

Analysis of Prostitute Case in he Burning Sun Chat Room

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Article Info	Abstract
Received : 2024-03-01 Accepted : 2024-03-10 Published : 2025-01-18	<i>This research aims to analyze chat evidence of prostitution cases found in the disclosure of the Burning Sun case. Several well-known K-pop idols and top Korean entertainment companies are involved in this case. Forensic language examination is used for this research to examine the evidence. The study uses a method of collecting, analyzing, and interpreting chat data from various sources that are relevant to the case. In the chat evidence, it was found the role of each participant involved in prostitution. Linguistic forensics analysis identifies the hidden messages, motives, and roles of every individual in the conversation. These findings have a material impact on the legal proceedings and investigations in connection with the Burning Sun case. It also provides insight into how forensic linguistic techniques can be used to identify and analyze chat evidence in a legal context. Therefore, this research provides a deeper understanding of the role of language in criminal proceedings involving famous figures such as K-pop idols and underlines the importance of linguistic analysis in law enforcement.</i>
Keywords: Burnong Sun; Chat Evidence; Prostitutes; Forensic Linguistics; K-Pop	

INTRODUCTION

K-pop music has become a global phenomenon, one of the most popular and influential entertainment sectors in the world. This phenomenon is not just about music but culture, lifestyle, and image. There's a rabid fan base worldwide for K-pop idols, often seen as symbols of joy and perfection. But there's a lot of pressure on these idols, and they have their controversies behind the stage lights and sweet smiles.

The Burning Sun case at a Seoul, South Korea nightclub in 2019 was one of the cases that has shaken K-pop's industry. This club, known to be frequented by K-pop idols and famous celebrities, was involved in many alleged violations of the law, including prostitution, sexual harassment, and drug abuse. This case illuminates the darkness that hides behind Kpop's glitter and raises questions as to how the image of these idols is frequently inconsistent with reality.

Prostitution is one of the controversial problems of the Burning Sun case. The practice of prostitution, although illegal in South Korea, exists in an unofficial form and is often hidden behind nightclubs or other entertainment establishments. This case opened many eyes to the existence of prostitution in the K-pop industry and how idols, who are often seen as moral role models for the younger generation, can engage in such practices.

A forensic linguistic approach has become relevant in this context. Forensic linguistics combines linguistic skills with law to analyze texts to find truth or gather evidence in court proceedings. Language analysis is an important tool for detecting cases like Burning Sun, which can identify the author of texts or interpret a particular text's meaning.

The objective of this study is to use a forensic linguistic approach to analyze chat

evidence relating to K-pop idol prostitution cases. By analyzing the language and structure of the text, this research will try to identify the chat's author, understand the message's hidden meaning behind the words, and reveal the chat evidence's potential legal or moral implications.

Moreover, the impact of such a prostitution case on the K-pop industry, public opinion, and the image of idols involved will also be discussed in this research. In this research, a deeper investigation of the Burning Sun case will be undertaken, and it will examine the importance of forensic linguistics when analyzing chat evidence in similar criminal cases involving complex and high-impact entertainment industries.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Linguists use linguistics to help deal with legal cases. The linguistic science used is forensic linguistics. Language is necessary to awaken and foster human awareness in creating and enforcing the law (Subyantoro, 2019). Forensic linguistics is a branch of linguistics that examines language use in the law realm. Gibbons and Turell (2008) revealed that once a person tries to understand the signs he faces when reading a rule of law or legal literature, the person is concerned with dealing with language and thinking activities. According to Olsson and Luchjenbroers (2014), forensic linguistics is a branch of science that utilizes linguistic methods in the context of criminal and judicial investigations.

Forensic linguistics studies language in law and language that can potentially be involved in the legal realm. Forensic linguistics can examine evidence, such as threat letters, suicide notes, or suicide notes, to analyze other language related to cases, such as evidence of conversations in the Burning Sun case.

