Linguistics approach that controls the analysis of linguistic data to find out the possibility of legal violations.

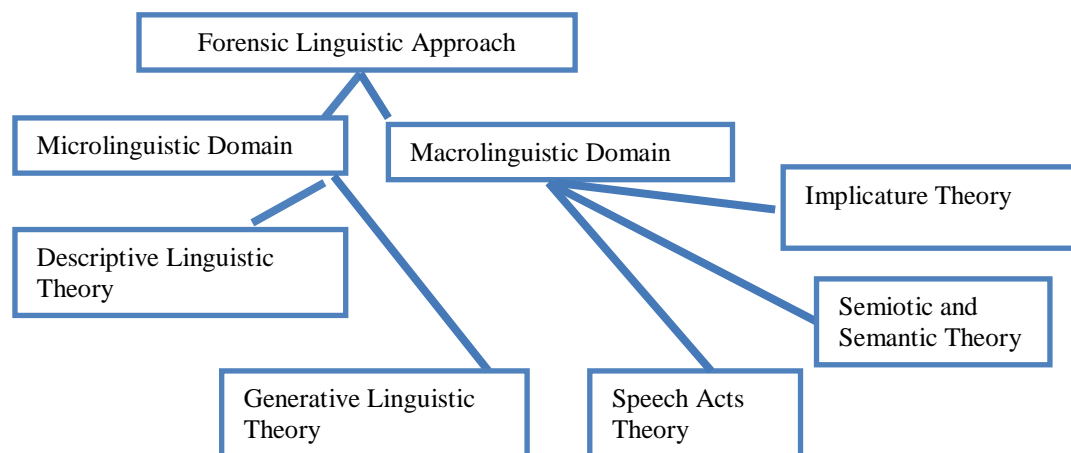


Figure 1. The flow of theoretical approach to the study of forensic linguistics

3 Results and Discussions

3.1 UU ITE is Necessary

The Indonesian police report shows that since the issuance of UU ITE Number. 11 of 2008 and Law Number 19 of 2016, there has been a continuous increase in Police Reports (abbreviated: LP) related to the UU ITE. Until 2018, violations related to UU ITE reached 4360 LPs, increased to 4586 LPs in 2019, and increased to 4790 LPs in 2020. This means that there was an average increase of 215 LPs. (*merdeka.com*, <https://www.merdeka.com/peristiwa/kominfo-33-persen-pelaporan-kasus-uu-ite-gunakan-pasal-pencemaran-nama-baik.html>, March 10, 2021: 21.36). It should be noted here that not all LPs proceed to court cases.

Indonesian society, which is strong in oral traditions, both in the form of folklore and patterns of social interaction, is carried over into social media habits. Oral language patterns in social interactions tend to be looser than written language patterns. In oral social interaction, language errors can be corrected immediately, but in written texts, language errors cannot be corrected when the message has been sent. However, in the realm of social media, both spoken and written messages can be edited before distribution, unless, for example, the broadcast is live. Social media users who do not want to take this step or who believe that the message must be sent, then the UU ITE can threaten them. Related to this threat, the linguistic cases that are caught up in legal problems include various offences: defamation, hate speech, threats, pornography, accusations, slander, and racial elements. Based on data from court decisions made by the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia regarding cases of violations of the UU ITE, the Supreme Court records a directory of 193 decisions. Of this amount, 33 percent of the decisions related to the defamation article, 21 percent related to hate speech, then 18 percent related to Article 27 paragraph 1 or criminal content of decency and the rest related to criminal acts of illegal access, threats, forgery and extortion, as shown in figure 2 below. This figure was reported by the Ministry of Communication and Information of the Republic of Indonesia in 2021 through a press conference and reported by online national media, *Merdeka.com.*, on March 10th, 2021 (*Merdeka.com.*, <https://www.merdeka.com/peristiwa/kominfo-33-persen-pelaporan-kasus-uu-ite-gunakan-pasal-pencemaran-nama-baik.html>, March 10, 2021: 21.36). Article 27 Paragraphs 1 & 3 and Article 25 of UU ITE Number 11 of 2008 are often violated by social media users, exposing them to criminal charges (see Figure 2 below). Excerpts of the two articles and the three paragraphs are presented in Figure 2 below.

