

THE BURARI DEATHS: EXPLORING THE ROLE OF LANGUAGE AND FORENSIC LINGUISTICS IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Asma Hafeez*¹, Rimsha Zahoor²

*^{1,2}Department of English, Islamabad Model College for Girls

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ABSTRACT

Forensic linguistics plays a significant role in criminal investigations and legal proceedings. It includes the analysis of the language when language is utilized as evidence in court, such as in cases involving suicide notes, anonymous threat letters, audio or video records, or other types of language submissions. (Bagade, 2019) This paper aims to explore the significance of language in forensic investigations, particularly in the context of the Burari deaths, where eleven people committed mass suicide on July 1st, 2018 in Burari, Delhi, India. The Burari deaths case, which has attracted widespread attention and raised numerous questions about the role of language and forensic linguistics in criminal investigations, shares similarities with other high-profile cases. One notable instance is the Unabomber Case, where linguistic analysis of Ted Kaczynski's manifesto helped establish his identity. Linguistic experts examined the writing style and the use of language, which eventually led to his brother recognizing the similarities in Kaczynski's writing. (Ray, 2024) Language can play a crucial role in revealing hidden meanings, intentions, and connections in legal settings. In the context of the Burari deaths, the analysis of linguistic patterns in the notes left behind by the deceased shed light on the possible motivations and psychological state of the individuals involved. The advanced discipline of forensic linguistics has greatly aided criminal investigations by providing methods and tools to interpret and decode linguistic evidence. These contributions have played a crucial role in solving crimes and understanding the reasons behind incidents, with linguistic analyses serving as compelling evidence in court proceedings as in the Burari deaths case. This paper provides a closer examination of specific linguistic aspects of the Burari Deaths case, highlighting the complex relationship that exists between the language and forensic analysis in the process of determining the truth behind this tragedy. In conducting this research, a qualitative methodology was utilized, employing discourse analysis theory as the primary analytical framework.

Keywords: The Burari deaths, linguistic evidence, forensic linguistics, mass suicide

INTRODUCTION

This paper provides the significance of language as evidence and how it is frequently utilized in forensic investigations. It discusses linguistic evidence discovered in the Burari deaths case that happened in 2018 where 11 members of the same family committed suicide by hanging themselves. Since there were no survivors, witnesses, or suspects in this case, the diaries discovered at the crime scene turned out to be the most significant evidence.

Problem Statement

Language's development is what gives us our human characteristics. (Pillen, 2016) In reality, our language defines who we are and no one can duplicate the

individuality of each person's language, which is distinct. (Shaikh, 2019) The same language is frequently utilized in forensic investigations to identify criminals. When language is used in suicide notes, anonymous threat letters, audio or video records, contract disputes, dishonest business practices, defamation, copyright infringement, plagiarism, and authorship attribution, it is considered proof. The only reason this linguistic analysis is possible is that each person speaks a distinct language. Analysis of language can be used as evidence.

In Sant Nagar, Burari, Delhi, 11 members of the Chundawat family were discovered blindfolded and

dead in their home in 2018. Forensic linguistics played a crucial role in helping the police make sense of the unusual "mass suicides" in the Burari case by analyzing the diaries found at the scene. These diaries provided linguistic evidence that allowed experts to delve into the language content, tone, and instructions within them. By examining these diaries through forensic linguistics, investigators could gain insights into the mental state, motivations, and potential influences on the individuals involved in the tragic incident. This linguistic examination helped unravel the complexities surrounding the case and shed light on the underlying factors contributing to the mass suicides in Burari.

