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Uncovering the Investigator's Assumptions in Sexual Violence Crime Investigative Interviews: A Forensic Linguistic Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Background: The information supplied by a victim of sexual violence during an investigative interview frequently serves as the sole foundation for investigators in processing a sexual violence case. Nonetheless, the investigative interview process often lacks professionalism due to efforts to impose the investigator's personal assumptions.

Aims: This research is a forensic language analysis intended to uncover the assumptions held by an investigator during an investigative interview with a child victim of sexual violence.

Methods: This study utilized qualitative data obtained from the investigative interview between an investigator and a child victim of sexual violence at a police station in Cilacap. Conversation data were collected using listening and note-taking techniques. The statistics were subsequently verified with the investigator to validate their legitimacy. This study employs the dialogic speech act theory technique proposed by Weigand (2010) to elucidate the assumptions held by the researcher.

Results: The findings of this study suggested that the investigator attempted to impose her personal assumptions on the victim through numerous exploratory speech acts designed to validate, offer options, and direct the victim's responses.

Implications: The findings of this study may serve as a reference in assessing the specifics of inquiries within the Standard Operational Procedure on Examination and questioning techniques during the investigative interview procedure.

Keywords: *Assumption; investigator; investigative interview; sexual violence crime*

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1. INTRODUCTION

The resolution of a criminal case necessitates a protracted duration, as stipulated in the Regulation of the Chief of the Republic of Indonesia National Police (Perkap Polri) Number 6 of 2019 on Criminal Investigation (*Perkap Polri No. 6 Tahun 2019*). The investigation procedure, which may include an investigative interview, is necessary to resolve a criminal case (Vidhiasi, 2024). The primary objective of an investigative interview process, as delineated in the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP), particularly Article 1 Number 2, is to gather information or statements from an examinee, whether a suspect, witness, or any individual deemed significant for inquiry in a case (Vidhiasi, 2024; Bachari et al., 2019).

The investigative interview procedure, fundamentally a question-and-answer format, will employ specific interrogative terms to elicit varied responses (Vaughan, M., Milne, R.,

[Cherryman, J., & Dalton, G., 2024](#)). During investigative interviews, an investigator adheres to the Standard Operational Procedures (SOP) for examination when formulating questions. This SOP delineates guidelines and regulations about the investigative interview process, including selecting permissible questions ([Garg, A., 2023](#)).

The SOP of Examination indeed elucidates the objective of each question type. Nonetheless, investigators continue to introduce their personal assumptions during each investigative interview procedure ([Pandean, 2018](#)). The emergence of intent, or an investigator's assumption, significantly influences the outcome of an investigative interview ([Naskah Akademik RUU TPKS, 2020](#)). The emergence of personal assumptions from an investigator when conducting an investigative interview process gives rise to allegations of police unprofessionalism, including insults and intimidation ([Nurisman, 2022](#)).

Apart from the facts shown by an investigator, the Naskah Akademik RUU TPKS also stated that sexual violence crimes are frequently perceived as lacking substantial evidence. This results from the absence or scarcity of eyewitnesses to the incident. Furthermore, the outcomes of an investigative interview, frequently utilized as the sole evidence in case resolution, rely primarily on assumptions rather than robust evidence ([Hisbah & Enny, 2022](#); [Mulyasari & Andriasari, 2023](#); [Sumampouw et al., 2020](#)). Those facts are the reason for this study, which identifies the primary reason as the assumptions of an investigator and the investigative interview process that lack an evidence-based foundation.

The Standard Operational Guidelines (SOP) for Examination, maintained by the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Indonesian National Police, delineate 7-KAH interrogative terms that serve as a framework for questioning an interrogated individual ([SOP Bareskrim Polri, n.d.](#)). The interrogative terms are *siapakah* (who), *apakah* (what), *di manakah* (where), *dengan apakah* (with what), *mengapakah* (why), *bagaimanakah* (how), and *bilamanakah* (when). The seven interrogative words with distinct meanings are abbreviated as *SI ADI DEMEN BABI* for the convenience of investigators in recalling them ([Agustin & Wulandari, 2011](#); [Nina, 2020](#); [Muniroh, 2019](#)). The term, an abbreviation for several question words, is exclusively utilized within the Indonesian National Police. This indicates that other countries might have distinct terms.

