

ENGAGEMENT IN INDONESIAN POLICE INTERROGATION: AN APPRAISAL ANALYSIS OF INTERPERSONAL STRATEGIES

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Article Info	Abstract
Article History Received: May 2025 Revised: June 2025 Published: July 2025	<i>This study explored the use of evaluative language in the speech of investigators and suspects during police interrogations at a district police department in Indonesia. The study aimed to analyze how interpersonal strategies were realized by the police as interrogators and suspects during interrogations. To achieve these objectives, the research applied appraisal theory within the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) to identify and examine the language of evaluation. The data for the study were derived from conversations between police interrogators and suspects. The analysis involved segmenting the interrogation texts into units of utterances. There were 1320 utterances of 5 suspects analyzed in this study. These utterances were then systematically categorized based on the appraisal system's categories. Specifically, the analysis focused on the appraisal system's engagement dimension, examining the realization of monogloss and heterogloss. The findings revealed that the expression of engagement was predominantly characterized by heterogloss, primarily conveyed by the interrogator. The findings indicated that during the interrogation process, the police increased control, reduced space for the suspect's perspective, introduced bias in information gathering, and emphasized a clearer power dynamic, which can impact the validity and ethics of the interrogation. The findings contributed to forensic linguistics practice to create opportunities for more cooperative interactions, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of information elicitation.</i>
Keywords Forensic Linguistics; Criminal Investigation; Interpersonal Strategy; Appraisal; Engagement;	
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INTRODUCTION

Police interrogation is a critical component of the criminal justice system as it aids investigations, uncovers the truth, and gathers information (Leo, 2008). In these interactions, interrogators use engagement as a central concept to evaluate the character, credibility, and actions of the person being questioned (Heydon, 2005). Engagement encompasses assessments of morality, behavior, and reliability, making it essential for interrogators to construct narratives, identify inconsistencies, and evaluate the truthfulness of statements (Martin & White, 2005). Two primary components underscore the importance of studying engagement in police interrogations. First, this research highlights the strategic function of evaluative language used by interrogators to assert authority, detect inconsistencies, and extract relevant information (Haworth, 2013). By understanding the process of engagement, researchers and practitioners can identify patterns that facilitate smooth information gathering while maintaining ethical interrogation practices (Oxburgh, Myklebust, and Grant, 2010). Second, research on engagement provides insights into the dynamics of power and psychological effects in interrogation settings (Gibbons, 2003). Not only are the responses of the interviewee influenced by the delivery of engagement, but the study also reveals the balance or imbalance of control and pressure in these high-stakes interactions (Heydon,

2011). Through an analysis of engagement, we can better understand how authority is exercised and how it impacts the cognitive and emotional states of the interviewee (Kelly & Westera, 2020). This study was vital for bridging linguistic theory with law enforcement practice. It offered valuable insights into how best to utilize engagement in interrogations to ensure fairness, improve investigative outcomes, and mitigate the risks of coercion or false confessions. Therefore, understanding engagement is not only part of linguistic studies but also a crucial element of ethical and effective legal practices.

Criminal investigation has been extensively studied to achieve several key objectives: Enhancing Investigative Methods: According to Michael (2020), research has advanced techniques for collecting, analysing, and preserving evidence, significantly improving the accuracy of identifying offenders; Integrating Forensic Science: Innovations in forensic disciplines such as DNA analysis, fingerprinting, and ballistics have enhanced the precision and reliability of investigations (Osterburg & Ward, 2010); Improving Crime Scene Management: Research has optimized processes for securing and processing crime scenes, reducing contamination risks, and ensuring evidence integrity (Fisher, 2020).; Developing Behavioural Analysis: The FBI's Behavioural Science Unit has leveraged research to develop criminal profiling, offering insights into offender behaviour and predicting future actions (Douglas, 1995); Promoting Ethical and Legal Standards: As highlighted by Charles R. Swanson et al. (2019), research ensures investigative practices adhere to ethical and legal frameworks, safeguarding evidence admissibility in court; Incorporating Technological Innovations: Studies have explored the integration of modern technology, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), surveillance tools, and digital forensics, to enhance the efficiency and accuracy of investigations (Peterson, Marilyn, et al., 2016); Advancing Interview and Interrogation Techniques: Ethical interrogation approaches and cognitive interviewing methods have been developed to minimize false confessions and improve the reliability of gathered information (Fisher, Ronald, & Geiselman, 1992).

Research on police communication strategies has explored various linguistic and interpersonal approaches. Ramadani et al. (2023) investigated the use of conversational maxims and open-closed questions in police interrogation. The study found that interrogators predominantly employed closed-ended questions and adhered to the maxims of quantity, quality, relevance, and manner, often limiting suspects' opportunities to provide detailed explanations. The proportion of open-ended questions and the level of empathy exhibited by interrogators positively correlated with the amount of information elicited from suspects. These findings align with prior research (Bianca & Bull, 2022), which used a different sample of police interviews. Conversational implicature was also highlighted as a tool to foster humane communication without resorting to violence, emphasizing the importance of investigators understanding conversational implicature (Santoso & Apriyanto, 2020). Philips (2018) studied Presupposition Bearing Questions (PBQs) in interrogations of a 14-year-old suspect. The study revealed that investigators used 117 PBQs to prompt unintended admissions related to key "facts" about the suspect's involvement in the crime, demonstrating that PBQs can implicitly assert contentious propositions. Svennevig et al. (2023) observed that simplifying syntax and replacing technical terms with simpler vocabulary helped suspects better understand interrogators' statements. Crime Motivated Police Interaction (CMPI) involves pragmatic tools to structure the interaction in crime reporting, enhancing understanding of police registers and the contextualized language used by complainants, suspects, and witnesses (Aina, 2021). Jol and Stommel (2022) found that maintaining neutrality in interviews with child witnesses can inadvertently lead to interactional challenges. Most studies focus on question types during interrogations. However, some examine interpersonal strategies and language evaluation between interrogators and suspects, revealing how these strategies influence communication. According to Coulthard and Johnson (2007)

and Coulthard, Johnson, and Wright (2017), the field of forensic linguistics encompasses legal texts, police interrogation language, interviews with witnesses or vulnerable individuals, courtroom discourse, authorship analysis, forensic phonetics, and linguistic evidence in court.

