Research Article

A Content Analysis of Police Report Archives: Basis for Technical Writing Model for Criminology Students

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ABSTRACT

This research highlights the analysis of data drawn from police report narratives, focusing on the technical words and jargon utilized within these reports. The study examines archival crime investigation documents, employing quantitative content analysis (QCA) to categorize and interpret the language used by law enforcement officers. By defining and classifying recording units—such as specific terms, phrases, and broader themes—the research seeks to understand how these elements contribute to the construction of meaning within criminal justice communication.

Two primary questions guide the investigation: (1) What technical words or jargon are reflected in police report narratives? (2) How do these jargon terms shape the interpretation of police reports? Through the examination of a corpus of 20 case reports (comprising 318 pages), the study systematically organizes language into meaningful categories that serve descriptive and statistical purposes. The analysis reveals how officers employ distinct terminology to document case details, enhancing clarity and precision in official records.

The study's findings indicate that police report narratives rely on structured terminology to convey critical information about victims, suspects, and investigative processes. These classified terms serve as essential components of law enforcement documentation, reinforcing standardized communication practices within the criminal justice system. Understanding the role and impact of technical jargon in police reports provides insights into how meaning is constructed, interpreted, and applied in investigative contexts.

***Keywords**: Quantitative Content Analysis (QCA), Police Report, Criminology Students, Communication*

Background of the Study

Police reports, including blotters, crime incident records, and official arrest summaries, are essential documents in judicial proceedings within the realm of criminal justice. These reports function as formal documentation of criminal events and are essential in evidence-based investigations (Johannsen et al., 2021).

Producing precise and coherent police reports necessitates a distinct set of communication skills. Recent studies highlight the necessity of enhancing both oral and written communication skills among law enforcement personnel, particularly in the context of interrogations (Eerland & Van Charldorp, 2022) and routine documentation (Schellingen & Scholten, 2014; Yu & Monas, 2020; Bifari & Alhalabi, 2022; Tribujeṅa, 2023). This highlights the necessity for effective training and supervision in developing professional proficiency (Gregiry et al., 2011; Carr et al., 1980; Morley, 2008; Reynolds, 2012; Genelza, 2022; Alsheikh & Masoud, 2022; Qaddumi & Nofal, 2022).

Eerland and Van Charldorp (2022) observed that police records produced during or subsequent to suspect interrogations must provide accurate and impartial accounts, essential for judicial processes. Beer et al. (2004) emphasized that police reports are essential sources of evidence in court proceedings. Yu and Monas (2020) indicate that the preparation of these reports is a routine responsibility for officers, frequently requiring considerable time and effort due to their intricate nature.

Bifari and Alhalabi (2022) identified a deficiency in police training curricula, noting that report writing lacks sufficient emphasis despite the significance of these documents. As a result, numerous officers commence their duties inadequately equipped for a fundamental aspect of their role.

Effective communication, encompassing both oral and written forms, is essential in law enforcement. Inadequate communication can obscure meaning and undermine results. Miscommunicated traffic rules can lead to accidents, while unclear or inaccurate written reports may result in unresolved cases or miscarriages of justice.

Effective communication encompasses more than mere speaking or writing; it necessitates the capacity to convey meaning with clarity and accurately interpret the messages of others. In correctional environments, it promotes respect and collaboration, whereas in law enforcement, it aids in conflict de-escalation, intelligence gathering, and the preservation of public trust. A study by ATA College (2022) indicates that verbal and written communication skills are essential in criminal justice careers. Consequently, numerous vocational programs now incorporate communication training as an essential element.

Faculty in criminal justice programs often express concerns regarding students' insufficient writing skills. An article in The Police Chiefs Magazine cited an Ohio police chief who highlighted that inadequate reporting practices may result in job loss, unsuccessful investigations, and erosion of public trust. Cotugno (2024) noted that numerous police leaders consider writing skills to be essential yet frequently inadequate, with limited methods available to evaluate this competency prior to hiring.

Despite general consensus regarding its significance, many officers fail to recognize report writing as a crucial element for promotion or special assignments. This disconnect indicates a necessity for law enforcement agencies to enhance the integration of writing proficiency within their recruitment, training, and promotion frameworks. Agencies ought to formulate strategies for the early assessment of writing skills via simulations or written scenarios, and ensure continuous training to enhance report writing throughout an officer's career.

The Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC), serving as the national training institution for agencies such as the PNP, BFP, and BJMP, has expressed concerns regarding the diminishing English proficiency among criminology students. PPSC President Ruben Platon noted that certain criminology schools do not offer courses on human rights, which he characterized as indicative of "dismal" education standards (Dela Cerna, 2019).

In light of these challenges, higher education institutions must actively enhance the

writing skills of future law enforcement professionals. Incorporating police report writing rubrics, offering specialized writing workshops, and embedding communication-focused courses within criminal justice curricula can achieve this objective. Enhancing foundational skills prepares students for the field and improves the credibility and effectiveness of law enforcement in the public's perception.

Theoretical Framework

Criminal justice is an impactful, out-of-the-box field that entails one making a difference. On daily basis, criminal justice professionals work hard to protect the communities in which they serve. Law enforcement officers, criminal investigators, government agents, prison guards, and courts officials are just some examples of the many dedicated careers that make up the criminal justice system. As exciting as this field appears, working in criminal justice can be challenging and demanding at times. This important work requires specific skills, qualities, and training to excel at the job. (Goodwin University, 2021).

Police report narratives are a crucial aspect of law enforcement documentation. There are various theoretical perspectives and concepts related to police report narratives. With that being considered, the primary theory of this current study is Narrative Theory (Smith, 2010; Fisher, 1970). This started as a paradigm proposed by Walter Fisher in the 20th century used for communication as it intends to deliver reporting events. This theory further claims the stories are more persuasive than arguments, that leads essentially the narrative paradigm to help an individual explain how humans are able to understand complex information through narrative. Equally, this theory describes the police reports are a form of storytelling, where officers create a narrative to make sense of events, assigning meaning and responsibility.

Another theory is the Communication Accommodation Theory (Howard Giles, 1973) which gave emphasis on the adjustments that people do while communicating. He developed the theory and explained that when people try to emphasize or minimize the social difference between the others whom they interact with (All About Theories for Communication, 2023).

The theory explains that, (1) the behavioral changes that people make to attune their communication to their partner, and (2) the extent to which people perceive their partner as appropriately attuning to them (Bates & Taylor, 2016). Equally, the basis of the theory concerns the idea that an individual adjust or accommodate their style of speech to one another. Doing this helps the message sender gain approval from the receiver, increases efficiency in communication between both parties, and helps the sender maintain a positive social identity.

This theory is concerned with the links between language, context, and identity (Infante, Rancer, MacGeorge, & Avtgis, 2009; Gallois, Ogay, & Giles, 2005). Equally, this study consider the SARA Model (developed by Professor Herman Goldstein), which is a commonly used problem-solving method linked to the problem-oriented policing. It includes the four elements, such as Scanning (involves the identification of recurring problems of concern to the public and the police, identification of consequences of the problem, prioritizing the problem, developing broad goals, confirming that the problems exists, determining the frequency and extent of the problem, and selecting the problems for closer examination); Analysis (identifying and understanding the events and conditions that precede the problem, identifying the relevant data to be collected, researching about the problem, taking inventory of how the problem is currently addressed and its strengths and limitations, narrowing the scope of the problems, identifying a variety of resources and developing a deeper understanding of the problem, developing a working hypothesis about why the problem is occurring); Response (brainstorming for new interventions, searching for what other communities with similar problems have done, choosing among the alternative interventions, outlining a response plan, and identifying response, stating a specific objectives for the response plan, carrying out the planned activities); and Assessment (determining the plan was whether the plan was implemented or process evaluation, collecting pre and post response qualitative and quantitative data, determining whether broad goals and specific objectives were attained, identifying any new strategies

needed to augment the original plan, conducting ongoing assessment to ensure continued effectiveness). (Arizona State University, 2024)

Conceptual Framework

In the criminal justice field, their primary job is to watch over and guard those in need. This requires the individual to thrive in an environment that allows them in taking action and making effective decisions as well as taking charge of a situation. Engaging in critical thinking, enacting problem-solving skills, and making moral and ethical judgments in times of need served as its essential attributes. These skills can be provided by years of experience and also informed by their criminal justice training.