The Examination SOP states that the query "*siapakah* (who)" aims to identify the individuals involved in a criminal act. The individuals involved are not restricted to the purported offenders or witnesses; they may include anyone connected to a criminal incident. This aligns with Chaer's ([2011](#)) assertion that the interrogative term "who" is designed to inquire about the names and identities of individuals or animals.

The term ADI in *SI ADI DEMEN BABI* is an abbreviation for "*apakah* (what)" and "*di manakah* (where)". The term "*apakah* (what)" is employed to elicit information regarding the events, the instruments utilized, the underlying causes, and the context of an incident. Furthermore, the inquiry "*di manakah* (where)" implies identifying specific locations. This location encompasses not just the crime scene but also the site where the victim was discovered or the area where the accused offender and victim were situated before the criminal event.

The subsequent acronym is DEMEN, derived from the phrases "*dengan apakah* (with what)" and "*mengapakah* (why)". Similar to "*apakah* (what)", the phrase "*dengan apakah* (with what)" serves to ascertain the instruments employed in a criminal incident. Nevertheless, the two interrogative terms differ, as "*dengan apakah* (with what)" is only confined to inquiries regarding tools. The interrogative term "*mengapakah* (why)" serves a function analogous to that of "*apakah* (what)", specifically in the context of eliciting information regarding the backdrop of an occurrence.

The last term, BABI, is an abbreviation for "*bagaimanakah* (how)" and "*bilamanakah* (when)". The inquiry "*bagaimanakah* (how)" pertains to how an action was executed,

whereas the question “*bilamanakah* (when)” relates to the temporal aspect, addressing either the timing of the event or additional relevant timeframes.

This study employs a pragmatic theoretical framework, specifically the dialogic speech act theory proposed by Weigand (2010), to analyze the interpretation of questions an investigator poses throughout the investigative interview process. Weigand (2010) defines a speech act as a combination of illocutionary forces and perlocutionary effects that collaboratively generate a significant utterance. She stated that all sides, the speaker and the interlocutor, must be regarded equally to thoroughly examine an utterance from a speech act viewpoint. Weigand's (2010) speech act taxonomy emphasizes the significance of speech act patterns that consider the interlocutor's response as a singular semantic unit. **Figure 1** illustrates the correlation between action and reaction for each speech act.

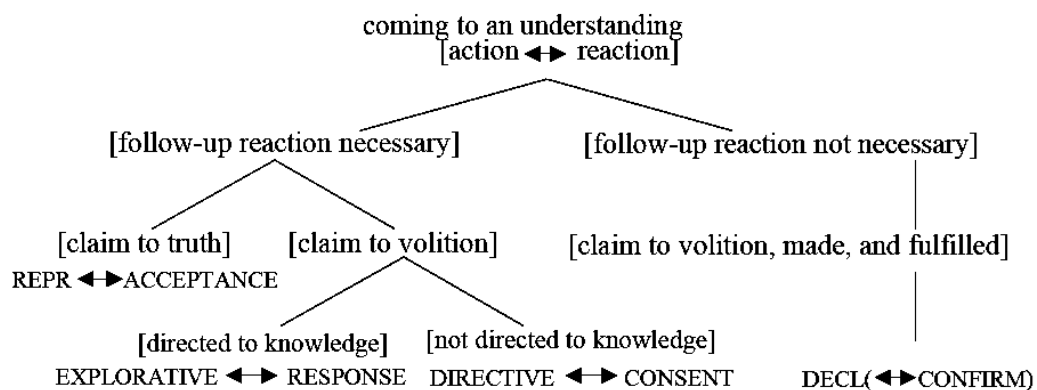


Figure 1. Weigand's Speech Act (Weigand, 2010:144)

Weigand (2010) describes declarative as speech acts in which the speaker asserts and realizes a claim to construct a world, thereby creating that world through declarative utterance. The anticipated reactive response from the hearer may be a confirmation (Tsoumou, 2020). A declarative speech act primarily emphasizes the human endeavor to establish social relationships. This effort is evident in the utilization of language at every opportunity. Weigand (2010) asserts that declarative speech can exert influence independently of reactive speech. The utterance “thank you” is interpreted as an expression of gratitude, regardless of the absence of the reactive speech “you are welcome”.

