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First Information Report (FIR) as a Distinct Genre of Legalese: A Corpus-based Forensic Analysis

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Abstract

Forensic linguistics deals with the use of linguistic knowledge to help solve crimes. It is an interface between language, crime, and the law. A First Information Report (FIR) is the first step in the criminal justice system to decide crimes. The language used in an FIR has wide implications in the process of administration of justice. This study was conducted to investigate how the language of FIRs is distinctive as compared to ordinary discourse, thereby constituting a genre. It further explored the characteristic linguistic features of FIRs. The data consisted of 126 FIRs (in English) registered in different police stations of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) during the year 2013. A small corpus of FIRs was then developed for the analysis of the language of FIRs. The methodology for the study was developed by synthesizing Genre Theory, Corpus-based strategies in linguistics research, and Forensic Linguistics. Data was analyzed at the macro level to determine the structure of FIRs. It was found that the main part of the FIR comprised the narrative in which complainants told their stories to the police officers. Linguistic features of FIRs at a micro level were analyzed with the help of methods devised in the light of previous research in discourse analysis. Distinctive linguistic features of FIRs were noted with the help of the electronic software AntConc. Findings of the analysis of the structure and the language of the FIRs point to the fact that FIRs are a separate genre in legal discourse, with distinct textual and textural features and moves. This study may be helpful to the law majors, the new entrants in the police department, and the teachers teaching English for occupational purposes.

Keywords:

Forensic Linguistics,

Genre Analysis,

Corpus Linguistics,

FIR,

Legalese

Introduction

The language of the law, known as *Legalese* (Schane, 2006), remains an area of interest for applied linguists. Legalese permeates all forms of legal discourse, including the First Information Report (FIR). FIR is a legal document that is registered at the time of the commission of a crime on a complaint made by a victim or another person knowing the crime. A police officer records the FIR on a police form, bearing number 5-24(I) in Pakistan. The FIR contains the narration of purported facts regarding the offense. The language used in an FIR bears important implications during the trial of the case in the courts.

Language gets distinctive features when put to use in legal a context. Schane (2006) states that legal English has become a “special dialect”, referred to as ‘legalese’ that consists of difficult vocabulary and “arcane jargon” of the law (p. 2). This type of use of language may be analyzed according to genre studies of discourse, which may be of benefit to law majors, teachers, and practitioners. Although Halliday (1979) considers it better to use the term ‘register’ as the term ‘genre’ implies literary connotations of the word, the term ‘genre’ has been consistently used in the field of language and linguistics. Genre is the use of language among professionals to achieve their communicative purposes in a distinguished style. According to Paltridge, (2006), genre is a communicating event. It has some recognizable features. Sometimes there may be a chaining of genres i.e. genres within genres can be present in a particular writing (Gibbon 2003). Among written legal genres are codified documents (e.g., Laws, judgments, contracts precedents, etc). These are known as pretrial genres. Police interviews also fall under pretrial dynamic genres. Johnson (2006) furnishes a good example of a police report/interview as a genre in Malcolm (2007). Generic knowledge informs about constituent elements of a genre, thereby providing ‘interpretive frames’. Bhatia (2004) investigates legal discourse as a genre in the legal genre system. He suggests that genre theory provides a means for analysis of legal language. Analysis of the language of legal documents shows an interface of law and language. Hence, investigation into law and language relationships falls under Forensic Linguistics.

Forensic Linguistics explores the interface between law and language of legal documents bearing a particular style. According to Olsson (2008), legal documents used in the solution of crimes are known as forensic texts. The distinctive style of language used in forensic texts is the main focus of Forensic Linguistics. Studies with forensic orientation have a long tradition but such endeavors in the legal world of discourse started with Melinkoff (1963). These studies analyze texts that are used in court during criminal trials. A corpus-based genre analysis of the language of legal documents can help identify particular moves within the genre. Corpus Linguistics deals with the collection of language specimens of naturally occurring speech and writing. Data for analysis is electronically saved and processed to make the research objective. According to Biber et al. (1998), research that uses corpus-based strategies is a blend of quantitative evidence and qualitative interpretation. This study is a synthesis of genre analysis, forensic linguistics, and corpus linguistics. It analyses First Information Reports (FIRs) to understand and interpret legal discourse in the domain of genre analysis. Characteristic language features of FIR are highlighted by using corpus-based strategies, and the case for treating FIRs as a separate genre of legal discourse is presented.