Background of the Problem

Today's human society cannot exist without language. It is more than just a collection of words; it is also a link between a person and his or her family, identity, culture, music, beliefs, and wisdom. Suicide is a more mysterious human behavior than any other that exists with unsolved debate. Personal, mental, financial, and social issues are responsible for a sizable number of suicides. Ignorance of man and society toward suicide is a major factor in the rise in suicide rates worldwide, regardless of gender, age, or race (Rahman, 2022)]. Suicide is one of the top 10 causes of death for people of all ages, making it a global issue and a significant social problem in developed countries. A study with a large ratio of 30% each for China and India found that Asian nations are responsible for 60% of suicides worldwide. Due to a variety of socioeconomic factors, the suicide rate in third-world countries has drastically escalated. According to a report, over eight lakh people worldwide commit suicide each year, or one person does so every forty seconds. (Sharma, 2019)

Since ancient times, there have been reports of incidents where a significant number of people killed themselves together. These suicides take place for many motives. Historical analysis has revealed the existence of cults, death pacts, and religious inspiration. (Misra et al., 2019)Suicides were largely frowned upon as early as 3000 BC, however, religious suicides were tolerated. The Hindus also frequently engaged in the practice of Sati (self-immolation) and Jauhar (mass suicide) Self-immolation suicide is a common form of death for Hindus (Vijayakumar, 2009) Broad and critical information regarding suicide and so-called

"dignified passing" or "Moksha" is provided in the major Indian epics Mahabharata and Ramayana. During the Vedic and Upanishadic periods, methods of suicide that are now considered acceptable and even celebrated in society include starvation suicide (sallekhana), self-destruction for incurable illnesses in one's final years of life (mahaprasthan), and dropping oneself at the confluence of spiritual rivers to obtain "Punya."After that, the tradition of "Suteepratha," or charitable suicide, spread throughout Indian culture. (Sharma, 2019)

In India, there have been numerous cases of family annihilation over the past 20 years. A businessman and his wife committed suicide by jumping from their eighth-floor Indirapuram apartment in Ghaziabad in December 2019. The couple had also murdered their two young children before taking drastic action. In March 2020, a tragic incident unfolded in Kulathoor near Kazhakuttom, where a family of three was found deceased in their home. The wife and son were discovered lifeless in one room, while the husband was found hanging from the roof (Deepak, 2020). This case underscores the potential use of language and speech as crucial forensic evidence in various investigations. (Deepak, 2020)

In many cases, language and speech can be used as forensic evidence. In criminal investigations, forensic linguistics is often employed to identify suspects, rule out suspects, and establish the authorship of written evidence. Both the prosecution and the defense often submit linguistic evidence in court. The Evans Statements: A Case For Forensic Linguistics was published by Jan Svartvik, who showed that the grammatical style of the incriminating parts of a set of four linked statements that Timothy Evans allegedly dictated to police officers and implicated him in the killing of his wife and infant daughter was noticeably different from the parts of the same statements that were uncontested. Later, after Evans had been found guilty and put to death for the double homicide, it was determined that Evans' landlord, John Christie, had actually been responsible for the deaths of both victims. Forensic linguistics was established as a result of Svartvik's analysis. Little else occurred for the next 25 years, with the notable exception of Roger Shuy's work as an expert witness in the United States. (Dewdrop, 2016)

India is responsible for a sizable number of suicide deaths worldwide. According to the Global Burden

of Disease Study, India's percentage of suicides worldwide grew from 1990 to 2016 from 25 to 36 percent for women and 18 to 24 percent for males. (Arif, 2022) Back in 2018, the well-known Burari deaths case caught many people's attention. On July 1st 2018, eleven family members were discovered dead in their shared residence in Delhi's Burari neighborhood. Evidence revealed that the family members were voluntary participants, and the killings appeared to be staged in a ritualistic manner. This was the Bhatia family, a typical Indian joint family from the middle class. The older generations of the family, which included Lalith's parents Bhopal Singh and Narayani Devi who had died, made up Lalith's family. The eleven diaries that were discovered by investigators were the most convincing proof revealing the circumstances that resulted in the killing of a complete family. These diaries describe the events that took place before the death and also discuss a ritual that needed to be performed.