The second speech act in Weigand's (2010) taxonomy is explorative. Explorative speech serves the purpose of fulfilling fundamental human needs for specific information. A reactive response to an explorative speech act may be positive or negative. Weigand (2010) stated that a reactive speech act is not necessarily the final speech act in a sequence of conversations; additional reactive speech acts may succeed. The reactive speech act operates within a layered structure as an initiative speech act, potentially eliciting additional reactive speech acts. Weigand (2010) identifies three functional differentiations of explorative speech based on the reactive speech produced: representative, aimed at obtaining information about a subject (e.g., What time is it now?); directive, focused on acquiring information regarding actions to be taken (e.g., What should I do?); and declarative, intended to request confirmation of a specific status from the interlocutor, typically in a legal context. Explorative speech acts that elicit a directive response are exemplified in offers, such as “Would you like some coffee?”.

Directive speech acts are designed to “change the world,” in contrast to declarative speech acts, which aim to “create the world” (Tsoumou, 2020). This speech act emphasizes the speaker's intention for the interlocutor to comply with or accept the command issued by the speaker. The anticipated response from the interlocutor is consent, which may be either

affirmative or negative. Weigand (2010) posits that directive action games are characterized by a claim to volition to prompt future practical actions or behavioral changes in the interlocutor. Their objective is to achieve a reactive speech act of consent. Directive speech acts encompass orders, requests, and pleas.

Weigand (2010) posits that representative speech acts operate under the assumption that the speaker's utterance is true, and it is anticipated that the interlocutor will accept or concur with the asserted "truth" (Tsoumou, 2020; Vidhiyasi, 2024). Weigand (2010) posits that absolute truth does not exist; rather, only claims to truth are made by the speaker. Weigand (2010) categorizes representative speech acts into two primary sub-types: a claim to truth, which is a straightforward assertion ('that it is so'), and a claim regarding the possibility of truth, which is a modal assertion ('that it would/could/should be so'). The fundamental distinction between these two sub-types lies in contrast between 'truth perceived as certain' and 'truth regarded as conditional, possible, or desired'.

1.1 Research Gap and Novelty

Scholars like Korkman et al. (2008) and Sumampouw et al. (2020) have studied the questioning strategies investigators employ during the investigative interview process. Korkman et al. (2008) examined interview strategies used by police investigators in Finland during investigative interviews related to sexual violence, revealing a predominant usage of multiple-choice questions, leading questions, and suggestive questions by investigators. Comparable findings about the utilization of inquiries by researchers were also observed in Sumampouw et al.'s., (2020) study. Sumampouw et al. (2020) examined the types of questions employed by police investigators in Indonesia. They found that among the four categories—open-ended, directive, multiple-choice, and suggestive—investigators utilized directive and multiple-choice questions more frequently. Research by Sumampouw et al. (2020) also indicates that the investigative interview procedure in Indonesia lacks recording and depends solely on notes taken by investigators (Muniroh, 2019). Sumampouw et al. (2020) identified this as a contributing factor to the low resolution of sexual violence cases in Indonesia.

Both studies address the types of inquiries most frequently utilized by investigators and the non-linguistic factors that arise during the investigative interview process. Nonetheless, no research has been completed to ascertain an investigator's preconceptions based on the interrogative terms employed throughout the investigative process, particularly with sexual violence offenses in Indonesia. The performed research is consistently grounded in conversational data found in an Examination Report (*Berita Acara Pemeriksaan/BAP*) produced by the investigator upon completing the investigative interview process (Bachari et al., 2019). While the snippets from the conversation data originate from the investigative interview process, the data recorded in the *BAP* frequently diverges from the speech presented during the interview. This investigation was conducted based on this discrepancy.