UU ITE Number 11 of 2008, Article 27, Paragraph 1

"Setiap Orang dengan sengaja dan tanpa hak mendistribusikan dan/atau mentransmisikan dan/atau membuat dapat diaksesnya Informasi Elektronik dan/atau Dokumen Elektronik yang memiliki muatan yang melanggar kesucilaan."

'Every person intentionally and without right distributes and/or transmits and/or makes accessible Electronic Information and/or Electronic Documents that have content that violates decency.'

UU ITE Number 11 of 2008, Article 27, Paragraph 3

"Setiap Orang dengan sengaja dan tanpa hak mendistribusikan dan/atau mentransmisikan dan/atau membuat dapat diaksesnya Informasi Elektronik dan/atau Dokumen Elektronik yang memiliki muatan penghinaan dan/atau pencemaran nama baik."

'Every person intentionally and without right distributes and/or transmits and/or makes accessible Electronic Information and/or Electronic Documents that contain insults and/or defamation.'

UU ITE Number 11 of 2008, Article 28, Paragraph 2

"Setiap Orang dengan sengaja dan tanpa hak menyebarkan informasi yang ditujukan untuk menimbulkan rasa kebencian atau permusuhan individu dan/atau kelompok masyarakat tertentu berdasarkan atas suku, agama, ras, dan antargolongan (SARA)."

'Every person intentionally and without the right to disseminate information aimed at creating a sense of hatred or hostility of individuals and/or certain community groups based on ethnicity, religion, race and intergroup (SARA).'

Thus, the core legal issue of Article 27 Paragraph 1 is about the violation of decency; Article 27 Paragraph 3 is related to the content of insults and/or defamation; while Article 28 Paragraph 2 is related to hatred towards individuals and/or SARA (ethnicity, religion, race and group). Figure 2 below shows the frequency of cases related to the two articles and the three paragraphs.

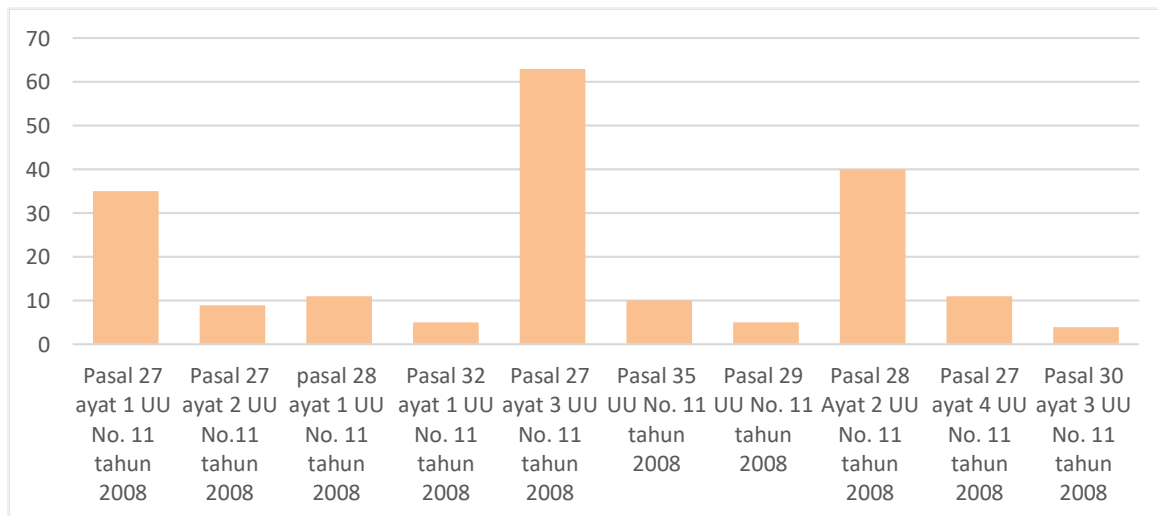


Figure 2. The top three cases violating the UU ITE

Source: Ministry of Communication and Information of the Republic of Indonesia reported by *Merdeka.com* (Merdeka. com. <https://www.merdeka.com/peristiwa/kominfo-33-persen-pelaporan-kasus-uu-ite-gunakan-pasal-pencemaran-nama-baik.html>. Published in March 10, 2021: 21.36)