Significance of the Research

Language is affected by class, age, gender, other languages spoken, and other social factors. Our decisions, beliefs, and general well-being are driven by the words we use and the meanings we give them. Some crimes, like threatening, extorting, and bribery, are inherently linguistic in the sense that they are conducted through language. (Perkins, 2018) It is a key element in forensic linguistics. Forensic linguistics examines and analyzes language in relation to criminal activity, legal proceedings, and disputes. Forensic linguists can examine courtroom speech, legal papers, police cautions, and authorship attribution for this purpose (Ahmed, 2021)

The role of linguists and forensic linguists is obvious in understanding linguistic evidence found at a crime scene. In July 2018, 11 members of the same family were found dead in their house. Ten members of the Chundawat family from Burari were discovered hung, while the grandmother, the eldest member, was strangled. The "Burari case" or "Burari Kand" refers to the infamous Burari deaths. (Misra et al., 2019) It is thought to be a case of mass suicide. The diaries found at the Sant Nagar "house of horror" have helped police make sense of the bizarre suicides. The texts in diaries were to determine the cause of death and to assign authorship. These handwritten notes suggest that the entire family "followed some specific spiritual/mystical rituals" According to

reports, the family had been composing these notes for a few months. According to authorities, "These notes have strong similarities with the method in which the deceased's mouths, eyes, etc. were tied and taped." (Digital, Mirror Now, 2018)

Research Questions

1. What information can be derived from the diaries found in the "Burari Case"?
2. What role does forensic linguistics play in bringing the Burari deaths case" to a conclusion?
3. What purpose does language serve in legal proceedings?

Research Objectives

The research aims to seek the following objectives:

1. To investigate the importance of language as evidence in criminal investigations.
2. To look into the contribution of forensic linguistics in the Burari deaths case.
3. To analyze the background and contents of the diaries discovered in the Burari deaths case.

Literature Review

Forensic linguistics, also called legal linguistics or language and the law, is a field that uses linguistic knowledge and methods in legal contexts like crime investigations, trials, and court procedures. It includes analyzing language in legal settings to provide linguistic evidence, interpret written laws, understand language use in legal and investigative processes, and establish the authorship, authenticity, and intent of texts used as evidence in criminal cases. Several researchers of forensic linguistics conduct studies to apply linguistic analysis to legal contexts, aiding in criminal investigations and legal proceedings. Their research focuses on techniques like voice identification, deceptive language analysis, and authorship attribution. By analyzing linguistic evidence, researchers contribute to crime research by identifying authors, detecting deception, and providing valuable insights for legal cases. Overall, their work enhances the understanding of language in the criminal justice system and plays a crucial role in solving crimes and ensuring justice. Ramezani et al. (2016) explore the utilization of various methods, including the average word length hypothesis and syntactic structures, to examine linguistic fingerprints in forensic linguistics. The

study focuses on the linguistic analysis of threatening letters, suicide notes, and writings associated with criminal activities to offer expert opinions that aid in reviewing linguistic evidence. By employing these methods, forensic linguists play a crucial role in scrutinizing linguistic evidence to challenge criminal assumptions and clarify any uncertainties within the linguistic context. The research also talks about the limitations of forensic linguistics when analyzing how people speak, like their tone, accent, and pauses, which can affect the accuracy of the analysis. It's crucial to consider the context in which words are used to avoid misunderstandings during forensic analysis. Overall, the study highlights the significant role of forensic linguistics in examining language evidence and stresses the importance of expert opinions while acknowledging the challenges faced in analyzing spoken language in legal contexts. (Ramezani et al., 2016)

The study by Sudjana and Fitri (2016) titled "Kurt Cobain's Suicide Note Case: Forensic Linguistic Profiling Analysis" looks at why people get involved in activities related to suicide. They explore both personal reasons and outside influences that affect these decisions. By studying personal stories, emotional effects, the search for understanding, and interest in suicide research, the research gives a detailed look at the different reasons behind taking part in suicide prevention efforts. Furthermore, by examining Cobain's suicide note using linguistic frameworks such as phonology, semantics, pragmatics, and discourse analysis, the study aims to explain the underlying intentions and motives embedded within the suicide note. This research not only helps us understand one specific case but also shows how studying language can help us understand complex texts like suicide notes. The study provides a way to analyze writing styles based on words related to mental health, helping us see patterns in how people communicate about suicide. (Sudjana & Fitri, 2013)

