

## A Psycholinguistic Study of Psychopathic Offenders' Speech

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**Abstract:** The present study aims at studying the psychopathic speech of offenders and analyzing their behavior by using psycholinguistics. The following study involved a psycholinguistic analysis of psychopathic offenders' speech. The research design was chosen to be descriptive and involved an observation of three offenders based on interviews done with them on YouTube. The descriptive model to be followed in analyzing the psychopathic offenders personality features is that of Hare (2003), and Hare et al's (1988). The first finding was that psychopaths were more likely than their counterparts to use explanatory and causally framed language concerning their criminal actions, with a relatively high level of subordinating conjunctions, indicating more cause and effect statements. This pattern suggested that psychopaths were more likely to have viewed the crime as a logical outcome of a plan (something that 'had' to be done to achieve a goal), their violence is indeed more instrumental and goal driven than that of other offenders. Secondly, we found that psychopaths used approximately twice as many words related to basic physiological and self-preservation needs, including eating, drinking, and money when describing their violence. This pattern is consistent with conceptualizations of psychopaths as being focused on a lower level of necessities, hierarchy of needs or in an earlier stage of ego development. Psychopaths generally lack the capacity for bonds and, presumably, the capacity for religious experience or spiritual enlightenment. As such, they continue to describe the crime in a cool, detached manner and in terms of the basic physiological needs they met at the time.

**Keywords:** psycholinguistic analysis, offenders' speech, psychopaths.

## دراسة لغوية نفسية عن كلام المختلين النفسيين

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كلية التربية للبنات || جامعة بغداد || العراق

الملخص: تتضمن الدراسة التالية تحليلاً نفسياً لخطاب المختلين النفسيين. تم اختيار تصميم البحث ليكون وصفيًا وتتضمن ملاحظة لثلاثة مخالفين بناءً على مقابلات أجريت معهم على YouTube. النموذج التوصيفي الذي تم اتباعه في التحليل هول (هير 2003، وهير وآخرون، 1988). كان الاستنتاج الأول هو أن المرضى النفسيين كانوا أكثر عرضة من نظرائهم لاستخدام لغة توضيحية ومؤطرة سببية فيما يتعلق بأعمالهم الإجرامية، مع مستوى عالٍ نسبيًا من الوصايا التبعية، مشيرًا إلى المزيد من البيانات السبب والنتيجة. يشير هذا النمط إلى أن المرضى النفسيين كانوا أكثر عرضة لأن ينظروا إلى الجريمة على أنها نتيجة منطقية لخطأ (شيء "كان يجب القيام به" لتحقيق هدف)، وأن عنفهم هو في الواقع أكثر فاعلية ويحركه الهدف من فعل الجناة الآخرين. ثانيًا، وجدنا أن المرضى النفسيين يستخدمون ما يقرب من ضعف الكلمات المرتبطة بالاحتياجات الفسيولوجية الأساسية والحفاظ على الذات، بما في ذلك الأكل والشرب والمال عند وصف عنفهم. يتماشى هذا النمط مع تصورات المرضى النفسيين على أنها تركز على مستوى أقل من الضروريات أو التسلسل الهرمي للاحتياجات أو في مرحلة مبكرة من تطور الأنا. بينما تم انتقاد التسلسل الهرمي لـ Maslow من حيث المستويات المحددة للتسلسل الهرمي. يفترض المرضى النفسيون عمومًا إلى القدرة على الروابط، ويفترض أن لديهم القدرة على التجربة الدينية أو

التنوير الروحي. على هذا النحو، يواصلون وصف الجريمة بطريقة باردة منفصلة ومن حيث الاحتياجات الفسيولوجية الأساسية التي استوفوها في ذلك الوقت.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التحليل اللغوي النفسي، خطاب الجناة، المختلين النفسيين.

