

Pragmatic Acts In Crime-Motivated Police Interactions In Ilorin, Nigeria

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Abstract

Crime-Motivated Police Interaction (CMPI) is a fact-finding process which involves Investigating Police Officers (IPOs), complainants, suspects, and witnesses. Existing studies on CMPI have concentrated on discourse acts such as speech acts, pragmatic acts and (im)politeness strategies in Police-Suspect Interaction (PSI), with little attention paid to how IPOs, suspects and other stakeholders in PSI deploy pragmatic acts to negotiate the discourse of CMPI. The deployment of pragmatic acts as fact-finding strategies in CMPI was investigated to unravel the sources of cases to describe the various practs applied in Crime-Motivated Police Interactions in Ilorin, Nigeria.

Jacob Mey's Dialogic and Pragmatic Acts Theory was adopted as the framework. An ethnographic design was adopted for the study. Fifteen cases including a threat to life, conspiracy, and assault were randomly observed between 2012 and 2015 at Kwara State Police Headquarters, Ilorin. These were complemented with written confessional statements of selected complainants, suspects and witnesses. Data were subjected to pragmatic analysis.

The practs encoded in CMPI were threatening, attacking conspiring and commanding. Investigating police officers obtain cautionary statements from suspects involved in criminal cases such as kidnapping. Investigators gave suspects the opportunity to answer the allegations against them and gave their own accounts before a decision on prosecution was made. Voluntary statements were obtained from complainants and witnesses on related cases such as homicide. Necessary information about the offences was gathered from the participants to ascertain the truth. The interviews of witnesses were directed at eliciting facts in line with provisions of the Evidence Act.

CMPI depicts the deployment of pragmatic tools which guide the modus operandi of the participants in reporting different crimes. Linguistic strategies in each phase of interaction broaden our understanding of the situational usage of police registers and enhance our knowledge of the contextualised words in complainants', suspects' and witnesses' discourse.

Key words: *Crime-motivated interaction, Police investigation procedure, Complainants and crime suspects, Ilorin, Nigeria.*

1.0 Background to the study

Language as an instrument of communication presents a certain continuum of variation, depending on numerous contextual aspects such as the function of a text, the readership and the role of the writer. These are the grounds for the constant study of various domains of language, one of which is legal discourse. Meanwhile, the law is made possible by language. The term Legal discourse expatiates meaningful and functional use of the language of the law. Legal discourse also captures the various relationships between language use and the realm of law. It also includes police discourse. (Beverly Brown, 1986) states, police constitute the most visible symbol of the law and law is a system of rules which every citizen in a country must obey. Furthermore, legal discourse consists of contextualised utterances (text) that serve a certain primary communicative purpose. Therefore, the intention manifested in the text is reflected in the actual illocutionary force of its component utterances and the perlocutionary effects set legal discourses apart from other types of discourse.

Language and law, of which aspect is termed forensic linguistics by some scholars (Conley and O' Barr, 2005), present legal discourse. Forensic linguistics has two of the most interesting aspects of applied linguistics. It reflects in what is said in police investigations and courtrooms by suspects and witnesses involved in civil or criminal offences that are socially significant for citizens in private and local discourse. The statements recorded are made public after they travel from the interrogation room to the courtroom and enter the social consciousness through the media.

Speech is, therefore, recorded either in notes or in official audio recordings. This makes it possible for the defendant's or a witness' words to be quoted, requoted or recontextualised across time and space throughout an investigation and in any subsequent trial or legal proceedings (Johnson and Baron, 2014: 525). The interrogations of suspects and witnesses in the work are in the form of written statements, which are in line with the provisions of the evidence acts used in court.

Therefore, this work is carried out to find out the linguistic features which characterise interactions in police investigation rooms among the participants and to encourage law

enforcement agencies and the Nigerian government to introduce forensic linguists into examining the presupposed, contextual and situational meanings of statements before forwarding cases to courts. This effort is expected to maximize the effectiveness of police investigation report.