With the advent of AI, researchers have advanced their research by introducing technology in forensic linguistics. Lee et al. utilized Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC) software, Principal Component Analysis (PCA), and Support Vector Machine (SVM) method, to aid in distinguishing suicide notes from other forms of writing. According to Yong-hun Lee and Gihyun Joh's (2019) research, combining forensic linguistics and machine learning shows great potential for improving our understanding of

suicide cases through in-depth linguistic analysis. By using advanced computer techniques, researchers can discover subtle language patterns that might provide important insights into the thoughts of people thinking about or attempting suicide. The study "Identifying Suicide Notes Using Forensic Linguistics and Machine Learning" helps advance this field by offering a structured approach to analyzing suicide notes scientifically and highlighting how linguistic expertise can aid in studying suicidal behavior. (Lee & Joh, 2019)

Svartvik (1968) performed a study on how forensic linguistics can help study statements made by suspects in crimes by analyzing the language used in these statements to find signs of lying or truthfulness. The study shows how understanding language can reveal hidden meanings or inconsistencies in suspect statements. Svartvik looked at statements from Timothy John Evans, who was executed in 1950 for his daughter's murder. He found differences in how the statements were written, which made people question if Evans really wrote them. This research is important for forensic linguistics because it shows how analyzing language can affect the truthfulness of statements. Svartvik's work supports using forensic linguistics to study language evidence in legal cases. It shows how experts can use language analysis to understand statements better in criminal investigations. This study highlights the crucial role of linguistic expertise in evaluating evidence and provides valuable insights into language use in legal situations. Overall, this research emphasizes the significance of forensic linguistics in examining statements and improving our understanding of language in legal contexts. (Svartvik, 1968)

This study focuses on the tragic mass suicide of the Chundawat family, where 11 members were discovered dead in their Delhi home. Relevant to this research is the publication "Psychosocial Autopsy of Mass Suicides: Changing Patterns in Contemporary Times" by Misra et al. (2019) from the Defense Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR) in Delhi, India. This work explores cases of mass suicides, where groups of individuals end their lives due to factors like societal pressures and religious beliefs. The research reveals that the reasons behind such suicidal incidents evolve over time, with psychological factors often playing a significant role. The study by Misra et al. (2019) highlights two notable events: the "Burari case" in 2018, involving the tragic deaths of 11 members of the Chundawat

family in Delhi, and a 2019 incident in Telangana where around twenty students committed suicide following exam result announcements. These incidents exemplify instances of mass suicides with distinct motives. The primary cause of the Telangana deaths was linked to exam failure. Therefore, these cases from Burari and Telangana underscore different triggers for suicide. (Misra et al., 2019)

Research Methodology

This paper includes an analysis of news reports and numerous scientific papers from authors around the globe that allow us to demonstrate the role of language as evidence and how linguistic analysis has contributed to the understanding of the Burari deaths. We have not only read articles but also other websites and amazing documentaries on the Burari deaths, such as "House of Secrets: The Burari Deaths," produced by Leena Yadav and Anubhav Chopra. This documentary investigates the facts and theories related to the deaths of 11 family members from Delhi. This paper employs discourse analysis as a framework to investigate the role of language as evidence. This framework is particularly well suited for this research as it enables us to examine the aims of language and the ways in which meaning is created in different circumstances- that is, it provides an answer to the question of "what language is used for."

In this research, we have encountered a number of instances when language is used as proof to support a claim. Discourse analysis is specifically helpful in cases concerning suicide. Contrary to popular belief, suicide notes are not usually common. Of all suicide victims, notes are left by anywhere from 3 to 42% of them. (Paraschakis et al., 2012) A suicidal mindset can be understood by analyzing these suicide notes carefully. They are one of the most crucial resources for understanding suicide and also help with suicide prevention. Suicide notes serve as windows into the deceased's thoughts (Namratha et al., 2015)

Following the development of forensic linguistics, a great deal of previously considered useless information about crimes and suicides is now used as evidence to support claims. In my research, I chose a specific mass suicide case that generated discussion throughout Asia; Netflix produced a documentary on it, and numerous other reputable channels and media outlets covered this case. It is a case of the eleven mass suicides that happened in Burari, Delhi, India, on July 1, 2018, also known as the Burari deaths.

