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Forensic linguistics in the linguistic personality studies paradigm

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Linguistic personality studies explore the relationship between language use and individual personality traits, they analyze language patterns and features to determine characteristics about the author or speaker. The paradigm of linguistic personality studies combines together such speaker-centred disciplines and theories, as linguistic psychology, pragmatics, discourse analysis, the theory of nonverbal communication, the theory of speech acts, linguistic personology, also known as linguistic profiling or **forensic linguistics**. These studies aim to uncover patterns and correlations between language / speech features and various aspects of an individual's personality, such as: cognitive, emotional, social characteristics as well as his / her intentions to provide the pragmatic influence on other people, and to provoke their social behaviour.

Researchers in the field of linguistic personality studies analyze different aspects of language, including vocabulary, syntax, semantics, discourse patterns to gain insights into a person's traits, interaction style, and social objectives in communication.

Forensic Linguistics is an applied branch within the linguistic personality studies, it does not have the theoretical framework of its own, rather, it exploits necessary aspects of general linguistics, psychology, and criminology to infer various attributes, such as age, gender, education level, cultural background, and personality traits, from written or spoken language products of people - articles, leaflets, e-mails, letters, presentations etc. As an applied discipline, Forensic Linguistics always involves the application of structural, pragmatic, and stylistic language knowledge, findings and methods to legal and criminal issues

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under analysis.

Forensic Linguistics is one of the fastest growing fields within Applied Linguistics (Coulthard, Johnson 2010; Olsson, 2009). It is aimed to analyze spoken and written discourses / texts to look for some language evidence that can be used in a legal case - civil or criminal. In the course of linguistic expertise, professionals can provide evidence to help the investigators to prove who is innocent and who is guilty based on the integrated linguistic analysis.

By means of examining oral and written language products from the perspectives of words choices, sentence structures, grammatical forms, punctuation, and even typographical errors, linguists as forensic experts can make inferences about the author's background and psychological profile. These analyses can be applied to a variety of contexts, including criminal investigations, intelligence gathering, and even marketing and advertising research.

For example, certain personal language markers, such as frequent use in speech of positive evaluative words or a high occurrence of first-person singular pronouns (e.g., "I," "me"), can be associated with extraversion. Conversely, individuals higher in neuroticism might exhibit more negative emotion words or a higher use of self-referential pronouns (e.g., "I," "myself").

While linguistic personality studies offer valuable insights, it's important to note that language use is just one aspect of an individual's personality. The nonverbal signs of behaviour - facial expressions, voice qualities, gestures, postures - are crucial personality markers, so they should also be considered by forensic communication experts in the course of their analysis (Seryakova, 2009). Extra-lingual factors, such as context, culture, individual differences, and situational factors, can dramatically influence the choice and manners of individual's language patterns. Therefore, it is necessary to interpret findings from linguistic personality studies with caution and consider them in conjunction with other psychological assessments, communicative and pragmatic observations.

In conclusion, linguistic personality studies contribute to our understanding of how language reflects and relates to individual differences in personality, providing a multidimensional semiotic perspective on human behavior, cognition, and emotion. It is important to note that while Forensic Linguistics can provide valuable insights, it is an

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applied philological science. It is used in conjunction with other forms of linguistic evidence or discourse analysis. Its application should be conducted by trained and experienced professionals to ensure accuracy and validity in the interpretation of linguistic units.

References:

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