1.1 Statement of the problem

Forensic linguistics covers a wide range of research on language in legal settings. However, there is already a wide and interdisciplinary range of scholarly work, available for the new researcher to discover across all the domains of legal talk. Notable among these works in the West is Heydon (2005) with versions of events, showing the ways in “topic management resources”. Coulthard and Johnson (2007) show that much of a narrative can be contained in a lawyer’s questions, rather than in witnesses’ answers, through confirmation-seeking questions that require only yes or no responses. Scholars have equally worked on police discourse and related issues in Nigeria. Ogunsiji (1989) and Farinde (1997) did a study on ‘the language of the police and the accused discourse’, while Ogunsiji (1989) examines ‘police language in Nigeria’. Farinde (2006) examines speech rights manipulation and power asymmetry in Nigerian courtroom discourse. Aremu (2009) works on Police interrogation and criminal investigation, and Adeboye (2010) studies the pragmatic use of English in the spoken English discourse of police officers and their interactants in Nigeria, among others.

However, limited works have analysed practs in police statements using the pragememe. Therefore, this work attempts to unravel the practs used in Crime-Motivated Police Interactions. Revealing the pragmatic strategies used in reporting crimes in police investigation room discourse, to enable us to understand the structure of discourse. This work, thus uses an adaptation of Mey’s pragememe to explicate the structure and content of discourse in Crime-Motivated Police Interaction (CMPI) and bring out the meaning of the reports and the orientation of participants towards the subject matter of interrogation.

1.2 Aim and significance of the study

A major significance of this paper is that it will further illuminate the study of the organisation of discourse in CMPI and explicate the orientation of the participants towards the discourse. The work will therefore add value and quality to existing research works in the field.

1.3 Specific objectives

The Objectives of the paper are to:

1. Assess the use of practs in written statements.
2. Examine the mode of interactions in CMPI.
3. Explain the contextual features utilized by police officers.
4. Identify the politeness differences between investigators and the suspects, and how these differences affect the dynamics of the discourse between them, and
5. Examine the participants' shared backgrounds and their relations to pragmatic presuppositions in reporting different kinds of crime, and the evidential consequences.

1.5 Research Questions

The overall broad research questions to be addressed are:

1. How are practs applied in written statements?
2. What are the modes of interaction in CMPI?
3. How have the contextual features utilized by police officers influenced CMPI?
4. How do the politeness differences between investigators, complainants, witnesses and suspects affect the dynamics of the discourse between them, and
5. What are the participants' shared background and their relations to pragmatic presuppositions in reporting different kinds of crime, and the evidential consequences?

1.4 Scope of the paper

The scope of the paper is limited to police investigations of various recent crimes in the Kwara State Police Headquarters, Nigeria. This paper is representational, in that it involves only cases reported within Ilorin and the surrounding localities within the state. The represented towns and villages are Erin-Ile, Ilorin, Patigi, Kotu, Sobi, Offa, Oro, Omu- Aran and Okuta. Some of such cases are homicide, rape, assault, robbery, burglary and theft.

2.0 Review of related literature

2.1 Forensic linguistics

Forensic linguistics is the study of language in the context of the law. Law and language are interwoven and inseparable. To show the relationship between law and language, (Gibbons 2003) asserts that law is an overwhelmingly linguistic institution. Laws are coded in language and the concepts that are used to construct the law are only accessible through language.

'Legal processes such as court cases, police investigations and the management of prisons take place through language. In particular, the contracts which regulate our relationships with partners, employers and providers are mainly through language' (Gibbons, 2003: 1) Just as there

are experts who scientifically inspect the finger-prints of suspects and medical experts who carry out their side of the investigation through forensic medicine, so also do some linguists study recorded conversations, statements, documents and written interviews under forensic linguistics.