Although there are quite a lot of legal cases related to the UU ITE, the existence of this law is still very much needed in this republic to limit textual criminality in the media, especially in social media. The UU ITE may stimulate people to communicate and be smarter and wiser in the media. On the other hand, if the UU ITE does not exist, while the intensity of social media use is very high without the support of legal norms and without caring for social norms, there is a possibility of social chaos. In this case, conflicts between individuals and/or groups, for example, can threaten the harmony of the nation and state (Toledo et al., 2018).

3.2 Detection of text violations

Texts that have the potential to cause legal cases related to the UU ITE can be categorized into straightforward texts and ambiguous texts. Straightforward text is linguistically simple text, both in terms of structure and meaning. This means that the text can be easily understood from word choice, sentence structure, and meaning (Chetty & Alathur, 2018; Kapil & Ekbal, 2020). In contrast, ambiguous text is a structurally complex text that requires a clearer interpretation. Since the interpretation of the structure and meaning is ambiguous, there is a possibility of multi-interpretation or a choice of several meanings that are polysemic (similarity between one meaning and another), and can even be antonymic (interpretation of one meaning with another meaning is opposite).

The fragments of text from various sources of social media and police reports presented below are identified for their elements that have the potential to cause violations of the law but are discussed from the aspect of Forensic Linguistics in the Discussion section (see Section 3 below).

1) Straightforward Text

1a) “*Gara-gara bangga jadi kacung WHO, IDI dan RS seenaknya mewajibkan semua orang yang akan melahirkan dites Cv-19. ...*”

(Jerinx in Instagram quoted and published by News.id in August 4th, 2020 <https://www.inews.id/multimedia/video/video-perjalanan-kasus-jerinx>; accessed August 2nd, 2022; and then published again by youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Up7dhugITs>, accessed July 22nd, 2023)

‘Because they are proud to be the lackey of WHO, IDI (IDI stands for *Ikatan Dokter Indonesia*, translated into Indonesian Medical Association) and hospitals arbitrarily require all people who will give birth to be tested for Cv-19.....’

1b) “*.... Berusaha untuk mendirikan khilafah Islamiyyah, Kenap enggak boleh? Bahkan wajib kita tegakkan khilafah Islamiyyah...*” (Mr. Rizieg Shihab’s speech on Khilafah, December 10th, 2016 via Markaz Syariah Youtube Channel. <https://r5---sn-bg07dn6r.googlevideo.com/videoplayback>; accessed October 7nd, 2021; from minute 00.02.39 to to 00.02.42)

‘.....Trying to establish the *khilafah Islamiyyah*, why is it not allowed? In fact, it is obligatory for us to establish the *khilafah Islamiyyah*’

The word choice and structure of the text (1a) show clarity so that the meaning is easy to understand. The element of the text that caused the author of the text to be convicted by the court was the phrase “... WHO’s lackey ” which was addressed to IDI. The text was shared on social media by the author on June 13, 2020 and he was convicted by the Court on Nov 19, 2020 with a sentence of 14 months in prison.

Meanwhile, text 1b) also has clarity in terms of word usage and sentence structure so that its meaning is easy to interpret. The author of this text has never been reported to the police to text (1b), it has not become a legal case yet. However, in terms of Forensic Linguistics study (Gibbons, 2003; McMenamin, 2002; Olsson, 2009; Luchjenbroers & Olsson, 2014), the text can be analyzed to detect potential violations, especially the clause “... In fact, we must establish the Islamic caliphate ” The context of the place of the idea of implementing the Islamic caliphate in question is in Indonesia. This is certainly considered a violation of the Indonesian Constitution i.e. UUD 1945 since the state ideology is based on the Pancasila ideology.