Statement of the Problem

FIR occupies a pivotal role in the process of adjudication in the courts of Pakistan. It is an important document that informs the court regarding a criminal incident. Every citizen of Pakistan is entitled to get an FIR registered against a criminal wrong done to him/her. Despite its importance, the registration of FIR has multifarious flaws which act as a hindrance in the speedy disposal of cases. There may be many points that contribute to this delay, one of which seems to be the language of FIRs. The gravity of the issue is added when an FIR is written by a novice police official. Implications of language use in FIR are of paramount importance during criminal trials. A lawyer cannot pursue criminal cases without an in-depth understanding of the contents of FIRs. The language of these documents is required to be understood by concerned parties, but the language of legal documents is not so simple and straightforward. It is necessary to analyze the language of FIRs to know its structure and texture. Analysis in this research will highlight distinguished language features of FIRs registered in different police stations. Explication of characteristic features as a genre may inform a better way to comprehend the language of FIRs.

Research Questions

1. What textual and textural features constitute the language of FIRs?
2. What moves are used in the typical structure of an FIR?
3. How is the narrative of events constructed in the FIRs?

Methodology

A mixed methods research design was followed to analyze the language and structure of the FIRs to identify and identify the moves therein. For this purpose, a total of 126 FIRs were collected from 18 police stations in the federal capital Islamabad after obtaining due permission from the relevant authorities. Thereafter, the text in English was typed, whereas the Urdu part of the text was transliterated and then typed. Typed FIRs were saved on a computer. This resulted in a small purpose-built specialized corpus to facilitate the research. After designing the corpus, the data was tagged. A key was made to tag different moves and further steps in various moves. All available models viz Labov and Waletzkey (1967), Hymes (1974), Salkie (1995), Hoey (2001), Robeiro (2010) were useful but not quite fit for analysis of the FIR narratives. All of these models including Swales (1998) and Bhatia (2004) did not cater to the text and its texture in narratives of the FIRs corpus under study. They could not address all the elements and steps in the FIR narratives. This is why a new model, taking insights from these models, was devised to analyze narratives in the corpus. The model included 15 steps. These steps align with the form and function of the narratives of the FIRs.

Macro Structure of FIR

An FIR consists of ten moves in all. FIR is a discourse about a crime. Moves 1-7 are formulaic in their structure and require fixed information to be filled in. Move 8 is a crime story and tells different steps pertaining to the commission and/or omission. The macrostructure of the First Information Report comes out to be:

1. The authority of the document is given in the first move. It consists of two parts i.e. police form number and the law regulating it. It is written in abbreviated form as AD.

2. Identification of the report is the second move and has three steps; report number, police station where it is registered along with the district in which the police station is situated, and date and time of the incident about which the report is registered. The abbreviated form of this move in the data is IR and the three steps are coded as RN, PSD, and DTI respectively.

3. Reporting date and time is the third move. It is customary in Pakistan that reports are delayed due to various factors such as remoteness of the area, reluctance on the part of the victim, ignorance and poverty, reluctance on the part of the police, and the like. The date and time for the incident are different from the date and time of the report. The date and time when the report was communicated to the police authority is written in this third move. The move is identified with the abbreviation RDT i.e. Reporting Date and Time.

4. The name and address of the complainant come under move 4. NAC is the abbreviated form of the move.

5. Facts and corresponding crime (FCC) as move 5 consists of four steps:

(i) Facts regarding crime and loss of property (FRC)

(ii) Place of incident and distance from police station (PI)

(iii) Initiation of proceedings whether the case is registered on an application or verbal report by a complainant or on orders of court (IP)

(iv) Means of transportation of the report (MT)

6. The rank and signature (RS) of the officer writing the FIR is in move number 6.

7. Instructions (Ins) for the writer regarding the start of the report and putting his/her signature along with the signatures of the complainant are given in the 7th move.

8. Narrative of facts (NF): This move is central to this research as it provides the biggest language chunk. Terminology for these steps is taken from Labov and Waletzkey (1967), Hymes (1972), and Hoey (2000). Labov and Waletzkey mainly focus on folk tale narratives, Hymes' model concentrates on ethnographic and cultural issues of discourse, and Hoey's effort is simplified to address the crime description given in FIRs. This is why a new model for this research is developed to analyze different components of the main move of FIR. There are 15 steps found in the FIR narrative in total. All of these steps are not necessarily present in all narratives. Names and Symbols used for the steps are given below:

(i) Addressing police authority (AD)

(ii) Abstract of the report (A)

(iii) Salutation (Sal)

- (iv) Orientation (O₁)
- (v) O₂ Situation (S)
- (vi) O₃ Particulars (Par)
- (vii) Problem (P)
- (viii) Complicating Action (CA)
- (ix) Evaluation (E)
- (x) Resolution (R)
- (xi) Reference (Ref)
- (xii) Directions (D)
- (xiii) Prayer (Pra)
- (xiv) Signature, Address and Contact (SA)
- (xv) Gratitude (G)

All of the above steps are constituent parts of an FIR. However, some of these are recurrent in all of the reports, whereas others are not repeated in each report.

