

# FORENSIC LINGUISTICS AND POLICE WORK: STATE AND CHALLENGES

Jelena Vojinović-Kostić, PhD<sup>1</sup>

Administration for Police Education, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Srpska  
Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

## INTRODUCTION

Forensic linguistics is an interdisciplinary field of scientific study, built upon the foundations of linguistics and law. Forensic linguistics, from the standpoint of linguistics as the foundation of the discipline, consolidates the theoretical foundations and applies the methods of sociolinguistics, applied linguistics, psycholinguistics, stylistics, dialectology, phonetics and phonology, etc.

Forensic linguistics as part of the system of forensics is “a new branch of forensic science, it has been applied in criminal investigations and court proceedings in the resolution of various criminal offenses and civil disputes in the world for almost fifty years” (Nikolić-Novaković, 2017: 7), and as such has a number of specific methods and tools that it applies when proving, the choice of which depends on the subject of the analysis itself.

Forensic linguistics is the point of intersection of language, law and crime and its roots go back to 1968 when it was first promoted by professor of linguistics Jan Svartvik, a professor of corpus linguistics who first used the term forensic linguistics considering the verdict in the famous Evans case in which he was hired to analyse the statements, written and oral, given by Evans from arrest to trial. Through their analysis, he came to the conclusion that parts of the statements were rewritten, one part was written in spoken language and the other in administrative language, which implied that there had been some changes. Based on this evidence, Evans was posthumously pardoned in 1966 (Svartvik, 1968).

A detailed discourse, forensic analysis was published by Svartvik in a paper from 1968, entitled *The Evans Statements: A Case for Forensic Linguistics*. The published analysis marked the beginning of forensic linguistics. Along with Professor Svartvik, Professor Roger W. Shuy<sup>2</sup> is considered a pioneer of forensic linguistics. During his teaching career at Georgetown University, he cooperated with lawyers and prosecutors through the provision of consulting services and the collection of linguistic evidence within the analysis of recorded conversations (persuasion, coercion, blackmail, threats, abuse, police interrogations and hearings, confessions, etc.) and written documents (reports, contracts, seals, copyrights).

Forensic linguistics (FL) is founded on the methods and scientific achievements, as well as the theoretical frame of discourse studies, or discourse analysis (DA). The primary focus of FL studies is analysis and interpretation of written and spoken language (discourse), accounting for the needs of police, various security agencies, and judicial bodies (court, attorney's office). Linguistic forensics, via expert DA of language and communication, assists the above-mentioned upholders of law, in activities such as investigation of criminal and other cases, suspect identification, linguistic evidence collecting, and others. Security agencies, police and judicial bodies, assisted by linguistic forensics, provide evidence in court proceedings via analysis of written documents, recorded conversations, statements, etc., and

<sup>1</sup> Jelena.Vojinovic-Kostic@mup.vladars.rs; jellianna@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.rogershuy.com/ae\\_forensic.html](http://www.rogershuy.com/ae_forensic.html)



work on the prevention of criminal activities, influence the upholding of public order, security and safety of citizens, the media, or social media.

The collaborative influence of linguistics with the above-mentioned subjects can be plainly seen, however, as the particular focus of this paper, collaboration with police will especially be highlighted. This collaboration is achieved through the combined expertise of both these areas of work, with the common goal of collecting evidence material via the detection of concealed messaging. This partnership plays an important role in the upholding of law.

## APPLIED FORENSIC LINGUISTICS

*Applied FL.* Coulthard and Johnson (2007) list seven areas in which the application of forensic linguistics can be found: 1. the language of legal documents; 2. the language of police; 3. interviews with vulnerable groups within the judicial system, such as children or witnesses; 4. court interactions; 5. linguistic evidence and court expert witness statements; 6. authorship and plagiarism, and 7. forensic phonetics and speaker identification.

