

DEFAMATION AGAINST AZIZAH SALSHA BY RESBOB AND BIGMO: A FORENSIC LINGUISTICS ANALYSIS

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Abstract

This study analyzes alleged defamation against Azizah Salsha by two content creators, Adimas Firdaus (Resbob) and Muhammad Jannah (Bigmo), through the lens of forensic linguistics. The case began when digital content accused Azizah Salsha of engaging in an affair, which later led to legal action and the designation of the content creators as suspects by the Indonesian National Police (Bareskrim Polri). This research aims to examine how language in the content may construct and spread defamatory meaning. The identification of these elements requires a forensic linguistics analysis, which utilizes linguistic evidence to support legal decision-making in the context of law enforcement. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method. The data are taken from selected statements in the YouTube and TikTok content associated with Resbob and Bigmo. In this study, the data are analyzed using a forensic linguistics framework. The analysis of data containing defamatory elements is conducted by applying Adji's (1990) theory on types of defamation, Pateda's (2010) theories of lexical and grammatical semantics, and Leech's (1993) theory of pragmatics. The results of this study demonstrate that defamatory elements are present in Resbob and Bigmo statements directed at Azizah Salsha. The defamation is categorized as material defamation. The lexical and grammatical semantic analysis reveals the presence of negative meanings at the lexical level. Furthermore, the grammatical meanings of the posts differ from their lexical meanings due to social factors. Based on pragmatic analysis, the findings indicate the presence of directive illocutionary acts in the form of suggestions, which also trigger three types of perlocutionary effects.

Keywords – *Azizah Salsha, Bigmo, defamation, forensic linguistics, Resbob*

Introduction

Defamation is an act that harms a person's honor or reputation. According to Oemar Seno Adji (1990), defamation is commonly referred to as insult or defamation-related conduct. He classifies defamation into two categories: material defamation and formal defamation. Material defamation involves statements that are objectively expressed, either orally or in writing. Such statements are often presented as allegations and may be conveyed in the public interest. In contrast, formal defamation focuses on the manner in which the insulting statement is delivered. This type of defamation is typically expressed in a subjective, offensive, or disrespectful way.

Today, cases of defamation can be found in various sources, including books, academic journals, research reports, news articles, and social media platforms. Social media has become an instant and widely accessible medium that serves multiple functions. In addition to facilitating communication, it enables users to access, share, and explore a wide range of information. According to the online Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), social media is defined as a website or application that allows users to create and share content or participate in social networks.

Two social media platforms where defamatory content was identified in this study is YouTube (@niceguymo) and TikTok (@ibaratbradpit). Defamatory statements made through social media are categorized as cybercrime, a form of crime committed through digital technologies and online platforms. The term cyber law is internationally used to describe legal regulations governing the use of information and communication technologies. Therefore, individuals who intentionally and unlawfully distribute defamatory content through electronic information systems or electronic documents, making it accessible to the public, may be subject to criminal sanctions under the laws and regulations of Indonesia.

The Government of Indonesia has enacted legislation governing electronic communications, commonly known as the **Electronic Information and Transactions (EIT) Law**. This law regulates various criminal offenses related to electronic information and electronic documents. Defamation is specifically addressed in **Article 27A of Law Number 1 of 2024**, which states:

"Any person who intentionally attacks the honor or reputation of another person by accusing them of a particular act, with the intention that such accusation becomes known to the public, through Electronic Information and/or Electronic Documents distributed by means of an Electronic System."

The sanctions for individuals found guilty of defamation are stipulated in Article 45 paragraph (4) of the EIT Law. Violators may be subject to imprisonment for a maximum of two years and/or a fine of up to IDR 400,000,000 (four hundred million rupiah).

Cases of defamation frequently occur within society, particularly when individuals make accusations regarding adultery or cohabitation outside of marriage, which may affect a person's honor and reputation. Under **Law Number 1 of 2023 concerning the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP)**, "marriage affairs" or extramarital/sexual relationships outside marriage are primarily regulated in **Article 411 (Adultery)** and **Article 412 (Cohabitation/Living Together Without Marriage)**. In article 411 about adultery, it said that,

"Any person who has sexual intercourse with a person who is not his or her husband or wife shall be punished for adultery with imprisonment for a maximum of one (1) year or a Category II fine."