9. Departmental Proceedings (DP) as move 9 are described under the heading of ‘Action by Police’ (*karrawai* police). It has four further steps:

- (i) Registration of complaint (RC) on an application or on orders of the court
- (ii) Comparison of fact and the crime (CFC)
- (iii) Information (Info) to the SHO and dispatch of copies to the higher authorities
- (iv) Starting of investigation (SI)

10. Move 10 is divided into two parts in the key for analysis:

(i) Name of a police station and the district in which the police station is located, along with the signature, Rank, and contact number of the Police officer writing the report are written in this closing episode of the social event.

- (ii) Date and phone number (mobile)

Move Pattern in FIRs

FIR is a communicative event in controlled settings (in police station) following a set form. Move pattern remains harmonious in the data. Details can be different within the moves of different reports but the main structure of the form remains the same. All of the moves are part of the form devised under cover of CrPC Sec 154 and Police rules. These are enshrined in precept police form number 5-24(I). Table 1 below shows the move pattern in the FIRs.

Table 1: Move Pattern in First Information Reports

S No	FIR No	Move Pattern
1	77	PF, DTI, DTR, NAC, FCC, RS, Ins, NF, AP, PS
2	60	PF, DTI, DTR, NAC, FCC, RS, Ins, NF, AP, PS
3	15	PF, DTI, DTR, NAC, FCC, RS, Ins, NF, AP, PS
4	69	PF, DTI, DTR, NAC, FCC, RS, Ins, NF, AP, PS
5	115	PF, DTI, DTR, NAC, FCC, RS, Ins, NF, AP, PS
6	43	PF, DTI, DTR, NAC, FCC, RS, Ins, NF, AP, PS
7	76	PF, DTI, DTR, NAC, FCC, RS, Ins, NF, AP, PS
8	87	PF, DTI, DTR, NAC, FCC, RS, Ins, NF, AP, PS
9	10	PF, DTI, DTR, NAC, FCC, RS, Ins, NF, AP, PS
10	84	PF, DTI, DTR, NAC, FCC, RS, Ins, NF, AP, PS

Microstructure of FIR Move 8

Move-8 in the data is vital to this study. It is the main move of the First Information Report. Facts regarding a criminal incident are given in this part of the report. Facts are told to a police officer who shapes them into writing. It may include a version of the victim and also a version of the perpetrator if both of them are present and get their statements recorded. In cases of road accidents, police reach the site of the incident and note versions of both the parties. However, in this research there is no such instance in the data where opposite version of the facts is found.

The narrative of facts in Move 8 recapitulates the happening of an event in the same order. Textual patterning is organized to depict relationships among different parts. In these narratives, at micro level, semantic values of different expressions form the texture of the narratives. The victim or complainant uses different expressions to explain and inform police authorities about the happening. He wants to convince the recording officer. In this process, s/he describes things, persons, places, states, actions etc. These aspects are encoded by using different discursal techniques. The victim tells the police officer what happened, how it happened, when it happened, and where it happened (incident, manner, time, place, person). Every detail is recalled and recorded in temporal order. The reporter attempts to make the listener visualize all the action/s with full details. Labov and Waletzky (1967) say that narrative is a method of recollection of past happenings which were experienced by the story teller. The storyteller matches actual incident and his/her recapitulation of the incident, and tries to tell the incident in its actual order. Experience is related by the experience in the same order as it took place.

In move 8 of FIR number 15 in the data (reproduced in Figure 1), there are eight steps viz Addressing the Police Authority (AD), Abstract (A), Salutation (Sal), Situation (S), Complicating Action (CA), Evaluation (E), Prayer (Pra), and Signature and Address (SA). According to the key in the developed model for analysis by borrowing and combining terminology from different models of discourse analyses by Labov and Waletzke (1967), Hymes (1974), Salkie (1995), and Hoey (2001), these steps are given codes viz S1, S2, S3, S5, S8, S9, S13 and S14 respectively.

Figure 1: Structure of Move 8

<p><AD> To SHO Kohsar Police Station Islamabad </AD> <A> Subject Report/ Complaint <Sal> Sir </Sal> <O> It is submitted that my PA </O> <CA>received a call from phone No. 0323-5550575 stating that Honourable justice of supreme court Justice X would like to speak to me. When I called back on the above phone no. the person said he is Justice X and enquired from me about the attorney I am appointing to defend on OGDCL case in Peshawar High Court. I told him we are in process of doing so, at which, he said I can suggest to you a good lawyer who is also my brother, and who is already defending OGRA in this matter, and he named Barrister Y for this purpose. I suggested that Barrister Y visits my office later this afternoon. As a matter of abundant precaution I called the office of the Justice X and spoke to his private secretary Mr. Z and enquired from him whether Mr. Justice X has spoken to me and suggested a meeting with Barrister Y. He categorically denied that Justice X had spoken to me or has suggest attorney to me.</CA> <E> Under the circumstances, I am constrained to draw the conclusion the person Barrister Y is an impersonator and is using the name of an Honourable Justice of Supreme Court. He tried to defraud me and influence me for personal gains. </E> <Pra> Accordingly,I am bringing the matter to your attention for further appropriate action under the law. </Pra> <SA> Sign in English A Managing Director OGDCL Head Office Islamabad. </SA></p>

It is pertinent to mention here why a single model for the analysis of FIR is not employed. As all of these models are restricted in their application with reference to subject, setting, and situation. FIR is written in police jargon in a Pakistani setting. It is neither tale nor cultural discourse. Moreover, it has a complex structure and writing style. So, a 15-step model is developed for analysis of the FIRs in this research.