According to Coulthard and Johnson (2010), forensic linguistic studies include:

- a) Language in official documents
- b) The language of law enforcement and police
- c) Interaction in the courtroom,
- d) Interviews between children and witnesses in the legal system
- e) Linguistic evidence and expert witness testimony in the courtroom
- f) Writing attribution and plagiarism
- g) Forensic phonetics and speaker identification.

According to them, forensic linguists have the task of uncovering the following:

- a. Morphological meaning and phonetic similarity
- b. Syntactic complexity in formal letters
- c. Lexico-grammatical ambiguity
- d. Lexical meaning
- e. Pragmatic meaning

Meanwhile, according to Olsson (2014), his main views on forensic linguistics include the following:

- a. Author Identification
- b. Text Message Analytics
- c. Testimony Evaluation
- d. Audio Analysis
- e. Use of Technology

One of the main aspects of forensic linguistics is that it includes techniques and methods for identifying text senders, including chat messages. In order to properly identify chat writers, a lot of research and theory has been carried out.

Text message analysis is of great importance when detecting criminal activity in the language evidence other than identifying the author of the conversation. The analysis to uncover the crime is seen from the language style used by the people involved in the evidence found. Language style may be defined as a unique way to express thoughts using language, showing the writer's personality and soul (Keraf, 2017).

Language style has five levels. First, oratory style is the most formal language used by public speakers in which words are carefully planned to be said, such as in documents of history and law. Secondly, there is a deliberate style of addressing audiences and forms that are less refined than oratory, for example, lectures at the university level. Third, there is a certain consultative type of dialogue where the language is sufficiently formal, and some words are chosen with care, such as those used during business transactions or in doctor's consultations. There's also a casual conversation between friends, colleagues, and sometimes family members. And the last, the intimate style is used to speak with families, friends, and dear ones.

METHODS

This descriptive qualitative research has been carried out to analyze the Chat evidence relating to K-pop idols in a case such as Burning Sun's. This technique will reveal crucial information in the conversation, such as identifying the chat author, understanding the context of the discussion, and discovering potential offenses or errors. The research method for this investigation is collecting chat evidence relating to the Burning Sun case from diverse sources, such as investigation reports, court documents, and mass media. To analyze these samples, important and relevant samples shall be selected. Contextual information such as date, time, parties involved, and communication platforms used shall be identified in the chat evidence. Then, a forensic linguistic analysis is carried out to determine the significance, intent, and implications of these conversations. To determine the specific style patterns of each K-pop idol in question, it will include identification of the chat writers, semantic and stylometric analysis. An analysis report detailing findings and implications in the legal context will be drawn up based on the results of this analysis, as well as providing recommendations for how to apply chat evidence during an investigation and judicial processes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

1. The Identification of Chat Writer

Several users of the chat are part of this conversation. The identification of the author of the chat is a key step in analyzing this prostitution case. Using a forensic linguistic approach, the researcher can identify chat writers based on language characteristics and meaning. In this case, the identification of a chat author shall be analyzed as follows:

a. 승리 (Seungri)

In the message, 승리 (Seungri) said, "원하는 대로 다 해주고, 여자애들 불러줘," which means "I'll do whatever you want, and call the ladies." This message indicates that Seungri is the one who solicits prostitution services and coordinates the procurement of women. In this context, the language style appears very respectful but is clear.

b. K

Information about who may call a woman was also requested by this user. These users may wonder which of them has access to these women or is in contact with them. He's also using the abbreviation "OMG" to refer to "차이니스 오엠지|Oh my God," which could indicate that he's speaking Korean or that he's trying to hide his true intentions.

c. 유인석 (Yu In-seok)

In his message, 유인석 (Yu In-seok) cautioned against keeping confidentiality from others and emphasized that K should manage the situation well. He's also requested an additional person who might be needed for that purpose. This message indicates that Yu In-seok is one of the users involved in the organization or coordination of prostitution practices.

d. 정준영 (Jung Joon-young)

Jung Joon-young talked about his preference for women by saying, "중국 애들은 성형녀같이 생긴 애들 좋아할걸," which means "Chinese people like women who look like plastic surgery." This message shows his preference for women who have undergone plastic surgery. In the context of a conversation, however, this may merely be an ancillary comment.