Of course, the specific criminal justice skills depend on the individuals career path and exposure. The soft and technical skills requirement vary by role. These include: (1) critical thinking and problem-solving – as the need to think on their feet. Therefore, critical thinking and problem-solving play a big role in this line of work by assessing situations, solving conflicts, and taking action in a quickly and calmly manner; (2) effective and ethical decision-making –able to make decisions quickly and effectively during times of need. Ethics play a big part in how these decisions are made. Ethics helps the person navigate contemporary issues in criminal justice, such as how racial inequities, out-of-date policies, and socioeconomic challenges are contributing to increased crime; (3) leadership – as working in criminal justice, the individual must lead the community to safety, leadership skills can be a significant asset in making an impact in one's role and mentor others; (4) communication – both written and verbal communication skills are needed in the criminal justice field via writing legal documents, communicating details of a scene, or speaking with victims and suspects requires one to be articulate in both their writing and presentation; (5) public speaking – delivering verbal statements as police officers, detectives, courts officials, and other criminal justice

specialists need to speak in front of large audiences or groups of reporters; (6) active listening and learning – good communication means listening to others well, whether they work in courts, corrections, or law enforcement, must be able to listen to others in order to gather information, understand perspectives, follow complex arguments, or counseling someone in need; (7) observation – providing detail-oriented or ability to pay attention to the details; and (8) integrity and empathy – must have a good character and the ability to stand up for what is right, someone who is a difference-maker by having a strong moral character and being empathetic to others' situations.

There are also versatile or "nice-to-have" technical skills that can be applied to most every criminal justice role. There are common soft skills that every criminal justice professional should have before getting into their career. It includes: (1) research – know how to conduct research such as analyzing crime data, assessing criminal trends, accessing legal documents, creating charts for presentations, interpreting social science statistics, analyzing public policy, or studying the impact of criminal reform; (2) interviewing and interrogation –having interview skills such as detective, police officer, fire science investigator, or court judge need to ask questions (and sometimes interrogate) to criminals, suspects, witnesses, and victims of crime, which requires practice, planning, and technique that you can learn in a criminal justice program; (3) computer literacy – the role working with technology, demands to input information into a database, or use these systems to gather information about a case working on (e.g., seeking criminal justice professionals with computer skills); (4) report writing – a key skill to have that often required to document their findings, describe persons and property, create search warrants, develop arrest reports, and take notes on the scene or in the courtroom that highly expected a criminal justice practitioner must have acquired in part of taking up criminal justice degree.
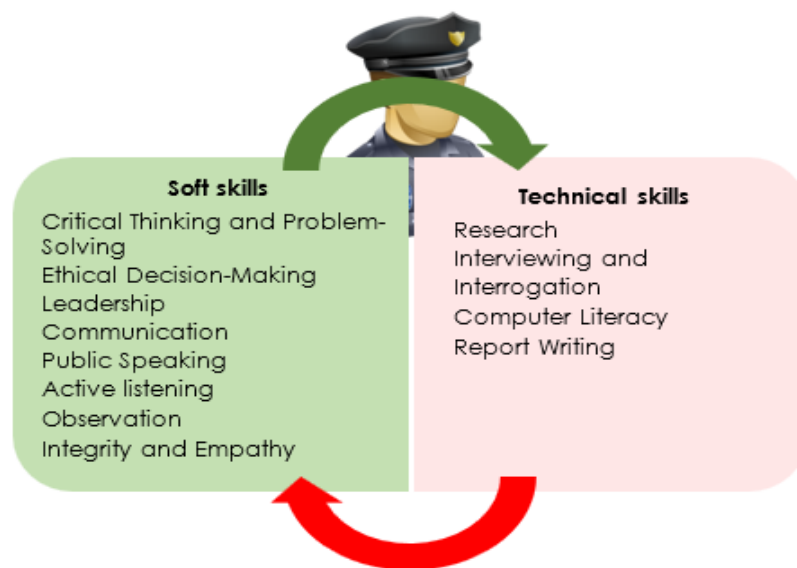
Figure 1. Soft and Technical Skills in Criminal Justice

Research Methodology

As previously noted, the understudied models in criminal justice communication served as the central component to escalate the writing skills especially in the areas of reports and narratives, studies and research, internal communication and community outreach.

The current study utilized the content analysis approach in quantitative and qualitative facet whose meaning of information in textual data (content) investigate by "isolating small pieces of data that represent salient concepts". This involved "systematically categorizing and interpreting data to identify patterns, themes and meanings that emerge" during analysis.

Research Design

Content analysis is a widely used both quantitative and qualitative research technique. Rather than being a single method, current applications of content analysis show three distinct approaches: conventional, directed, or summative. All three approaches are used to interpret meaning from the content of text data and, hence, adhere to the naturalistic paradigm.