Appraisal, as an interpersonal system within discourse semantics, interacts with two other systems—negotiation and involvement—to articulate interpersonal meaning. Negotiation complements appraisal by addressing the interactive elements of discourse, such as speech functions and exchange structures (Martin, 1992b). Meanwhile, involvement focuses on non-evaluative resources that support the tenor of a relationship, particularly in fostering solidarity. In this context, lexical choices that signal group affiliation play a crucial role. These include slang, as discussed by Halliday (1976b) in his study of anti-language in criminal communities, as well as technical and specialized vocabulary, including acronyms. Other elements like secret codes, pig Latin, and markers of social dialect (e.g., accents, non-standard morphology, and distinct semantic styles) further illustrate how language resources contribute to group identity. These linguistic tools, alongside appraisal and negotiation, collectively shape and maintain tenor relationships by expressing alignment, solidarity, or differentiation within social interactions.

Engagement is a subsystem of Appraisal that examines how interactions between participants in communication are formed. Engagement is defined as "all expressions that provide a means for the authorial voice to position itself concerning, and thereby 'engage' with, other voices and alternative positions considered present in the communicative context" (Martin & White, 2005, p. 94). White (2006, p. 85) explains that the framework for analyzing how speakers/writers position themselves concerning what others have previously said about a topic, as well as how audiences are likely to respond, is referred to in appraisal theory as 'engagement' (positioning or involvement). Additionally, White (2006, p. 16) notes that values indicating that speakers/writers engage with other voices and alternative positions within the communication context reflect engagement. In general, the engagement subsystem is divided into two categories of utterances: monogloss and heterogloss (Martin, 2000; Martin & Rose, 2003; Martin & White, 2005). Monogloss refers to utterances that do not allow space for dialogue, whereas heterogloss refers to utterances that open up space for alternative dialogue. Monogloss, or a single voice, refers to propositions that do not openly provide references for the emergence of other voices or viewpoints within a discourse (Fryer, 2019, p. 35). Statements that are direct and explicit differ from heteroglossic choices because they do not explicitly refer to other voices or acknowledge alternative positions. Consequently, the communicative context is understood as a singular voice or, in Bakhtinian terms, "monoglossic" and "non-dialogic," at least for the brief textual moment occupied by such utterances. Thus, the speaker/writer presents the current proposition as something devoid of dialogic alternatives that need to be acknowledged or engaged with in the communicative context. It is portrayed as dialogically inert and, therefore, capable of being categorically declared (Martin & White, 2005). Heterogloss, derived from the Greek words *hetero* meaning 'other' and *glot* meaning 'language' or 'voice' (Allen, 2000), refers to utterances that encompass multiple voices. These voices not only reflect the internal perspectives of the speaker or writer but also engage external voices, including those of the listener or reader, as well as potential listeners or readers (putative listener/reader). As such, heterogloss allows space for alternative dialogue to occur.

The review of literature indicated that appraisal theory has been extensively explored across various contexts. For instance, it has been applied to the analysis of writings in different genres (Puspita & Paronoto, 2021; Magfiroh, Herdiawan, & Rofi'i, 2021; Alhuthali, 2024; Saidi, 2021; Devira & Weastin, 2021), textbooks and classroom interactions (Cahyono, Pribady, 2020; Chu, 2014), advertising media (Wu, 2013), and social media (Dragos, Battistelli, & Kelodjoue, 2018; Sarangi, 2003; Iedema, Feez, & White, 1994; Birot, 2008;

Pounds, 2010; Bednarek and Caple, 2010; Lihua, 2009; Dewhurst, 2010; Prasetyo, 2011; Oddo, 2013; Wu, 2013; Chen, 2014). Additionally, appraisal theory has been utilized in the analysis of political media (Aljuraywi, Alyousef, 2022; Xia, 2021; Mohammed, 2025). In the field of education, it has often been applied to academic writing, such as dissertations (Puspandari, 2019), and school counseling (Haryati, 2022).

The significance of this study lied in its contribution to developing new theories on interpersonal meaning within the context of police interrogations, a topic more commonly explored in other disciplines. This research aimed to identify patterns of interpersonal meaning in the legal domain, providing valuable insights for improving police investigation practices. The findings offered law enforcement officers enhanced understanding of conducting effective and professional interrogations while maintaining ethical and professional standards. Focusing on interpersonal meaning during interrogation processes, the study was conducted within an Indonesian police department, employing a discourse analysis approach. Specifically, it examined the language of evaluation through the lens of appraisal theory, emphasizing two key elements of engagement: monogloss and heterogloss. The research sought to answer the question: What interpersonal strategies are employed in conversations during police investigations?

RESEARCH METHOD

This research utilized a case study approach, as its aim was not to generalize police investigation processes. According to Berg (2001), “Case study methods involve systematically gathering enough information about a particular person, social setting, event, or group to permit the researcher to effectively understand how it operates or functions.” Consequently, this study was classified as a case study due to its focus on a unique phenomenon: the role of language in police investigations, particularly during interrogations, highlighting its critical importance. The research employed a discourse analysis design to examine evaluative language. Its analytical framework was qualitative, with minimal use of numerical calculations. The discourse analyzed comprised statements made during police interrogations. Given the nature of the data, the study relied on subjective descriptions of discourse (references), exploring the expression of engagement, including monogloss and heterogloss.

