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Legal Language in the Dissemination of Pornographic Content on Social Media: An Analysis of Judicial Rulings from a Forensic Linguistic Perspective

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Abstract: Legal language serves as a medium of communication within the legal sphere, utilized by practitioners and legal experts in contexts such as regulations, agreements, official correspondence, and court rulings. For the general public, legal language enables a clear and precise understanding of legal messages and norms—thereby clarifying rights, obligations, and applicable rules—which supports the maintenance of order and legal certainty. This study aims to analyze the text of captions associated with the dissemination of pornographic content on social media—as found in a specific court ruling—through the lens of forensic linguistics. The research employs a normative-juridical approach and qualitative descriptive analysis, utilizing Court Ruling Number 166/Pid.B/2018/PN.Dpk. The data consists of the caption text from the pornographic content posts cited in the ruling, which are analyzed from a forensic linguistic perspective. Data analysis was conducted using an interactive analysis model comprising data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The analysis is grounded in criminal law elements and linguistic theory within the framework of forensic linguistics. The study's findings indicate that: (1) the caption text accompanying the pornographic content on social media is shown to satisfy the elements of a criminal offense as stipulated in Law Number 44 of 2008 concerning Pornography; and (2) analysis of the caption text from a forensic linguistic perspective allows for the identification of implicit meanings, thereby substantiating the legal violation—specifically, the fulfillment of criminal elements regarding the dissemination of pornographic content on social media.

Keywords: *legal language, dissemination, pornographic content, social media, forensic linguistic.*

INTRODUCTION

Legal language serves as a medium of communication within the legal sphere across various aspects of societal life, including cases involving the dissemination of pornographic content on social media. This phenomenon is driven by the advancement of digital technology, which has expanded the scope for the distribution of such content. In light of this situation, language usage in the digital era has also undergone rapid development (Waljinah et al., 2019). In the legal realm, the phenomenon of cases involving the dissemination of pornographic content is linked to the use of verbal and non-verbal language in social media posts. Consequently, an analysis employing legal language is required to uncover the textual meaning within the captions of such content. The findings of this analysis are then compiled as legal evidence, necessitating a multidisciplinary approach that integrates legal theory and linguistics as part of the evidentiary process.

The dissemination of pornographic content on social media is driven by information systems utilizing digital media that have evolved rapidly with the times, enabling people to interact easily without the constraints of space and time. The dissemination of pornographic content is influenced by various factors, including ease of access, user anonymity, a lack of effective regulation, and the fact that some internet users are unaware of the negative impacts of such content (Hisyam et al., 2025; Iha et al., 2026; Handayani & Wijayanti, 2024). In this digital era, the rapid advancement of information technology has led internet users to utilize digital media as a source of information perceived as both affordable and fast. However, the prevalence of digital media also makes it easy for the public to access content featuring pornography. This relates to cybercrime—criminal activity involving internet-enabled devices that can occur at any time and targets victims indiscriminately (Rahayu & Sulistyanta, 2022).

This trend correlates with the rapid advancement of internet-integrated technology, which has turned digital media—particularly social media—into a convenient platform for the swift and widespread dissemination of information, including pornographic content. The consequences of this practice are profound; it not only erodes moral and ethical values but also adversely affects the mental and psychological well-being of digital media users, especially the victims. This situation is facilitated by the proliferation of information technology, which has fueled the spread of such content on social media. These negative aspects have detrimental effects, causing psychological and mental harm to social media users. Pornography is viewed as a form of deviant behavior that damages individual morals, social structures, and the family order (Mustatho et al., 2025).

Several measures to address the dissemination of pornographic content include stricter regulations, digital literacy education, and raising awareness about the harmful effects of such content. These efforts aim to ensure the public understands that distributing pornographic content—particularly on digital platforms and social media—is a prohibited act. According to Article 1, point 1 of Law Number 44 of 2008 concerning Pornography, pornography is defined as images, sketches, illustrations, photographs, writings, sounds, noises, moving images, animations, cartoons, conversations, bodily movements, or other forms of messages—conveyed through various forms of communication media and/or public performances—that contain obscenity or sexual exploitation violating societal norms of decency. Pornography is defined as an explicit representation (images, writings, paintings, and photographs) of sexual activity or of matters that are indecent, lewd, or obscene, intended for communication to the public (Hidayat & Alimuddin, 2020). Therefore, more effective policies are needed from the government, social media platforms, and the public to ensure the digital space remains clean, healthy, ethical, productive, and equitable.

Legal regulations in Indonesia prohibiting the dissemination of pornographic content on social media represent a law enforcement effort to protect the public—particularly children—from the spread of such content. The legal provisions governing the prohibition of the

dissemination of pornographic content on social media are: Article 282 of the Criminal Code (*KUHP*); Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 44 of 2008 concerning Pornography; Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions; Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 19 of 2016 concerning Amendments to Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions; and Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 1 of 2024 concerning the Second Amendment to Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 11 of 2008. Criminal sanctions corresponding to the perpetrator's actions are set forth in those legal provisions.