Gibbons (2003) states that the field of FL also encompasses the investigation of the language used in prisons, the development of court translation, provision of expert linguistic evidence used in court proceedings, and efforts in clarifying the language of law.

Each of the above-mentioned fields is defined by various specificities, the identification and presentation of which are outside the scope of this paper. The goal of this paper is to illuminate the applied uses of FL and DA statements and hearings, or in other words, interviews conducted by police officers with various actors within an investigation. DA encompasses both spoken and written discourse. For speech DA to be adequately applied, a comprehensive understanding of linguistics and its methods is required, as well as familiarity with nonverbal communication, a field of study which is unfortunately considered by psychologists to be unique to their field, and as such viewed as separate from the study of language. For this reason, it is important to note that communication is all-encompassing, and includes both verbal and nonverbal communication (in the case of hand-written discourse materials, it is also necessary to note its graphological characteristics), as well as to draw attention to the interdisciplinary field of psycholinguistics, which encompasses both linguistic and psychological, theoretical and methodological foundations.

The field of FL includes the study of the grammatical structure of discourse; the language habits of individuals, social groups, and their deviations; semantics, or, the meanings which language units may or may not have and the ways in which these meanings reflect on particular situations and the individuals involved, both in speech and in text; pragmatics, on the level of speech DA; phonetics and phonology, or, the identification of a speaker's origins via the identification of language markers and various dialects; sociolinguistics, or the variations in language habits within a group and the language characteristics of the group; code switching; language adaptation, manipulation, etc.

In this paper, we will also briefly examine the process of authorship determination, as well as the applied uses of DA methods within the framework of FL, in the process of collecting evidence material, as well as in investigative and judicial proceedings, using the examples provided by Coulthard and Johnson (Coulthard & Johnson, 2007).

*The language of legal documents* as a field of applied FL is in its core a form of language analysis, analysis of the style in which legal documents are written, as well as the DA of its contents via the





application of the methods of semantics and pragmatics, based on the foundations of their theoretical frameworks. DA of legal documents presents a joint effort of law sciences and linguistics in achieving a common goal – law interpretation. It can also be stated that law sciences, in the interpretation of legal documents (laws, sub-legal acts, etc.), are working within the field of DA by using DA methods.

*The language of police* as a field of applied FL includes the analysis of speech and writing of police officials themselves, with the goal of collecting data for linguistic studies, as well as the analysis of the administrative style used in written and verbal interactions. Such studies are undertaken with the aim of collecting language data, which provides an insight into the linguistic habits of the members of the police force, which then can be further used in, for example, court proceedings with direct involvement of police force members, the analysis of the adequacy of statement reproductions, etc.

*Interviews with vulnerable groups within the judicial system, such as children and witnesses*, is a field of applied FL which has so far only been investigated in fragments, simply because of the difficulty of accessibility, the protection of data, and the specific demands of the investigative proceedings. The DA of speech of children and socially vulnerable witnesses includes psycholinguistic, sociolinguistic and pragmatic methods. It should be noted that an adequate DA within this area can primarily be achieved by a well-trained psycholinguist.

*Court interactions* are a field of applied FL requiring the presence of a linguist in courthouses, or otherwise access to court records. In the case of DA of official records, it is important to note that the court reporters often include their own language habits in the official records. Therefore, it is of particular importance, as in most DA cases (except in the analysis of texts such as legal documents, the determination of plagiarism in scientific papers, and similar), to listen through the original audio recording of the hearing, or better yet, to watch and listen to the audio-visual recording, as these provide greater insight into both the verbal and the nonverbal behaviour of the observed subject.

*Linguistic evidence and expert witness statements in court proceedings* – this application involves the presentation of FL findings by an expert, during the execution of evidence proceedings.