Because it was uncommon to discover language evidence to solve a case, multiple forensics, investigators, and psychologists were involved in this case.

Deciding the Sample Design

This research approach uses a qualitative methodology that is also fundamental in nature. The researchers who went through a contextual understanding of their subject can employ qualitative research as an approach. The research's sample design is non-probability sampling. Non-probability sampling is a quick, simple and an efficient data collecting method as it does not require a complete survey frame. However, a researcher must have sufficient understanding to address the research questions while using non-probability sampling. In this research, the researchers use judgmental factors to investigate the role of language as evidence and the contribution of forensic linguistics in the Burari Case. This research paper provides a detailed analysis of the diaries of the Burari case.

Data Collection

The data is gathered from a variety of sources, including books, articles in journals, research papers, documentaries (Burari deaths: The House of Secrets), forensic reports on the Burari deaths, as well as eleven diaries the investigators discovered when conducting their inspection. The primary focus of this study revolves around a detailed analysis of the diaries discovered in connection with the Burari case.

This research paper examines the significance of language as evidential material in the context of Burari deaths. Particularly, the emphasis is placed on the data collected from 11 diaries, discovered by investigators, which emerged as the most convincing proof in revealing the circumstances that resulted in the killing of a complete family.

Data Analysis

We have uncovered all the questions' explanations through this study. In this study, which is also often referred to as basic research, the researchers have used a qualitative research approach. The researchers have investigated the issues and violence that are initiated by language using a qualitative research design. Since this research is non-numeric in nature and yields no conclusive results, the researchers have employed non-probability sampling. To understand

the role of language as evidence, the researchers did discourse analysis on the research topic and read different journals, articles, and close examination of the eleven diaries that were written by the victims themselves. These diaries describe the events that took place before the death and also discuss a ritual that needed to be performed.

The role of linguists and forensic linguists is obvious in understanding linguistic evidence found at a crime scene. Forensic linguistics provides a deep and systematic analysis of a language in legal settings. We need to know that what we say and how we say is significantly impacted by our actions. This research highlights the different aspects of the Burari case from different angles and examines the story behind the found diaries. The investigators and the forensics reports considered this event as a spine-chilling incident.

Analysis

Through this study, we have delved into the explanations behind the questions at hand. Employing a qualitative research approach, we investigated the role of language and forensic linguistics particularly by analyzing the content of diaries discovered at the crime scene of the Burari deaths case. These diaries describe the events that took place before the death and also discuss a ritual that needed to be performed. We have also read different articles, and scholarly papers and watched documentaries to gain a deeper insight into the topic to be researched. The role of forensic linguistics is obvious in understanding linguistic evidence found at a crime scene. It provides a deeper and more systematic analysis of a language in legal settings. This research highlights the different aspects of the Burari deaths case from different angles and the story behind the diaries. The investigators involved considered this event a spine-chilling one.

The Chundawat family portrayed itself as the "Indian family," which is pleasant, harmonious, and whole. But they present a very severe version of what other families around the world present. Because the dead are unable to speak for themselves, the Chundawat family's spokesperson was the diaries found at the Sant Nagar crime scene. The investigators discover the truth about the unusual "mass suicides" from the diaries and disclose it. The diaries discovered at the "house of horror" in Sant Nagar have assisted authorities in making sense of the odd "mass suicides."

During detailed research of the crime scene, the engaged investigators discovered a diary close to a shrine. Everything was made clear to the investigators by the diary's content. After searching the entire house, the crime branch of Delhi discovered another journal in a different room. 11 diaries in all were discovered. The earliest diary was dated 2007 and the most recent was written in June 2018, shortly before the incident. The key concern in this particular case was that there was no known complainant, witness, or offender. The discovered diaries thus turned out to be the case's most significant piece of evidence.