Provisions regarding criminal sanctions for the dissemination of pornographic content are also set forth in Article 27 paragraph (1) of Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 11 of 2008, which states that: Any person who intentionally and without authority distributes and/or transmits and/or makes accessible Electronic Information and/or Electronic Documents containing material that violates decency commits a prohibited act, as amended by Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 19 of 2016. The dissemination of electronic information or documents containing pornographic content may be subject to criminal sanctions, as stipulated in Article 27 paragraph (1) of Law Number 1 of 2024, which states: “Any person who intentionally and without authorization broadcasts, displays, distributes, transmits, and/or makes accessible Electronic Information and/or Electronic Documents containing content that violates public decency to the general public”. This legal provision regulates content containing pornography or violating general norms of decency; offenders may be subject to a maximum prison sentence of six years and/or a fine of up to IDR 1 billion.

Despite existing legal provisions, the dissemination of pornographic content persists and continues to grow alongside the advancement of digital media. Rapid technological development has given rise to numerous new issues that cannot be adequately regulated by legislation. Crimes frequently committed on the Internet are known as cybercrimes (Sundari, 2023). Nowadays, many crimes arise from technological advancements; these are not limited to conventional methods but have evolved into more modern forms through the use of technologies such as the internet and social media. Cybercrime can be defined as unlawful acts involving the use of computer technology (Rahadjo, 2002).

This situation has a detrimental impact on internet users, as pornographic content on social media is easily accessible to people of all ages—from children and adolescents to adults. The internet enables cheap and anonymous access to pornography, a factor frequently cited as a primary driver of the consumption and distribution of sexually explicit content (Awan et al., 2021; Kholisoh et al., 2023; Tanaya et al., 2022). This situation facilitates the spread of pornographic content on social media, making it easily accessible to internet users. It contributes to the ease with which such content is uploaded and accessed in the digital realm, resulting in a growing number of creators and a simplified dissemination process (Sumadiyasa et al., 2021). Therefore, the posting of pornography on digital media—particularly social media—requires serious attention, especially regarding legal sanctions designed to deter offenders and curb the spread of such content. Therefore, the posting of pornography on digital media—particularly social media—requires serious attention, especially regarding legal sanctions designed to deter offenders and curb the spread of such content.

Research relevant to the present study is outlined as follows. First, the study titled “A Juridical Review of Same-Sex Obscene Acts under Indonesian Criminal Law (A Study of Verdict Number 166/PID.B/2018/PN/DPK)” (Gunawan et al., 2025). This study aims to examine the judges' considerations in the ruling and the appropriateness of the legal application. A qualitative research method was employed, utilizing both statutory and case-based approaches. The findings indicate that the evidentiary basis for the dissemination of pornographic content—relying on the evidence prescribed in Article 29 in conjunction with Article 4 paragraph (1) of Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 44 of 2008 concerning

Pornography and Article 5 paragraph (1) point 1 of the Criminal Code (*KUHP*)—aligns with the application of Indonesian criminal law.

The similarity between the aforementioned research and the study in this article lies in the focus on a case study regarding the dissemination of pornographic content on social media—specifically Depok District Court Case Number 166/Pid.B/2018/Pn.Dpk—which was proven as a criminal offense in accordance with applicable law. The difference lies in the analysis of legal evidence derived from the captions accompanying the pornographic content posted on social media. In the present study, the analysis of these captions is conducted from a forensic linguistic perspective to substantiate the legal evidence that the caption content satisfied the elements of the criminal offense; the aforementioned research, by contrast, did not employ forensic linguistic analysis. The novelty of this article—absent in the previous research—is the demonstration that legal evidence satisfying the elements of a criminal offense can be derived through analysis from a forensic linguistic perspective.

Second, the research titled “Imposition of Criminal Penalties for the Dissemination of Pornographic Content via the OnlyFans Digital Platform (A Study of Verdict Number 2086 K/Pid.Sus/2023)” (Susiladevi et al., 2025). The objective of this research is to analyze the judges' considerations in Judgment Number 2086 K/Pid.Sus/2023 regarding the Dea OnlyFans case, which concerned the dissemination of pornographic content via digital platforms. The research method employed is normative legal research, utilizing statutory and case study approaches. Data was gathered through an analysis of court rulings, legal literature, and relevant legislation—specifically Law Number 44 of 2008 concerning Pornography and Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions (*Informasi & Transaksi Elektronik/ITE*). The research findings are as follows: (1) the judge considered several key aspects, namely the defendant's intent, the social impact of the act, and moral responsibility as a digital media user; (2) the judge determined that the action constituted the dissemination of pornographic content, an act prohibited under Indonesian positive law; (3) the ruling imposed a prison sentence with a probationary period to strike a balance between deterrence and social rehabilitation for the defendant; dan (4) the judge's reasoning in this ruling underscores the importance of applying the law proportionately to offenders in the digital space, while also reflecting on the boundary between freedom of expression and violations of public decency in the social media era.

The similarity between the aforementioned research and the study in this article lies in the criminal substantiation of the dissemination of pornographic content under applicable laws. The difference lies in the judicial considerations regarding the imposition of criminal sanctions—which are influenced by various factors to ensure proportionate legal application—whereas this article focuses on judicial rulings aligned with the fulfillment of the criminal elements involved in the dissemination of pornographic content. The novelty of this article, absent from the previous research, is the analysis of text within the captions of pornographic content posts as criminal evidence, derived from a forensic linguistic perspective.