So, in terms of Forensic Linguistics, even though a text has a clear structure and meaning, it must be explained linguistically in terms of linguistic evidence that raises legal issues. This is important so that law enforcers have linguistic facts that can be accounted for in terms of linguistics so that the law can be enforced fairly (Fareh, 2014).

2) Forced text

2a) "...*bapak ibu gak bisa pilih saya ya bisa dibohongin pakai surat Al Maidah ayat 51...*"

(Speech by Basuki Tjahja Purnama alias Ahok on September 27th, 2016 in the Kepulauan Seribu Islands, when he was Governor of DKI (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8NGwzhjJG4>; accessed July the 10th, 2017; from minute 00. 03.00 to 00.03.02)

'...if you can't vote for me, then you may be scammed to apply Surah Al Maidah verse 51

2b) "*Pecalang-pecalang yang di Bali yang kadang-kadang melempari rumah penduduk, melarang orang sholat jumat gak pernah ada kritik dari Kompas bertahun tahun itu sudah kita saksikan*".

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gNWN8OCQpo&list=PLYkAbsoowuKBbepS7EH5g1hqGdbgetO7q>. Accessed June 16th, 2017, from minute 00.00. 15:15 to 00.00.15:27)

'Customary security guards in Bali who sometimes stoned people's houses, prohibited people from praying on Friday, there has never been any criticism from *Kompas* for years....'.

The difference between the ambiguity of text (2a) and text (2b) is the ambiguity of language structure (in text 2a) and the ambiguity of word choice (in text 2b). The part of the text (2a) that contains multiple interpretations is "...scammed to use...", while the part of the text (2b) is the word choice element "...the one in Bali who sometimes...".

Thus, all identified parts of the text, both the straightforward text and the ambiguous text, which were considered to raise legal issues were analyzed by forensic linguistics supported by the microlinguistic and macrolinguistic paradigms. The analysis is carried out in the section below.

3.3 Forensic linguistic analysis of straightforward texts

Texts (1a) and (1b) presented above were analyzed for their linguistic aspects, both in terms of word formation and phrase/clause/sentence structure as follows. First, part of the text (1a) "W.H.O's lackey" above is considered to contain elements of defamation so the author was reported to the police and was tried and convicted (Wodak, 2002; Ikeo, 2012). The linguistic question is why IDI as the complainant felt that its name was defamed, even though IDI's name is not directly part of the phrase "W.H.O's lackey". The explanation used to answer this question is the theory of Syntactic Structure (Choamsky, 1965) and Grammatical Cohesion (Halliday & Hasan, 1989), especially regarding ellipsis.

In the fuller part of the text, it states "Because they are proud to be W.H.O's lackeys, IDI and hospitals arbitrarily require everyone who will give birth to be tested for Cv-19." In this text, "IDI and hospitals" are mentioned after the phrase "W.H.O's lackey". In more detail, the syntactic mechanism with the Grammatical Cohesion system can be explained in two stages. First, the text passage //proud to be W.H.O's lackey// is a sentence with a Phrase Zero Subject that refers to "IDI and hospitals" or the Phrase Zero Subject is the same as "IDI and hospitals." Second if the Subject of the sentence can be syntactically proven, then the text part "proud to be W.H.O's lackey" functions as the predicate of the complete sentence //IDI and hospitals are proud to be W.H.O's lackey//. So, the use of Subject Zero Cataphora is an ellipsis mechanism (implied element) that can be traced to the explicit element. The fact of Syntax and Grammatical Cohesion in the sentence is indisputable in terms of Indonesian language structure.

Second, the straightforward part of the text (1b) states "...Trying to establish the Islamic caliphate, Why is it not allowed? In fact, it is obligatory for us to establish the khalifahs Islamiyah. " In this part of the text, the elements that need to be analyzed are the use of the pronominal "we" and the question of the place of the Islamic caliphate. The pronominal we, in the text, is intended by the speaker to represent the speaker and other Muslims in Indonesia. The place of Indonesia is not explicitly mentioned in the text, but from the aspects of Implicature (Grice in Sadock, 2004: 53—73) and Illocutionary Speech Actions (Austin, 1975; Grundy, 2000; Searle, 1969), the place in question is Indonesia (and other countries where most people are Muslims). These aspects of Implicature and Illocutionary Acts of Speech can be explained using keywords in the complete text of his speech:

- ["...yang menyerang pergerakan khilafah adalah dari orang mulut orang muslim itu sendiri..."]