## 1- Introduction

Personality is the sum of the various qualities in a person's being that are distinct from and reflected on the interaction with the environment around him, including people and attitudes, both in understanding his feelings, his behavior, his actions, and his outward appearance. In addition to his tendencies, desires, Wants, Talents, ideas, and personal traits are normal, but when one or the other goes wrong. Some of these components become what is known as personality disorder. Which we will discuss in this study. One of these disorders is the synoptic neuralgia, Responsible for the occurrence of criminal conduct or crime because it pays the owner to violate the law and values Society, ideals and standards, and push it to revenge, harm, fraud, fraud and fraud will be discussed in this research (Bleichrodt and Born, 1994:7). The researcher will attempt to provide a psycholinguistic analysis of psychopathic offenders to understand their behavior and disorders.

## 2- The Statement Problem

Personality disorders are one of the disorders that affect a person, and have negative effects on the person. The possession of mental disorders significantly increases the chances of transgression. An examination of language can provide insights into a person's underlying cognitive and emotional processes (Pennebaker, et al. 2003: 54). Moreover, the words we use can provide subtle cues about underlying psychopathology (Junghaenel, et al. 2008:27), personality (Oberlander. and Gill, 2006:42), and even deceptiveness (Moberley and Villar, 2016:23). Therefore, the researcher intends to provide a psycholinguistic analysis of psychopathic offenders' speech based on interviews done with them on YouTube.

## 3- The Significance of the Study

The importance of the study in terms of the variables is covered by the study by providing an analysis of offenders in order to identify disorders in anti-social behavior with an inability to love, compassion, empathy and the formation of human relationships with the aim of providing a better understanding of psychopaths to try to prevent crimes. The law provided for the prohibition and punishment of perpetrators and killing is an effective act in the loss of the soul. Thus, it is a demolition of the human structure.

#### 4- Definition of Psychopathic Personality

The word psychopath is composed of two syllables: psycho, meaning the same as the word path, meaning a person with a specific disease. It refers to the deviation of the individual from the normal behavior and deviation in the behavior against society and abroad on its values and standards and ideals and rules. It is also known as a mental or mental patient, mental illness or mental disorder characterized by anti-social activity (Hoppenbrouwers, et al, 2016:142).

##### 4-1 Psychopathic Language and Style

As a psychologically ill, mentally ill person is characterized by emotional immaturity to establish in the homes of cold emotional or weak personality building, because of excessive pampering so that the individual learns from his childhood suppression of his wishes prove at the level of my child of self-centered or the absence of acceptable social patterns (Johns, and Quay, 1962:26). Johns and Quay (ibid) believe that aggression and domination are always inextricably linked. An aggressive person is characterized by a love of control, and a person controlled by a love of domination is aggressive. The most important features of the psychopathic personality are (Johns and Quay, ibid :27).

1. Medium or high intelligence with artificial gravity.
2. Absence of other gestures and signs of irrational thinking.
3. Absence of neurological anxiety or other neurological manifestations.
4. Instability.
5. Lack of honesty and lack of sincerity.
6. Absence of conscience and shame.
7. Anti-social behavior.
8. Poor ability to govern and close to learning from experience.
9. The concentration of illness on the self and the inability of love.
10. A general decline in most major emotional responses.
11. Poverty of foresight.
12. Low response to public relations.
13. Narcissistic behavior with indulging in the drink and sometimes without it.
14. Absence of serious suicide attempts.
15. Non-traditional, uncontrolled or controllable sexual life.
16. Failure to follow any plan for his life.

##### 4- 2 Personality traits

There are five main characteristics of the personality of the psychopath, not the total features of this troubled personality, but the outlines of many satisfactory features (Hare, et al, 1988:62) namely:

1. Selfish, not known why selfish.

2. Unable to form lasting relationships of affection with other people.
3. Fast rush and arousal.
4. Little or no sense of guilt or sin.
5. Mostly causes suffering for those around him in the family or work.

Perhaps this expansion of the concept of psychosis is what led to the vagueness of the term to the point that the category of the "cycopatism" was referred to as the garbage bin of the diagnosis when faced with cases in which symptoms are all against the community, but after the development of studies in the field of skepticism could be identified this concept and specialization of a class distinct from Categories of other behavioral deviations. (Hare, ibid:62).

The behavior of the psychopath may sometimes appear to be a normal behavior together, but in reality it involves a complete inability to recognize the emotional element of the different situations it is going through. Accordingly, the psychopath does not benefit from the events or experiences. It does not acquire any experience that can allow to modify its activity or to direct it in such a way as to ensure that it achieves its own objectives (Brites, 2016: 50).