Research Design

Given the intricate and subjective nature of interrogation, this study employed a qualitative approach to examine the lived experiences of those involved. Qualitative methods were inadequate for fully capturing the process of interpersonal meaning-making between the interrogator and the suspect. To systematically analyse participants' narratives, thematic analysis was chosen as the primary method. The thematic analysis used in this study involves categorizing each utterance into two dimensions of engagement: monogloss and heterogloss. Heterogloss is further divided into subcategories such as heterogloss contract and heterogloss expand. This approach allows researchers to gain valuable contextual insights into how interpersonal meaning is constructed and exchanged in discourse, offering a deeper understanding of the interpersonal strategies used during interrogation—an area that has received limited research attention.

Participants

Participants were selected using a purposeful sampling method, aimed at identifying cases most relevant to the research topic (Patton, 2002). The study included suspects involved in theft cases and an interrogator, identified through collaboration with law enforcement agencies. This study selected theft cases because they occurred more frequently than other types of cases. The high frequency of theft made it a representative context for exploring interrogation dynamics and the language strategies employed by law enforcement officers.

The researchers were initially contacted directly by law enforcement at the time of the suspects' arrest, which facilitated participant recruitment. To formally commence the recruitment process, the researchers distributed notifications to interrogation officers conducting direct interviews with the suspects. These notifications outlined the research objectives, methodology, and inclusion criteria. This approach ensured the participation of relevant individuals to examine interpersonal meaning within the context of interrogation. The strategy not only facilitated access to informative samples but also emphasized the role of interpersonal meaning in understanding the investigated phenomenon. The selected participants offer a diverse representation of the interpersonal strategies used during interrogation, which is central to generating valuable insights for this study. There were six participants (five suspects and one interrogator) in this study. The selected suspects were individuals involved in a theft case, consisting of five people: three males (two adolescents and one adult) and two females (one adolescent and one adult). In this study, all participants gave informed consent before data collection started. The researcher clearly explained the purpose of the study, the procedures, and participants' rights, including their freedom to withdraw at any time without penalty. Participants signed a consent form to confirm their voluntary agreement. All data collected were kept confidential following ethical guidelines.

Instruments

The researchers themselves were the main instrument in this study. They conducted directly in collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data. Some additional instruments were used to support the research process, including: interview guide, field notes, recording device, interview transcripts, documents and archives, and participant observation. The data for this study consisted of utterances from police interrogations involving five suspects questioned by police interrogators and interrogator himself. The conversations in the interrogation room were recorded and subsequently transcribed. To transcribe the recording, the researcher used online transcribing tools. Then, the researcher checked the transcribes to avoid the bias transcription. Each utterance was categorized to identify interpersonal meaning using the appraisal framework of engagement, which includes monogloss and heterogloss. Data collection was conducted through observation, note-taking, and direct field investigation, ensuring the originality and authenticity of the data by capturing natural and unaltered interactions. During the observations and data collection, the researcher focused on interactions between the police (acting as interrogators) and the suspects under interrogation. A recording device was used to capture the conversational data. The analysis was grounded in the Systemic Functional Linguistics framework, with a particular emphasis on the interpersonal metafunction of language as interpreted through Appraisal Theory (Martin & White, 2003, 2005, 2007). The recorded conversations were meticulously transcribed into written form, including all utterances made by both the interrogators and the suspects, to facilitate detailed analysis.

Data Analysis

The analysis of engagement was divided into two major parts: Monogloss and Heterogloss. Heterogloss was further categorized into two main categories: contract and expand. Moreover, contract is divided into two subcategories: disclaim and proclaim. Disclaim includes deny and counter, while proclaim encompasses concur (which includes affirm and concede), endorse, and reinforce (which includes justification and pronounce). Expand also consists of two subcategories: entertain and attribute. Entertain includes epistemic modality, evidential, rhetorical questions, expository questions, and deontic modality. Meanwhile, attribute includes acknowledgment and distance. The analysis of engagement was conducted by directly assigning engagement categories to their sources. Since a single sentence can contain more than one engagement category, it was necessary to

provide codes to handle the sources of engagement. The codes used were numbers in parentheses placed to the right of the engagement source for each respective category. Table 1 was the procedure how the data were analyzed.