In a Burari house, 11 family members died, and 11 diaries were discovered, each containing notes from 11 past years. The deceased were Narayan Devi, 77, her two sons Bhavnes (50) and Lalit (45), as well as their wives Savita (48) and Tina (42). There were also five grandkids, Priyanka (33), Neetu (25), Monu (23), Dhruv(15), and Shivam(15), as well as a daughter, Pratibha (57). One of the final entries reveals the family was preparing for an experience that would be "earth-shattering" when they hanged themselves to complete their "religious ritual" according to the notes, which were written over the course of 11 years in 11 diaries. (Mahwar, 2022)

In India, a typical joint family consists of multiple generations living together under one roof under the supervision of the patriarch and, this patriarch holds all the authority. Bhopal Singh was a powerful figure who had a significant impact on the Chundawat family. When he was alive, he served as the family's patriarch. He used to make all of the decisions for his entire family. He decided everything but things began to change after his death. The family was left wondering who would succeed him as the family's head after his passing. The family wondered who would succeed him as family patriarch after his passing. Despite the fact that Lalit(47) was the youngest of his brothers, everyone listened to him. He was able to successfully fill the vacuum created by his father's passing. The family took his statements as being the last word.

According to the police, the ritualistic practices started in July 2007, just a few months after the family patriarch Bhopal Singh passed away. In September 2007, the diary's first entry was made. Lalit was the focus of the diary, which also included instructions for the family's lifestyle and a daily schedule. This may be observed in statements like

"If you want solutions to your problems, then you must follow Lalit's instructions," (Yadav & Chopra, 2021)

More details emerge as a result of the police discovering more diaries. It was then revealed that Lalit had been having dreams in which his deceased father, Bhopal Das, had been visiting him since 2007. As he was speaking to his deceased father, he began giving the family these instructions. Lalit was able to communicate with his father's soul and imitate his father's speech and actions. (Gothi, 2018) Whatever Lalit wrote was thought to be advice from the dead father to the family, one entry in the diary cautions the family member against "worrying about Lalit," it states,

"After I leave, all of you must go to sleep. No need for discussions. My visitations are not an ordinary occurrence. You must not take God's will lightly. Don't worry about Lalit's health. My visits affect him physically. Sleep will heal him" (Yadav & Chopra, 2021)

Another diary entry states;

"Instead of your will, follow the will of the diaries. Don't think, what is the use?" When it actually happens your eyes will open. My next visit will be on Thursday or Saturday. Be fully ready" (Yadav & Chopra, 2021)

According to engaged psychologists, Lalit did not use language that implied "I'm telling you should do this." Rather, "the father instructed Lalit to do so". The entire family pays attention to Lalit because they believe he is the father's messenger. All of the family members' roles are described in the diaries. Savita's role was restricted to the kitchen according to the diaries. The diary notes that;

"Savita has not been able to come to terms with her role in the kitchen. She must put an end to her temper tantrums. Be mindful of your mother's age and needs. If you are able to keep your parents happy, you are serving God's wishes. Savita and Tina must improve their relationship with Pratibha. Make her feel loved. Bhuvnesh, be careful. Doom will enter the house in the guise of alcohol. The lack of harmony between Neetu and Priyanka creates obstructions at various levels. You all must emulate Lalit's and Tina's values and behavior" (Yadav & Chopra, 2021)

Another diary entry read as;

"All your present gains are thanks to Lalit and Tina's efforts. Every small mistake you make

has an effect on Lalit's and Tina's wellbeing. To protect Lalit and Tina, you all will be put through a test till Diwali" (Yadav & Chopra, 2021)

Everything that was discovered at the crime scene matched the details stated in the diaries. The language used in the diaries was conversational as well as instructional at times. On June 24, 2018, it was noted in the diary that they were discussing a ritual they were calling "**Badh Pooja**" that would last for the next seven days. The roots of the tree known as Badh hangs from the branches. The language implies that they must act in a manner similar to the roots that are swinging from the branches. Even the timing was written as it is scheduled to occur around 1:00 in the morning. (Digital, Mirror Now, 2018)