Third, the study titled “A Juridical Review of the Dissemination of Pornographic Content on Social Media, Which Is Increasingly Expanding” (Rendrayana, 2026). The objective of this study is to examine the legislative framework governing pornography-related offenses and the evolution of regulations in Indonesia aimed at combating the spread of pornographic content on social media. The study employs a normative legal research method, utilizing literature-based data collection and a statutory approach. The findings are as follows: (1) the New Criminal Code (*KUHP*) does not directly regulate pornography offenses but instead addresses crimes against public decency under Chapter XV; (2) the New Criminal Code no longer distinguishes between crimes against decency and violations of decency, categorizing both instead as crimes against decency; (3) pornography constitutes a specialized criminal offense and is therefore governed by the specific Pornography Law enacted on November 26, 2008;

and (4) pornography offenses disseminated via social media are regulated more specifically under the Law on Electronic Information and Transactions.

The similarity between the aforementioned research and the study in this article lies in the examination of legal provisions applied to cases involving the dissemination of pornographic content on social media. The difference is that the previous research did not employ a forensic linguistic perspective, whereas this article utilizes forensic linguistic analysis to examine captions accompanying pornographic content posts on social media that meet the elements of a criminal offense. The novelty of this article—absent in the previous research—is the examination of criminal evidence derived from forensic linguistic analysis of the captions associated with pornographic content posts.

A review of the relevant studies mentioned above indicates that an analysis from a forensic linguistic perspective has not yet been conducted to supplement legal evidence regarding the dissemination of pornographic content on social media. Therefore, this article presents an analysis from a forensic linguistic perspective, offering a novel approach to establishing proof in cases involving the dissemination of pornographic content on social media. This study is essential to complement existing findings that address normative aspects, thereby contributing to more effective law enforcement in the face of the evolving dynamics of pornographic content dissemination on social media.

Based on the background outlined above, the research problems are formulated as follows: (1) How are the elements of the criminal offense regarding the dissemination of pornographic content on social media categorized? (2) How can the elements of the criminal offense regarding the dissemination of pornographic content be proven through an analysis from a forensic linguistic perspective?

METHODS

This research employs a normative-juridical approach—specifically a doctrinal legal study—by examining library materials in the form of court rulings. This approach prioritizes an understanding of the norms enshrined in the prevailing laws and regulations of Indonesia. The scope of the research encompasses the application of written positive law—namely, the statutory provisions in force in Indonesia—governing the criminal offense of disseminating pornographic content on social media. A normative-juridical approach is utilized in this article to analyze Depok District Court Ruling Number 166/Pid.B/2018/Pn.Dpk., based on the Criminal Code (*KUHP*), Law Number 44 of 2008 concerning Pornography, Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions, Law Number 19 of 2016 concerning the Amendment to Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions, and Law Number 1 of 2024 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 11 of 2008.

The legal sources utilized in this article are described as follows. First, primary legal materials refer to sources holding a primary position and authority within the legislative system, namely the Criminal Code (*KUHP*), Law Number 1 of 2024 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 11 of 2008 on Electronic Information and Transactions, Law Number 44 of 2008 on Pornography, and the Depok District Court Decision Number 166/Pid.B/2018/Pn.Dpk. First, primary legal materials refer to sources holding a primary position and authority within the legislative system, namely the Criminal Code (*KUHP*), Law Number 1 of 2024 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 11 of 2008 on Electronic Information and Transactions, Law Number 44 of 2008 on Pornography, and the Depok District Court Decision Number 166/Pid.B/2018/Pn.Dpk. Second, secondary legal materials are sources that elaborate upon, interpret, or provide further explanation regarding primary legal sources. These materials serve to assist in interpreting, understanding, and

applying the legal norms contained in legislation, and include legal doctrine, jurisprudence, legal journal articles, and other relevant literature.

Data collection was conducted using documentation, note-taking, and paraphrasing methods, focusing on the captions of posts disseminating pornographic content as cited in the court ruling. Data analysis employed an interactive method based on the documentation of these social media captions found in Depok District Court Ruling Number 166/Pid.B/2018/Pn.Dpk. The text from the captions was paraphrased and interpreted as legal evidence, then examined against criminal elements from a forensic linguistic perspective. Textual meaning was interpreted using qualitative analysis—incorporating logical reasoning based on inductive analogy or deductive interpretation within the framework of legal language—to ensure accurate results aligned with applicable legal provisions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Criminal Elements in the Judgment

A case involving the uploading and dissemination of pornographic content—specifically a video recording of a sexual act shared on social media—occurred within the jurisdiction of the Depok District Court. This case is documented in Depok District Court Judgment Number 166/Pid.B/2018/Pn.Dpk. The video recording depicts a deviant sexual act between two men and features nudity and/or body parts suggestive of nudity, including the defendants' genitals. The pornographic content was uploaded to social media, making it accessible for public viewing.