FIR Narrative number 15 has eight steps. All of these steps are discussed here one by one. In the first step, the complainant addresses the police authority i.e. "To SHO *Kohsar* Police Station Islamabad". The code for this step is (AD) in the key for analysis. The language of this step is self-explanatory. It starts from a preposition i.e. To. It is a prepositional phrase in its texture. But it works as a nominal group. This step is functional in its lexical makeup. Moreover, its functional requirement and formality level make the start of Narrative of Facts in FIR a distinctive use of language.

Secondly, the complainant gives the theme of the incident. It is in the form of the subject of FIR. In model this step is given name of Abstract (A). Complainant gives simple caption to his narrative i.e. "Subject Report/Complaint". This caption summarizes the narrative in few words. It is theme of the report.

Thirdly, the complainant says "sir" to the police officer. It is the third step in the key for analysis. The name of this step is Salutation (Sal). In ordinary communication interlocutors are not such formal in choosing expressions. This is another point of difference in language of FIR and ordinary language.

Fourthly, the complainant tells about a situation i.e. "It is submitted that my PA received a call from phone No. 0323-5550575 stating that Honourable Justice of Supreme Court Justice X would like to speak to me". Orientation (O) is fourth step in the key. It is in present simple tense. In this step linguistic marker for present tense is "is". Further to this marker in present complainant gives details of his submission. Next part of the sentence is in the past in its form but it functions like the present during the occurrence of the incident. This is how the language of FIR is more function-oriented than normal conversation.

Fifthly, the complainant informs about a complicated state of affairs. This is termed as Complicating Action (CA) in the key and is placed at the eighth step. The linguistic marker for Complicating Action is simple past tense. It consists of a series of clauses in the past tense. These clauses introduce a heightened and complex state of affairs in the narrative of facts by the complainant. In FIR number 15 verb forms: *called, told, said, named, suggested, called, spoke, enquired, suggested, and denied* are markers of complicating action. The highest point in this action is, "*He categorically denied*", an inquiry about the suggestion of a counsel for the case. This is what we know from the texture of successive clauses encoding past events in simple past tense.

Sixthly, the complainant evaluates this malfeasance according to his judgment. Evaluation (E) is the ninth step in the key for analysis. It is the point of view of the complainant about the wrongful act of the accused. It has linguistic markers like "Under the circumstances, I am constrained to draw the conclusion the person Barrister Y is an impersonator and is using the name of an Honourable Justice of Supreme Court. He tried to defraud me and influence me for personal gains". In this FIR "I am constrained to conclude", "Y is an impersonator" and "He tried to defraud me and influence me for personal gains" are signs of evaluation of the complicating situation by the complainant.

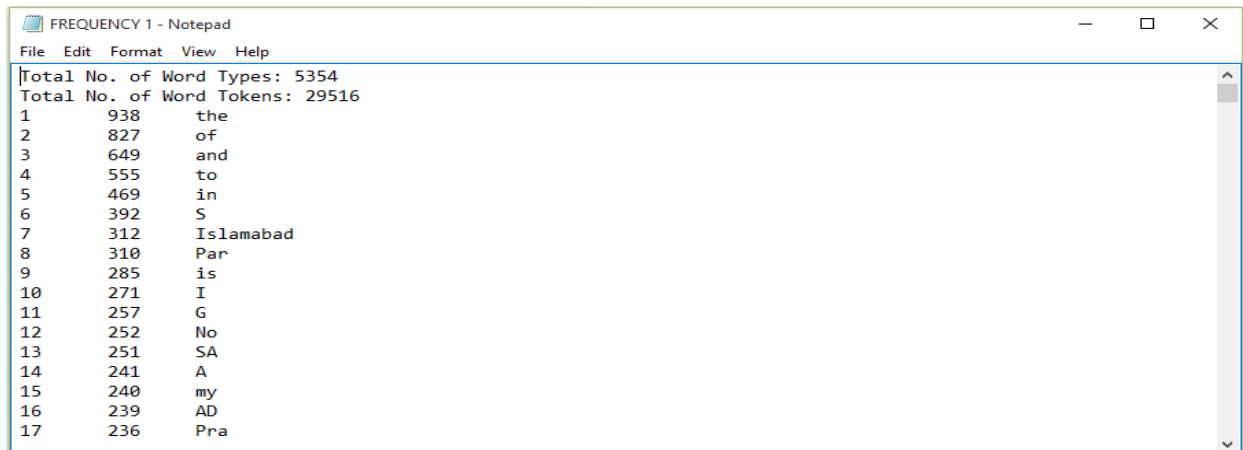
Seventhly, the complainant prays to the police authority to act in the light of the law against the wrongdoer. Prayer (P) is the thirteenth step in the key for analysis. There are several lexical items used in prayer by the victim or complainant. In FIR number 15 complainant prays "Accordingly, I am bringing the matter to your attention for further appropriate action under the law". "Appropriate action under the law" is a phrase that informs the reader about the prayer clause in FIR. There are other words like request, beg, implore, etc. for retrieval of property, car, or money or punishment to criminal for bodily harm.

