

ANALYSIS OF SEMANTIC DENSITY IN LEGAL DOCUMENTS

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Abstract

This study investigates how context and complexity are often realized in legal documents. The area of investigation covers a thought of complexity representing knowledge practice in the legal discourse. This study used qualitative inquiry involving linguistic analysis and description. The data were taken from six written legal documents including three decrees and three police summons published in the internet in 2019-2020. The analysis shows that legal documents are featured with linguistic characteristics in realizing knowledge to maintain and change social relations, increase consciousness of readers, representing their own discourses. The practical implications of this analysis are discussed in this paper especially to interpret readability of the legal texts for common readers.

Keywords: *Complexity, Legal discourse, Legitimation Code Theory, Semantic Density,*

INTRODUCTION

Law uses language as a medium interaction to enforce rules and regulation. Language and law are closely related to form legal language term. Linguistically, legal studies are divided into two basic types of legal language: Written legal language and language of legal practice (Pichlak, 2014: 6). The example of written legal language were lawsuits, pleas, civil case papers, government regulation, decrees, summons, etc. On the other hands, the example of legal language of legal practice used in profession such as legislative drafters, lawmakers, lawyer, prosecutors, judge, etc (Said, 2016: 188)

In semantics, a word and term in the field of law requires two conditions, namely the words and terms have a mono-semantic character (have only one meaning) and the terms must be well defined, easy and clear (Soeroso, 2006: 184). This study explores the knowledge practice through the combination of legitimation code theory

focusing on semantic density and systemic functional linguistics. Legitimation code theory (LCT) on semantic density, it describes how meanings interconnected in knowledge practice (Martin, Maton, Doran, 2019: 37).

LCT breaking down languages of legitimation as messages that should be valid knowledge. On the other hand, legitimation codes spotted as arranging beliefs. Knowledge is the information that we may not know that lead against our thought (Maton, 2016: 3). Because of that, the knowledge that the practitioners deliver to the readers are often varies. It opened up space the debate appears in higher study in particular way. Knowledge then become a tool that can be used to critic any aspects of education enterprise. As well as the way communicate cross discipline, using the same higher study language to discuss problem occurred.

Complex words are often employed on the academic discourse though it is not defined. This then give a result to the readers to have difficulty understanding what being delivered in the text (Matton, Doran, 2017: 48). Thus, it recognized to help education aspects to develop a thought of complexity for knowledge practice that is so called semantic density.

This study focus on Semantics code. Semantics is to do with meaning that divided into two, namely semantic gravity and density. Once it moves across towards stronger (+) semantic density, it is moving to the strong complexity in terms of representation. In other respects, semantic gravity shows the real world and abstract concepts. Further, this research accommodating frequent activities of how context and complexity were appeared in the chosen data. This then recognized to help education aspects to develop a thought of complexity for knowledge practice that is so called semantic density.

There were some previous studies conducted on semantic waves in classroom activities such as Analysis focused on semantic waves for knowledge building (Ramadhan, 2019: 39-44), analysis that revealed Semantic Waves on Crazy Characters (Waite, Curzon, Maton, Tuttiett, 2019: 1-7), Investigation on Semantic Density and Semantic Gravity Wave Profile of Teachers When Discussing Electrophilic Aromatic Substitution (Cranwell, Whiteside, 2020: 3540-3550). For example, a study focused on knowledge blindness. The finding shows that knowledge blindness in classroom practices gave obstacles in knowledge building. Another study focused on comparison between of complexity of spoken language in classroom. The research pointed out that semantic waves could be usefully enlighten

educational context.

On the other hand, there were limited studies that focused on semantic waves in legal discourse for example, study of semantic on written law products (Said, 2012: 187-375), problems in the use of Indonesian legal language (Ahmad, 2017:145-157) and the construction of semantic waves on High school students' natural science writing (Blackie, 2019: 46-61).

There have been few studies investigating semantic waves in educational context especially in way of teaching. However, there were limited studies focused on semantic density in legal discourse. Thus this study focused on how context and complexity were appeared in knowledge practice relies in legal discourse specifically on decrees and police summons.

To appraise more on this study, it makes an effort to reveal frequent activities of how context and complexity were appeared in chosen data. In analyzing this current study uses Legitimate code theory (Martin, Maton, Doran, 2017: 70) on semantic density.