The judicial ruling imposed on the defendant consists of a prison sentence and a fine as a form of criminal liability. The basis for the sanction regarding the pornographic content refers to Article 299 in conjunction with Article 44 Paragraph (1) of Law Number 44 of 2008, which governs prohibitions and sanctions concerning acts of pornography. The elements fulfilling the requirements for this ruling are described as follows:

a. The Element of “Any Person”

The element of “any person” is very broad; it is sufficient to establish that the perpetrator is a human individual possessing the consciousness and volition to act, and is not subject to any legal exemption (such as being a minor, mentally incapacitated, or acting under duress). In the context of Judgment Number 166/Pid.B/2018/PN.Dpk., Defendant I was a 21-year-old Indonesian citizen, physically and mentally sound, and acted consciously when creating and disseminating pornographic content; Defendant II was a 32-year-old Indonesian citizen who was likewise sound of mind and body and consciously participated in the video's production. Consequently, both met the criteria for “any person” and could be held criminally liable.

b. The Element of “producing, making, reproducing, duplicating, disseminating, broadcasting, importing, exporting, offering, trading, renting out, or making available pornography that explicitly depicts sexual intercourse—including deviant sexual intercourse—sexual violence, masturbation, nudity or a display suggesting genital nudity, or child pornography”

Based on the judgment in Depok District Court Case Number 166/Pid.B/2018/Pn.Dpk., Defendant I intentionally published the following posts: (1) Caption of the first post, “Bot esrot 20th kos sendiri.. Yg mau boking watssp aku ya 087888637930” [The 20-year-old boss of Esrot lives in his own boarding house. For those who want to order, you can WhatsApp me at 087888637930]; (2) Caption of the second post, “Gak sengaja ketemu tmen gym homo...” [While at the gym, I accidentally met a gay gym buddy]; (3) Caption of the third post, “Aku yg lg ngisep... Liat foto profil saya...” [It's me performing oral sex. Look at my profile picture]. The text in the caption contains implicit expressions—specifically, a sexual solicitation and an

indication of a transaction for sexual services—as well as language that verbally signals the provision of sexual services in the form of same-sex sexual intimacy.

c. The element of “Those who do it, those who order it to do it and those who participate in doing it”

Based on this element, it is established that the person directly committing the criminal act—the perpetrator—acted alone and fulfilled all the elements of the offense. Defendant I personally performed the acts of recording the indecent act, editing the footage, and subsequently uploading the final video to their Twitter account. Although only Defendant I disseminated the material, both Defendant I and Defendant II engaged in the sexual act together and recorded it on video; thus, Defendant II was aware of the recording and was a participant in the sexual act itself.

The Criminal Element of Pornographic Content from a Forensic Linguistic Perspective

A social media post—specifically its caption—addressed in Judgment Number 166/Pid.B/2018/PN.Dpk. can be categorized as pornographic content. In cases involving pornography, the field of forensic linguistics plays a role in analyzing language use across various types of content, such as text, audio recordings, and video (Maulida & Romdoni, 2024). Analysis from a forensic linguistics perspective can be used to obtain crucial information—such as identifying perpetrators, uncovering motives, and revealing facts—in cases involving illegal pornography or content containing elements of violence. Forensic linguistics is a branch of linguistics applied to support law enforcement processes (Subyantoro, 2019)

Analysis from a forensic linguistic perspective can be used to identify perpetrators, uncover motives, and reveal hidden facts in cases involving the dissemination of pornographic content. The results of such analysis can contribute—among other things—by serving as an evidentiary aid in law enforcement proceedings regarding the distribution of pornographic content on social media. Forensic linguistics plays a crucial role in the investigative process, serving as a benchmark for the success of interrogations by examining speech acts that carry legal weight in accordance with applicable regulations (Waljinah et al., 2024). A forensic linguistic analysis of several captions in Judgment Number 166/Pid.B/2018/PN.Dpk. is described in the following account.

[1] Bot esrot 20th kos sendiri... Yg mau boking watssp aku ya 087888637930 Retweet yang banyak nungguin video berikutnya ‘DIBOKING TMN GYM’

[The 20-year-old ‘esrot’ boss lives in a boarding house and has a room to himself. Those interested in booking him can contact him via WhatsApp at 087888637930. Please share this widely and stay tuned for the next video, which will be uploaded under the title “BOOKED BY A GYM BUDDY”.]

From a forensic linguistic perspective, the text in data [1] is interpreted as follows. From a forensic linguistic perspective, the text in data [1] is interpreted as follows. This understanding is further reinforced by the age indicator “20th”. This phenomenon can be explained using Grice's (1989) theory of conversational implicature, which posits that a speaker can communicate meaning beyond what is literally encoded when the listener infers the intended meaning based on the Cooperative Principle and conversational maxims.

The use of text in this caption demonstrates a connection between representative, directive, and inferential commissive acts. Searle (1969, 1979) posits that an illocutionary act is an action performed by an agent in the form of an utterance—encompassing assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations. The text referring to “Bos esrot” and “20th” functions as a representative act, as the agent presents a proposition regarding his own

circumstances as information assumed to be true. Consequently, the text in this caption satisfies the “any person” element of the criminal offense—referring to the agent as a 20-year-old male offering same-sex sexual services—identifying him as an individual possessing the consciousness and volition to act, and noting that he is not subject to any legal exemptions regarding the dissemination of such pornographic content on social media.