1.2 Research Question

This research examines the intent or assumptions demonstrated by an investigator during investigative interviews with child victims in sexual violence cases in Indonesia, analyzed from a linguistic perspective. This investigation examines the application of questioning language utilized by investigators and the replies provided by victims. The frequent reliance on victim-provided information in resolving sexual violence cases in Indonesia, which often results in miscarriages of justice and unequal outcomes, suggests that the investigative interview process employed by investigators may be flawed in its approach. The challenge formulated in this study is: What assumptions does the investigator raise through the

questions employed throughout the investigative interview process with a victim of sexual violence?

This study seeks to elucidate how investigators formulate “questions” and how to linguistically express “questions” as a conduit to other acts, particularly those on legal proceedings and law enforcement agencies in instances of sexual violence. This project aims to enhance the efficacy of investigative interviews in sexual violence cases and to foster victims’ trust in law enforcement.

2. METHODS

2.1 Research Design

This forensic language investigation study integrates legal and linguistic dimensions within its multidisciplinary framework. This indicates that this research integrates linguistic elements into the legal domain. This study is not a legal investigation but an applied linguistic inquiry within the legal domain.

This research employs a qualitative design utilizing a case study approach. A case study is a research methodology prevalent in various disciplines, particularly in evaluation, wherein the researcher conducts a comprehensive investigation of a specific instance, which may encompass a program, event, activity, process, or one or more individuals (Creswell, 2012). This study involved a case study of the investigative interview process carried out by an investigator from a police department in Cilacap with a child victim of a Sexual Violence Crime, supported by a representative from a ministry office in Cilacap. The application of a case study research design in this study is deemed suitable as the research data was collected inside specific occurrences and temporal contexts. This indicates that while the findings of this study can be applied to sexual violence case interviews, additional research is required for implementation in various contexts.

2.2 Research Subjects

This study involved a case analysis of the investigative interview process carried out by an investigator from a police department in Cilacap, Indonesia focusing on a child victim of a sexual violence crime, with support from a representative from a ministry office in Cilacap. This research case study includes one investigator from a police office in Cilacap, one child victim of a sexual violence incident, and one representative from a ministry office in Cilacap.

This research does not establish the criteria for investigator, victim, or companion utilized as research subjects. This action is undertaken to uphold the authority of law enforcement. The selection of the investigator, victim, and companion is determined not by the researcher but by the directives of the Head of Unit (*Kanit*) at a police office in Cilacap. The relationship between participants involves an investigator affiliated with a police unit in Cilacap, who possesses full authority to conduct investigative interviews with the victim. The individual is a student recognized as a victim of sexual violence, currently providing information to an investigator. Additionally, the companion is an individual from a representative office of a ministry in Cilacap assigned to assist the victim as a service user, beginning with case registration and concluding with the trial verdict.

In adherence to academic ethics and to safeguard the participants’ identities, the names referenced in this research, including both the names or initials of the participants and the names of locations associated with the victim, are pseudonymous. Consequently, the designations of the individuals in this study will solely refer to their roles in the investigative interview process, specifically as investigator, victim, and companion.

2.3 Research Procedures

This study concentrated solely on qualitative data from the investigator's initiative speech and the child victim's reactive speech, despite three individuals' involvement in the investigative interview procedure. The speech data in the investigation interview for this study was sourced from the initial investigative interview process. During the investigative interview, the available speech data was not recorded electronically but documented manually. This strategy was employed because the investigator refused to consent to the recording.

The data gathered in this study comprise the researcher's field notes, which include statements that arose during the interview between the investigator and the child victim of the sexual violence case. The existing voice data was obtained by the listening and recording method ([Sudaryanto, 2015](#)). The listening method is essential for observing the language utilized by the investigator and the child victim during the interview process, manifested through natural speech events occurring within the investigative interview. In the listening approach, the researcher records the dialogue between the subjects to capture spontaneous speech from the investigator to the victim or, conversely, the victim's reaction to the investigator. The notes are subsequently verified for accuracy with the investigator. Upon accuracy verification, the data notes are meticulously recreated and systematically organized based on requirements.