2. Language Style

In order to determine the characteristics of any chat writer and understand communication that occurs within this context, a study on language style is an essential step as regards prostitution evidence relating to K-pop idols in Burning Sun. The following is a detailed analysis of language styles in the context of prostitution cases:

a. Use of Formal Language and Slang

Differences in vocabulary use can be observed in the evidence of conversations. Some idols may use formal language and standard vocabulary when discussing prostitution, while others may be more inclined to use slang words or more casual jargon. Terms Related to Prostitution: There is the use of terms related to prostitution, such as "창녀" (changnyeo), which means prostitute, or "강패" (gangpae), which means thug.

b. Communication Style

The patterns of sentence structure may differ from one chat writer to another. Some prefer short, direct sentences to plan prostitution activities, while others may use more complex sentences to discuss this. In particular, when speaking to fellow party members in the online chat room, it can be seen that he uses language with various standards of politeness. This is a reflection of the hierarchical relationships in Korea's pop industry.

c. Use of Emojis and Emoticons

Emotions are expressed through emojis and emoticons, whether it's joy, approval, or even more serious references to prostitution. In this context, specific codes could be given by some emojis.

d. Style Change

Sometimes, a change of language style can be observed when an idol is communicating with another member of the chat group. When they're speaking to their manager or supervisor, they can speak more politely.

e. Communication Context

The purpose of the communications in this prostitution case should be taken into account when linguistic style analysis is performed. There may be more than one meaning in certain messages that need to be revealed. This language style analysis helps identify the chat writer in the Burning Sun case chat evidence related to prostitution. Understanding the means by which K-pop idols communicate in controversial and sensitive contexts, as well as their use of language to plan illicit activities, will also be helpful.

3. Semantic Analysis

Semantic analysis of this conversation in the prostitution case with the topic of K-pop idol chat evidence analysis in the Burning Sun case reveals various aspects of understanding the meaning of the words and phrases used:

“승리 :원하는 대로 다 해주고, 여자애들 불러줘. 대만에서 손님이 온 모양이야.
(Seungri: Do everything that they want, call the girls. It looks like the guests come from Taiwan.)”

This phrase implies that someone, in this case Seungri, is willing to do anything on demand, including calling women. "원하는 대로" (as you wish) is a key phrase that indicates a willingness to fulfill any request. The phrase "여자애들 불러줘" directly refers to the request to summon women. This is an expression related to prostitution.

“유인석 :다른 사람들이랑 섞이지 않게 K가 관리 잘해줘.(Yoo In-Seok : K, don't get them mixed up with other people, so manage it well.)”

This phrase states that K is responsible for managing or coordinating this activity so that there is no interference from other parties. "다른 사람들이랑 섞이지 않게" (without engaging with others) is a key piece emphasizing privacy and exclusivity.

“유인석:남자애 하나 불러 줘. 키○ 받들 수 있는 애로 영어 못하는 애로. ○○ 같은 애들. (Yoo In-Seok: Put a man with them too. The one who can handle Ki O. The kid who can't speak English. The kid likes ○○).”

This phrase implies a request for a man with certain characteristics, such as having a certain height and being able to speak English. This request indicates that the booker wants to arrange a meeting with a woman who meets these criteria.

“K :일단 부르고는 있는디 주겠냐 싶다. 니들이 아닌데 주겠냐 ㅋㅋㅋㅋ.(K: I'm calling them for now, but I don't think they want to give it to them if it is not

you guys.)”

This phrase reflects K's hesitancy in inviting women, revealing that they may not be the women they usually call. The use of the word "주겠나 싶다" (will probably give) indicates uncertainty.

"정준영 : 중국 애들은 성형녀같이 생긴 애들 좋아할걸. (Jung Joon Young: The Chinese guys probably like plastic girls)."