Table 1
Engagement Analysis in Appraisal

No	Participant	Source of Engagement	M/H	Knd of Engagemnet
121	P	(5:21) Ini dalam ini <u>tidak ada</u> (1) dipaksa, <u>terangkan</u> <u>sejujur-jujurnya</u> . (2) <u>Jadi</u> (3) sekarang ini, keadaanmu, <u>sehat jasmani dan rohani</u> , <u>Sehat?</u> (4) Bersedia diperiksa? Bersedia <u>ya?</u> (5) Mengerti kenapa <u>sebabnya</u> (6) kau diperiksa sekarang ini?	H	(1) Heterogloss : Contract : disclaim : Deny (2) Heterogloss: Expand : Entertain : Expository Question (3) Heterogloss : Contract : Proclaim : Reinforce : Justification (4) Heterogloss : Contract : Proclaim : Concur : Leading questions (5) Heterogloss : Contract : Proclaim : Concur : Affirm (6) Heterogloss : Contract : Proclaim : Reinforce : Justification
122	T	(5:51) Mengerti pak	M	
123	P	(5:52) <u>Kenapa?</u>	H	Heterogloss : Contract : Proclaim : Reinforce : Justification
124	T	(5:53) <u>Karena</u> Ketangkap Ngambil berondolan	H	Heterogloss : Contract : Proclaim : Reinforce : Justification
125	P	(5:56) <u>Oke</u> , (1) Tangkap mencuri buah sawit <u>ya</u> , (2) berondolan <u>ya</u> . (3) <u>Jadi</u> , (4) Karena ancaman hukumanmu ini diatas 5 tahun, diatas 5 tahun <u>yaa</u> (5) <u>Jadi</u> (6) Ada hak-hak yang, Yang <u>Harus</u> (7) kau terima salah satunya, Kau <u>berhak</u> (8) didamping oleh penasehat hukum. Pengacara. <u>Ya</u> . (9) <u>Jadi</u> (10) sekarang ini, Kau ada tidak Menyediakan Pengacara penasehat hukum secara pribadi?	H	(1) Heterogloss : Contract : Proclaim : Concur : Affirm (2) Heterogloss : Contract : Proclaim : Concur : Affirm (3) Heterogloss : Contract : Proclaim : Concur : Affirm (4) Heterogloss : Contract : Proclaim : Reinforce : Justification (5) Heterogloss : Contract : Proclaim : Concur : Affirm (6) Heterogloss : Contract : Proclaim : Reinforce : Justification (7) Heterogloss: Expand : Entertain : Deontic Modality (8) Heterogloss: Expand : Entertain : Expository Question (9) Heterogloss : Contract : Proclaim : Concur : Affirm (10) Heterogloss : Contract : Proclaim : Reinforce : Justification

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Research Findings

Engagement refers to interpersonal resources utilized by participants to position their attitudes toward what they express. It also serves to build interpersonal relationships between participants, fostering harmony in the communication process. Monogloss refers to a singular perspective, where the utterance made is not associated with any evaluation or external influence. In contrast, Heterogloss is the opposite of Monogloss; it involves utterances that incorporate external or outside perspectives. The following is Table 2, which shows the distribution of engagement in police interrogations.

Table 2
Realization of Engagement in Police Interrogation

Engagement	Interrogator	%	Suspects	%	Total	%
Monogloss	101	6,38	348	21.97	449	28.35
Heterogloss	816	51,52	319	20.14	1135	71.65
Total	917	57.89	667	42.11	1584	100

The table above illustrated engagement-related utterances, showing that interrogator dominated more than the suspects. A total of 917 instances (57.89%) were realized by the interrogator, while 667 instances (42.11%) were realized by the suspects. This data indicated a more dominant power relation held by the interrogator during the interrogation process. The data also revealed that monogloss realization was more dominant in suspects than in interrogator, with 348 instances (21.97%) attributed to suspects and 101 instances (6.37%) attributed to interrogator. In other words, monogloss engagement was greater in suspects than in interrogator, with a ratio of $348 > 101$. The realization of heterogloss in the interrogator's utterances was more dominant than in the suspects's. A total of 816 instances (51.52%) were realized by the interrogator, compared to 319 instances (20.14%) by the suspects. In other words, heterogloss engagement was greater in the interrogator than in the suspects, with a ratio of $816 > 319$. Below was Figure 1, showing the graph of the distribution of engagement in interrogations.

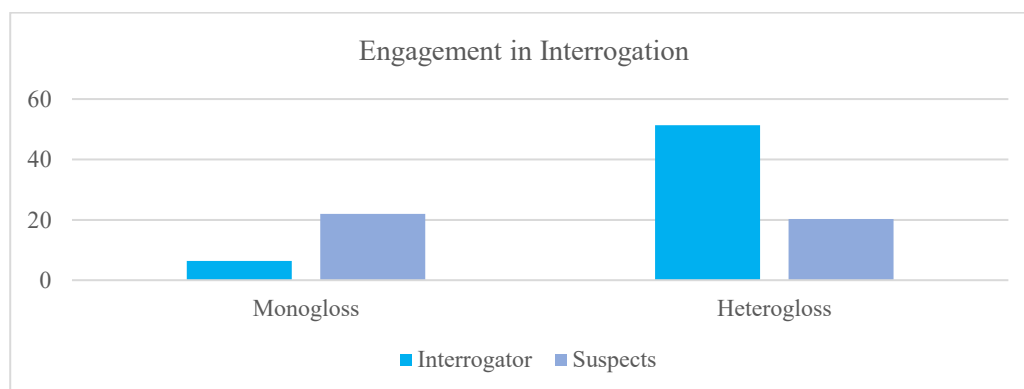


Figure 1. Engagement in Police Interrogation

The graph above indicates that heterogloss was more dominant than monogloss, or heterogloss > monogloss. From the perspective of participants in each aspect of engagement, monogloss is more prominent in the suspects than in the interrogator, or suspects > interrogator. Conversely, for heterogloss, the interrogator surpasses the suspects, or interrogator > suspects. Monogloss engagement was greater in suspects than in interrogator. This suggested that suspects rely more on their own propositions and personal thoughts, which reflect feelings of negative happiness (-hap) and negative security (-sec). This aligns with the theory presented by Martin & White (2005). Heterogloss engagement was greater in the interrogator than in the suspects, this data suggested that the interrogator responds to the discomfort of the suspects during the interrogation process by utilizing external or outside voices. This approach provided the suspects with an opportunity to express their stance and position. The more dominant realization of heterogloss indicated the interrogator's concern for the suspects, as outlined in the theory by Martin & White (2005). For more specificity, here was a detailed explanation regarding the realization of monogloss and heterogloss.