Then in article 412 about Cohabitation, it is stated that,

"Any unmarried man and woman who live together as husband and wife outside a lawful marriage shall be punished with imprisonment for a maximum of six (6) months or a Category II fine."

Article 411 of Law Number 1 of 2023 expands the scope of adultery beyond the previous Criminal Code by criminalizing sexual intercourse between individuals who are not legally married to each other, regardless of their marital status. Article 412 complements this provision by criminalizing cohabitation, namely living together as husband and wife without a legally recognized marriage. Both offenses are classified as complaint-based crimes, meaning that law enforcement authorities may only initiate criminal proceedings if a complaint is submitted by close family members who are specifically authorized by law. This mechanism was designed to balance the protection of public morality with the protection of individual privacy and family interests.

In criminal defamation cases, expert witnesses, particularly linguists, are often called upon to assist law enforcement authorities in determining whether oral or written statements made by a defendant contain elements of defamation from a linguistic perspective. The field of study that examines such analyses is known as forensic linguistics.

Forensic linguistics is used to analyze cases in which language serves as evidence of a crime. Law enforcement efforts in such cases require the analysis of linguistic evidence to help resolve legal issues. Mahsun also argues that scientific linguistic analysis is necessary for addressing forensic problems. Linguistic evidence associated with criminal acts is examined scientifically to support the enforcement of law and the administration of justice (Mahsun, 2018). Thus, forensic linguistics can be defined as the application of linguistic principles and methods to legal issues and law enforcement (McMenamin, 2002, as cited in Mahsun, 2018). This means that various branches of linguistics, including semantics, pragmatics, phonology, dialectology, and other linguistic disciplines, can be applied to analyze language samples during investigations.

Today, forensic linguistics phenomena frequently involve public figures such as celebrities, politicians, social media influencers, YouTubers, businesspeople, and other well-known individuals who typically have large numbers of followers on social media platforms. The case examined in this study concerns alleged defamation contained in YouTube uploads published by two content creators, Adimas Firdaus (Resbob) and Muhammad Jannah (Bigmo), directed toward Azizah Salsha.

Based on the background presented above, this study seeks to address the following research questions:

1. What types of defamation are found in the YouTube and TikTok uploads of Resbob and Bigmo?
2. How can these uploads be shown to contain elements of defamation when analyzed from the perspectives of lexical semantics, grammatical semantics, and pragmatics?

Accordingly, the objectives of this study are to identify the types of defamation found in the YouTube and TikTok uploads of Resbob and Bigmo and to demonstrate that the uploads contain elements of defamation based on a microlinguistic analysis. The microlinguistic aspects examined in this study include lexical semantics, grammatical semantics, and pragmatics.

Methodology

In this study, the theoretical framework used to explain the phenomenon under investigation combines theories from forensic linguistics (as a macrolinguistic perspective) and microlinguistics (specifically semantics and pragmatics). The forensic linguistics framework is based on the theory proposed by Olsson (2008), which is complemented by Adji's (1990) theory of defamation. These theories are employed to address the first research question concerning the types of defamation found in the YouTube uploads of Resbob and Bigmo.

At the microlinguistic level, this study applies Pateda's (2010) theories of lexical and grammatical semantics, supported by Leech's (1993) theory of pragmatics. These microlinguistic theories are used to demonstrate the presence of defamatory elements in the data. Together, these theoretical perspectives provide the basis for analyzing and explaining defamatory content found in the video data. Their application is further elaborated through the research methodology described below.

The data for this study were collected using a qualitative research approach through direct observation of content uploaded to the TikTok account @ibaratbradpit owned by Resbob and the YouTube account @niceguymo owned by Bigmo during the period of August to September 2024. The data collection process consisted of several stages. First, YouTube

uploads from the accounts of Bigmo and Tiktok account of Resbob that were suspected of containing defamatory content directed at Azizah Salsha were identified and collected. Second, video uploads were transcribed into written text. Third, coding was applied to phrases and sentences that were considered to contain elements of defamation.