*Authorship and plagiarism* as another field of applied FL finds its basis in particular, specific language habits of authors, some of which may be statistical, mechanical or fabricated, and as such stand out from the habits which characterise the authors' own voices. The foundational method of authorship determination is comparison, applied on both the spoken and the written word (Johnson & Wright, 2014). The method of comparison is also the foundation of other FL applications, such as DA interviews. Similarly, a specific individual's word corpus can be used in authorship determination, as it is influenced by many factors, such as education level, place of origin, occupation, age, etc. Sociolinguistics also has its role in the process of authorship determination, identifying the author via their dialect, sociolect and idiolect characteristics. By using lexis with ties to a specific geographical area, as well as on the basis of accent type and other factors, the place of origin of the author can be dialectically determined (Vojinović-Kostić, 2024).

*Forensic phonetics and speaker identification* – an individual's language habits may best be compared to a fingerprint. Each individual has their own voice, with an individual set of language and voice characteristics, which, akin to a fingerprint, are unique to the individual. In the analysis of forensic characteristics technical tools such as the spectrograph are used. Spectrographs which "graphically" present an individual's voice are typically a three-dimensional presentation of the human voice (time - horizontal axis, frequency - vertical axis, amplitude – degree of distortion). This field of applied FL may be the best developed, as well as the narrowest, requiring a forensic expert with specific knowledge in broad



areas of phonetics, phonology, acoustics, physics and computer science, which are then to be applied in the refining of recording and analysis techniques.

*Linguistics and police.* The significance of language in police, judicial and court work has been acknowledged by lawmakers, and as such, matters of language have found their representation in several legal acts, such as in the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Srpska, which includes a number of statutes detailing the use of language and the written word. Acting in accordance with the statutes of the Criminal Procedure Code, in a variety of cases, police officers follow legal regulations fully aware of the importance placed on respecting the right to language and writing, as well as the consequences breaking these laws can cause in court proceedings, such as the questioning of the validity of the proceeding, court recording or comprehension of rights, human rights violations, etc. (Vojinović-Kostić 2024).

*Police hearings and investigations.* The significance of language in police hearings, statement taking and investigations, as well as the importance of familiarity with methods of language manipulation, language habits, individual speech characteristics, statement structure, and all the language markers used by police officers (either in hearings or during investigations) must be emphasised. Communication during statement taking is framed in the form of a dialogue, however it is meticulously guided, creating a psychological illusion of equality of the dialogue participants. Police officers may assume that any change in language behaviour during the statement taking process indicates concealed information in this area, carefully obscured among other data. Therefore, it is important to be able to define characteristic areas in statements which may be questionably true, based only on language characteristics, and making use of adequate practical examples. Such areas of importance may be, other than the above-mentioned: changing the structure of the statement, detailing, the use of different registers, answering avoidance, adjusting the statement, possibility or impossibility, the usage or non-usage of personal pronouns, remaining silent instead of answering certain questions, etc. Taken into consideration, measured, compared and analysed is the style of the individual, including all its sociolinguistic characteristics, dialectal and idiolectal characteristics, changes in register and functional style, phonetic and phonological characteristics, presuppositions, etc. DA also includes the tracking and comparison of an individual's nonverbal communication with their verbal statements, however, the importance of caution must be noted, due to the fact that, as stated by Chang and Chartrand (2003), mimicry can sometimes occur during a conversation, specifically, the mimicry of those who are in a position of power in a particular situation. In the case of a statement hearing, there exists a possibility of the police officer being mimicked, the likelihood of this occurring naturally increasing based on the psychological traits of the interviewee and the social contexts of origin, education level, age, etc. This problem may also present itself in speech, and in the case of speaking style and style characteristic overlap, Garrod and Pickering (2004) state that linguistic stylistic overlap increases with the amount of time spent in interviewer-interviewee conversation during the statement taking process, or, in other words, that stylistic overlap increases with time. The causes of this occurrence may vary, just as the causes of linguistic adaptation and code switching vary.<sup>3</sup>