One diary entry states,

"Perform the Badh ritual for seven consecutive days. If somebody visits the home, it has to be performed the next day. Nothing should be visible. Dim light should be used. The eyes should be completely shut. The blindfold should be properly tied to the eyes. The mouth should be gagged by the handkerchief. The state of mind has to be zero. Nothing but infinity. While you are standing at attention, imagine the branches of the tree are wrapping themselves around you. Perform the Banyan Tree ritual with unity and determination. This will help repent for your mistakes" (Yadav & Chopra, 2021)

The investigators read every word that was written in those diaries in order to determine their purpose and significance. These notes appeared to have been written every day. Every family member used to check the diary in the morning to see what their schedule was for the day.

In another entry, a police officer read the content of the diary, while performing Badh puja, or banyan tree ritual, Lalit's father promised to save them.

"At the last moment and the accomplishment of the last wish, the sky will move me the earth will validate. Do not panic at that moment. Chant with great vigor. I will come and save you all." (Yadav & Chopra, 2021)

The last sentence in the final diary, written on the day of the suicides, "keep water in a cup, when it changes color, I will come and save you." (Yadav & Chopra, 2021)

"One of the pages in the diary mentioned, nine people on the 'jaal', widowed sister baby

should stand on a stool near the mandir, order food at 10 pm, the mother will feed roti to all, or the final act should be done at 1 am..." (Yadav & Chopra, 2021)

It was investigated that, Lalit allegedly experienced a prolonged psychosis. He was hallucinated by his dead father. The family attempted a Banyan tree ritual, also known as the Badh puja- a religious ceremony that led to the death of the entire family. The investigators revealed that none of the family members were meant to die but they thought that they would be saved by their dead father. As far as investigations and forensic reports were concerned, Lalit was blamed for the death of 10 family members. Everyone in the family was found hanging like the roots of the banyan tree. According to the directions penned in those diaries. The deaths of 11 family members seem to have a morbid connection to death in the home in Delhi's Burari's that the police doubt was related to a ritual that went very wrong. (Mahwar, 2022)

After that, the CCTV footage discovered that the death of mass suicides was due to a condition called shared psychotic disorder. This is a rare type of mental illness where a mentally healthy person begins to share delusions with the other. In the Burari deaths case, a shared psychotic disorder that leads to the planning and construction of mass suicide. From the oldest 80-year-old woman to the youngest 15-year-old boy, every member of the Chundawat family was a part of this heart-wrenching act. After the death of the patriarch Bhopal Singh, Lalit seems to have been possessed by his father's spirit. In 1988 it was revealed that due to the accident, he had suffered head injuries. After that, he was confronted by another attack, and it was someone's intention to kill him. After this incident, he lost his voice. Lalit also suffered from (PTSD) Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. (Mahwar, 2022) All members of the family kept on following the instructions of Lalit. The investigators blamed Lalit for the mass suicides of the 11 family members. He was the mind-maker of the whole family. Each member of the family obeyed his instructions. Lalit had told the family members that the soul of his father had entered his body in order to get the family to follow him.

Research Findings

An 11-person family who appeared to be typical and working well was discovered dead in their own home in Delhi, hanging from an iron grill. The investigators involved discovered 11 diaries with handwritten notes, describing the situation. According to handwritten notes, Lalit, the youngest son of Bhopal Singh, used to be "possessed by the spirit" of his deceased father and gave the family advice. He played a key role in making this happen. Police concluded that his success was due to his positioning as the patriarch. This case raised the question of how one man can have so much influence over an entire family that they did not hesitate to take any drastic step.