The identified role that forensic linguistics plays, according to (Coulthard 1992), is that forensic discourse analysis is concerned with handwritten records made by police officers during interviews with accused persons and witnesses, and also statements dictated by witnesses and suspects to investigating police officers. Very often, the defence in a case requires the forensic discourse analyst to go over the interview records or statements of such cases to establish the authenticity of statements. Fabrications, if any, are expected to be discovered by the analyst. For instance, what does a given text say? Who is the actual author? In answering the questions, the analysts still fall back on their knowledge of phonetics and phonology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics and discourse analysis.

Among the popular works in this growing field are Coulthard (1992, 1993, 1994 a & b, 1997) and (Eagleson 1994). Prominent among the people who use the services of forensic linguists are the Criminal Investigator (police or private detective), the prosecuting lawyer, the judge, the accused person wanting to prove his innocence and the witness wanting to assert himself (Osisanwo 2008 26-27).

2.2 Pragmatics and Forensic Linguistics

Pragmatics is important to Forensic linguistics development, and what differentiates pragmatics from semantics are the contextual factors that pragmatics rely on (Bloor and Bloor, 2007). Pragmatics concepts, therefore, such as cooperative principle, speech acts, and performatives are discussed alongside their relationships with forensic linguistics.

2.2.1 Cooperative Principle

At the heart of Pragmatics is the Cooperative Principle of Grice (1975) which is also very important in Forensic Linguistics development. Grice's (1975) Cooperative Principle is indispensable in communication. Interlocutors engage in several strategies to accomplish this goal. Grice labels these strategies, as maxims of conversation. These are **Quantity**: Make your contribution as informative as is required for the current purpose of the exchange: Do not make your contribution more informative than is required. **Quality**: Do not say what you believe to be false; do not say what you lack adequate information on. **Relation**: Be relevant! **Manner**: Avoid

obscurity of expression Be brief, Be orderly. The cooperative principle given above reveals not just only how utterances are generated, but also how they are comprehended (Joshua 2013:17).

2.2.2 Speech Act

Speech Act was first conceived by J.L Austin and later developed by John Searle. This concept is also very important and crucial to Forensic linguistics development. Solan and Tiersma (2005) affirm that utterances not only convey meaning but can also function as acts that have an impact on the surrounding world beyond mere communication of information. Austin (1962) asserts that in every utterance a person performs an act such as stating a fact or an opinion, confirming or denying something, making a prediction or request, asking a question, issuing an order, giving permission, giving pieces of advice, making an offer, making a promise, thanking somebody or condoling somebody. These are speech acts. Actions performed in utterances are called speech acts. Another important linguistic link with forensic linguistics in pragmatics is performatives.

Prosecuting police officers make use of the Cooperative Principle and speech act to present their version of reality. Defendants and witnesses also employ the speech act and Cooperative Principle to project their views. These pragmatic tools are, indispensable to the development of this work.

2.2.3 Performatives

A very crucial and integral category of speech acts includes performatives. Performative verbs are used to produce acts that show illocutionary force. For example, “I name the ship queen” and “You are under arrest”. The relevance of the theory of performatives to legal domains has been studied in detail by Tiersma (1992). Judges make use of performatives a lot, especially during verdict giving. For example, “I hereby sentence you to ten years imprisonment with hard labour.” A performative clause must contain a performative verb because the verb effectively spells out the illocutionary force of the performative clause which brings about perlocutionary effect on the hearer.

Felicity conditions: An illocutionary act can be said to be felicitous, depending on how such an act meets the felicity conditions of sincerity in what is said. How prepared are the participants in the speech act, as well as the circumstances of the speech act, if the performance of the speech act is successful, then the illocutionary act is felicitous? If the locution is well executed, it is felicitous. The fulfilment condition means the perlocutionary effect of the speech act. Is it the desired effect? If yes, it is also felicitous on this condition. When these felicity conditions are

met by an illocutionary act, then it is said to be felicitous (Osisanwo 2008: 65). The notion of performatives is to have a role to play in understanding operative documents, such as the police investigation written statements. This paper adopted performatives for an explicit understanding of stated words.