Legitimation Code Theory

Legitimation Code Theory or 'LCT' is a basis for research that is developing. It contains perspectives from a variety of factors. LCT used for an approaches like systemic functional linguistics, to discuss a number of topics, activities and contexts in education and beyond (Maton, 2016a: 36). LCT distinguishes between practice aim and practice framework. Standards focus on a language use in validating the information. Thus, the basic learning

concepts are designed as legitimacy codes. LCT also defined as 'the cultural studies of opportunity' (Maton 2014: 3). It offers a means to broaden the scope of identification of implications that possible to decide what cannot be done. People's actions contain signals as to what would be the main accomplishment metrics in an area (Maton, 2014: 4). Therefore, legitimation language is needed to validity the information being inferred.

Complexity and academic discourse

Complex words are usually used to describe something that has high-valued meaning in practice knowledge. In academic discourse, complexity described as being straightforward in their definitions. The practice of knowledge in education is to understand the difference in known information that could be accounted for and changeable at any time. In order to conceptualize ambiguity in knowledge practice, semantic density in legitimation code theory (LCT) used for translation device that could detect the level of complexity. LCT analysis demonstrates where changes in semantic density forces become essential for the development of understanding (Maton, 2013: 3). Thus, it is concerns how the analysis realizes epistemic-semantic density. It also emphasizes a distinction in the condition to be interpreted by the framework. The overview of a translation device is not meant to disrupt but more to support the practice-oriented types of indications. It is risky to talk about discourse, because it is still a severe presumption that considers the definition of an occurrence as a guide for this trend. This may confuse a translation device containing discourse. The device

provides a variety of textual classification at various discourse stages, which reflect continuous change of epistemic-semantic density and word condensation, including word grouping, clause breaking.

Legal concept of law

The language of law is very continuous with human life. The law regulates people's lives in behaving. Language and law have a close relationship so that could produce legal language terms, it designed to formulate legislation and all provisions stipulated by the government (Said, 2011:188). The language of law is used in all legal products such as constitutions, government decrees, police summons. The language of law is formulated by practitioners such as prosecutors, police and lawyers. Practitioners must have the ability to master standardized languages to produce qualified legal products.

The characteristics of legal language are straightforward, firm and meticulous. Legal language is not soft and has multiple meanings (Qammar & Djanggih, 2017: 338). Multiple meanings will bring ambiguity in language. The language of law is not allowed to have a language that can be multiple interpretations because if the community interprets a regulation it is not in accordance with what the government means. If the public misinterprets the law, it means that the drafters have failed to serve to help the community to follow the regulations it has made.

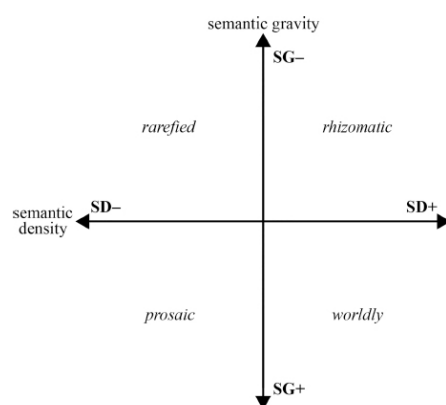
Semantic density

Semantic density suggests complexity: the higher, the more

complicated are the behaviors in the semantic density. The power of semantic density is not inherent in a process, but refers to the semantical arrangement on it (Maton, 2016: 61). The examples of complex words in a sentence are mixed names, places, times, and abbreviations altogether. On the other hand, weaker

semantical density (SD) can be defined, as with switching from either a strongly concentrated sign to one with less meanings. All respondents in such stages of education had a greater semantic density; that is, the vocabulary used was complicated, with several advanced words (Cranwell and whiteside, 2020: C).

Graphic 1: Semantic Plane (Maton, 2016: 16)



As seen from the Graphic 1.1, semantic density can be measured depending on the field and its form of data. Measurement is therefore developing 'translation devices' which convert among each of these ideas and different form of data. Thus, this strength will differ depending on how semantic are produced.

Semantic plane axis includes four major modalities of semantic gravity and density power are being represented (Maton, 2016: 64) as:

- Rhizomatic area: lower semantic gravity with higher semantic density, in which comparatively knowledge and specific positions put an effort for accomplishment;
- Prosaic area: higher semantic gravity with lower semantic density, in which more context-based and easier to

understand;

- Rarefied area: higher semantic gravity with lower semantic density, in which comparatively more context-independent;
- Worldly area: higher semantic gravity with higher semantic density, in which context-based and more complex.

Wording

ESD is a tool for measuring the strength of complexity. Wording is used to analyze the practice knowledge through the discourse to spot the patterns contained in it. The tool analyzed specifically 'content words' such as nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs (Maton, 2016: 50). Wording tools are very useful for determining condensation in analyzing discourse. To determine the complexity of a word, it could be analyzed by breaking down the clauses.