Lastly, in FIR number 15 complainant closes his complaint with signatures and address. For example, "Managing Director OGDCL Head Office Islamabad" is the closing step in FIR.

Frequency of Lexical Items

The frequency of different words in the data makes this form of legal discourse a specific type of discourse. All of the words in the main move of data are counted with the help of the software application programme AntConc. Frequency list is presented in figure 2.

Figure 2: Frequency of lexical items in First Information Reports



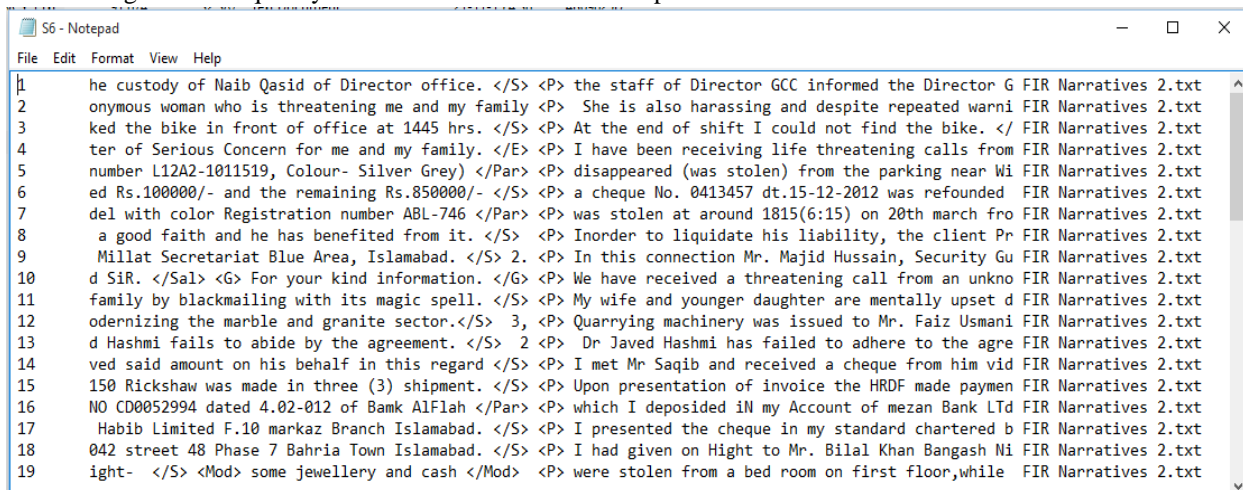
Rank	Count	Word
Total No. of Word Types: 5354		
Total No. of Word Tokens: 29516		
1	938	the
2	827	of
3	649	and
4	555	to
5	469	in
6	392	S
7	312	Islamabad
8	310	Par
9	285	is
10	271	I
11	257	G
12	252	No
13	251	SA
14	241	A
15	240	my
16	239	AD
17	236	Pra

Lexical items in FIRs show the texture of FIRs. There is excessive use of grammatical words. This is one characteristic of legal discourse that is made compact and terse with the help of appropriate grammatical words to cover multifarious situations. It is also done to escape ambiguity. This compact style of legal texts creates clarity. So is the case of FIR which makes its language highly stylized and distinctive from other types of texts in the English language. The most recurrent word is “the”, on second number is “of”, on third position falls “and”, fourth place is occupied by “to” and on fifth number is “in”. The makeup of the data consisting of FIRs informs about the nature of the language used therein.

Frequency and Collocation of Problem

In seventh place in the key for analysis comes Problem (<P>). In Problem, complainants inform about the crime committed against them. It is also a detailed step in the data. Linguistic clues for this step are action verbs with wrongful connotations. Examples of this step in the data are: In narrative number 19 Problem is “<P> a cheque No. 0413457 dt.15-12-2012 was rebounded due to reason “INSUFFICIENT Balance” copy of cheque is enclosed. </P>”.