- [“...yang sudah putus asa dan dikompromi oleh kalangan liberal...”]
 - [“...Mereka bentuk IMF International Monetary Fund...”]
 - [“... Mereka bentuk US United States...”]
 - [“... mereka bentuk PBB...”]
- (Mr. Rizieg Shihab’s speech on Khilafah, December 10th, 2016 via Markaz Syariah Youtube Channel. <https://r5---sn-bg07dn6r.googlevideo.com/videoplayback>; accessed 7 October 2021; from minute 00.00.36 to 00.00.40; 00.01.47 to 00.01.51)
- [‘...those who attack the khalifah movement are from the mouths of Muslims themselves. ’]
 - [‘...who are desperate and compelled by the liberals ’]
 - [‘...They formed the IMF International Monetary Fund ’]
 - [‘...they formed the United States of America ’]
 - [‘...they formed the United Nations. ’]

The supporting text can also be referred to as the context of Implicature and the context of Speech Actions, the interpretation of which is that the speaker does not believe in the liberal system created by the West. According to him, the way to save Islam is to establish the *khalifah Islamiyah* (‘Islamic caliphates’). However, as mentioned earlier, the ideology of the Islamic caliphate as a state ideology is prohibited by the Indonesian government because it is considered incompatible with the ideology of Pancasila.

3.4 Forensic linguistic analysis of forced texts

The ambiguity of a text can occur with its sound system or spelling system, word choice system, and sentential structure. In the two texts (2a) and (2b) presented in the results section above, each has a different feature of coercion.

3.4.1 Strictness of Structure

In the text (2a) the word choice is clear enough that no difficult interpretation of meaning is required, but the interpretation of the sentence structure is ambiguous enough that a more formal or sophisticated syntactic theory is needed to find out linguistic facts that have the potential to cause legal violations (Hashimova, 2021). In this paper, the theory of Generative Linguistics is applied, a theory of language that explains linguistic facts from two structures namely ‘Surface Structure’ and ‘Deep Structure’ (in the sense of Choamsky’s theory, 1965). The analysis model of the theory can be applied to data (2a) which is explained as follows. Text part (2a) is a complex sentence consisting of three clauses that bind each other, the sentence is quoted again as follows:

“...bapak ibu gak bisa pilih saya ya bisa dibohongin pakai surat Al Maidah ayat 51...” (Speech by Basuki Tjahja Purnama alias Ahok on September 27th, 2016 in the Kepulauan Seribu Islands, when he was Governor of DKI (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8NGwzhjJG4>; accessed July the 10th, 2017; from minute 00. 03.00 to 00.03.02)

‘... if you cannot vote for me, you can be lied to using Surah Al Amidah verse 51....’

The steps for analysis, the sentence is first sorted into three clauses; (1) You cannot vote for me; (2) you can be misled; and (3) using Surah Al Amidah verse 51. Clause (1) has a clear structure because all sentence functions have been filled with lexicons according to their functions. This is different from the clause (2) and the clause (3). Clause (2) has a passive voice which is not supported by the lexicon filling the Subject-Patient and Oblique-Actor, while clause (3) has an active-transitive voice which is also not supported by the Subject-Actor. Specifically, it can be discussed in three ways, first, by analyzing the Internal Structure (abstract structure) which correlates with the Surface Structure (concrete structure), the proof of the structure and its function fillers can be unfolded. The Subject-Patient in clause (2) can be termed Subject-Anaphoric which represents the Noun Phrase of ‘you/ladies and gentlemen’, as mentioned explicitly in clause (1). This Subject-Anaphoric in clause (2) is controlled by the Subject ‘you’ in clause (1) so that the relationship is mutually binding or the Subject-Anaphoric is the same as the Subject ‘you’. Second, the Active-Transitive clause (3) also lacks a Subject-Actor with an explicit lexicon, but it does not mean that the active clause is without a Subject-Actor. The absence of the Subject-Actor can be determined from its structure, which