The present study delivered the conventional content analysis, coding categories are derived directly from the text data such as police blotter, incident report and investigation report, etc. With a directed approach, analysis starts with a theory or relevant research findings as guidance for initial codes. This approach and techniques addressing trustworthiness with hypothetical examples drawn from the area of end-of-life care (Hsieh & Shannon, 2005).

Equally, this study employed an inductive approach to qualitative content analysis (QCA) and deductive for quantitative content analysis (QCA), in which data are collected and analyzed without preconceived categories or theories. The patterns, themes and concepts rely on the researcher. Specifically, it opt for the conventional content analysis. It is a study designed to describe a phenomenon, which in this case are the writing elements and structures of the police report artifacts, where a framework or model of communicative technical writing can be built from. It is most suitable for a phenomenon with limited literature, hence, new categories and names for these categories will be allowed to flow and emerge from the data (Hsieh & Shannon, 2005).

Results and Discussions

This section gave emphasis on the analyzed data taken from the narratives and scores rated by the evaluators for the 20 corpus of data. With the intend to examine archival documents of crime investigations. To start with, defining recording units, that is to look on certain

words, phrases, images, or overarching themes of a passage or piece related to criminal justice education. Weber (1990) outlines several basic steps in the coding process.

The main questions examined in this study are:
(1) what technical words or jargons are reflected in the police reports narratives; and
(2) how these jargons create meanings about the police reports narratives.

Findings Concerning Content of Technical Words or Jargons

The content analysis of technical words or jargons found in the corpus (i.e., 20 sample case reports).

Problem 1. What technical words or jargons are reflected in the police reports narratives?

Using the corpus of 20 cases with written texts (318 pages), quantitative content analysis (QCA) aims to distill the many words presented in a text into meaningful categories. These categories can then be treated as variables, allowing for a descriptive interpretation of the texts

for problem 1, or functioning as variables in statistical analyses for problem 2. QCA has expanded beyond the written word to many other types in this study is the reports constructed by police officers. Hence, the basic

principal of classifying larger content (collective term) into smaller categories (associated terms) remain at the core of the method. Through analysis of how these categories interrelate with each other and intersect with the broader context in criminal justice system. Thus, the terms/words intend the goal to discover how materials communicate meaning and what meaning is communicated as police investigators objectively deliver the contents needed for a police report.

Using the 20 corpus (318 pages as frequency), the researcher extracted and generated the following terms indicated by investigators of the cases during field work. Presented in table 1 is the list of technical jargons in the filed notes as well as the attached documents. These terms were included to give details and clarity to the documented files used for criminal justice communication:

Table 1. Technical Words (Jargons) of Field Notes included in Police Report Narratives

Associated Terms	Number (pages)	Collective Term	Definition
victim's name	148 (46.54%)		
age	107 (33.65%)		
sex/gender	21 (6.60%)		
date of birth	2 (0.63%)		profile variables that describe all the details and pertinent information about the victim/s
height	4 (1.26%)	Victim's information	
marital status	99 (31.13%)		
job/work	80 (25.16%)		
address of victim	144 (35.85%)		
contacts	0 (0.0%)		
Suspect's name	86 (27.04%)		
age	47(14.78%)		describes the details about the suspect or assailant/perpetrator
sex/gender	20 (6.29%)	Suspect's Information	
height	14 (4.40%)		
other descriptions*	0 (0.0%)		
spot report	28 (8.81%)		
special report	11 (3.46%)		
beat inspection report	0 (0.0%)		form of formal documentation of an incident that occurs and it taken by a police officer.
wanted person report	19 (5.97%)	Types of Police Report	
arrest report	12 (3.77%)		
crime report (SOCO report)	70 (22.01%)		
situation report	0 (0.0%)		