It is necessary to note that verbal and nonverbal mimicry are not a one-way street. Not only does the interviewee mimic the interviewer, but the police officers themselves may mimic their conversation partners. This may be a planned occurrence, conscious or not, with or without a goal in mind. Unless planned, conscious and aimed towards achieving a certain goal (such as obtaining a confession or precise and useful information), it is unhelpful, and may even be detrimental to the investigative process. However, if the mimicry occurs with the aim of achieving a positive goal (positive relative

<sup>3</sup> For instance, in cases of hostage situations, negotiators cycle through a number of phases through which the similarity, overlap or differences in their behavioural adaptations to the situation and the negotiating party are increased. Successful adaptation leads to successful negotiation. We might also add that one of the signifiers, perhaps the most transparent, is language (style, choice of linguistic tools, etc.).





to the uncovering of truth in the investigation), as a form of positive manipulation, it is useful and justified. For this hearing technique<sup>4</sup> to be successfully realised in its entirety, its instigator must have rich linguistic knowledge and the ability for language adaptation on all grammatical levels (phonetics, phonology, lexis, syntax). A 2014 study by Richardson et al. (2014), on a corpus of 64 suspect hearings, recorded between June, 2000 and December, 2008 (hearings lasting from 9 to 125 minutes) showed that, of the hearings, 25 of which resulted in a confession of guilt, there exists a significant influence of stylistic overlap. The measurements were done according to the rules of the LSM method (Language Style Matching). The results of the study have shown that the stylistic overlap between suspects and police officers was more significant in those hearings which resulted in a confession of guilt. The usage of language knowledge with the aim of achieving a goal introduces the field of critical discourse analysis (CDA). Heydon (2012) studied the language of police hearings and investigations, as well as the techniques used, from a linguistic point of view, on the basis of recorded material from the Australian police force, and only of those suspects who voluntarily agreed to it. Leahy-Harland and Bull (2016) studied how suspects<sup>5</sup> in criminal cases in the UK answered questions posed by police officers, and the connections between the reactions and answers of the suspects and specific behaviours of police officers during the investigative process. Anumudu and Abaya (2019) analysed, through the lens of CDA, how the police use language tools in reproduction, negotiations, and holding the positions of power and domination during suspect hearings in the police station Garbassawa, in Kadun Metropolis.

Apart from these, there exists a number of other studies by linguists on the topic of language usage (whether it be a DA or a CDA approach), in collaboration with police forces worldwide and accessible for the most part in various scientific-investigative databases and networks on the Internet.

*Authorship determination.* Determination of authorship is another field of investigation where linguistics may be applied. Authors have particular language habits, some of which may be statistical, mechanical, or fabricated, and as such differentiated from the habits characteristic of the authors themselves. The basic method for determining authorship is comparison, and it may be used on both spoken or written text (Johnson & Wright, 2014). Similarly, with the aim of authorship determination, a specific individual's word corpus may be used, influenced by various factors such as education level, place of origin, occupation, age, etc. Sociolinguistics also has its role in author identification, through the analysis of dialect, sociolect and idiolect traits. Therefore, an author's place of origin may be identified via the usage of specific lexis tied to a geographical location, accent type, etc.

*Hate speech and verbal abuse.* Hate speech is a widely used term today, and according to Muheljević and Drače (2019) its main characteristics are:

- 1) explicit and implicit verbal attacks on an individual or a group of people, with the aim of discrimination and causing psychological pain;
- 2) the attacks being achieved through hatred, insults, discrimination, inciting violence, threats, hierarchical subjugation, etc.
- 3) insulting and discriminatory classifications based on belonging to a certain group, etc.

Whether speech may also be classified as hate speech can be determined by linguistics, using the methods of psycholinguistics, pragmatics and semantics. Psycholinguistics may lead us from the words themselves to their psychological impacts on the targeted persons, while semantic (or the meaningful

4 There exists a number of hearing techniques and the researchers who have taken an interest in the topic include Heydon, Fred E. Ibaun, John Ride, Joseph Bukcley, Brian Jayne, Roland Backer. It is important to note that this area has become of increased interest to researchers in the last decades, with new techniques being suggested, and the existing ones improved through numerous analyses of their adequacy and success rate.