2.3 Police interrogation

Territo (1993) has distinguished between police interviews and interrogations from the point of view of their objectives: while interrogation is out to match acquired information to a particular suspect and to secure a confession, an interview is primarily for gaining information. Territo argues that interrogations are used to obtain valuable facts, to identify the guilty and to obtain confessions. In this work, police obtain statements from suspects to arrive at reliable information to be used as evidence.

Shuy (2005) discusses extensively how law enforcement officers use (and misuse) language in the interrogation of suspects to obtain facts and confession. He accuses police officers of using different linguistic entrapments and overbearing non-verbal cues to extract information from suspects. He, therefore, recommends enlisting the service of expert forensic linguists in legal processes to protect innocent suspects from convictions based on misleading conversational strategies used by police interrogators. The paper proposes the introduction of forensic linguists in police investigation rooms to witness interrogations for reliable results from investigating police officers and suspects.

While Aronsson (1991) investigates miscommunication in interrogations, Cotterill (1998) works on the language of confession, interrogation and deception. Also, Coultard (1996) studies audience manipulation in police reports of interviews with suspects.

Fox (1993) explains that ‘continue’ is one verb which is repeated frequently in police statements. Police ‘continue with enquiries’ they ‘continue to question’ they continue questioning.’ Police officers enumerate dates and times, rather than ‘list’ or ‘give’ them. ‘Enumerate’ is an example of legal jargon, unlikely to be used by the lay public. Another is ‘tender’, which is found in the declaration signed by all police witnesses.

I declare that this statement.... Is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and
I make it known that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry... I
shall be liable to prosecution. If I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know
to be false

Policemen ‘patrol an area’. ‘The scene of the crime’ is used in their statements, and is not simply found in bad detective stories. It seems that police officers do not go somewhere ‘with a colleague, they are usually accompanied by’ them. The verb ‘deny’ is also common in police statements. ‘Olu denied the allegations’, ‘Tunde denied’, and ‘he continually denied’. The statements used in the study indicate the verbs ‘continue’, and ‘proceed,’ along with the use of date which expresses legal terminologies.

However, Shuy and Aronsson (1991) express how language is misused by police officers during interviews while Swanson Territo, Gudjonsson and Clark (1986) express that police interrogation is primarily for gaining information.

A model is proposed which provides a framework for understanding the process and outcome of interrogations. Written statements collated by the police are the main source of data and models for analysis in the paper.

2.4 Pragmatic Acts

The concept of pragmatic acts was first introduced by Gu (1993) to serve as a substitute for Austins’ (1962) speech act and perlocutionary act as a result of speech act weaknesses. Mey (2001) states that “What is wrong with speech act theory in general... is that it lacks a theory, and if it does have such a theory, the action in question is atomistic, wholly emanating from individuals”. Mey (2001: 214) states that:

Human activity is not the prerogative of an individual ‘setting goals’ and devising strategies, or charting out courses of action like a captain on his ship, a platonic rider on her or his beast of burden. Rather, the individual is situated in a social context, which means that she or he is empowered, as well as limited, by the conditions of her or his life.

The idea of a person as a free agent, engaging in all sorts of free enterprise and deciding freely on means and ends may not be realised. Situations surrounding humans can determine their limitations and expansions. Mey (2001) continues by saying that pragmatic acts can be considered as adapting oneself linguistically and otherwise to one’s world. In pragmatic acts, there is always an agent and an act (Mey, 2001: 214). These identified variables or factors are termed ‘member resources’ or MR; that is, the resources that people are disposed to as regards communication. These, according to Fairclough (1983: 41), are often referred to as “background

knowledge”. While speech acts, when used in contexts are pragmatic acts, pragmatic acts need to be speech acts (Mey 2001:216).