Associated Terms	Number (pages)	Collective Term	Definition
incident report (miscellaneous)	0 (0.0%)		
traffic accident report	0 (0.0%)		
investigation report (i.e., progress report)	65 (20.44%)		
sworn statement/ affidavit	51 (16.04%) 27 (8.49%)	Legal documents	two categories are *business form* (i.e., deed, instrument, document of grants, transfers, modifies, or limits of rights to real or personal property related to business contracts), and *judicial form* (templates for pleadings, petitions, affidavits, and motions that are frequently used in criminal proceedings).
medico-legal (i.e., autopsy report, death certificate)	38 (11.95%)		
complaints	17 (5.35%)		
warrants (WOA)	2 (0.63%)		
Case number and type	125 (39.31%)	Incident Specifics	included the time stamps and the details like date, personnel involved, supporting documents, etc.
crime scene descriptions (details)*	71 (22.33%)		
(physical) evidences	45 (14.15%)		
witness' details	37 (11.64%)		
remark	232 (72.96%)		
inspector/investigators involved			
date	153 (48.11%)	Time stamps	contained the date, time, venue or place the incident happened
time	135 (42.45%)		
venue/place/address	150 (47.17%)		
nature and location if evidence collected			
CCTV footage	6 (1.89%)	Ancillary terms	supporting terms associated to the crime or case being investigated
dead-on-arrival (DOA)			
post-mortem exam	19 (5.97%)		
cadaver	6 (1.89%)		
ballistic cross-matching exam	10 (3.14%) 14 (4.40%)		

The content analysis (QCA) extracted from the 20 corpuses provided the counts as seen in table 4. Out of 318 pages of documents, the victim's information comprises of: name (freg=148, 46.54%), age (freg=107, 33.65%), sex (freg=21, 6.60%), date of birth (freg=2, 0.63%), height (freg=4, 1.26%), marital status (freg=99, 31.13%), job/work (freg=80, 25.16%), and address (freg=144, 35.85%). These profile variables describe the details and pertinent information about the victim. However, contact of the victim was not included.

Based on the corpus, a police report's narrative section should include a victim's full name and biographical information such as full name, address, alternate contact information like the victim's email address, school or work address, and their role in the incident (Clinton, 2024).

Meanwhile, the suspect's information describes the direct characteristics or attributes of the suspect or assailant or perpetrator, such as name (freg=86, 27.04%), age, (freg=47, 14.78%), sex/gender (freg=20, 6.29%), and height (freg=14, 4.40%). Oher descriptions like

clothing styles, unusual physical attributes, handedness, facial features, and other relevant identifier were not provided. Similarly, the report should include any information that can help in explaining the events that led up to the actions of you, the suspects and the victims. Witnesses accounts, victim accounts, suspect accounts if known (Clinton, 2024).

Whereas the types of police reports as form of formal documentation of an incident that occurs, and it taken by a police officer. These are spot report (freg=28, 8.81%), special report (freg=11, 3.46%), wanted person report (freg=19, 5.97%), arrest report (freg=12, 3.77%), crime report aka SOCO report (freg=70, 22.01%), and investigation report including the progress and follow-up reports (freg=65, 20.44%). These reports encapsulated the demands of documentation with chronological account of an event that happened at a given time and place. Also, it could be an account of an investigation, or an official statement of facts. However, no reports were included as corpus for beat inspection report, situation report, and miscellaneous incident report, and traffic accident report because these types described a routine and daily duty report of the supervisor, a patrol of traffic report describing the affected area and local government related to disaster, non-criminal incident (Donato, Moyao, Donato, & Gandalera-Alos, 2024).

By referring to legal documents in Criminology, there are two broad categories, the judicial form which includes to templates for various pleadings, applications, petitions, affidavits, and motions that are frequently used in criminal proceedings, special proceedings, and ordinary civil actions), while business forms (i.e., deed, instrument, document of grants, transfers, modifies, or limits of rights to real or personal property related to business contracts or transactions) were included as corpus. The sworn statement (freg=51, 16.04%) and affidavit (freg=27, 8.49%), medico-legal such as autopsy report and death certificate (freg=38, 11.95%), complaints form (freg=17, 5.35%), and warrant-of-arrest (freg=2, 0.63%). A police report is a formal document that is a legal document in criminology related to police work.

It is a technical report that is written by the responding officer and is used by the police department, the victim, and the court. Seemingly, according to Escabel (2023) the document discusses legal forms and report writing. It provides guidance on the fundamentals of preparing police reports and affidavits. Some key points covered include: - Police reports should be clear, accurate, brief, specific, complete, timely, impartial, and classified. They serve as legal records. Affidavits are written statements made under oath that are used as evidence in legal proceedings. They must be based on either personal knowledge or information and belief of the affiant. Notaries and other public officials can administer oaths for affidavits.