#### **4.3 Characteristic aspects of the personality**

The antisocial personality has several clinical manifestations, all of which fall into four basic aspects (Brites, 2016: 50):

1. Continuing the period of suffering around him.
2. Lack of mental illness or mental retardation.
3. Incitement to violence, abuse and irresponsibility.
4. Having to take certain measures against him to face him.

#### **4.4 Psychotic personality patterns**

The dominant characteristic of this personality, as we have said, is the emotional and emotional immaturity, and the lack of learning from experiences of life. The patterns were presented by Cleckley (1941) as follows:

1. Hostile (immoral) style:

In this pattern, the person is characterized by aggression, which is not explicit or apparent aggression, and you find him seeking to harm others around him and is keen to appear as a person depositary at first and then reflect the poor creation when achieving what he wants. And this style some of the characteristics characteristic of him you find the person always lying, and believe you talk only a little, anxious to cheat, fraudulent, protruding on others. And other immoral qualities (ibid).

This psychopathic behavior stems from the lack of appreciation of this person, and his sense of inferiority among people.

## 2. Aggressive mode (explicit societal antibody)

This is one of the most dangerous stereotypical types of personality, which represents the greatest suffering of the family and society, because of the actual behavior of the explicit attitudes, and this style is called the behavior of violence and aggression, it is cruel in dealing and arrogance in the method and not regret what he does and justify the mistakes Always valid. In this case, psychopathic violence is not limited to verbal or reckless treatment of the society, but to varying degrees of actual violence, involving the widows, women and possibly family members. Here, we find that most cases of violence may come without prior measure, because they come to achieve an urgent desire, which is the desire of aggression. Therefore, it is found that all of his violent reactions are issued against society either as acts or reactions, and often material violence (Cleckley, 1941)

## 3. Adaptive Style

This type of psychopath is able to adapt to different situations and different people, so you find it clever to the degree of creativity in the interest of his interest and benefit without any responsibility towards others, seeking to win others and achieve benefits without them having problems with them. However, it is not far from being one of these inherited or learned behavioral behaviors, because a person can learn in his childhood how his behavior is anti-social, self-centered and not aware of the feelings of others. And their feelings (Corley and Stewart, 2008:172).

## 4.5 Psychopathy and Behavioral Deviancy

Behavioral Deviancy is the practice of any type of behavior that is contrary to the expected behavior at the individual and social levels, and the sociopathism is spread in the deviant societies, and it seems that with the progress of modern civilization and the spread of deviations from creation and away from religion, many cases of psychopism begin to emerge and spread from. The alarm bell must be sounded in order to draw the attention of sociologists, psychology and law before the psychopatism spreads to the degree of the psychopath or psychopathic attack (Hancock, et al, 2015).

And from this concept, the individual who practices a behavior contrary to his beliefs and principles and behavior, which he expects to enjoy is considered at the personal level deviant behavior, for example, as he found a religious individual and committed to the teachings of religion and methodology in all his behavior and able to control and control his behavior according to this approach is expected from his behavior in the future Is consistent with the behavior of the religious method. If the individual practices a behavior that is contrary to the teachings of religion, such as stealing, he will deviate from the expected behavior. If the behavior of the offending behavior is repeated, it becomes devoid of behavior and the inability to control and control his behavior becomes behavioral disease from the point of view of society. As for the individual himself remains devoid of behavior. At the social level, for example, if the expected behavior of the members of society is safety and the appearance of a behavioral patient with

theft, the society deviated from the social behavior of the expected, and that the recurrence of the cases of theft is a society deviant behavior and that the loss of society control and control the individual behavior of patients Re-planning for the treatment of behavioral disease by modifying or altering the social control systems or their development, but it must be fully convinced of the need to develop the current system on the control and control and control of the behavior of individuals This social disease is called social phenomena rejected or Negative (Hancock, et al, 2015).