Realization of Monogloss

Monogloss refers to utterances that originate from the speaker's own perspective, interpreted as a single voice without incorporating external voices or viewpoints outside of

oneself. Monogloss lacks dialogic alternatives in the communication process, often referred to as "undialogised" (Martin & White, 2005, p. 99). To better understand Monogloss, here was an example of its realization during the interrogation process.

- (1) Suspects : Mengerti pak [understand, sir] (Text 2, utterance 122)
- (2) Suspects : Mengutip satu persatu [Quoting one by one] (Text 2, utterance 242)
Suspects: mau beli rokok gak ada uang [I want to buy cigarettes but I don't have any money] (Text 4, utterance 304)
- (3) Interrogator: Jangan ada yang ditutup-tutupi, jangan ada bohong-bohongan,.....[Don't hide anything, don't lie] (text 2, utterance 119)
Interrogator:jujur kau ya [Be honest, will you?] (text 2, utterance 299)

The excerpt of the conversation above provided examples of engagement realizations in monogloss, realized by both the interrogator and the suspects. In utterance (1), the interrogator previously asked the suspects about the reason for being interrogated at the Police Department, and the suspects responded with "I understand, sir." This response indicated that the suspects understood on their own why they were at the Police Department and being questioned by the police. The utterance originated from the suspects's own perspective, interpreted as a single voice, meaning there was no external voice or viewpoint involved (Martin & White, 2005, p. 99). Next, the conversation in excerpt (2) explained that the suspects did something out of their own will, without needing to involve dialogic alternatives. In the first conversation of text 2, utterance 242, the suspects committed theft by stealing fruit one by one, indicating that the action of stealing comes from their own choice. This utterance suggested that it has a single voice context. Similarly, in text 4, utterance 304, when the police asked why the suspects committed the theft, the suspects responds with "I wanted to buy cigarettes, but I had no money." This utterance also carried the meaning of monogloss, as it originated from the suspects's own perspective, with no external influence involved. Therefore, the utterance does not require dialogic alternatives. The last conversation example that indicated monogloss was utterance (3), in text 2, utterances 119 and 299.

Realization of Heterogloss

Heterogloss is divided into two parts: contract and expand. "The distinction turns on the degree to which an utterance, by dint of one or more of these locutions, actively makes allowances for dialogically alternative positions and voices (dialogic expansion), or alternatively, acts to challenge, fend off or restrict the scope of such (dialogic contraction)" (Martin & White, 2005, p. 102). The distinction lies in the extent to which an utterance, through one or more of these locutions, actively allows for dialogically alternative positions and voices (dialogic expansion), or, alternatively, acts to challenge, fend off, or restrict the scope of such alternatives (dialogic contraction). Below is Table 3, showing the distribution of heterogloss contract and heterogloss expand realizations in the interrogation.

Table 3
Realization of Heterogloss in Police Interrogation

Heterogloss	Interrogator	%	Suspect	%	Total	%
Contract	674	59.38	312	27.40	985	86.78
Expand	142	12.51	8	0.70	150	13.22
Total	816	71.89	320	28.11	1135	100

The table above showed that there were 1135 utterances realized during the interrogation process. From the table, contract was more frequently realized than expand. There were 985 (86.78%) utterances realized as contract, and 150 (13.22%) utterances realized as expand. The interrogator dominated the heterogloss utterances, with 816 (71.89%) utterances from the interrogator and 320 (28.11%) from the suspects. This data indicated that

the interrogator utilizes their power during the interrogation (Eggins, 1994). The dominant use of heterogloss by participants during the interrogation showed that heterogloss contract was more frequently realized (985, or 86.78%) compared to heterogloss expand (150, or 13.22%). Below was the graph in Figure 2 showing the distribution of heterogloss contract and heterogloss expand.

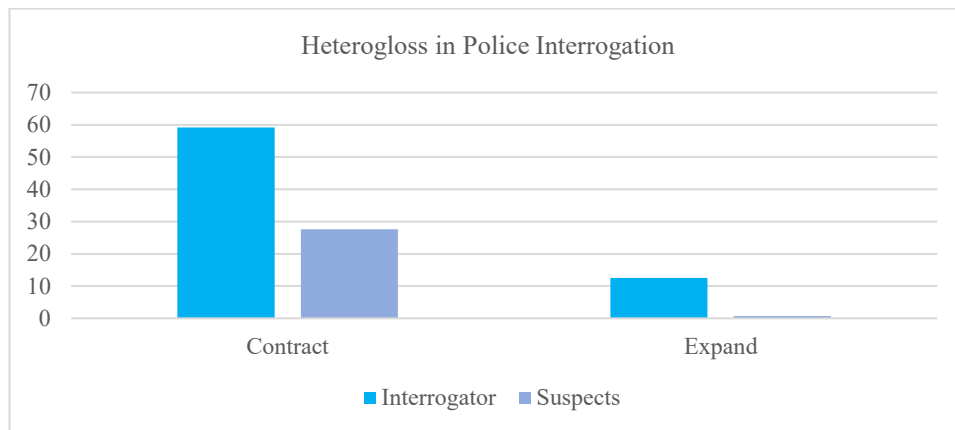


Figure 2. Heterogloss in Police Interrogation

Figure 2 showed that heterogloss contract was more dominant than heterogloss expand, or heterogloss contract > heterogloss expand. In each section of heterogloss, the interrogator is more dominant than the suspects, both in heterogloss contract and heterogloss expand. It can be concluded that heterogloss contract interrogator > heterogloss expand suspects, and similarly, heterogloss expand interrogator > heterogloss expand suspects. This data suggested that participants prefer utterances that offer alternative actions to challenge, fend off, or restrict the scope of the utterance, rather than providing space for dialogically alternative positions and voices (Martin & White, 2005, p. 102). The description above explained the discussion and number of dominant utterances of heterogloss contract and heterogloss expand. However, the discussion did not stop here. There was a more detailed discussion of heterogloss contracts and heterogloss expand. Heterogloss contract and heterogloss expand were further divided into several parts. The heterogloss contract is divided into two parts, namely disclaimer and proclaim. Disclaimer consists of (1) deny and (2) counter, while proclaim consists of (1) concur which includes affirmation, conceder and leading question, (2) Endorse and (3) Reinforce which includes justification and pronounce. In the Heterogloss Expand section it is divided into 2 parts, namely Entertain and Attribute where Entertain includes epistemic modality, evidentiality, rhetorical question and expository question while Attribute includes acknowledgment and distance.