In words exploration, complexity depend on the location of the meaning in social distance and social relations between speakers. This then divided into two: technical word is where the meaning has stronger semantic density and more specialized (ESD+) included conglomerate and compact words; everyday word on the other hand, is where the meaning has weaker semantic density and less

specialized or in commonplace use (ESD–) included consolidated and common words

Tabel 1: Wording tool for epistemic-semantic density (Maton, 2016: 68)

ESD	Type	Subtype	Sub-subtype
+ ↑ ↓ -	<i>technical</i>	<i>conglomerate</i>	<i>-properties</i>
			<i>-elements</i>
		<i>compact</i>	<i>-properties</i>
			<i>-elements</i>
	<i>everyday</i>	<i>consolidated</i>	<i>specialist</i>
			<i>generalist</i>
<i>common</i>		<i>nuanced</i>	
		<i>plain</i>	

Communication happened with someone who has a close social relationship in commonplace might result more common senses in the conversation. Vice versa, if it is located in specialized place, it results more uncommon sense in the conversation.

For example, a word ‘gold’ in everyday use, is defined as yellow, shiny, expensive, jewelry and beauty (Maton & Doran, 2017: 59). In everyday use, the word is not associated with anything particular, this limits the relationship of the word with other meanings. Though, in technical use, a word gold of chemistry is related to a chemical element and atomic number. Thus, this word is specialized that have less common meaning to interpret. The meanings forcing the interpretation to relate it with other meanings such as composition

Maton & Doran (2016: 63).

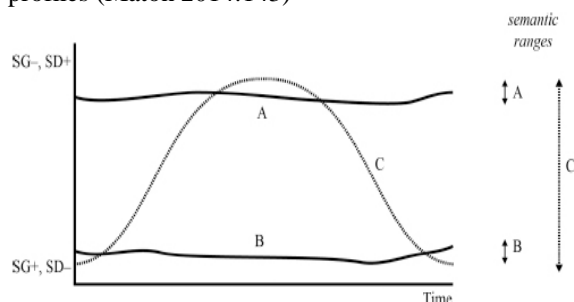
structure, stock company and taxonomies. Hence, gold is a complex word that has more than one meaning that could be interpret in specialized in greater area of meaning. One word may have both types of wording, technical and everyday words. Words in technical may be used in everyday use as well and vice versa.

The characteristic wording of technical are often long words or combination of names and places such as a word of microorganism. The meanings of technical words are supposed to interpret within specialized area, otherwise it is emphasized in an article with an italics font. On the other hand, everyday words are shorter and typically use most of the word classes. As it is not attached to other area, everyday words have higher fluidity in meaning making.

Semantic profiles

Tracing each word in discourse is not needed method, profiles help to draw conclusions and describe patterns that exist in discourse. This method allows the readers to spot the more epistemic density words. The figure shows that the proportional strengths on vertical (SG+SD) and horizontal (time). It moves the emphasis from forms of information to how knowledge evolves through time viewed as a continuum research.

Graphic 2: Three illustrative semantic profiles (Maton 2014:143)



The illustration above shows to reveal the semantic density by looking on y-axis for the strength and x-axis for the time appearance on the text. Three illustrative in the excerpt then portrays a strong semantic *flatline* (A), a weak semantic *flatline* (B) and a semantic wave (C). It also presents that (A) and (B) have weaker ranges than (C). The semantic profiles form a curve according to the semantic density contained in text.

METHODOLOGY

This study used qualitative descriptive method. The method suits the study because it summarized data from naturalistic inquiry, that study specific everyday events (Lamberts, 2012: 255). This study accommodating frequent activities of how context and complexity were appeared in the chosen data.

The data were taken from six written legal document that formed as letters included three decrees and three police summons published in the internet between 2019-2020. The letters chosen were law documents because law makes society became citizens. Law control how society behave, thus, the language used must be clear to all parties (Dworkin, 1986: 3). In semantics, a word and term in the field of law requires two conditions, namely the words and terms have a mono-semantic

character (have only one meaning) and the terms must be well defined, easy and clear (Soeroso, 2006: 24). Thus, the data were derived from law documents because it forced the practitioners gain awareness of the use of complex words that difficult to define by the readers.