Behavioral deviation is the result of a change in the beliefs, motivations and self-tendencies of the individual, which is the result of exposure to the acquisition of strong behavioral experiences to the ability to satisfy his needs and desires easily and achieve the greatest personal benefit or to acquire behavioral experiences weak and frequent and successful, This behavioral experience is transferred and acquired through interactive attitudes with the community and its associated experiences, through self-learning, through direct learning from others, and through the desire for simulation, imitation and personal experience. These are ways that are far from social planning J surveillance and often does not plan and organize their community experiences to acquire anti-anti (ibid).

Behavioral deviation is the beginning of behavioral disease at the individual level and behavioral disease has the characteristic of the infection and the speed of proliferation if not used appropriate means of treatment and often leads to the weakness and destruction of society in the case of neglect, either intentionally or ignorance.. So whenever the community has addressed behavioral deviation since the emergence in the first cases and continued Prevention and treatment for the rest of the population whenever the community maintains the health of its construction and its basic components. Of course, the disease cannot be cured until it is discovered and can only be discovered by imposing a strict social control system capable of detecting behavioral deviation in all its forms or by the emergence of individual and social complaints affected by the disease (Hancock, et al, 2015).

And the discovery of the disease and follow-up and the availability of appropriate treatment system and the existence of a program of behavioral evaluation with the insistence of the community to eliminate behavioral deviation are the basis of psychological health of the community and the basis of growth and prosperity.

#### **4.6 Sociopathic Deviations**

It is impossible to give a precise, specific description of the types of psychopath or ascetic biases of psychopathic characters because all those who appear in their behavior are so strange that they do not allow life and success in society but are otherwise ordinary on the part of their bodies and minds. Psychopaths are not intelligent people, because most are normal in intelligence or higher than average and are usually lacking in social intelligence. These were several attempts to divide or classify the

cycopene into different varieties and I would mention two categories of these classifications (Hicklin, Widiger, 2005: 13):

1. Classification (David Clark):

A. Skopative deflection deviation: -

They are characterized by agitation, violence, cruelty and quarrels. They also include alcoholics, drugs, unstable, sadistic tendencies, and criminal criminals who have criminal record records and who commit crime in exchange for wages.

B. The uncooperative psychopath.

This type includes a group of people who commit small and petty misdemeanors from society whose defects are a major problem for society and their families as well as those who live by force on their families and relatives.

2. Bulls - Landes classification:

A. The outside cycopate: -

It shows an apparent weakness in creation with a feeling of insecurity within itself and shows it in the strange behavior it does.

B. Cycopate wandering helpless: -

This is called because he does not have to stay in one place, but shows a strong desire for mobility cannot be controlled and cannot overcome them and this mobility has a reasonable reason and also called the disabled cycopate. The cycopate, the disabled and the disabled, which is much like the personality impotence according to the classification of psychologists, but excessive selfishness, it does not settle on the work, and interspersed quarrels and quarrels (Hicklin, Widiger, 2005: 13).

#### 4.7 The Criminal Psychopath (Aggressive Feeling)

Such patients engage in acts of aggression and violence against other persons or groups without the ability to control their impulses, and they know what they are doing without being able to control their deviant behavior. Some of them may be able to temporarily control the expression of these non-social manifestations, and this is only to wait for the opportunity and the demise of the inhibitions and to return to revenge in their known criminal way, which includes the attack, stalking, killing or burning of property belonging to others or theft without feeling guilty or feeling Guilt is one of the easiest things to get aroused (ibid).

#### 4.8 Psychopath Tired

These patients are characterized by excessive self-interest and self-sufficiency and are anxious for greatness and the consequent bad feelings and tired behavior and anger. This class is like an insensitive psychic of criminals, except that this type is linked to an explosion of anger and aggressive behavior may be directed towards itself and it is very rare (Hicklin, and Widiger, 2005: 13).

#### 4.9 Psychopath Pessimistic – Depressive

The patient here does not value himself as the future looks pessimistic for him. He feels that everything in his daily live threatening him. So, he always thinks of suicide because of the many problems that cannot be solved, and because of the multitude of his concerns (Hare, 2003:83).