Figure 3: Frequency and Collocation of seventh step in the narratives



1	he custody of Naib Qasid of Director office. </S> <P> the staff of Director GCC informed the Director G	FIR Narratives 2.txt
2	onymous woman who is threatening me and my family <P> She is also harassing and despite repeated warni	FIR Narratives 2.txt
3	ked the bike in front of office at 1445 hrs. </S> <P> At the end of shift I could not find the bike. </	FIR Narratives 2.txt
4	ter of Serious Concern for me and my family. </E> <P> I have been receiving life threatening calls from	FIR Narratives 2.txt
5	number L12A2-1011519, Colour- Silver Grey) </Par> <P> disappeared (was stolen) from the parking near Wi	FIR Narratives 2.txt
6	ed Rs.100000/- and the remaining Rs.850000/- </S> <P> a cheque No. 0413457 dt.15-12-2012 was refunded	FIR Narratives 2.txt
7	del with color Registration number ABL-746 </Par> <P> was stolen at around 1815(6:15) on 20th march fro	FIR Narratives 2.txt
8	a good faith and he has benefited from it. </S> <P> Inorder to liquidate his liability, the client Pr	FIR Narratives 2.txt
9	Millat Secretariat Blue Area, Islamabad. </S> 2. <P> In this connection Mr. Majid Hussain, Security Gu	FIR Narratives 2.txt
10	d SiR. </Sal> <G> For your kind information. </G> <P> We have received a threatening call from an unkno	FIR Narratives 2.txt
11	family by blackmailing with its magic spell. </S> <P> My wife and younger daughter are mentally upset d	FIR Narratives 2.txt
12	odernizing the marble and granite sector.</S> 3, <P> Quarrying machinery was issued to Mr. Faiz Usmani	FIR Narratives 2.txt
13	d Hashmi fails to abide by the agreement. </S> 2 <P> Dr Javed Hashmi has failed to adhere to the agre	FIR Narratives 2.txt
14	ved said amount on his behalf in this regard </S> <P> I met Mr Saqib and received a cheque from him vid	FIR Narratives 2.txt
15	150 Rickshaw was made in three (3) shipment. </S> <P> Upon presentation of invoice the HRDF made paymen	FIR Narratives 2.txt
16	NO CD0052994 dated 4.02-012 of Bank AlFlah </Par> <P> which I deposited iN my Account of mezan Bank LTd	FIR Narratives 2.txt
17	Habib Limited F.10 markaz Branch Islamabad. </S> <P> I presented the cheque in my standard chartered b	FIR Narratives 2.txt
18	042 street 48 Phase 7 Bahria Town Islamabad. </S> <P> I had given on Hight to Mr. Bilal Khan Bangash Ni	FIR Narratives 2.txt
19	ight- </S> <Mod> some jewellery and cash </Mod> <P> were stolen from a bed room on first floor,while	FIR Narratives 2.txt

Frequency and Collocation of Step 8

Step number 8 informs about “what happened next”. It is a progress out of the given situation. A state of affairs which requires redress or resolution is presented in Complicating Action (<CA>). Linguistic marker for this step is verbs in simple past tense. It is not a single clause, but Complicating action consists of a series of clauses showing a heightened culpable situation. In Narrative number 96 Complicating Action is “<CA> today On 18-3-13 Mr A along with his two sons entered the office joint secretary, H&W without permission. He started shouting and hurling abuses at the officers of the ministry- When the Deputy Secretary (Admin) tried to stop him Mr.A and his sons abused him and gave him life threats </CA>.”

Figure 4: Frequency and Collocation of eighth step in the narratives

1	<O> Our election office at G 6/1-2, street 41</O> <CA> was burnt last night by some unknown activist gro	FIR Narratives
2	2.txt Sir,</Sal> <O>Today (3.2-2013) at 11:30 hrs.</O> <CA> I parked my Car in front of Lal MasJid main gate	FIR Narratives
3	2.txt s in connviance with staff of estate office. </S> <CA> A commission was constituted by honourable Islama	FIR Narratives
4	2.txt aqi National” are living in islamabad Hotel </S> <CA> on foot after sleeping, then we reached near “Nav	FIR Narratives
5	2.txt Mahboob R/O Gali NO 49, House No 19/1 G 7/4. </S> <CA> He parked it at his home and he went there for fo	FIR Narratives
6	2.txt RY 303 and wanted to drop a friend of mine.</S> <CA> We stopped on the way Aabpara market (Shell Pump)	FIR Narratives
7	2.txt is that they try to occupy my land forcibly </E> <CA> few days ago and I stopped them from doing so. Th	FIR Narratives
8	2.txt hich reached. Pakistan at. About 8.15.PM. </S> 2. <CA> From AiR Port i called my servant . mr. Alam Zeb	FIR Narratives
9	2.txt 41.4504303.Model.2011colour medium.silver. </Par> <CA> has been.stolen. <O> today.at.around 8:25AM while	FIR Narratives
10	2.txt tice Nasir-ul-Mulk would like to speak to me.</S> <CA> When I called back on the above phone no. the per	FIR Narratives

Frequency and Collocation of Evaluation

The ninth step in FIR is Evaluation (<E>). In this step narrator gives his opinion about the incident or happening. The complainant thinks the act of accused is against law. He prefers his judgment regarding the act or omission. There are many such examples in the data viz in Narrative number 68 Evaluation is “<E> the delinquent Person namely A S/O B done an illegal work </E>”, and in Narrative number 56 Evaluation is “<E> It is apprehended that he has been abducted by some unknown person.</E>”.