Secondly, the text “...kos sendiri... Yg mau booking watssp aku ya 087888637930” constitutes a declarative and expressive statement accompanied by a WhatsApp number for making a booking. The caption also serves to advertise the individual—implying an offer of sexual services—with the meeting taking place at the person's own boarding room; since the location is their own, there is no need to seek an alternative venue or rent a hotel. Levinson (1983) asserts that implicature allows for a systematic explanation of how a speaker can convey meaning through a process of inference—communicating something that extends beyond the literal semantic content.

In the caption, the individual does not fully explain the specific actions entailed by the term “booking,” meaning that, from the perspective of the Maxim of Quantity, explicit information is lacking. Consequently, readers are inferentially led to associate “booking” with details such as having a private place (“kos sendiri”), the use of a WhatsApp number for private communication, and the prospect of future content. This generates an implicature implicitly understood by netizens: an invitation to engage in a personal interaction—specifically, an intimate and/or sexual encounter—with a member of the same sex. This meaning functions as a conversational implicature and is context-dependent, even though the individual never explicitly states an offer for same-sex intimate services.

The caption “...Yg mau booking watssp aku ya 087888637930” carries a directive illocutionary force, as the individual is attempting to prompt internet users to take a specific action—namely, booking the individual by contacting the listed WhatsApp number. Searle (1979) classifies directives as a category of speech acts in which the illocutionary point lies in the speaker's attempt to get the hearer to perform a specific action. The word “booking” acquires pragmatic significance because the object of the activity being “booked” is not explicitly stated. Its referent must be reconstructed through the context of the post, the account's persona, visual elements, and the knowledge assumed to be shared by the community of social media consumers. Levinson (1983) posits that such context is a fundamental element, given the relationship between linguistic structure and the context required to explain its meaning.

Consequently, the text in the caption satisfies the elements of a criminal offense involving the dissemination, broadcasting, offering, trading, or making available of pornography that explicitly depicts sexual intercourse—including deviant sexual acts, sexual violence, masturbation, nudity, or displays suggesting genital nudity. Consequently, the text in the caption satisfies the elements of a criminal offense involving the dissemination, broadcasting, offering, trading, or making available of pornography that explicitly depicts sexual intercourse—including deviant sexual acts, sexual violence, masturbation, nudity, or displays suggesting genital nudity. This offense pertains to a 20-year-old male—who lives independently—offering same-sex sexual services, with bookings facilitated via the WhatsApp number listed in the caption. The context of the offense here is that the perpetrator is identified as an individual acting with awareness and intent, and is not subject to any legal exemption regarding the dissemination of such pornographic content on social media.

Third, the captions “Retweet yang banyak” and “nungguin video berikutnya DIBOKING TMN GYM” implicitly aim to disseminate content and advertise same-sex sexual services. The request for netizens to “Retweet yang banyak” serves as a pragmatic strategy to convert curiosity into participation and digital visibility. Meanwhile, the statement “nungguin video berikutnya DIBOKING TMN GYM” conveys a commissive implicature, signaling to netizens that the upcoming video will feature content related to the “DIBOKING TMN GYM” event.

This reflects a strategic approach by the actor that intertwines with the pragmatics of computer-mediated communication in digital spaces—specifically regarding the meaning constructed through language, technological features, participation structures, and the medium's communicative environment (Herring et al., 2013).

The caption “Retweet yang banyak” functions verbally as a directive, urging netizens to amplify the message, while the caption “nungguin video berikutnya DIBOKING TMN GYM” aims to build anticipation regarding the continuation of the pornographic content. The use of capitalization in the text “DIBOKING TMN GYM” serves as an ostensive stimulus, providing minimal information that triggers a strong suggestive effect, thereby prompting netizens to fill in the information gaps using their own contextual knowledge. Within the framework of Relevance Theory, ostensive communication operates when a speaker produces a stimulus that leads the recipient to expect adequate cognitive effects for a reasonable processing effort. (Sperber & Wilson, 1993; Wilson & Sperber, 2004).

Based on the analysis above, the text in the caption fulfills the criminal elements of “disseminating” dan “ordering” the dissemination of pornographic content on social media. The caption text urging for “retweet yang banyak” also satisfies the legal elements regarding “those who commit, order the commission of, and participate in committing the act.” The perpetrator, having uploaded the pornographic content, subsequently instructed netizens to disseminate it by reposting the content on social media. The phrase “Retweet yg banyak” explicitly demonstrates that the perpetrator directed netizens to participate in disseminating the pornographic content on social media. Consequently, if a netizen performs a “retweet” (repost) their action fulfills the criminal element of “participating in the act” of disseminating pornographic content on social media.