The data were analyzed using qualitative data analysis methods. This approach involved presenting, interpreting, and verifying the data descriptively in the form of paragraph-based explanations. The analysis was conducted through several stages. First, instances of alleged defamation were categorized according to the typology proposed by Adji (1990). Second, the uploads containing potentially defamatory content were analyzed using Pateda's (2010) theories of lexical and grammatical semantics, as well as Leech's (1993) theory of pragmatics, in order to demonstrate the linguistic elements that constitute defamation.

Finding and Discussion

The alleged defamation case involving Azizah Salsha and two content creators Adimas Firdaus (Resbob) and Muhammad Jannah (Bigmo), began in August 2024 when rumors regarding Azizah Salsha's alleged affair circulated widely across social media platforms. The issue quickly gained public attention and became the subject of discussion among various content creators, including Resbob and Bigmo, through videos uploaded to YouTube @niceguymo and Tiktok account @ibaratbradpit. In these videos, the two content creators discussed and disseminated information concerning the alleged affair. According to Azizah Salsha, the claims were not supported by sufficient evidence and had caused significant harm to her reputation and public image.

As the information continued to spread, Azizah Salsha felt that her reputation had been seriously damaged. Consequently, in August 2025, she filed a report with the Criminal Investigation Agency of the Indonesian National Police (Bareskrim Polri) on allegations of defamation and slander. In her report, Azizah stated that she had been subjected to repeated accusations and negative publicity for approximately one year since the rumors first emerged. The report was subsequently followed up by investigators, who conducted a series of inquiries and examinations of digital evidence related to the content disseminated through social media and YouTube.

Following the investigation process, Bareskrim Polri officially designated Adimas Firdaus (Resbob) and Muhammad Jannah (Bigmo) as suspects in the alleged defamation case on March 5, 2026. The suspect designation was made after investigators concluded that sufficient evidence had been gathered to support the allegations. The case attracted considerable public attention because it involved public figures and highlighted the role of digital media in the dissemination of information that could potentially damage an individual's reputation.

However, the legal process did not proceed to trial. In early April 2026, Resbob and Bigmo formally apologized to Azizah Salsha and her family. After a settlement was reached between the parties, Azizah Salsha decided to withdraw her complaint on April 17, 2026. As a result, the legal proceedings against the two content creators were terminated because defamation under Indonesian law is a complaint-based offense, meaning that prosecution depends on a formal complaint from the injured party. This case serves as an example of how the dissemination of allegations and information through digital media can lead to legal consequences and underscores the importance of exercising caution when communicating information that may affect an individual's reputation in the digital public sphere.

Nevertheless, this research specifically examines the linguistic evidence of alleged defamation contained in content uploaded to Resbob's TikTok account (@ibaratbradpit) and Bigmo's YouTube account (@niceguymo) during the period from August to September 2024.

These contents serve as the primary data for the forensic linguistic analysis conducted in this study.



Figure 1 Screen shot of Bigmo's Youtube account @niceguymo

"Istri Pratama Arhan ngew sama mantannya!?!?"*

The statement *"Istri Pratama Arhan ngew sama mantannya!?!?"* ("Pratama Arhan's wife had sex with her ex-boyfriend!?!") was found in a YouTube upload associated with Bigmo. From a forensic linguistic perspective, this statement can be analyzed as containing elements of defamation because it publicly attributes a highly negative and socially sensitive act to a specific individual. Although the person's name is not explicitly mentioned, the phrase **"Pratama Arhan's wife"** clearly identifies a particular individual who is widely known to the public, namely Azizah Salsha. As a result, viewers can easily recognize the person being referred to in the statement.

Based on Oemar Seno Adji's (1990) classification, this statement can be categorized as **material defamation** (*penghinaan materiil*). Material defamation focuses on the content or substance of an accusation rather than the manner in which it is expressed. In this case, the statement contains a direct allegation that the person referred to engaged in a sexual relationship with a former partner. The focus of the statement is not on insulting language alone, but on communicating an alleged fact concerning the individual's behavior. Therefore, the potentially defamatory element lies in the accusation itself, which has the capacity to damage the honor, dignity, and reputation of the person concerned if it is untrue or unsupported by reliable evidence.