Also, pragmatic acts deal with situating speech acts in context, especially when analysing people’s conversations. No conversational contribution can be properly understood unless it is situated within the environment in which it is meant to be understood (Mey 2001: 217). A pragmatic act is performed when we communicate implicitly (Odebunmi, 2006). ‘Perlocution is not a single act performed by a speaker nor its effects being caused by an utterance. It involves (rhetorical) transactions involving both a speaker and hearers as well as other agents or factors’. (Gu 1993). Although pragmatic acts share some similarities with indirect speech acts, they are different and are in sharp contrast to speech acts. Pragmatic acts incorporate the notion of “common sense”. According to Mey (2001: 218), for speech acts to be effective, they must be situated. That is, they must rely on and actively create the situations in which they are realized. In the words of Mey (2001:218), “there are no speech acts, but only situated speech acts or instantiated pragmatic acts, pragmatic acts involve adapting oneself to context as well as adapting context to oneself” (Mey, 2001). This is the reason the pragmatic acts, when suitably employed, can be properly used in analysing the pragmatic functions in police investigation room discourse.

Mey (2001: 223) states that “there is only one force in any act of uttering, whether illocutionary or perlocutionary, and it is pragmatic: the force of the pragmeme”. An Israeli linguist, Dennis Kurzon who has worked on the ‘pragmeme of incitement’ states that ‘an utterance may constitute an act of incitement if the circumstances are appropriate to allow for such an interpretation’ (Kurzon 1998: 28). In explaining further, Mey (2001: 221) states that;

the theory of pragmatic acting does not try to explain language from the inside out, that is from words having their origin in a sovereign speaker, and going out to an equally sovereign hearer. Rather, its explanatory movement is from the outside; the focus is on the environment in which participants find their affordances; such that the entire situation is brought to bear on what can be said in the situation, as well as what is actually being said.

The theory is about an external development that brings about a development in a situation involving participants, whereby participants deliberate on solutions suitable for resolving their issues. The emphasis is not on conditions and rules for an individual speech act but it depends on

a situational prototype that is being carried out. The speakers and hearers thereby situate a reasonable conclusion over the situation.

Mey (2001) further explains that pragmatic acts “engage the whole individual in communication, not just the speech part of his or her contribution. They are also essential in establishing and maintaining the meta-communication framework for communication. We are not concerned with matters of grammatical correctness or the strict observance of rules (Mey, 2001: 221). What counts as practs is determined by the understanding that participants have engaged in communicative utterances in a particular situation and the effects that the practs have, or may have, in a given context. This has been explained schematically by Mey (1993, 2001).