#### 4.10 Creative Psychopath

The smart type of this character is called the creative psychopath, which may reach the highest positions, influence and wealth, and even literary and social status, all with the trick, acting, cunning and extortion. He is the inventor of creative and creative stories that go beyond the limits of reason and seem to avoid nothing but satisfaction and vent some of the internal tension as if the patient has the desire to continue to excel himself with this fantastic creativity, and the stories of these lying lies, which makes them an important figure beloved Some have or are not loved by each other. But the extent of their writing and production of these lies to one end it is not important if their lies will be revealed or not (Hare, 2003:84).

### 5- Methodology and Data of Study

This section provides an overview of the steps of the study, which explains the methodology used, describe the study community and how to test the sample used in data collection.

#### 5.1 Research Design

This study is meant to study some aspects of the personality of the psychopath character of the perpetrators of the murder. The researcher used this descriptive approach because it is more appropriate to the nature of the problem and the subjects of the study and because it helps shed light on the different aspects through the analytical description of the center and the deep understanding of its current appearance. The descriptive approach can be defined as a method that depends on the study of reality or phenomenon as it exists in Reality and contribute as a precise description and expressed qualitative or quantitative (Abidat et al., 1992). Therefore, the researcher is mainly going to use an observation method to analyze the speech of psychopaths.

#### 5.2 Population of the Study

The population is the primary objective of the study as the researcher finally circulates the results. The community means all individuals, objects or elements with observable characteristics. We can only study communities and the sample we choose as a means of study say we are not studying samples. The population of the present work is that of psychopathic offenders with criminal history.



### 5.3 Study Sample

The sample of the present work is going to be composed of three psychopathic offenders in United States, the psychiatric institute of West Virginia based on interviews done with them on YouTube:

## 6- 6 Data Analysis

### 6.1 The Analysis of the First Psychopath

The first subject was an offender of rape it was observed that he is emotionally flat, lacks empathy for the feelings of others, and is free of remorse. The Psychopath (1) behave as if the world is to be used for his benefit, and he employs deception and feigned emotion to manipulate his victims.

The words used by the first subject matched these of the descriptions of Psychopaths a he used more conjunctions like "because, " "since" or "so that, " imply that the crime "had to be done" to obtain a particular goal. They used twice as many words relating to physical needs, such as food, sex or money, while non-psychopaths used more words about social needs, including family, religion and spirituality. He is like a predator and that his stories often included details of what they had to eat on the day of their crime. It was also observed that he used the past tense a lot most likely to express detachment from his crime and display manipulative behavior to try to persuade the listener into believing that he is a better person now. The use of deception techniques is common with psychopaths to manipulate their victims and listeners.

The perpetrator viewed his victims as instruments used only to satisfy his needs. The language used by him as he stated that the victim is nothing but toy of satisfaction. His lack of empathy meant that he only cared about himself and never used words of sentiments for others. Most of his description contained the pronoun (I) to signify that his needs are above all others. Table (1) exemplify the psycholinguistic features of Psychopath (1):

**Table (1) exemplify the psycholinguistic features of Psychopath (1)**

Type of Psychopath	Emotional feelings towards others	Benefit of himself	Conjunctions used to justify the psychopaths' murderer	Words of need	Use of personal pronoun
Psychopath (1)	zero	full	Because, since, so that	Physical: food, sex or money	full

### 6.2 The Analysis of the Second Psychopath

The second psychopath was convicted with murder. He was unlike the first victim emotionally unstable and was angry and aggressive most of the time. The language he used was comprised of hate, envy, and aggression. He used the word (hate) 18 times, the words that display envious attitude more

than 23 times, and the words of aggression more than 21 times. His speech was filled with words that display a hierarchy of basic needs like food, sex, and money. His needs were more important than the lives of his victims. His envious attitude viewed them as unworthy of these possessions as displayed by the number of times he used words on envy.