5 Eleven police stations across the UK and Wales were included in the study.



content of the speech including implicit and explicit meanings) and pragmatic analysis of the types of speech acts may help us determine if a specific act may be classified as a threat. Linguistics determines, via the usage of methods, scientific theories and knowledge, if a given sentence, said to a specific individual, in a given moment, represents a threat or sexual harassment. It is linguistics that defines verbal blackmail, recognizes verbal abuse, etc.

## STATE AND CHALLENGES

This paper deals with the state of forensic linguistics in our country with a special reference to the state in the Republic of Srpska as well as the challenges.

*State.* The position of FL (DA and CDA included) in the countries of the Balkan peninsula is not enviable, but it appears that the interest exists, therefore it is up to linguists to promote FL through scientific studies, and to get more actively involved in the work of judicial bodies and the police force. There is not a great number of scientific studies in this field, and those that do exist have remained on the margins of the scientific community's interests. Some of the reasons for such a low interest in the field may be lack of knowledge, lack of contemporary themes, or a theoretical approach removed from practical experience.<sup>6</sup> Linguists have neither been employed in the police and judicial bodies nor consulted. It is also important to note that FL has frequently been studied by authors from different scientific fields (law, psychology, etc.), who may only have a marginal understanding of linguistic sciences, which may also have affected the position of FL in our communities.

Mirić (2017)<sup>7</sup>, speaking on FL and its possibilities for development in Serbia, notes that the field, despite its wide applicability, is still being developed. Forensic linguistics as a study program that deals with linguistic methods as methods used in forensics with the aim of detecting law breakers exists only as an elective course at the Department of General Linguistics, Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, as an elective course in the VIII semester, according to accreditation from 2023.

This subject is not on the schedule of lectures for the summer semester 2023/2024, which leads us to conclude that the class was not implemented.<sup>8</sup> In the territory geographically covered by the Republic of Srpska, there is no forensic linguistics course at the faculties dealing with language studies, as well as at the faculties of security sciences, nor is it represented as an elective course in their accreditations. Even though the situation is like this, there is no lack of interest among security scientists in the field of FL and an understanding of its importance, great application possibilities, and knowledge of its position on a global scale within the framework of security agencies and science.<sup>9</sup>

The turning point in the development of FL is its entry into the curricula of professional training and specialist training of members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Srpska, through independent thematic areas or within the framework of interdisciplinary topics. Namely, in the Republic of Srpska, apart from previous marginal interest, it would seem that FL is slowly gaining its

<sup>6</sup> It is known that police officials are quicker to adopt theoretical knowledge if it is also practically applicable, which, thus far, has not been linguists' approach in our territory. A connection between theory and practice has simply not been achieved.

<sup>7</sup> Faculty of Law, University of Niš, Serbia.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.fil.bg.ac.rs/sr/katedre/opsta-lingvistika/opsta-lingvistika-sa-stranim-jezikom>

<sup>9</sup> This is also supported by the fact that the Defence Center from Banja Luka published a book by Lidija Nikolić-Novaković, PhD, in 2017. *Forenzička lingvistika. Primena metoda forenzičke lingvistike u istragama pretnje (Forensic linguistics. Application of forensic linguistics methods in threat investigations/translated by author)* (Nikolić-Novaković, 2017) systematically presented the development of forensic linguistics, methods and its application in investigative actions with a focus on threat investigations and thus laid the foundations of forensic linguistics in our country.