Based on the analysis from a forensic linguistic perspective, the text in data [1] can be seen as serving two purposes. First, the perpetrator conveys information and an invitation regarding a pornographic act to internet users on social media. This first purpose relates to the information provided by the perpetrator regarding the provision of same-sex sexual services—as depicted in the uploaded video content—which can be booked via the WhatsApp number listed in the caption. According to Austin's (1962) speech act theory, this type of statement constitutes a “performative utterance” capable of creating a social effect—specifically, a stigma attached to the perpetrator for selling sexual services involving same-sex intimacy, as portrayed in the video content uploaded to social media.

Secondly, the perpetrator encouraged internet users to disseminate the post regarding the sexual services by reposting it on social media. Implicature can be defined as the study of the intended meaning conveyed within an utterance (Qodiri & Prayitno, 2026; Al Qodiri & Prayitno, 2026; Ismiyatin & Prayitno, 2022). The implicature in this caption suggests that the perpetrator intended for the content to spread more widely across social media, thereby ensuring that more internet users became aware that the perpetrator provided sexual services—specifically, same-sex sexual encounters—as depicted in the video content.

At the level of legal statutes, criminal sanctions against individuals providing sexual or immoral services via social media are governed by the *ITE* Law (Law Number 11 of 2008, in conjunction with Law Number 19 of 2016 and Law Number 1 of 2024). Under applicable legal provisions, the perpetrator's actions can be categorized as explicit conduct—specifically, the use of a caption referencing video content uploaded to social media. Consequently, the perpetrator is also deemed to have violated Law Number 44 of 2008 concerning Pornography, which carries penalties of six months to six years in prison and/or a fine ranging from IDR 250 million to IDR 3 billion. Therefore, the caption in data [1] constitutes an instance of providing sexual services and disseminating pornographic content on social media, thereby satisfying the criminal elements established by the judge at the Depok District Court in Ruling Number 166/Pid.B/2018/PN.Dpk.

[2] Gak sengaja ketemu tmen gym homo... Dan tempatnya lg sepi.. hehe gak nunggu lama lama langsung isep k*****... retweet yang banyak

[While at the gym, I ran into a gay gym buddy. The place was quiet... Hehe, it didn't take long before he was sucking my cock. Please repost this widely.]

From a forensic linguistic perspective, the text in data [2] constitutes the core illocutionary component of the caption. The statement made by the perpetrator is classified as representative or assertive, as the perpetrator positions himself as the party conveying information about a same-sex sexual encounter he engaged in. Searle (1979) posits that an assertive act commits the speaker to the truth of the proposition conveyed, whereas a directive act is oriented toward inducing the addressee to perform an action desired by the speaker. While the textual segments “gak sengaja ketemu”, “tempatnya lg sepi”, and “...hehe gak nunggu lama lama langsung isep k*****” do not explicitly state a sexual act, the audience is almost inevitably led to draw an inferential connection between these three parts.

An analysis of the text from a forensic linguistic perspective is based on the following understanding. First, the term “tmen gym” presupposes the existence of a person previously known through the context of a fitness center. The words “homo” and “isep k***...” are used as labels for deviant sexual behavior, indicating an intention to engage in a same-sex intimate relationship. Based on Searle's (1976) theory, the meaning conveyed in this text constitutes an expressive statement and an act of verbal aggression; it explicitly characterizes the nature of the perpetrator's actions—specifically, a negative perlocutionary effect associated with deviant same-sex sexual behavior.

The speaker employs the label ‘homo’ to establish an inferential context that prompts the audience to verify the sexual orientation of the person being referred to. Meanwhile, the ‘homo’ categorization activates specific social knowledge, which the speaker then uses as an inferential cue to guide the audience's interpretation toward the possibility of deviant sexual relations. From a critical-pragmatic perspective, such a label must be understood as an act of discursive categorization, as the social category selected by the speaker shapes the assumptions available to the audience when interpreting the events described in the caption.

The perpetrator informed netizens about the type of action that indicates intimate relations between members of the same sex. From a presuppositional perspective, this construction presupposes some background knowledge. Levinson (1983) includes presupposition as one of the central areas of pragmatics, alongside deixis, implicature, and speech acts. The implicature in this text suggests that the “tmen gym homo...” is an individual who engages in deviant sexual behavior, even though this is not explicitly stated. The speaker violates the maxims proposed by Grice (1989), specifically the maxims of politeness and relevance. The phrase “isep k*****...” serves as an intensifier for the term “homo” in the context of intimate acts involving deviant sexual behavior—acts that fall under the categories of pornography and immorality. The use of language that tends to be vulgar and relates to deviant sexual activity clearly illustrates linguistic impoliteness in the public sphere.

Secondly, the phrase “tempatnya lagi sepi” serves as a pragmatic premise, framing the subsequent action as a consequence of an opportunity that has arisen. Grice (1989) posits that part of a conversation's meaning is derived from the literal content of an utterance and what the audience infers from the speaker's contribution. The implicature formed in the audience's perception is that a quiet location creates conditions enabling intimate activity without the presence of others. The phrase “...tempatnya lagi sepi” presupposes the existence of a specific location, implicitly contrasting its current state with a situation where it would be crowded.