2.4 Research Instruments

In this study, the researcher serves as the primary instrument for data collection. This indicates that the researcher gathers data through observation, auditory engagement, inquiry, and note-taking of the emerging study data. For further details, the researcher is a doctor who concentrates on pragmatic research and linguistic forensics. Furthermore, the researcher has participated in the analysis of legal issues from a linguistic perspective on numerous occasions. This implies that the researcher is already aware of how to address an issue that intersects with the law. It is crucial to minimize bias in the collection and processing of data.

2.5 Data Analysis

Linguistic data obtained during the investigator's examination of the victim transforms into linguistic evidence. This linguistic data pertains to the statements made during the investigative interview done by the investigator with the victim of sexual violence. The gathered data is further analyzed to determine the frequency of each question type concerning the Examination SOP. Subsequently, the available data is evaluated utilizing Weigand's ([2010](#)) dialogic speech act theory to discern the significance of the utterances articulated by the investigator, particularly concerning the "*apakah* (what)" sort of inquiry. The application of Weigand's ([2010](#)) theory aims to examine the underlying assumptions associated with the "*apakah* (what)" form of question. The researcher analyzed the investigator's interrogative statements alongside the victim's responses to identify a cohesive meaning that emerged.

The emphasis on analyzing solely the question "*apakah* (what)" is due not only to its predominant frequency of use but also to the extensive range of meanings it encompasses, as employed by investigators during the investigative interview process. Variations in the question can lead to varied interpretations of the responses.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Findings

This study's analysis of speech acts reveals that the investigator employs more explorative speech acts during investigative interviews with victims. Among the three categories of explorative speech acts delineated by Weigand (2010), the investigator predominantly utilizes explorative-representative speech acts. This indicates that, in response to the reactive speech acts articulated by the victim, the investigator's primary objective is to extract information from the victim regarding the sexual violence incident she endured. Given the prevalence of explorative speech acts observed in the investigative interview process between investigator and victim, the researcher aimed to elucidate the questioning strategies employed by an investigator, particularly concerning the type of questions prefaced with "*apakah* (what)."

According to the findings from the data analysis, the researcher discovered that the investigator predominantly employed various forms of the question "*apakah* (what)" during the interview process with victims of sexual violence crimes. This indicates that the investigator prioritizes gathering information about the events, instruments, causes, and contexts surrounding the sexual violence experienced by victims. The comparative frequency of each question type, ranked from most to least, is presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Types of Questions Used by the Investigator

No.	Types of Question	Quantities	Percentages
1.	<i>Apakah</i> (what)	65	71.4%
2.	<i>Siapakah</i> (who)	9	9.9%
3.	<i>Di manakah</i> (where)	7	7.7%
4.	<i>Dengan apakah</i> (with what)	4	4.4%
5.	<i>Bagaimanakah</i> (how)	2	2.2%
6.	<i>Mengapakah</i> (why)	1	1.1%
7.	<i>Bilamanakah</i> (when)	0	0%
8.	<i>Lainnya</i> (Other)	3	3.3%
Total		91	100%

Table 1 indicates that out of 91 types of questions posed by the investigator, 65, representing 71.4%, are of the "*apakah* (what)" type. Upon close observation, various types of questions can be identified as utilized by the investigator during investigative interviews with victims. This study identified questions excluded from *SI ADI DEMEN BABI* and the 7-KAH question framework as outlined in the Examination SOP. This study analyses the "*apakah* (what)" type of questions, which the investigator most frequently utilizes.

The investigator employs three tactics in formulating the question type "*apakah* (what)": (1) omitting any question terms; (2) utilizing the question word "*apakah* (what)"; and (3) employing alternative question words. Upon reviewing the Examination SOP's elucidation of the query type "*apakah* (what)," it is evident that the investigator is required to consistently employ the interrogative "*apakah* (what)" in all her inquiries. Nevertheless, the available evidence indicates that the investigator predominantly posed inquiries of the form "*apakah* (what)" during the investigative interview process without employing any interrogative phrases at the outset of her questioning. The results concerning the methodologies for articulating the question categories identified by researchers are shown in **Table 2**.