place within the scientific community. The improved visibility and increased interest in FL have no doubt been influenced by the engagement of a PhD of Linguistic Sciences (basic studies: General Linguistics; area of specialization: Discourse analysis) as part of the work force of the Administration for Police Education, which in turn indicates a growing understanding of the significance of linguistics in achieving police work by the leading staff of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Administration for Police Education. In 2021, as suggested by the Administration for Police Education,<sup>10</sup> the Ministry of Internal Affairs incorporated the teaching and specialist training curriculum “Behaviour of police in cases of familial abuse”. The curriculum is centred on DA (CDA) as a specific, thematic area, and has been realized since through a number of planned classes by the author of this paper. It may be said that this has been the crucial moment for FL in the Republic of Srpska, after which several works on this topic have been published, encompassing both theoretical and practical, experiential approaches.

The scientific and professional journal *Bezbjednost, policija, građani* (*Security, police, citizens/* translated by author) (published by Police Education, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Srpska) has published a number of papers on forensic linguistics so far.<sup>11</sup> This is followed by works published by other publishers, which tells us about changes in the interest of the scientific and professional public in the field of FL, especially critical analysis of discourse.<sup>12</sup>

The fact that the author of these lines has been invited to professional training related to the actions of the police in investigations, police interrogations and hearings with a special emphasis on vulnerable groups, above all women and girls as victims of violence, speaks of the increased interest in the area of application of the CDA and DA.

In addition to the above-mentioned works, there are also a number of others that appear from time to time in magazines and collections of papers from scientific and professional conferences.<sup>13</sup> In addition to a brief history of the application of linguistics in court processes, the paper also presents methods of analysis when extracting forensic markers at different levels of the language structure, types of individual speech and language characteristics that serve as markers for identifying and verifying speakers, and the possibility of forensic analysis of written language samples is also indicated.

What is important to point out is that only one monographic publication on this topic has been published, and that is the publication of Nikolić-Novaković that was already discussed, which is in any case not enough considering the wide field of interest, variety of methods and applications of forensic linguistics.

*Challenges.* From the above, it can be concluded that FL has attracted the attention of our scientific workers, linguists, that there are scientific works that can serve as a basis for further work and research within this broad field of applied linguistics, and although their number is small their scientific contribution in relation to their number is unquestionable. The question arises, why is this so? Some of the

<sup>10</sup> Then it was called Administration for Police Training and the name was changed in 2023.

<sup>11</sup> Vojinović-Kostić J., (2019), Теоријски осврт на развој форензичке лингвистике са посебним освртом на специфичности дискурса пријетњи и уцјена као појавних видова ултиматума. 2/19, 69-79.; Војиновић-Костић, Ј. (2020). *Језички аспекти савременог тероризма*. 1-2/20, 19-29.

<sup>12</sup> Војиновић-Костић, Ј. (2023). Законски оквир и испитивања осумњичених за кривична дјела са становишта лингвистике. *Баштина, свеска* 59, 75-89, Serbia, Приштина-Лепосаваћ: Институт за српску културу; Војиновић-Костић Ј., (2024). Улога форензичке лингвистике у раду полиције. *Зборник радова са IV међународног скупа „Савремени изазови и пријетње безбједности (Proceedings of the IV international conference “Modern challenges and threats to security / translated by author), 11-20.* УНИБЛ, Република Српска, Бања Лука: Факултет безбједносних наука.

<sup>13</sup> Kašić and Đorđević dealt with FL in a paper with the same title *Forenzička lingvistika u kriminalistici (Forensic linguistics in criminology / translated by author)* (Kašić & Đorđević, 2010). University of Belgrade, Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, Serbia; University of Belgrade, Faculty of Security, Serbia.



reasons may be the fact that a small number of linguists are involved in the investigative work of expert witnesses and the availability of the corpus for analysis is insufficient, that the investigative procedure is closed to the public, that it is almost impossible to obtain the consent of the authorities who conduct investigations to attend the investigations as well as have access to the investigation material, etc.