The psychopath speech displayed that he is an organized person fond of the details and planning. His speech showed that every crime he committed was thoughtfully planned and executed with attention to details. Table (2) exemplifies the psycholinguistic features of Psychopath (2)

**Table (2) exemplify the psycholinguistic features of Psychopath (2)**

Type of Psychopath	Emotional feelings towards others	Benefit of himself	Personal features	Words of need	Use of personal pronoun
Psychopath (2)	Unstable, angry and aggressive	full	hateful, envious, aggressive, and organized person fond of the details and planning	Physical: food, sex or money	full

### 6.3 The Analysis of the Third Psychopath

The third victim was a juvenile convicted with armed assault and murder. This offender is characterized by a complete lack of apparent empathy for other human beings. He feels no pain but his own as observed by his speech. Nothing matters to him; but his pain. His language presented a sense of selfishness and lack of care for others. This is the type of psychopath kill three people on separate occasions for no apparent reason, commit a subway robbery, do a push-in mugging, and blow somebody away because they "looked at him wrong." His language shows no remorse, and he has an enraged personality, his language is incoherent. He sees no contradiction whatsoever. He simply does not feel anyone's pain but his own.

His language is presented in way that shows no hope for a better future for him all he see is death and darkness. He used phrases like "no hope for me", "death is better" and so on.

This kid does not relate behavior to consequences. He does not see a causal connection between his acts and a response. He uses the phrase, "life is a lottery", "Everyone rolls the dice, but not everyone pays the price". He has no perception as to how the dice will come up. In his world, everyone commits crimes. All he does is void of emotion for others and sense of belief in consequences. Table (3) exemplifies the psycholinguistic features of Psychopath (3):

**Table (3) exemplifies the psycholinguistic features of Psychopath (3)**

Type of Psychopath	Emotional feelings towards others	Benefit of himself	Personal features	Words of hope
Psychopath (3)	a sense of selfishness and lack of care for others	Full; Nothing matters to him; but his pain	Nothing matters to him; but his pain; no remorse; of enraged personality	None: Only "death"

## 7- Results

Psychopaths produced many subordinating conjunctions. this suggests that psychopaths were bound to depict circumstances and logical results connections when portraying their homicide, utilizing words, for example, "because", "since", "as". Psychopath language was expected to reflect more basic needs such as food, sex, and shelter, but fewer higher level social needs such as meaningful relationships and spirituality. How much the psychopathic guilty parties had mentally separated themselves (or were essentially segregated) from the murder was inspected using the over a wide span of time type of action words and the rate of articles. They utilized increasingly past tense types of lexical action words (e.g., cut) yet less current state types of lexical action words (e.g., wound). Further, the mental cases delivered a higher rate of articles, uncovering that their language included increasingly solid things. Taken together, these information propose that maniacs semantically encircled their murder as additional previously and in more mentally far off terms regardless of the way that there was no distinction in time since the crime over. Moreover, psychopathic language was significantly less fluent:

**Table (4) linguistic examples of psychopathic offenders' speeches**

Linguistic feature	example	frequency
disfluencies	.'uh', 'um'	33%
Cause and effect	Because, and "since"	30%
Past tense verbs	Past verbs	21%
Concrete words	Concrete words of need: Food Drink, Clothing, Money	11%
Pronoun	Personal pronoun "I"	5%

## 8- Conclusion

We assume that psychopaths need feeling, hold a narrow minded, instrumental world view, and go after and misuse others, utilizing hostility and manipulative conversational abilities as weapons. Notwithstanding the assumed focal job of this 'endowment of talk' to the psychopathic character, this examination was the first to research the idea of the language of such predators utilizing a measurable corpus investigation. We anticipated that they would indicate one of a kind semantic examples identifying

with their instrumental world view, crude physiological (versus more elevated amount) needs, and significant full of feeling shortfall, when depicting a noteworthy self-portraying occasion – a crime for which they were capable. self-protection and real needs, and were more disfluent, past arranged, and had less passionate power in respect to non-psychopathic guilty patient. The main finding was that psychopaths confined language concerning their criminal activities, with a generally abnormal state of subjecting conjunctions, demonstrating more circumstances and logical results explanations. This example proposed that they were bound to have seen the wrongdoing as a consistent result of an arrangement (something that 'had' to be done to accomplish an objective), their brutality is for sure more instrumental and objective driven than that of different guilty parties. Besides, it is found that psychopaths utilized roughly many words of self-conservation needs, including eating, drinking, and cash when portraying their viciousness. Psychopaths do not have the limit with regards to bonds and, apparently, the limit with regards to religious experience or profound edification. All things considered, they keep on depicting the wrongdoing in a cool, segregated way, and on regarding the essential physiological needs they met at the time.

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