The involved psychologists argued that a shared psychosis was there. According to the psychological literature, when a person experiences a meaningful amount of trauma and does not receive medical treatment for that trauma, a certain level of psychosis develops. The inability of the mind to make sensible decisions is referred to as psychosis. It is a mental disorder that makes it difficult to distinguish between what is real and what is not real (Arciniegas, 2015)Hearing voices is one of the primary symptoms of psychosis, which helps to understand why Lalit feels as though his deceased father is "possessing" him. Lalit's injuries can also be used to explain how Lalit's psychosis began. Lalit had endured two severe injuries; the first occurred in a biking accident in 1998, which left him with head injuries. In the second incident, which happened in 2004, Lalit was viciously beaten and detained inside a burning plywood store after being attacked over a payment conflict. As a result of this attack, Lalit was stunned into silence and almost died (Yadav & Chopra, 2021)

Authorities have used the diaries found at the Sant Nagar "house of horror" to help explain the strange "mass suicides." The police concluded that the family followed whatever was written in the diaries since it had worked for them in the past and made their lives better. They grew from one shop to two, and the notes also instructed them to make investments in specific places that were successful. Additionally, the plan to arrange Priyanka's marriage went smoothly. The family saw great progress as a result of following the instructions, which further solidified their trust in it. Their belief solidified as their financial situation got better. They

consequently began to have blind faith in Lalit. Everyone in his family was following his instructions. Everything he said or requested them to do was viewed as Daddy's wish, which had to be carried out. Lalit then gained even more influence as a result, becoming the family's head of household. While Lalit wrote the majority of the notes. However, the forensic analysis conducted by the handwriting expert revealed that Priyanka and Neetu, the daughters of Bhuvnesh and Pratibha, also used to write these notes. (Chand, 2021) It reveals that they were writing these notes at Lalit's direction and under his strong influence. In diaries, there was a repetition of "Nobody will disobey what's written here" (Yadav & Chopra, 2021)

The ceremony had started eight days before June 30, 2018, as noted in the diary. The whole family consented to carry out the ritual since there was a promise that the father would show up in the last act. According to the investigators, they were led to believe that the Father would save them. One diary entry states,

"No harm will come to you. This is for your own good" (Yadav & Chopra, 2021)

The last entry on the day of suicide read as,

"Place a tumbler full of water nearby. Just as the colour of the water changes, I will come back" (Yadav & Chopra, 2021)

The investigators were able to conclude that no outside influence was involved in the deaths of 11 Chundawat family members. The content present in found diaries refuted the possibility that this might be a mass murder, saying that they did everything voluntarily and weren't aiming to die. The investigators claim that since all the eleven people were extremely close this illustrates the phenomenon of "shared insanity" (Anwar et al., 2018) A rare disorder known as shared psychotic disorder is characterized by the occurrence of a certain delusion in two or more people in a close relationship. A delusional belief is employed by the inducer (primary), who has a mental disorder and delusions, to exert control over another individual or more (induced, secondary). It usually affects just two people, although in exceptional cases it can affect larger groups as well. (Al Saif & Al Khalili, 2022).

According to one diary entry, the death was unintentional.

"Everybody will help each other in untying." (Yadav & Chopra, 2021)

This diary entry shows that they were expecting to survive this Badh Puja which unfortunately never happened.

Conclusion

This paper examines the importance of linguistic evidence discovered during the Burari case investigation and how it aided the investigators in understanding the odd mass suicide in Delhi, where 11 members of the same family committed suicide. The most critical and reliable evidence to shed some light on this mass suicide were the diaries discovered during the investigation. The diaries were filled with bizarre and disturbing details that seemed to imply witchcraft and other occult activities, and these were responsible for their deaths. The investigators concluded that a "Tantrik" may have given them directions to carry out this ritual.

The investigators also concluded that the family's children were restrained tightly because it was difficult to convince them to commit suicide and because it was important that this ritual take place at any cost. Lalit and Tina's hands were improperly tied, and the detectives discovered that their legs were also untied. Since no one can tie themselves properly, it appears that they helped in tying up the other people. (Yadav & Chopra, 2021)

The police investigators, forensics, crime branch, and other state actors involved concluded that what happened inside the Burari home was a result of how Lalit's social context changed after the death of his father, the social pressure put on him as the family head and the presence of a shared psychosis. The family did not intend to die, and they were hoping to be saved because it was promised that the Father would appear during the ritual's final act, therefore the investigators concluded that everything that happened was an accident (Narayan, 2022).

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