Considering the importance of conducting investigations, the laws to which each phase of the investigation is subject, it is clear that changes in this part are unlikely to occur. We can say that there is a special challenge that the linguists who deal with FL face, no matter what field it is (phonetics, discourse analysis...) and to what extent it relates to investigative procedures and even court ones. As this is the difficult-to-access corpus for eventual analysis, and the employment of linguists within the security agencies and the Ministry of the Interior is of great importance, and the employment of a linguist within the Ministry of the Interior is a big step for the development of FL, which at the same time speaks of a high degree of scientific awareness. The knowledge within the aforementioned Ministry also resulted in such a procedure.

In addition to the above, it must be noted as well that the secrecy of the data which are part of the corpus is the focus of interest of forensic linguists and it is necessary to take care of it, which again, sometimes, can limit us in the possibilities of drawing conclusions and supporting them with evidence from the corpus.

Also, linguists, if they are not police officers, have difficulty in accessing hearings and interrogations, but also, through communication with fellow police officers, they can obtain a lot of information that can help in the analysis of the corpus, making conclusions, setting up hypotheses, etc. FL has the task of helping police officers in investigations through CDA of statements, documents, determining the authorship, credibility of statements, uncovering hidden information, etc.

The experience of the author of this paper speaks of the high degree of interest in CDA on the part of the police officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Srpska, the developed awareness of the applicability of its methods in investigations, and the importance of education in that field, and it is up to us, as linguists, to work on the polarization of FL, its promotion and the improvement of methods and the expansion of the field of application.

## CONCLUSION

In this paper was presented a short overview of the applicative possibilities of FL in judicial and investigative work, as well as its methods and tools. From this we can clearly intuit that its possibilities for application are wide and significant. The interest for this interdisciplinary field exists on a worldwide basis, as evidenced by a large number of studies conducted by linguists in collaboration with police forces and judicial bodies, which also indicates that police forces, investigative and judicial bodies in their entirety are well aware of the possibilities and opportunities that FL brings. A particular joy to linguists is the constant growing interest in DA and CDA, as well as the fact that these methods are increasingly gaining significance in the analysis of written and spoken interviews. Their methods and theoretical findings are fast becoming a part of interview conducting techniques of police officers, or even the technique itself. The linguist's voice is becoming significant in this area of social work. That is the state of the world, but what about our territory?

More hard work on the development of FL is required, on discovering new methods and raising awareness of its importance, with the aim to raise the collaboration of linguists with police forces and the judicial bodies to a higher level.