Third, the text “...hehe...” serves an important function as a marker of attitude or pragmatic stance in social media. In computer-mediated communication, seemingly minor

elements—such as spelling, punctuation, repetition, typography, or written paralinguistic expressions—can acquire interactional functions; this is because digital communication must reconstruct certain cues that, in spoken conversation, are typically conveyed through intonation, facial expressions, or gestures (Herring et al., 2013). The text “...hehe...” acts as an affective cue that frames the narrative within a playful, teasing, or mischievous register, thereby guiding the audience to interpret the sexual content that follows.

Fourth, the subsequent text “...retweet yang banyak” shifts the utterance's orientation from a narrative of personal experience to a public directive. The speaker calls upon the audience to act as agents in disseminating the pornographic content. This aligns with Austin's speech act theory—further systematized by Searle regarding the perspective of perlocutionary effects—which posits that utterances can be evaluated based on the intended impact on the recipient, such as a response, an action, or a shift in attitude (Searle, 1969). The context of the caption suggests that the experience of a same-sex intimate relationship serves as discursive capital to generate curiosity, engagement, and the circulation of content on social media. The text of this caption fulfills the criteria of both “disseminating” and “instructing others to disseminate” pornographic content on social media.

Based on the analysis from a forensic linguistic perspective, the caption in data [2] is identified as containing three implicit meanings: first, the perpetrator verbally addresses an intimate encounter—specifically by referring to the use of genitals as the object of the act. Second, the perpetrator conveys the act of disseminating pornographic content through the caption and subsequently instructs netizens to spread that content. Third, regarding the subjects involved in this post, the content implicitly reveals the perpetrator's attempt to normalize the social stigma surrounding same-sex sexual services—including the setting of the act, portraying it as something commonly performed in public spaces such as gyms.

From a legal standpoint, the caption is categorized as involving the dissemination of pornographic content that violates legal norms and digital media ethics due to its publication on social media. The perpetrator also violated public decency standards in both physical and digital spaces by recording and uploading an act of sexual intimacy to social media. Criminal sanctions are applied in accordance with local community moral standards, as stipulated in Law Number 1 of 2023 concerning the Criminal Code (*KUHP*); Article 27 paragraph (1) of the *ITE* Law (Electronic Information and Transactions Law), which carries a maximum penalty of six years' imprisonment and/or a maximum fine of IDR 1 billion; and Law Number 44 of 2008 concerning Pornography, which carries a penalty ranging from a minimum of six months to a maximum of ten years in prison, along with fines between IDR 200 million and IDR 2 billion. Therefore, the caption in data [2] constitutes the dissemination of pornographic content on social media, thereby fulfilling the criminal elements established by the judge at the Depok District Court in Verdict Number 166/Pid.B/2018/PN.Dpk.

[3] Aku yg lg ngisep... tolong jangan Tanya lg.. tolong jgn tolol. Liat foto profil saya... Nanti juga tau saya yg mana retwet yg banyak

[I'm the one performing oral sex. Please don't ask again. Please don't be an idiot. Look at my profile picture; people online will be able to tell which one I am from it. Please repost this widely.]

From a forensic linguistic perspective, the text in data [3] holds criminalistic value, as it has the potential to serve as evidence in cases involving pornography, intimidation, hate speech, or online-based violence. The analysis of the text from a forensic linguistic perspective is based on the following definition.

First, this text demonstrates the presence of person deixis, as evidenced by references shaped by the digital context—specifically through the use of the words “aku” and “saya” (both

meaning “I”). Levinson (1983) defines deixis as a pragmatic domain that clearly illustrates the relationship between language and context, given that the interpretation of deictic expressions relies on parameters such as the speaker, time, place, or position within the discourse. While the words “aku” and “saya” index the actor, the physical identity of the person referred to cannot be determined solely from the verbal elements. Consequently, the statement “Aku yg lg ngisep...” and the imperative “lihat foto profil saya” serve two pragmatic functions: (1) a directive, wherein the actor asks netizens to perform a specific action; (2) an inferential instruction, wherein the actor directs netizens to a contextual source that reveals the identity of the person referred to as “aku”.

The statement “Nanti juga tau saya yg mana...” presupposes that the profile picture provides sufficient visual cues to identify the “aku” or “saya” mentioned in the caption. This interpretation aligns with the nature of digital communication, wherein linguistic context interacts with profiles, images, metadata, and platform features (Herring et al., 2013). The identity of the actor in the caption is established through the relationship between verbal deixis and visual indices. The text of the caption satisfies the “any person” criterion—referring to the 20-year-old actor as a conscious individual capable of intentional action—and indicates that the individual does not fall under any legal exemptions regarding the dissemination of pornographic content on the social media platform.

Secondly, the caption “please don't ask anymore” constitutes a negative imperative, as the speaker is asking netizens to stop inquiring about them regarding the posted content. While the word “tolong” [please] can lexically be associated with mitigation, its subsequent use alongside the word “tolol” [idiot] reveals an expression that belittles the netizens' competence. Therefore, the use of “tolong” in this text does not function as a politeness strategy; rather, it is an ironic usage that implicitly conveys the speaker's annoyance.