The data were analyzed using Legitimation code theory specifically semantic density. Several steps were conducted (Martin, Maton, Doran's, 2019: 69). First the data were differentiated by labelling it using summon 1, summon 2 and summon 3 for police summon letters. For decrees, labelled were given as decrees 1, decrees 2 and decrees 3. Second, the data then examined on their wording. By then, it was necessary to display the epistemic-semantic density profile in each excerpt in purpose to revealed an outlines from the pattern through the discourse. Finally, the findings were investigated to see the consistency of semantic density in writing the legal text.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Wording

The findings of analysis reveal that there are two wording categories found on the chosen data: technical and everyday wording. The study shows that from the total of 23 expressions, it is found 16 times technical wording appears in enactment, description and abbreviation of information, while everyday wording appears 7 times in notifications, command and event information. Thus the analysis found that the practitioners did not used lower level complexity in the data.

Tabel 2: Wording categories through the findings

NO	TECHNICAL WORDING	TIMES OF APPEARANCE	EVERYDAY WORDING	TIMES OF APPEARANCE
1	Information	3	Notification	3
2	Enactment	5	Command	1
3	Description	3	Event Information	3
4	Abbreviation Of Information	1		
5	Recall Enactment	4		
	Total	16		7

Complexity arises in practice knowledge when stronger semantic density (SD+) appear more frequently than weaker semantic density (SD-) (Maton, 2011: 192) explains. In this case, the stronger semantic density (SD+) is technical wording and the weaker semantic density (SD-) is everyday wording. In accordance with the results obtained by the data, technical wording appears more frequently than everyday wording, it can be concluded that from the results of the analysis that has been carried out, the complexity of legal documents was found. Practitioners wrote complex documents, which can have multiple interpretations for the public to read.

Summon2: Unit IV SUBDIT IV **Cyber Crime** DIT RESKRIMSUS Polda Metro Jaya.

As seen from example occurred in the data, it found that most of the word were technical words. This can be seen in Excerpts Summon 2 where there are both technical and everyday words. It is found that in technical words, there were 3 consolidates words 'Subdit, dit reskrimsus' and 1 compact word 'Cyber Crime'. In everyday words, it is found that there was

one common type (Unit and polda metro jaya). In sum, in this clause, it is technical words that dominated.

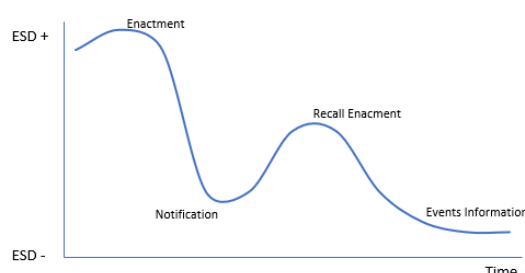
Decrees 3: Bahwa keputusan sebagaimana dimaksud dalam **huruf a^P** telah berakhir masa berlakunya

On the other hand, the result shows that the occurrences in several clauses dominated by everyday words in the clause. As shown in Excerpts above, it is found that only one type occurs in the clause namely common types that include to everyday words.

Semantic profiles

After the wording categories classified, the semantic profiles were examined. Semantic profiles are needed to avoids centralizing and portrays a theoretically infinite number of relational positions. As a result, putting certain instruments into action will reveal the complexity of knowledge practices.

Graphic 3: ESD profiles of data summon 1



Graphic 3 portray the outline and structures change throughout the data. The example shows that on Enactment, the ESD is higher than the events information. It is highlight that practitioners begin the text with high complexity words. This happened when the technical words were dominated in the discourse. As can be seen in the example, less complicated word realized in

delivering notification to the reader. Then, in re-conveying the enactment the complex words were reused. At the end, the closing of the discourse conveys event information where the use of the 'everyday' word is applied to make it easier for the reader to understand the contents of the discourse.

CONCLUSION

The complexity is a key to understand the rules conveyed in a legal document that has public as a target reader. For example, the defining techniques of daily use may be drawn through materials considered to be definitive by practitioners in law field using reference books or encyclopedias. Altogether, proof read by editor in charge will help insure that the documents is indeed reliable and valid.

This research offers insight into the complexity of the language used in legal documents. Studies offer the formulation and choice of words in formulating language that is related to the wider community. The textual function, according to Halliday (1998), is continuous with how the assistance language is coherent and coherent, both verbal and non-verbal. Therefore, the realization of complexity in legal documents, it is concluded that practitioners convey information and try to formulate legal documents with a high level of complexity that causes the wider community to be confused and suspect the information presented. This finding raise further question, that why the patterns on the legal documents, especially decrees and summon letters were dominated by technical words. Furthermore, it is make way for other researchers to find out whether these patterns could entail other kinds of movements.

Finally, it can be concluded that the use of complex words affects people's understanding of the legal language. As a final note, in semantics, a word and term

must have one meaning and be conveyed briefly, concisely, clearly so that the public does not suspect the information being delivered (Soeroso, 2006: 24).

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