Table 4
Realization of Heterogloss : Contract in Police Interrogation

HETEROGLOSS CONTRACT		P	%	T	%	Total	%	
Disclaim	Deny	23	2.34	66	6,7	89	9.04	
	Counter	3	0.3	5	0.51	8	0.81	
Proclaim	Concur	Affirm	254	25.79	221	22.44	475	48.22
		Concede	7	0.71	2	0.2	9	0.92
		Leading Questions	264	26.8	1	0.1	265	26.9
	Endorse	6	0.61	1	0.1	7	0,71	
	Reinforce	Justification	101	10.25	12	1.22	113	11.47
		Pronounce	16	1.62	3	0.3	19	1.93
Total		674	68.43	311	31.57	985	100	

The table above showed that the most frequently occurring utterance during the interrogation was affirm with 475 (48.22%), followed by leading question with 265 (26.9%), justification with 113 (11.47%), deny with 89 (9.04%), pronounce with 19 (1.93%), counter with 8 (0.81%), concede with 9 (0.91%), and lastly endorse with 7 (0.71%). From the total number of utterances, affirm appeared the most, indicating widely accepted values or shared beliefs in the communication context, which diminished alternative positions. From the total contract, the interrogator's utterances were realized more frequently than the suspects's, with 674 (68.43%) utterances by the interrogator and 311 (31.57%) utterances by the suspects. This data clearly showed that the interrogator dominated the interrogation process, indicating that the interrogator exerted power during the interrogation (Eggins, 1994). Here was Figure 3, the distribution of Heterogloss: Contract realized during the interrogation.

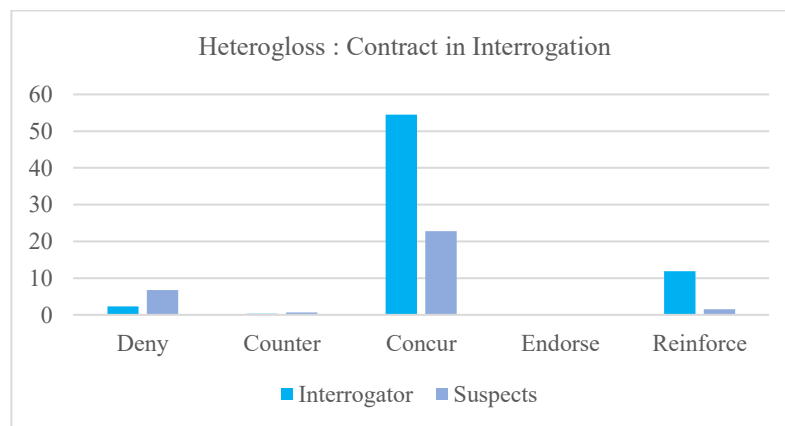


Figure 3. Heterogloss : Contract in Police Interrogation

Viewed from the number of utterances produced by the interrogator, almost all aspects of heterogloss were more frequent for the interrogator than the suspects. However, in the disclaim aspect, the suspects had more utterances than the interrogator. This data indicated that the interrogator exerted power during the interrogation because, in almost all aspects of heterogloss, the interrogator's utterances dominated over the suspects. The use of power can be seen in the number of leading questions and affirm utterances, which are the most dominant during the interrogation. This proved that the interrogator was restricting the scope of the utterance. Next, looking at the number of heterogloss utterances from the suspects, in the disclaim part, the suspects had more utterances than the interrogator in both disclaim: deny and disclaim: counter. This data indicated that the suspects was rejecting the utterances proposed by the interrogator during the interrogation process, or the interrogator's utterances contain assumptions or possibilities, and the speaker introduced a position contrary to the one proposed, but they do so by introducing a proposition that replaces the expected one (Martin & White, 2005, p. 118-120). The following was some examples of heterogloss: contract in police interrogation.

- (1) Suspect: *Enggak tahu orangnya. (deny)*, [I don't know the person] (text 1, utterance 256)
- (2) Interrogator: *Tapi (counter) kalau kau bersedia atau kau memiliki Pengacara teman penasehat hukum yang ditunjuk sendiri Silahkan Kau berikanlah kami surat kuasa Khusus Iya kan? Baru bisa didampingi kau. [But if you are willing or if you have a lawyer or a legal advisor that you've appointed yourself, please provide us with a special power of attorney, right? Only then can you be accompanied]* (text 2, utterance 131)

- (3) Interrogator: Benar ya. (Affirm) itu barang yang dapat di kelen pada saat penangkapan ya. [That's correct, that item can be seized during the arrest, right?](text 1, utterance 278)
- (4) Interrogator: Enggak ada? Cukup. Dalam memberikan keterangan ini, ada nggak kau dipaksa? (leading question) [Is there none? Enough. Were you forced in giving this statement?](text 1, utterance 281)