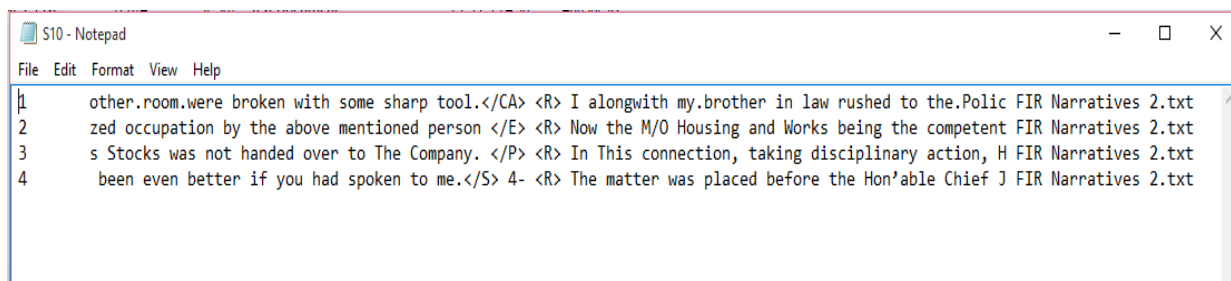
Figure 5: Frequency and Collocation of ninth step in the narratives

1	people behind this incident belongs to any group.<E> We are very peaceful people and we strongly conde	FIR Narratives 2.txt
2	harger and bag) from the above said trolley. </P> <E> In the preliminary investigation this office inte	FIR Narratives 2.txt
3	Abdul-Rahman Nawof lost 10 \$ and 1500 PKR </Par> <E> we do not know The registration no of the vehicle	FIR Narratives 2.txt
4	here. It had been taken by someone unknown. </CA> <E> I realized that window of my car was open. </E> <	FIR Narratives 2.txt
5	iii) Adnan S/O Bashir, 30 Bore Pistol </Par> (2) <E> These persons possess illegal weapons 12 bore Kal	FIR Narratives 2.txt
6	ened and. also the. .room lights were on and that <E> it seemed to be an attempt of Theft. </E> I asked	FIR Narratives 2.txt
7	the end of shift I could not find the bike. </P> <E> I believe my bike is missing about has been taken	FIR Narratives 2.txt
8	fe threatening Calls <Sal> Dear Sir, </Sal> <E> I would like to bring your notice a matter of Ser	FIR Narratives 2.txt
9	r calls on my cell and also on my land line. </S> <E> I feel insecure for myself and my family. </E> <P	FIR Narratives 2.txt
10	n to me or has suggested any attorney to me.</CA> <E> Under the circumstances, I am constrained to draw	FIR Narratives 2.txt
11	is attached with this application. </Par> </S> 2. <E> Despite various reminders from my side. He kept m	FIR Narratives 2.txt
12	issued cheque No, 1076948 dated 20-9-2012. </CA> <E> The applicant made repeated demands but the accus	FIR Narratives 2.txt
13	cheque book and cash of RS. 320,000. </Par> </CA> <E> They seemed to be from a christian community and	FIR Narratives 2.txt
14	ent’s bank (copy of the cheques is enclosed) </P> <E> The Client deviated from the contact and has will	FIR Narratives 2.txt
15	usiness and to damage the official record ,</CA> <E> This unlawful assembly with common object and pur	FIR Narratives 2.txt
16	r vacation of quarters in their occupation. </CA> <E> The officials of Estate office hardly saved their	FIR Narratives 2.txt
17	to, the police recue but no one turned up, </CA> <E> Astonishingly, The Police officials on duty on th	FIR Narratives 2.txt
18	ng Mall, I-9 Markaz, Islamabad, in my name, </S> <E> being the alleged owner. </E> <CA> This amount wa	FIR Narratives 2.txt
19	ured by the bank due to insufficient funds. </CA> <E> The accused has by cheating deprived me of my val	FIR Narratives 2.txt