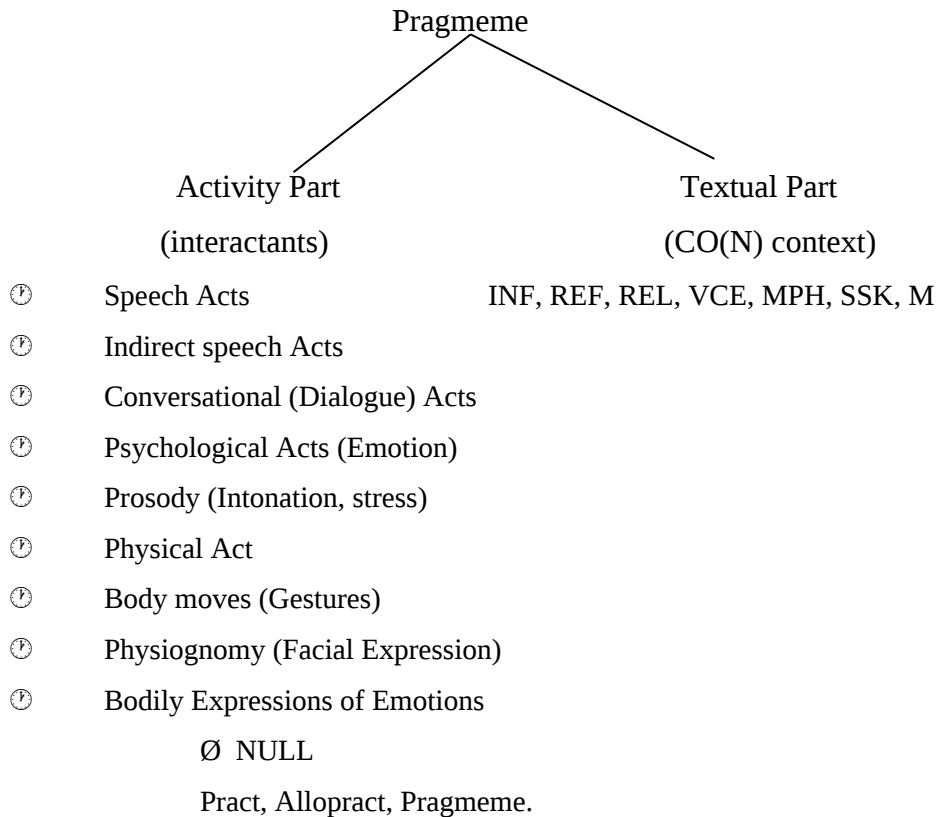


Fig 4: Mey’s (2001) Model of Pragmeme (Mey 2001:222)

The pragmatic act (or Pragmeme) of Mey (2001) is employed as a theoretical framework for the paper. The pragmatic act or pragmeme in the above chart has two sides (i) the activity part and (ii) the textual part. The central point in the concept of the pragmatic act is the pragmeme. A pragmeme is a generalized pragmatic act. A pragmeme can be instantiated through individual pragmatic acts (Mey 2001: 222). This is what Jacob Mey refers to as “practs”. An allopract or

pract, according to Mey (2001:221) is a concrete and different realization of instantiation of a particular pragmeme.

The activity part of a pragmeme shows the options that are available to participants (interlocutors) in a communication. These include speech acts, indirect speech acts, dialogue or conversational acts, psychological acts, prosody, physical acts, body moves, facial expression, etc. Also, the textual part of a pragmeme contains the “contextual features that influence communication” (Odebunmi, 2006), such as Inference INF, Reference REF, Relevance REL, voice VCE, Shared Situational Knowledge SSK, Metaphor MPH and M, Metapragmatic joker. Both the participants (or interactants) and the context (or MCB) in which they operate are essential to our understanding of a pragmeme. These concepts will be analysed with the use of written statements.

The relationship between these acts/practs and other speech acts is that other speech acts are atomistic. According to Mey, the interpretation of an utterance is dialogic, which means that both speaker and hearer participate in interaction. He added that meaning in language is determined by extralinguistic factors, that is, the condition of the environment which is their ‘affordances’ determine meaning in any interaction.

The submission of Pragmatic Acts has considerably shifted emphasis from individual speech acts which hitherto were seen as the principal means of realizing verbal control of the environment and people’s adaptation to it. In real-world interactions, the success of people’s performances does not exclusively reside in the power inherent either in the speaker or his/her words or speech acts. Ultimately, this power resides in the society, but it is “mediated and negotiated” through the use of pragmatics acts (Mey *ibid*).

Our focus in this paper is to analyse the pragmatic acts in police investigation room discourse. Some features in Mey’s (2001) model of pragmatic acts are applied since the written statements have situated and instantiated pragmatic acts and “instantiated speech acts” embedded in them in understanding the activity part or interactant and textual or contextual parts of the pragmeme. The discourse represents the Crime-Motivated Police Interaction CMPI in the paper.

3.0 Methodology

The paper is limited to police investigations of various recent crimes in the Kwara State Police Headquarters, Nigeria. This work represents cases reported within Ilorin and the surrounding localities within the state such as assault, criminal conspiracy and theft. The work adopted a

modified version of Mey's (2001) theory of Pragmeme to examine the pragmatic functions in CMPI. Data from recent police investigations were collected for this work from the State Police Headquarters in Ilorin. Permission was sought and secured from the State Commissioner of Police and Public Relations Officer. Stratified random samplings of different cases were carried out on the available 60 titles of CMPI, and 15 titles were selected for our analysis. Statements of selected suspects, witnesses and complainants from 2012-2015 were analysed descriptively with insights from Mey's (2001) theory of the pragmeme.