In utterance (1), the suspects uses the phrase "Enggak tahu" (I don't know). In this context, the suspects's response of "Enggak tahu" limits the dialogic alternatives regarding the information being asked by the interrogator. The interrogator was seeking information about the location where the stolen oil palm fruit bunches were disposed of or sold. To limit the dialogic alternatives, the suspects uses "Enggak tahu" as a form of denial in communication. Therefore, the utterance "Enggak tahu" was categorized as a form of denial (deny). In sentence (2) above, the interrogator used the word "tapi" (but) to introduce a position that contrasts with what was previously presented. However, the interrogator did so by introducing a proposition that replaces the expected one. In this context, the interrogator was offering the suspects a choice regarding the legal counsel who may help reduce the sentence that will later be imposed by the court. In the conversation excerpt number (3), the utterance "benar ya" (that's correct, right?) spoken by the interrogator was used to confirm that all the evidence obtained by the police was directly from the suspects. In this context, the interrogator was reaffirming the information obtained from the person who reported the theft. Therefore, the utterance "benar ya" in this conversation excerpt failed under the category of Affirm. In conversation excerpt number (4), the interrogator used a yes/no question to limit the response that the suspects will provide. The context in this excerpt was that the interrogator wanted to confirm whether the suspects feels there was no coercion during the interrogation process or if no other party forced the suspects to confess to the actions they have committed. In addition to heterogloss contract, this study also realized heterogloss expand as follows:

Table 5
Realization of Heterogloss : Expand in Police Interrogation

	HETEROGLOSS EXPAND	Interrogator	%	Terperiksa	%	Total	%
Entertain	Epistemic Modality	13	8.67	7	4.67	20	13.33
	Evidentiality	19	12.67	0	0	19	12.67
	Rhetorical Question	91	60.67	0	0	91	60.67
	Expository Question	14	9.3	0	0	14	9.3
Attribute	Deontic Modality	4	2.67	0	0	4	2.7
	Acknowledgement	1	0.67	1	0.67	2	1.33
	Distance	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	142	94.67	8	5.33	150	100

Table 5 presented the realization of heterogloss expand with 150 utterances. The table showed that the most realized type of heterogloss expand in this study was rhetorical question with 91 (60.67%), followed by epistemic modality with 20 (13.33%), evidentiality with 19 (12.67%), expository question with 14 (9.3%), deontic modality with 4 (2.7%), acknowledgement with 2 (1.33%), and finally distance with 0 (0%). No utterances categorized as distance were found during the interrogation. The data from Table 5 indicated that the most frequently realized type of heterogloss expand was rhetorical question. The frequent use of rhetorical questions during the interrogation suggested that the questions were aimed at positioning the person being questioned to provide a specific or desired answer (White, 2003). To see the distribution of the realization of heterogloss expand during the interrogation, it can be viewed in the following chart in Figure 4 below.

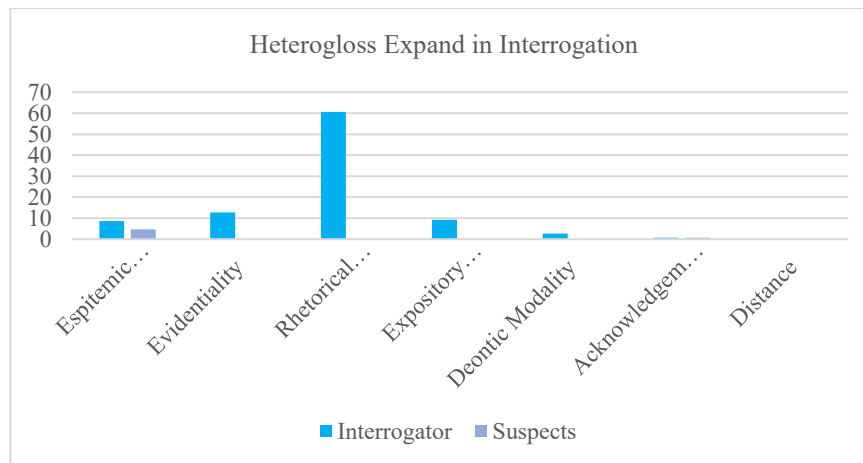


Figure 4. Heterogloss : Expand in Police Interrogation

The chart above showed that the heterogloss expand utterances were predominantly realized by the interrogator, with nearly all subcategories of heterogloss expand being dominated by the interrogator. From the chart, it can be seen that in epistemic modality, the interrogator was more dominant than the suspects, which can be written as interrogator > suspects. In evidentiality, the interrogator was more dominant than the suspects, and even the suspects have no realizations, which can be written as interrogator > suspects. For rhetorical question, this was the most dominant utterance among all the subcategories of heterogloss expand, with the interrogator more dominant than the suspects, or interrogator > suspects. Next, in expository question, the interrogator was more dominant than the suspects, and the suspects has no realizations, which can be written as interrogator > suspects. In deontic modality, the interrogator was more dominant than the suspects, and the suspects has no realizations, which can be written as interrogator > suspects.

The absence of distance in this study can be interpreted as both participants, the interrogator and the suspects, not explicitly distancing themselves from the reliability of the propositions they presented during the interrogation process. The number of rhetorical questions realized in the interrogation aligns with the theoretical framework, indicating consistency with the context of the interrogation. In this context, the interrogator, who conducts the interrogation, aims to uncover the truth by asking questions that lead to a specific or desired answer. By using rhetorical questions, the interrogator can more easily obtain the information needed. This technique helped guide the suspects toward the answer the interrogator expects, reinforcing the power dynamics at play during the interrogation process. The following was some examples of heterogloss: expand in police interrogation.