From the perspective of **lexical semantics**, the most significant linguistic element is the word **"ngew"**, which is a censored form of the Indonesian slang word "ngewe." In Indonesian colloquial language, *ngewe* is a vulgar expression that means to have sexual intercourse. Unlike more neutral expressions such as *having sexual relations*, *engaging in intimate relations*, or *sexual intercourse*, the term *ngewe* carries a strong informal, crude, and derogatory connotation. It is commonly used in casual conversations, online discussions, and gossip contexts, often with the intention of shocking, ridiculing, or humiliating the person being discussed. Consequently, the use of this particular word contributes significantly to the negative meaning conveyed by the statement.

The phrase *"sama mantannya"* ("with her ex-boyfriend") further strengthens the negative implication of the statement. In Indonesian social and cultural contexts, accusing a married person of having a sexual relationship with a former romantic partner may be

interpreted as an allegation of infidelity or adultery. Therefore, when the phrase is combined with the word *ngewe*, the overall meaning becomes a claim that a married woman engaged in sexual activity with a former partner. Such an accusation is capable of harming the social image and moral reputation of the person being accused, particularly because issues related to marriage, fidelity, and sexual conduct are highly sensitive in Indonesian society.

From the perspective of **grammatical semantics**, the statement is structured as a declarative proposition rather than a genuine question. Although the punctuation marks "!!?!" appear to indicate surprise or uncertainty, they do not eliminate the accusatory meaning of the statement. Instead, these punctuation marks function as a rhetorical device designed to attract attention and create sensationalism. The wording encourages viewers to focus on the alleged act and may lead them to assume that the accusation has some degree of credibility. As a result, the grammatical structure contributes to the dissemination of the allegation rather than merely requesting information about it.

A **pragmatic analysis** also reveals important aspects of meaning. At the locutionary level, the statement communicates information suggesting that Pratama Arhan's wife had sexual relations with her former partner. At the illocutionary level, the statement functions as an accusation or claim presented to a public audience. Although framed in a sensational manner, its communicative purpose is not simply to ask a question but to direct public attention toward a particular allegation. At the perlocutionary level, the statement may produce various effects on the audience, including curiosity, belief in the allegation, criticism of the accused person, and the formation of negative opinions about her character and conduct.

Several linguistic indicators support the argument that the statement contains elements commonly associated with defamation. First, the target of the statement is identifiable despite the absence of a direct name. Second, the statement contains a specific allegation concerning sexual conduct. Third, the allegation is disseminated through a public platform, namely YouTube, where it can reach a large audience. Fourth, the accusation concerns behavior that may negatively affect the individual's honor, reputation, and social standing. Finally, the use of the vulgar term *ngewe* intensifies the negative and humiliating nature of the allegation.



Figure 2 Screen shot of Resbob TikTok account @ibaratbratpit

"Ternyata semalam ada yg 1 hotel, alasan ngerjain endorse sampai ninggalin suami sendiri gara" janji ketemu mantan (laugh emoticon) lugu" tapi pinter yaa!"

*“Kasian bgt suami nya di bohongi haha
 Padahal ketemu Smaa mantan larut malam bela”in nginep di hotel dan di dukung Sam
 teman” nya yg seneng liat rumahtangga org hancur”*

From a forensic linguistic perspective, these statements can be analyzed as containing elements commonly associated with **material defamation** (*penghinaan materiil*) because they focus on communicating allegations about the conduct of an identifiable individual. Rather than merely expressing an opinion, the statements present a series of purported events as factual information. The speaker claims that the person stayed in the same hotel as a former partner, lied to her husband, met the former partner late at night, and was supported by friends who allegedly enjoyed seeing another person's marriage fail. These allegations concern the person's morality, honesty, and marital fidelity, all of which are capable of affecting public perception of her character and reputation.

According to Oemar Seno Adji's classification, material defamation emphasizes the **content of the accusation** rather than the manner in which it is expressed. In the present case, the potentially defamatory aspect lies in the substance of the statements themselves. The speaker does not simply use insulting words or derogatory labels; instead, the statements attribute specific actions to the targeted individual. The allegations suggest deception within a marriage and imply an inappropriate relationship with a former romantic partner. Because the statements communicate factual claims rather than subjective insults alone, they fit the characteristics of material defamation.