4.0 Data Analysis

4. 1 The case of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide

Pract interrogating: Interrogating is asking somebody a lot of questions over a long period, to obtain information.

Data 1 –Background:

On June 28, 2015, a male suspect from Koro village via Patigi reported at the Police Division that on June 22, 2015, his partner and him reported to Koro village, Patigi, from Isanlu, Kogi State where they went to buy engine oil and were attacked by robbers. The deceased and the suspect ran into the bush in different directions. The contextual features identified are Ref, SCK, SSK, and Impicature

Excerpt 1:

Suspect (I)

Himself and his employer went to the bush for sawing wood and the oil of sawing machine got finished and that on their way to buy oil two armed robbers attacked them. He alighted from the motorcycle and escaped from the scene of the crime and cannot categorically say the where about of the victim

Excerpt 2: Suspect (II)

The victim rebuked her while insulting him and later reported her to the village head who settled it for them. She changed in her character for better and that she never threatens to kill the deceased

Excerpt 3: Suspect(iii)

That he once threatened to attack the deceased with the Bororo cult but the issue was settled by the village head

Excerpt 4: Investigating Police Officer (IPO)

That the 1st suspect was arrested for his failure to give satisfactory account of the deceased, the 2nd suspect was arrested for her threat prior to the time and the 3rd suspect was arrested for interrogation.

The Investigating Police Officer, in this case, used practs interrogating by charging the suspects to the police investigation room, to interrogate them on the demise of a wood sawyer operator attached to the case. Social situational knowledge (SSK) shows the situation of somebody going to work and later being found dead, which needs critical examination as killing is a criminal offence.

The three suspects involved were interviewed. The first one applied reference (Ref) by referring to their trip to sawing wood and while coming back they were attacked by robbers. He escaped not knowing the whereabouts of his partner. The application of social situational knowledge (SCK) is enhanced when the second suspect expressed the locutionary act of insulting the deceased in the past, and in most communities once there is conflict development, leaders are informed. She said the issue was settled for them and that she changed her attitude toward him. So also, the 3rd suspect's issue with the threat was settled by their community leader.

The three suspects were not charged to court which implies that the Investigating Police Officer could not hold any substantial evidence against the three suspects. They were released to reliable sureties, while the police make deliberate efforts on arresting the real perpetrators.

4. 3 Practs in the case of criminal conspiracy, kidnapping and armed robbery

The pract attacking:

Data 2 - Background: On July 14, 2015, at about 1100 hours, the complainant, a male from the Olowonijere area via Omu-Aran, Kwara State, reported that some hoodlums invaded his house at Ga-Olowonijere. They came with a gun firing sporadically and fiercely and attempted to kidnap him and his family but he narrowly escaped into the bush. The hoodlums took away his daughter's phone, and they started using the phone to call him and threaten him to pay one million ransom, or else they would come back to kidnap him. One of the suspects was later caught by the vigilante at 14/7/2015 0900hrs at Arandun village via Omu-Aran. This happened when he came to monitor the house of the complainant at the Fulani camp via Omu-Aran. His arrest led to the arrest of the 3 suspects. The practs used in the police investigation room context are noted and the contextual features relevant are (SSK), (Ref), (Rel), and implicature.

Excerpt 1: Complainant

A gang of armed robbers armed with gun and other dangerous weapons invaded his house, shooting sporadically and the neighbourhood emerged for rescue. A phone was carted away and they threaten him with the phone to pay one million, hence they will come back and kidnap him.