Table 2 The Strategy of "*apakah* (what)" Question Types Used by the Investigator

No.	Strategies Used	Quantities	Percentages
1.	Omitting any question terms	44	67.7%
2.	Utilizing the question word " <i>apakah</i> (what)"	17	26.1%
3.	Employing alternative question words	4	6.2%
Total		65	100%

The findings presented in **Table 2** indicate that the investigator did not consistently adhere to the use of question words as outlined in the SOP of Examination. The findings concerning the strategies employed by the investigator led to the formulation of three hypotheses: (1) the 7-KAH questions outlined in the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Indonesian National Police serve merely as general guidelines rather than mandatory work instructions, (2) the investigator lack comprehension of the guidelines related to the 7-KAH and the significance of each question within the SOP, and (3) the investigator aim to render the victim interview process more natural and approachable.

The SOP of Examination clarifies that the query “*apakah* (what)” aims to investigate the criminal act, particularly its cause, instruments, and context. Despite the original objective outlined in the SOP of Examination, the investigator employs her methods to acquire the desired information. This strategy encapsulates the “hidden” significance of an articulated question. The “hidden” meaning or implication pertains to the assumptions held by an investigator concerning a certain case. This presumption can subsequently establish a pattern of inquiries the interrogated individual poses during the investigative interview process.

Among the 65 categories of “*apakah* (what)” enquiries posed by the investigator, four distinct objectives were identified: (1) eliciting information; (2) confirmation; (3) offering alternatives; and (4) directing responses. The genesis of these four goals was random rather than sequential. Furthermore, employing “*apakah* (what)” queries designed to offer alternatives and direct responses indicates that the investigator owns her own ideas about the potential responses related to the case under examination. This presumption has the potential to conceal the facts of an existing situation.

The emergence of these four intentions is not addressed in the SOP of Examination. This raises a hypothesis that the investigator may propose any assumptions or intentions, provided that the primary objective of the question “*apakah* (what)” is fulfilled. Furthermore, an analysis of the interview data reveals that the investigator employed a more significant number of questions aimed at “offering alternatives” and “directing responses” compared to those solely focused on “eliciting information”. The validity of the “freedom to provide assumptions” could jeopardize the integrity of the investigative interview process. Furthermore, an investigator’s emotional history with the examinee’s behavior or the examinee may lead to personal assumptions that can obscure the factual understanding of the events in question. These elements must be anticipated in the Standard Operating Procedure for Examination.

During the investigative interview process, the researcher identified four intentions associated with using the question type “*apakah* (what)” when inquiries were posed without employing any interrogative terms. This is illustrated in **Excerpt 1** (eliciting information), **Excerpt 2** (confirmation), **Excerpt 3** (offering alternatives), and **Excerpt 4** (guiding responses).

Excerpt 1

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| ¹ Korban (Victim) | : | Saya di SMK XXX (I study) in Senior High School XXX) |
| ² Penyidik (Investigator) | : | a. SMK XXX (Senior High School XXX)
b. Jurusan? (Program?) |
| ³ Korban (Victim) | : | Komputer Akuntansi (Computer Accountancy) |

In **Excerpt 1**, particularly **line 2(b)**, it is evident that the investigator posed a single word to the victim without employing any interrogative terms. The investigator concentrated solely on uncovering details regarding the academic program pursued by the victim at school. An inquiry was made regarding the victim’s status as a student currently enrolled in

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a vocational school in Cilacap—the investigator’s explorative speech aimed to elucidate the victim’s identity.

Excerpt 2

- ¹Penyidik (Investigator) : **Berarti pas korban di kamar mandi, pintunya gak dikunci?** (Does that mean when you were in the bathroom, the door wasn’t locked?)
- ²Korban (Victim) : a. *Belum bu* (not yet Ma’am)
b. *Baru mau ngunci, terus pelaku masuk* (Just about to lock it, then the perpetrator came in)
c. *Nah pas pelaku ini masuk, baru pelaku mengunci pintunya.* (So when the perpetrator entered, the perpetrator locked the door).