Frequency and Collocation of Step 10

The tenth step is the least frequent step in the data. It is named as Resolution (<R>). In FIR problem is brought in notice of law enforcing authority. To resolve the matter then rests on the court which decides the case. This is why Resolution is not a recurrent step in the data. Examples of Resolution are: In Narrative number 90 Resolution is “<R> In This connection, taking disciplinary action, He was issued show-caused vide Ref No POM/PF-415/3147 dated 18-5-2013 </R>”, and in Narrative number 103 Resolution is “<R> The matter was placed before the Hon’ble Chief Justice of Pakistan who had been pleased to direct that comments of Mr X, ASC be obtained. Accordingly, The above named ASC was requested to do the needful vide this Courts letter dated 30.7.2013. followed by a reminder dated 12.08.2012 <Par> (Copies enclosed). </Par> 5 In response whereof, the above-named ASC has submitted his comments on 7-8-2013 <Par> (Copy enclosed).</Par> Seeking informal audience before the Hon’able Chief Justice of Pakistan. The matter was again put up before the Hon’ble Chief Justice of Pakistan who had been pleased to grant him 7 days more time to submit his version. Accordingly, he was informed vide this Court’s letter dated 22-08-2013. 6. The reply submitted by X, ASC on 04-09-2013 <Par> (copy enclosed </Par> was placed before the Hon’ble Chief Justice of Pakistan </R>”.

Figure 6: Frequency and Collocation of the tenth step in the narratives



It informs that data has special and professional use of the English language.

Similar to McGregor’s elements in Police Tracker Story Genre all moves in FIR form show the relationship and order of the moves as ^ PF^DTI^DTR^NAC^FCC^RS^Ins^NF AP^PS. FIR narrative, in Move 8, also has similarities with Police Tracker Story Genre though steps in FIR are not in the same pattern. It has many steps depending upon the nature of the crime, style of the narrator, crime scene, place of incident, number of crimes, number of criminals, education of the complainant, mode of report, etc. McGregor’s analysis is of narrative has seven elements. Out of those seven ones is optional and six are obligatory. There are a minimum six steps in FIR narrative number 60. and the maximum number of steps in Narrative Number 115 fourteen steps. In Narrative Number 115 Step Number seven is repeated three times.

Explication of the macrostructure of the First Information Reports was done by pointing out different moves in the structure of the FIRs. There were ten moves in the First Information Reports. Details of the moves are: Move 1 Police Form (PF), Move 2 Date and Time of Incident (DTI), Move 3 Date and Time of Report (DTR), Move 4 Name and Address of Complainant (NAC), Move 5 Fact and Corresponding Crime (FCC), Move 6 Rank and Signature of Investigation Officer (RS), Move 7 Instructions to the Investigation Officer (Ins), Move 8 Narrative of Facts (NF), Move 9 Action by Police (AP) and Move 10 Police Station (PS). The move pattern in FIRs happens to be PF^DTI^DTR^NAC^FCC^RS^Ins^NF ^AP^PS.

Conclusion

The FIR is an interaction between the victim, witness/es, and police officer. In this interaction, the police hold state power and authority. Other participants are without power. Thus, the relationship between the parties is asymmetrical. Authority may be exploited while deciding the relevance of the facts to be included in FIR. It is the discretion of the police to decide about the relevance of the facts. Therefore, the version of the narrator may be distorted for one reason or the other. This very point adds to the forensic orientation of the study of the FIR genre. The language used in FIRs is different from ordinary discourse. It has some distinguished features viz unfamiliar vocabulary, convulsed syntax, rigid structure, higher level of formality, and higher level of deference, among others. The presence of these linguistic features supports the view to grade FIR as a separate genre of legalese.

As characteristic features of a genre are vital in making the genre, their learning may also help while writing similar texts, especially in the case of probationers in the legal / police profession. Teachers who have know-how of

language features of FIR genre may devise activities for writing in EOP language class generally and in an ELP class particularly. The structure of FIR as explicated in the analysis section of this study has highlighted many distinguished features of the genre. Students familiar with textual and textural features of the genre may write and understand FIR in a better way.

As the Pakistani legal system has borrowed from the English legal system as well as from local traditions, the language of the legal genre system in Pakistan has a particular style. Legal language across the globe is known as “legalese” as a separate variety of English language. It has a peculiar structure, distinguished vocabulary, convulsed syntax, and a particular style. In the case of the language of the FIR in Pakistani legal setting, however, many words have been borrowed from Arabic, Persian, and Urdu. Awareness of characteristic features of the FIR genre, understanding of the language of the FIR and comparison of the FIR genre with other established genres in legal discourse is therefore of paramount importance.

Writing conventions of the FIR genre show that in language teaching genre-based approach may prove helpful. Awareness of the genre of FIR can help teachers and learners equally. Corpus-based strategies to teach the FIR genre provide material for teaching and discussion from real-life situations. Students will deal with actual vocabulary in context. They will be aware of the structure of FIR. Genre approach in teaching language may inform the writing of FIR and its interpretation according to the norms developed in “legalese”. It will divest the learners of the hard labor of rote learning and cramming and the teachers of abstract explanations of the target language out of context simultaneously.

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