The caption “tolong jgn tolol” contains verbal aggression, classified as a locutionary act through the use of the offensive term “tolol”. In politeness theory, Brown et al. (1987) posit that interaction involves the management of “face”—the public self-image that participants seek to maintain. Certain actions can constitute “face-threatening acts” when they infringe upon another party's need for positive face or their freedom of action. The use of the word “tolol” threatens the positive face of netizens by implying an inability to comprehend information that the speaker considers to be already present in the content. Culpeper (2011) in his theory of impoliteness, frames impoliteness as a phenomenon that must be interpreted through linguistic forms, context, participant evaluations, and potential offensive effects.

The classification of an illocutionary speech act is evident in the text “...jgn tolol” [don't be an idiot], which disparages the moral and social standing of the netizen. Austin (1962) categorizes such acts as “abusive performatives”—utterances that produce a social effect in the form of an insult. Meanwhile, the classification of a perlocutionary speech act is reflected in the text addressed to the netizen: “...Nanti juga tau saya yg mana retwet yg banyak” [You'll find out soon enough which of my tweets got a lot of retweets]. Based on face theory, this statement demonstrates that the speaker disregards the netizen's right to a positive self-image (positive face). Based on face theory, this statement demonstrates that the speaker disregards the netizen's right to a positive self-image (positive face). The speaker also creates an imbalance in power relations, as the implicature behind the accusation “...jgn tolol” fosters a perception that demeans the netizen.

In this caption, the individual assumes that the information in their profile photo is sufficient to identify them. Consequently, questions from netizens are viewed as a failure to utilize contextual evidence that was, in the individual's view, already available within the content. When analyzed through the frameworks of Grice (1989) and Relevance Theory, the text of the caption presents a conflict, as it entails a level of inferential effort deemed reasonable. Grice (1989) operates on the assumption that conversational participants interpret

each other's contributions based on an expectation of communicative cooperation. In contrast, Wilson and Sperber (2004) view comprehension as a search for an interpretation that yields optimal relevance, balancing cognitive effects against processing effort within the specific context of the text.

Third, the phenomenon of “retweet yang banyak” [high-volume retweeting] presents an intriguing interactional paradox: the actor closes off one channel of participation regarding questions of identity while simultaneously opening—and even demanding—another channel in the form of retweets. In the pragmatics of digital communication, this type of participation structure is significant because social media users actively manage who may speak, what actions are expected, and how content circulates (Herring et al., 2013). In the pragmatics of digital communication, this type of participation structure is significant because social media users actively manage who may speak, what actions are expected, and how content circulates.

The text in the caption calling for “retweet yang banyak” [lots of retweets] satisfies the legal elements of “those who commit, order the commission of, and participate in committing the act.” The perpetrator disseminated the pornographic content and subsequently instructed netizens to spread it further. The phrase “retwet yg banyak” indicates that the perpetrator also directed netizens to participate in the dissemination of the pornographic content on social media. Consequently, in this context, if a netizen performs a “retwet” their action fulfills the element of “participating in committing the act” of disseminating pornographic content on social media.

Based on the analysis from a forensic linguistic perspective, the caption in data [3] can be classified as exhibiting the following three indications. First, it constitutes digital pornographic text, as it vulgarly depicts a sexual act in the form of a same-sex intimate encounter. Second, it constitutes a text involving a solicitation (speech act of invitation) for pornography, as it contains phrases indicating an intent to offer, provide, and/or accept orders for sexual services involving same-sex intimacy. Third, it involves a self-reference wherein the perpetrator directly identifies themselves as a participant in the same-sex intimate act, as well as the person who recorded and uploaded the video categorized as containing pornographic material.

From a legal standpoint, the caption is classified as containing pornographic material and involving the dissemination of such content on social media. The perpetrator also urged internet users to participate in spreading the pornographic content. The applicable criminal sanctions are based on the provisions of Law Number 1 of 2023 concerning the Criminal Code (*KUHP*); Article 27 paragraph (1) of the *ITE* Law, which carries a maximum penalty of six years' imprisonment and/or a maximum fine of IDR 1 billion; and Law Number 44 of 2008 concerning Pornography, which carries a penalty of imprisonment ranging from a minimum of six months to a maximum of ten years, as well as a fine of between IDR 200 million and IDR 2 billion. Therefore, the caption in data [3] constitutes a post involving the dissemination of pornographic content on social media, thereby fulfilling the criminal elements established by the judge at the Depok District Court in Ruling Number 166/Pid.B/2018/PN.Dpk.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the analysis, the following conclusions can be drawn. First, social media posts containing pornographic content serve as a medium for pornographic communication that violates applicable legal provisions. The analysis of Court Decision Number 166/Pid.B/2018/PN.Dpk demonstrates that the perpetrator fulfilled the elements of the criminal offense of pornography, as the social media posts were proven to constitute the dissemination of pornographic content.

Secondly, from a forensic linguistic perspective, the text used in the captions of uploaded pornographic content can be identified as the dissemination of such content on social media.

The pornographic content uploaded by the perpetrator involved same-sex sexual activity and the offering of services for such acts. Forensic linguistic analysis serves as a scientific instrument within the realm of legal language to identify textual evidence in relation to criminal elements; this helps reveal the perpetrator's motives and supports the evidentiary process in the legal enforcement against the crime of disseminating pornographic content on social media.

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