The interrogative “*apakah* (what)” aimed at confirming with the victim is evident in **Excerpt 2**, particularly in **line 1**. **Line 1** has a word that serves as a marker for a confirmatory query, namely the term “*berarti* (does that mean).” Considering the context of the whole conversation, the investigator had previously obtained information indicating that the victim had entered the bathroom and had not had the opportunity to secure the door. The investigator attempted to verify the information provided by the victim.

In **Excerpt 2**, particularly **line 2(a)**, the victim responds to the investigator’s question with “*belum* (not yet).” This indicates that the questions aimed at confirmation are primarily designed to elicit a “yes” or “no” response. Furthermore, the emphasis on obtaining a definitive answer can lead to personal biases from the investigator, as they may draw conclusions they perceive to be accurate.

In addition to her intent to gather information and verify facts, the investigator poses “*apakah* (what)” questions without explicit interrogative words to offer victims options. This method of communication, aimed at presenting choices, is predominantly utilized by the investigator throughout the investigative interview process. Consequently, the investigator tends to offer a more significant number of options based on her assumptions, thereby limiting the victims’ opportunity to narrate a comprehensive account of the sexual violence they endured. An illustration of this approach can be observed in **Excerpt 3**.

Excerpt 3

- ¹Penyidik (Investigator) : **Nah, trus, pas udah sampe kosan, korban nawarin pelaku masuk atau gimana?** (So, then, when you arrived at the boarding house, did you offer the perpetrator a place to come inside or how?)
- ²Korban (Victim) : a. *Engga bu* (no Ma’am)
b. *Jadi katanya pelaku mau ikut numpang duduk bentar sampe nunggu waktu Jumatan.* (So he said that he wanted to come along and sit for a while waiting for Friday prayers.)

The results in **Excerpt 3**, particularly in **line 1**, indicate that the investigator employed the conjunction “*atau* (or)” to present an option. The term “*atau* (or)” is defined in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) as a conjunction that indicates a choice among multiple options (Chaer, 2011). In **Excerpt 3**, the investigator presents a selection through the phrases “*korban nawarin pelaku masuk kos* (you offer the perpetrator a place to come inside)” or “*gimana* (how)”. Several aspects of the choices presented by the investigator warrant emphasis. The investigator posits that the victim extended an offer or invitation to the perpetrator to enter the boarding house after the victim’s arrival. If the investigator lacked a personal assumption, the question could have been altered to, “What actions did you take after arriving at the boarding house?”

The second point to emphasize is the alternative presented by the investigator, precisely the term “*gimana* (how).” A question necessitating a “yes” or “no” response typically presents these two alternatives solely and does not conclude with the option “how”. In **Excerpt 3**, the investigator is confident that the victim invited the perpetrator to her

boarding house. This assumption is perilous, as the primary objective of the investigative interview is not to elicit a confession but to get comprehensive and precise information.

Excerpt 4

- ¹Penyidik (Investigator) : *Trus korban temenin ngobrol gitu apa gak?*
(Then, did you accompany him to chat or not?)
²Korban (Victim) : *Temenin bu. (Accompany (yes), Ma'am)*
³Penyidik (Investigator) : *Lama ngobrolnya?* (Is it long (the duration))
⁴Korban (Victim) : a. *Gak sih bu* (No, Ma'am)
b. *Mungkin sekitar 5 10 menit* (Maybe about 5-10 minutes)

The investigator's assumption appears to be more evident in **Excerpt 4**. In contrast to **Excerpt 3**, **Excerpt 4** presents the investigator offering the victim the option of "*gak* (no)" to indicate that the question posed is a "yes" or "no" inquiry. Nevertheless, the initial option presented by the investigator, specifically "*temenin ngobrol* (to accompany the perpetrator to chat)", indicates the investigator's belief that the victim did indeed accompany the perpetrator for a conversation.

Following the investigator's receipt of the affirmative response "yes (to accompany the perpetrator)," indicating that the victim did join the perpetrator for a conversation, the investigator sought to formulate the subsequent hypothesis by guiding the victim's response. The investigator's inquiry in **line 3** indicates that the investigator is steering the victim's response by presenting only a singular answer option, specifically "*lama* (long)." The investigator believes that the dialogue between the victim and the perpetrator necessitates an extended duration. Despite the victim's reaction words in line 4(a) suggesting differently, this does not negate the reality that the investigator is attempting to guide the victim's response.