- (1) Interrogator:Atau *bisa* (*epistemic modality*) dibantu supaya gimana, bebas, supaya *bisa* (*epistemic modality*) sekolah atau gimana? [Or can you help, how should it be, freely, so that I can go to school or what?] (text 1, utterance 289)
- (2) Interrogator: Jadi pada saat kau ditangkap, *barang bukti* (*evidentiality*) yang didapat dari kau *berupa* (*evidentiality*) apa saja? [So, when you were arrested, what evidence was obtained from you] (text 2, utterance 215)
- (3) Interrogator: kenapa *harus* (*deontic modality*) dijog itu kan, agar tidak terlihat oleh petugas kebun [Why does it have to be hidden like that, so it's not seen by the garden workers?] (text 2, utterance 313)

In excerpt (1), the interrogator used the word "bisa" (can). The word "bisa" refers to possibility or probability. In the context of this excerpt, the meaning of "bisa" suggested the possibility that the suspect may be given freedom because they were still a minor and a high

school student. The context of the word "bisa" indicated that the utterance involved a level of probability.

In excerpt (2), the interrogator again used the word "berupa" (appear). The meaning of this word where the word "berupa" is one of the utterances that indicates "evidential." In the context of this excerpt, the interrogator asked a question that leads to the proof provided by the suspect that resulted in the evidence. By using this question, the interrogator obtained the expected answer. The suspect then answers or mentions the evidence obtained by the officers in the form of palm fruit bunches.

In excerpt (3), the interrogator expresses their positioning regarding what the suspect has done. The context of this utterance was that the suspect placed the palm fruit bunches under the motorcycle seat, which was something the interrogator had not thought of before. The interrogator was surprised to see how the suspect hid the stolen goods.

Discussion

The findings of this study revealed that in police interrogation interactions, engagement was predominantly characterized by heterogloss rather than monogloss. This aligned with the engagement theory proposed by Martin and White (2005), which asserted that heterogloss functions to open dialogic space and represent multiple voices or perspectives within communication. In the interrogation context, heterogloss enabled interrogators to manage power dynamics and maintain control over the conversation through various linguistic strategies. Notably, the findings indicated a difference in dominance between the interrogators and suspects across the two engagement dimensions. In the case of monogloss, suspects were more dominant, reflecting their attempt to deliver statements assertively and without opening dialogic space—possibly as a means of sustaining their narrative and resisting interrogation pressure.

Conversely, in heterogloss, interrogators were more dominant, highlighting their role as conversational controllers who actively invoked other voices to test consistency and steer the narrative. Further, the most prevalent subtype of heterogloss identified was heterogloss contract, wherein interrogators employ linguistic strategies to close down dialogic space and restrict potential responses. This finding corroborated observation that linguistic power in interrogation contexts was often manifested through efforts to assert authority by closing off discussions that could undermine the interrogator's position. Within heterogloss contract, the affirm strategy was predominantly used by interrogators. This strategy functions to reinforce evaluative claims with a strong, assertive tone, thereby increasing psychological pressure on the suspect. This aligned with Halliday's (2004) findings, which emphasize that affirmations in interaction serve as instruments of control and dominance in asymmetrical conversations such as interrogations. Meanwhile, within heterogloss expand, which served to open dialogic space, interrogators predominantly used rhetorical questions as a strategic tool.

Rhetorical questions allowed interrogators to direct the suspect's attention and provoke reflection without overtly stating an evaluation, while simultaneously maintaining conversational control (Martin & White, 2005). This strategy can be understood as a subtle means of exerting pressure while preserving the appearance of cooperative dialogue. Overall, the pattern of interrogator dominance in heterogloss, especially in heterogloss contract via affirm and in heterogloss expand via rhetorical question, illustrates how language is strategically employed to uphold authority and manipulate dialogic space during interrogations. These findings made a significant contribution to forensic linguistics literature by demonstrating how linguistic aspects of engagement reflect complex and layered power dynamics within legal contexts.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings in this study, it can be concluded that in the police interrogation process, heterogloss was used more frequently than monogloss. The interrogator used monogloss more often, indicating that the interrogator tended to speak from a single voice or perspective without allowing space for alternative perspectives. Conversely, the interrogator used heterogloss more frequently, which showed that the interrogator still controlled the conversation while allowing some space for other perspectives. The use of heterogloss by the interrogator indicated that the police was employing a strategy to limit the dialogic space of the suspect. The interrogator can guide the discussion according to their objectives by using methods such as leading questions and affirmations. This put pressure on the suspect to provide the answers the interrogator desires. At the same time, the interrogator also used heterogloss to open space for alternative perspectives, such as by using rhetorical questions or epistemic modality (possibility or uncertainty). However, the interrogator still retained control. This strategy influenced the power dynamics between the interrogator and the suspect. The interrogator can influence or even force the suspect to acknowledge or confirm what they want by controlling the conversation and limiting the dialogic space of the suspect.

Monogloss responses tended to be more passive, offering fewer options for responses. As a result, the interrogation showed interrogator dominance and an imbalanced power relationship. More broadly, this heterogloss strategy can help the police interrogation obtain the desired information. However, excessively emphasizing verbal control and forcing the suspect to reveal something they do not wish to disclose can also potentially violate human rights and principles of justice. Therefore, this strategy must be applied carefully to maintain a balance between the interrogator's power and the individual rights of the suspect. The implication of this study is valuable in demonstrating how the strategic management of engagement can open up more cooperative interaction spaces, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of information elicitation. Future research may also adopt a multimodal approach that integrates both verbal and non-verbal data (such as gestures, intonation, and facial expressions) to gain a more comprehensive understanding of interrogators' communication strategies within investigative contexts.

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