This phrase indicates a preference for women with a similar appearance to those with plastic surgery. This is a comment detailing certain preferences in the context of prostitution.

"유인석 : 내가 지금 창녀들을 준비하고 있으니까 창녀들 2명 오면 K가 안내하고 호텔방까지 잘 갈 수 있게 처리해. (Yoo In-Seok: Because I'm preparing some prostitutes now, K, when the two prostitutes come, make sure you lead them to the hotel room.)”

This phrase indicates that preparations are being made to arrange a meeting with the two female prostitutes. K is responsible for coordinating the meetings and directing them to the hotel.

"K :깡패 두 명은 보냄.(K : Yes, I sent two thugs there.)”

This expression implies that there are two "깡패" (gangsters or guards) who will be sent to escort or protect the women in this meeting.

4. Stylometric Analysis

The key to identifying chat authors and communication patterns that can be revealed from these conversations is to use stylometry analysis in evidence of prostitution cases at Burning Sun nightclub. In this case, the writer will conduct a stylometric analysis of the conversations between Seungri (승리), K, Yu In-seok, Jung Joon-young, and other chat users to reveal language patterns and characteristics that can provide deeper insight into this case.

a. Use of Keywords:

The use of keywords that might describe the nature of a chat writer's characteristics can be highlighted through stylometry analysis. In this conversation, the writer found the use of words such as "여자애들" (woman), "남자애" (man), "성형녀" (woman who has undergone plastic surgery), "호텔방" (hotel room), and "창녀들" (comfort woman) which might indicate discussion of prostitution.

b. Communication Pattern:

The identification of communication patterns among chat writers may also benefit from stylometric analysis. In this conversation, we can see that Seungri (승리) plays an important role in organizing and coordinating prostitution-related activities. Instructions,

requests, and approvals from other members of the chat are also part of this communication pattern.

c. Choice of Words:

Use of certain words, such as "케어 잘할게" (I will take good care of them) and "응. 여자는? 잘 주는 애들로." (Yes, what about women? Give it a good one), reflects a polite approach in seeking women for prostitution activities. The context reveals serious infringements, even though the language is subtle.

Conclusion

A prostitution case involving several K-pop idols and other individuals at the Burning Sun nightclub has shocked South Korea and the international entertainment world. An important turning point in finding out the truth of this case is the analysis of conversation evidence. The main findings from the analysis of these chat logs will be summarised in this conclusion as to how they might affect a case like Burning Sun.

To begin with, the identification of the author of these chat records is a key step in analyzing such conversation evidence. In this conversation, the main chat writers were Seungri, K, Yoo Inseok, Jung Joonyoung, and several other chat users. This identification provides a strong basis for understanding the role and involvement of these individuals in the prostitution case at Burning Sun.

The analysis of chat evidence reveals highly organized coordination in prostitution. The main actor in this case, Seungri, clearly stated that he intended to provide women to other chat service users. These conversations create irrefutable evidence of the planning and execution of large-scale prostitution.

Moreover, the conversation gives rise to specific requests and preferences. Some chat users, such as Jung Joon-young, have openly stated their preference for certain types of women, such as those who have undergone plastic surgery. These requests show a high level of control in this practice of prostitution.

In addition, chat evidence also reflects intentional involvement and individual involvement in the practice of prostitution. Some users of the chat indicated that they would engage in this unlawful activity. This evidence forms the basis for investigators to evaluate the extent of these individuals' involvement in prostitution.

In conclusion, analysis of chat evidence in the Burning Sun prostitution case has helped reveal the role and involvement of individuals in this illegal practice. The main findings that constitute a basis for more investigation and possible prosecution are the identification of the messenger author, coordination of prostitution, specific preferences, intent, or degree of distrust in the service. The importance of linguistic analysis and forensics linguistics in the investigation of criminal conduct through digital communications is also highlighted in this case. It was, therefore, possible to identify important aspects of Burning Sun's prostitution case and take appropriate action against those involved in such illegal activity by analyzing chat data.

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