3.2 Discussion

The presented facts indicate that the investigator incorporates her assumptions when making interrogative remarks addressing the "*apakah* (what)" inquiry. Pandean (2018) elucidates that an interrogative statement articulated by an individual engenders certain connotations pertinent to the communicative context and interaction among participants. Pandean (2018) asserted that while the primary function of an interrogative sentence is to solicit information or confirmation, its application is not exclusively limited to this aim. Interrogative statements may not solely serve as queries; they can also operate as directives, initiate conversations, or inquire about an individual's status.

Among the four aims of the inquiry "*apakah* (what)" employed by the investigator, the query aimed at confirmation, offering alternatives, and guiding the victim's response is most susceptible to the investigator's personal biases (Sari et al., 2024; Yeschke, 2003). In contrast to Pandean's (2018) interpretation, questions designed to steer the victim's response imply that the investigator is instructing the victim to acquiesce to the investigator's preferred answer.

Indonesian syntax categorizes interrogative sentences into two types: informative interrogative sentences and confirmative interrogative sentences (Pandean, 2018). The Standard Operating Procedure for Examination, established by the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Indonesian National Police, mandates that the inquiries posed by the investigator must be informative. The investigator must gather comprehensive information from the examinee regarding the criminal incident they encountered. In the investigative interview process, the investigator's speech towards victims predominantly consisted of confirmatory rather than informative interrogative speech. This finding raises questions about the investigator's capability to conduct investigative interviews or comprehend the Standard

Operating Procedure for Examination. According to Sudaryanto (1983), as cited in Pandean (2018), the purpose of the proposition in a confirmatory question is to elicit justification or denial from others. This indicates the investigator's belief in the validity of her proposition. The subsequent inquiry to consider is the rationale behind the investigator's preference for confirmatory questions over informative questions.

Option questions are deemed appropriate within the context of investigative interviews conducted in Indonesia due to the necessity of adhering to the established POB Examination protocols. The employment of option and leading questions may be perceived as coercing respondents into conforming to the investigator's assumptions (Fisher et al., 2011; Heydon, 2012; Korkman et al., 2024).

According to Shepherd & Griffiths (2013), as cited in Muniroh & Heydon (2022), the investigative interview process is more effective when it commences with open-ended questions, followed by probing inquiries, and concludes with "yes/no" questions. The prevalence of multiple-choice and leading questions indicates that the questioning in the investigative interviews conducted by the investigator and victim in this study remains inefficient. The ineffectiveness of the questions posed by the investigator prompts scrutiny and a particular focus on the significance of each question type within the Examination SOP, as well as the investigator's comprehension of these questions. This demonstrates that the investigator remains preoccupied with extracting facts based on her assumptions rather than prioritizing the victim's perspective, which is subsequently presented as the victim's account. The emergence of investigator's assumptions, evident in their questioning remarks, frequently occurs, as noted in the studies by Korkman et al. (2008) and Sumampouw et al. (2020). Furthermore, if the investigator designated for an investigative interview is a senior investigator with substantial experience conducting such interviews. The appearance of the investigator's assumptions, along with the victim's "denial" in her responses, indicates that the investigator's assumptions may conceal the facts of the incident.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The results of this study are highly beneficial for law enforcement, particularly the investigator, to assess the significance and efficacy of each question type outlined in the Standard Operating Procedures of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Indonesian National Police. Furthermore, the review anticipates that an investigator will employ a broader array of questioning tactics designed to elicit comprehensive information from an examinee rather than concentrating on personal assumptions.

This study examines the initiative speech of an investigator and the reactive speech of a child victim during the interview process in cases of sexual violence crimes. The findings of this study should not be regarded as the sole benchmark for evaluating an Examination SOP. Subsequent research may examine the questioning strategies employed by investigators during the interview process in the context of various criminal investigations. This serves as a comparison to the findings of this study.

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