Excerpt 2: Suspect (1)

He was introduced to join and rob the leader's elder uncle who has cows. They went to invade with a view to kidnap or rob, their leader shot the gun into the air as a result, all the cows ran away. However, they did not succeed in accomplishing their evil plan.

Excerpt 3: Suspect (2)

Shooting sporadically into the air in an attempt to kidnap the complainant and his family, we all participated in the act.

Excerpt 4: Suspect 4

Collected the sum of N50,000.00 from the ransom their victim paid them. After three days, police came and he was arrested.

The pract attacking is identified through the statement of the complainant that his house was invaded by some armed robbers with guns and other dangerous weapons. On Reference (Ref), 'shooting sporadically' is referenced that the gun used had bullets and they were shooting non-stop. This act made the neighbours come out to rescue the victim. The implied meaning deduced from the implicature shows that the rescue portrayed by the neighbours revealed that there was an existing unity and love in that community. These prompted them to come out even at the sight of danger. The presupposition here is that there is a once peaceful community, before the arrival of the armed robbers.

Also, another instance of Reference (Ref) is shown in the main police introduction excerpt line 5 'A phone was carted away by the thieves', which was later used as a threat. A huge sum of 1 million naira must also be paid to avoid kidnap because they did not succeed in their first attempt. An illocutionary act of threat accompanies the phone call and the phone belongs to the child of the complainant and it serves as evidence to the case.

The purpose of this investigation is to confirm the truth value of all statements. Hence, the suspects affirmed that they participated in the act, and all the suspects collected the sum of N50,000 each which is a reference to the deal. They were arraigned in court.

5.0 Summary of the findings

This paper examines the structure and organization of complainants', suspects' and witnesses' discourse using a suitable analytical model. The study was informed by the need to shed light on the nature of language utilised during the interrogations of accused persons by Investigating Police Officers in crime investigations. This paper reveals that, to a great extent, elicitation and reply are largely used by complainants, suspects, witnesses and investigating police officers. The reasons for these are that the IPO uses elicitation as a linguistic act form to secure information from the participants and they, in turn, used reply/informative linguistic act to supply the information requested throughout the interrogation.

Selected data for analyses are summarised below:

Identified participants in the discourse. The paper identified complainants, suspects and witnesses, including the investigating police officers attached to each case as it unfolds.

The application of voluntary and cautionary statements. The investigating police officers permit witnesses and complainants to give their statements voluntarily in cases such as threats to public peace, homicide, assault without provocation, counterfeiting etc. Information needed about each offence was gathered from the participants. When it is obvious that a person has committed an offence, they are cautioned before questions are put to them, to ensure that the answers are capable of being admissible in evidence in a prosecution. Investigators allow suspects the opportunity to answer the allegations against them and give their accounts before a decision on prosecution is made. Relevant information to be considered in the prosecution would be considered.

Practs as instantiated in the paper. The practs encoded in complainants, suspects and witnesses' discourse are attacking and interrogating as used in criminal conspiracy and intimidations. Sociological implications of condemning, accusing, discharging, acquitting and releasing on bail were practs identified with investigating police officers and served as promoting strategies to unravel and prevent crime in society with the use of direct and indirect modes of interaction.

Conclusion

This paper has given insights into the Crime-Motivated Police Interaction discourse in the State Criminal Investigation Department, Ilorin Police Command. Police officers apply caution before interrogation with suspects and allow complainants and witnesses to make voluntary statements.

The structural unity achieved in CMPI is premised on the prototypical patterns used by IPOs in establishing the statements given by witnesses, suspects and complainants. Achieved through an asymmetrical relationship revealing that the police assume a powerful position and suspect a less powerful position in police discourse. Moreover, police officers employ linguistic tools such as questions, turns-taking and interruptions during interactions with complainants and suspects. Some of the cases reflected the Yoruba culture and ideological beliefs of the participants revealed through SCK. Each situation unfolds the contextualised usage of words and how Investigating Police Officers and other participants utilized practs which guide the conceptualisation and information of cases under investigation.

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