## REFERENCES

- Anumudu K.U., Abaya A. S., (2019). A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Language of Dominance in Selected Police Interrogation of Suspects in Kaduna Metropolis. *Journal of Languages, Linguistics and Literary Studies (JOLLS)*. Vol. 9. No. 2, 30-40.
- Chang, C. M., Chartrand, T. L., (2003). Self-monitoring without awareness: Using mimicry as a no conscious affiliation strategy. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 85, 1170-1179. Doi: 10.1037/0022-3514.85.6.1170.
- Coulthard, M., Johnson, A., (2007a). *An Introduction to Forensic Linguistics: Language in Evidence*. London & New York, USA: Routledge.
- Donohue W. A., Roberto A. J., (1996). An empirical examination of three models of integrative and distributive bargaining. *International Journal of Conflict Management*, 7, 209-229. Doi: 10.118/eb022782.
- Garrod, S., Pickering, M. J., (2004). Why is conversation so easy? *Trends in cognitive science*, 8, 8-11. Doi:10.1016/tics.2003.10.106.
- Gibbons, J., (2003). *Forensic Linguistics: An Introduction to Language in the Justice System*. Victoria, Australia: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Heydon R., (2012). Helping the Police with Their Enquiries: Enhancing the Investigative Interview with Linguistic Research. *The Police Journal* 85(2), 101-122. Doi:10.1350/pojo.2012.85.2.581
- Johnson, A., Wright, D., (2014). Identifying idiolect in forensic authorship attribution. *Language and Law/Linguagem e Direito*, 1(1), 37-69. (electronic journal). <https://ler.letras.up.pt/uploads/ficheiros/12684.pdf> (Retrieved 3.4.2004.)
- Kašić Z., Đorđević J. P., (2010). Forenzička lingvistika u kriminalistici. *Nauka, bezbednost, policija*, 15 (1), 111-126.
- Leo, R., (2013). *Why Interrogation Contamination Occurs Richard*. University of San Francisco. Law Research Paper.
- Leahy-Harland S., Bull R., (2016). Police Strategies and Suspect Responses in Real-Life Serious Crime Interviews. *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology* 32(2), Doi:10.1007/s11896-016-9207-8.
- Mirić F., (2017). The application of forensic linguistic in criminalistics. *Thematic Conference proceedings of international significance „Archibald Reiss days”, vol.1*, 491-495.
- Muheljić, A., Drače, S., (2019). Posljedice govora mržnje: pregled empirijskih studija, *Radovi Filozofskog Fakulteta U Sarajevu*, (22), 273-288. Univerzitet u Sarajevu, Sarajevo: Filozofski fakultet.
- Nikolić-Novaković L., (2017). *Forenzička lingvistika. Primena metoda forenzičke lingvistike u istragama pretnje*. Republika Srpska, Banja Luka: Evropski defendelocija centar.
- Svartvik J., (1968). *The Evans Statements: A Case for Forensic Linguistics*. Sweden, Goteborg: University of Goteborg Press.
- Richardson, B. H., Taylor, P. J., Snook, B. at al., (2014). Language Style matching and Police Interrogation Outcomes. *Law and Human Behavior*, Vol. 38, No. 4, 375-366.
- Svartvik J., (1968). *The Evans Statements: A Case for Forensic Linguistics*. Sweden, Goteborg: University of Goteborg Press.



- Војиновић-Костић, Ј., (2020). Теоријски осврт на развој форензичке лингвистике са посебним освртом на специфичности дискурса пријетњи и уцјена као појавних видова ултиматума. *Безбједност, полиција, грађани*, 2/19, 69-79. Република Српска, Бања Лука: Министарство унутрашњих послова Републике Српске.
- Војиновић-Костић, Ј., (2020). Језички аспекти савременог тероризма. *Безбједност, полиција, грађани*, 1-2/20, 19-29. Република Српска, Бања Лука: Министарство унутрашњих послова Републике Српске.
- Војиновић-Костић, Ј., (2022). Дискурсна анализа изјаве: *Приручник за специјалистичку обуку за рад на предметима насиља у породици*, Министарство унутрашњих послова Републике Српске, 75-76.
- Војиновић-Костић, Ј., (2023). Законски оквир и испитивања осумњичених за кривична дјела са становишта лингвистике. *Баштина, свеска 59*, 75-89. Србија, Приштина-Лепосаваћ: Институт за српску културу, Приштина-Лепосаваћ.
- Војиновић-Костић Ј., (2024). Улога форензичке лингвистике у раду полиције. *Зборник радова са IV међународног скупа „Савремени изазови и пријетње безбједности*, 11-20. УНИБЛ, Република Српска, Бања Лука: Факултет безбједносних наука.
- <https://www.fil.bg.ac.rs/sr/studije/osnovne-akademske-studije/jezik-knjizevnost-kultura/upisani-od-2023/opsta-lingvistika-sa-stranim-jezikom> (Retrieved 30.6.2024.)
- <https://www.fil.bg.ac.rs/sr/katedre/opsta-lingvistika/opsta-lingvistika-sa-stranim-jezikom> (Retrieved 30.6.2024.)
- [http://www.rogershuy.com/ae\\_forensic.html](http://www.rogershuy.com/ae_forensic.html) (Retrieved 30.6.2024.)