From the perspective of **lexical semantics**, several expressions carry strong negative meanings. The phrase *"I hotel"* ("same hotel") refers to two individuals being in the same hotel and, within the context of gossip and social media discourse, often implies a romantic or sexual encounter. The phrase *"ninggalin suami sendiri"* ("leaving her own husband") suggests neglect of marital responsibilities. Meanwhile, *"dibohongi"* ("lied to" or "deceived") directly characterizes the individual as dishonest. The expression *"ketemu sama mantan larut malam"* ("meeting an ex late at night") reinforces suspicions of inappropriate conduct. Finally, the phrase *"teman-temannya yang seneng lihat rumah tangga orang hancur"* ("friends who enjoy seeing other people's marriages destroyed") portrays not only the individual but also her social circle in a highly negative manner. Collectively, these lexical choices create a semantic framework that portrays the targeted person as unfaithful, dishonest, and morally questionable.

From the perspective of **grammatical semantics**, the statements are structured primarily as declarative sentences. They are presented as assertions rather than questions, hypotheses, or speculation. Expressions such as *"Ternyata semalam"* ("It turns out that last night") suggest that the speaker possesses knowledge of actual events. Similarly, the statement *"Padahal ketemu sama mantan larut malam"* ("In fact, she met her ex late at night") functions as a factual assertion. These grammatical choices increase the appearance of certainty and may lead audiences to interpret the allegations as verified information rather than unconfirmed rumors.

A **pragmatic analysis** further reveals how meaning is conveyed beyond the literal words. At the locutionary level, the statements communicate that a married woman allegedly met her former partner, stayed in a hotel, and deceived her husband. At the illocutionary level, the speaker appears to be accusing, criticizing, and exposing the alleged conduct to a public audience. The use of laughter markers such as *"haha"* and the laughing emoji does not neutralize the accusation; instead, they add a mocking tone that may intensify the humiliation of the targeted individual. At the perlocutionary level, these statements may encourage audiences to form negative judgments, believe the allegations, criticize the person involved, and question her integrity and fidelity. Such effects can contribute to reputational harm.

The phrase "*Kasian bgt suaminya dibohongi*" ("Poor husband, he was deceived") is particularly significant because it presupposes the truth of the allegation. Rather than merely suggesting a possibility, the statement assumes that deception actually occurred. In pragmatic terms, this presupposition encourages readers to accept the allegation as an established fact. Likewise, the statement that the individual "*bela-belain nginep di hotel*" ("went out of her way to stay at a hotel") implies deliberate and intentional behavior, thereby strengthening the negative characterization.

However, the allegations and negative statements directed at Azizah Salsha were not supported by verifiable evidence. Resbob and Bigmo were unable to provide sufficient proof that the claims presented in their posts were true. As a result, the allegations remained unsubstantiated, despite being disseminated publicly through social media and presented as factual information regarding Azizah Salsha's personal conduct.

The publication of these allegations prompted Azizah Salsha to report both content creators to the relevant law enforcement authorities on the grounds of alleged defamation. From a forensic linguistic perspective, the combination of unverified accusations, negative linguistic expressions, and public dissemination had the potential to harm her reputation and influence public perception, ultimately leading to legal action against the two content creators.

Conclusions

The uploads published by Resbob and Bigmo on their YouTube accounts were found to contain elements of defamation directed toward Azizah Salsha. The defamation identified in this study falls within the category of material defamation, as it emphasizes the content of the statements and the claim that the allegations were made in the public interest.

The lexical semantic analysis of the uploads indicates that the language used conveys negative meanings toward Azizah Salsha. Furthermore, the grammatical semantic analysis reveals that the words and expressions employed by Resbob and Bigmo carry meanings that differ from their literal lexical meanings due to the influence of social and contextual factors.

Finally, the pragmatic analysis demonstrates that the statements made by Resbob and Bigmo constitute directive illocutionary acts in the form of suggestions or recommendations. These illocutionary acts subsequently produced a perlocutionary effect, namely feelings of anger on the part of Azizah Salsha, which ultimately led to the filing of a defamation complaint with the relevant law enforcement authorities. Following the investigation, the two content creators were officially designated as suspects by the Criminal Investigation Agency of the Indonesian National Police (Bareskrim Polri).

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