is also mutually binding with the Oblique-Actor of clause (2). Third, although the Oblique-Actor of the passive clause (2) is not mentioned in the text, the choice of the verb lied to in the passive form indicates that the Oblique-Actor is 'human' or 'person' because logically only humans can lie. Therefore, the Surface Structure of clause (2) is '(You/ladies and gentlemen) were misled (by people)'. With the existence of the prepositional phrase 'by people' that functions as an Oblique-Actor in clause (2), it proves that the Subject-Actor of clause (3) is controlled by the Oblique-Actor of clause (2) which means that both are the same entity, namely 'humans' or 'people'.

Therefore, the Subject-Actor of the active verb *pakai* 'to use' is human/person. So, the interpretation of the overall meaning of the text must go through three stages: a. 'You can't vote for me;' (b) (you) can be misled (by people), and (3) (people) use Surah Al Amidah verse 51. From the three stages of proof, the interpretation of the meaning is that 'people can lie using the religious message of Surah AL Amidah verse 51.

3.4.2 Ambiguity of word choice

Word choice ambiguity means that the vocabulary chosen is not specific enough to cause uncertainty in the meaning of the text. Data (2b) in the Results section above shows that the word choice in the double-relative clause "those in Bali who sometimes" in the full text: '*Pecalang-pecalang* in Bali who sometimes throw stones at people's houses, prohibit people from praying on Friday, there has never been criticism from *Kompas* for years that we have witnessed' contains ambiguity of place and time. The first clause-relative *yang di Bali* 'those who are in Bali' is used to give additional information to the plural noun *pecalang-pecalang* ('village security guards'), but the problem is that the choice of the prepositional phrase *di Bali* 'in Bali' creates multiple interpretations about the exact location in Bali. There are several interpretations of where the event might have taken place: (a) in almost all areas of Bali or (b) in some areas of Bali or (c) only in one area of Bali. The term region also has a general meaning. If, in the text, it is said that the event took place in a place in city A or sub-district A, then the meaning can be ascertained and the facts are legally clear.

In addition to the ambiguity of the location point, the second clause-relative 'which sometimes' also represents an uncertain point in time. In both the online and printed versions of the Indonesian Dictionary of [KBBI \(2008\)](#), the lexicon *kadang-kadang* is an adverb that means 'sometimes;' or 'occasionally.' The meaning of 'sometimes' or 'once in a while' indicates that the point in time is uncertain, so law enforcement does not have enough definite facts to determine when the event occurred in Bali Island.

4 Conclusion

In Indonesia, language cases involving violations of the UU ITE have primarily involved texts comprising defamation, hate speech directed at specific individuals or SARA (ethnicity, religion, race, intergroup). In these cases, social media is the media that contributes the most to producing texts that have the potential to cause violations of the UU ITE. Potential linguistic violations to the UU ITE are determined by macro and microlinguistic factors. Macrolinguistic factors are related to four things (a) social media users' lack of awareness of norms, (b) poor language ethics, (c) a lack of social media literacy, and (d) a lack of editing stages before text publishing. Meanwhile, microlinguistic factors relate to word choice and language structure, both straightforward and tacit elements. Straightforward elements are constructed by the text author, consciously, so the meaning is not multi-interpreted and the possibility of legal risks has been anticipated by him/her. On the other hand, coercive text elements are texts that are constructed with generic vocabulary and complex structures. In deciphering complex language structures, sophisticated or formal language theory is required to ensure its formulation so that the representation of meaning can be accounted for linguistically. However, due to the multi-interpretative nature of the text, it will always lead to different linguistic perspectives, which may also lead to different legal opinions.

Conflict of interest statement

The authors declared that they have no competing interests.

Statement of authorship

The authors have a responsibility for the conception and design of the study. The authors have approved the final article.

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