Looking at the incident specifics, it denoted the case number and type (freg=125, 39.31%); crime scene descriptions (freg=71, 22.33%) that indicated the landscape of the crime, point of entry and exit, characteristics and pattern of crime; evidences (freg=45, 14.15%) like mug shots or photos (freg=10, 3.14%); witness' details (freg=37, 11.64%); remark of the inspector/investigator (freg=33, 10.38%); and the investigator involved (freg=232, 72.96%). The incident specifics also provided the date, personnel involved, supporting documents, etc. as well as the information of the incident with the inclusion of scene descriptions and its specifics. Another thing, chronological order and facts and details were important elements for the incident specifics. Equally, Gee (2023) stated that the police report narrative should include: (1) one sentence synopsis of the crime including date, time, location, (2) summary of the crime in chronological order from beginning to end, and (3) any witness statements or important details from witness interviews.

Meanwhile, the time stamps described the date (freg=153, 48.11%), time (freg=135, 42.45%), and address or location (freg=150, 47.17%) where the crime took place. When concerning the time of the incident, time stamp is not limited to date, but can be written days, hours, even minutes when an incident takes place. This is true on the article written by Uchi (2020).

Finally, ancillary terms are supporting terms associated to the crime or case being investigated in relation to the murder as a type of

crime. These include, CCTV footage (freg=6, 1.89%), dead-on-arrival (freg=19, 5.97%), post-mortem exam (freg=6, 1.89%), cadaver (freg=10, 3.14%), and ballistic cross-matching exam (freg=14, 4.40%). These enhances the comprehensiveness and accuracy of the police reports, aiding investigations, and legal proceedings.

According to StudySmarter (2024), ancillary terms in criminal law: (1) delivering clarification in ambiguous terms or procedures, (2) defining the roles, rights, and obligations of all parties involved, and (3) containing procedures designed to uphold and protect individual rights.

Problem 2: How do these jargons create meanings about the police reports narratives?

Bivariate Analysis of Contents of Police Report Narratives Using the rubrics measures, the researcher delivered a unidimensional reliability test (refer to Cronbach alpha).

Table 2. Frequentist Individual Item Reliability Statistics (Raters)

Item	If item dropped			
	McDonald's ω	Cronbach's α	mean	SD
Report Structure	0.634	0.632	6.033	1.402
Coherence	0.762	0.721	5.600	0.807
Completeness	0.705	0.665	5.433	0.981
Mechanics	0.727	0.700	5.233	1.280

In terms of overall reliability of the measures given by the evaluators gained a mean value of 5.574 (Cronbach's α=.679) that implies reliable and acceptable items were generated. Specifically, the items for report structure (mean=6.03,SD=1.40, and Cronbach's α=.632), coherence (mean=5.60, SD=.81, and Cronbach's α=.721), completeness (mean=5.43, SD=.98, and Cronbach's α=.665), and mechanics (mean=5.23, SD=1.28, and Cronbach's α=.700). All items affirmed acceptable reliability. (Refer to appendix C for the full details of reliability).

To appropriately compute the single variable ANOVA, assumption for Homogeneity (Levene's Test) should be met, specifically, report structure (Levene[2,57]=.070, p<.932), coherence (Levene[2,57]=.033, p<.967), completeness (Levene[2,57]=4.884, p<.011*), and mechanics and grammar (Levene[2,57]=2.192, p<.121). (See appendix_ for the complete details of the assumption test).

Thus, report structure, coherence, and mechanics and grammar indicated a low p-value that suggest no violation of the assumption of homogeneity. On the other hand, completeness failed the assumption test, henceforth, a nonparametric analysis (i.e., Kruskal-Wallis) was employed. (Refer to table 3)

Table 3. Homogeneity of Variances Test (Levene's)

	F	df1	df2	p
Report Structure	.070	2	57	.932
Coherence	.033	2	57	.967
Completeness	4.884	2	57	.011*
Mechanics/Grammar	2.192	2	57	.121

Meanwhile, using One-Way Single Factor ANOVA, the researcher affirmed the inferences and variation presented by the group of raters (i.e., researcher, practicing inspector/ investigator, and expert in criminal justice communication), with the four essential features of narrative police report.

Table 4. Summary ANOVA of Essential Features of Police Report Narratives

Report Structure

Sources	SS	df	MS	f	p	η^2	Decision
Raters	5.733	2	2.867	1.483	.236	.049	Not Significant
Residuals	110.2	57	1.933				
Total	115.933	59					

Coherence

Sources	SS	df	MS	f	p	η^2	Decision
Raters	.133	2	.067	.087	.917	.003	Not Significant
Residuals	43.8	57	.768				
Total	43.933	59					

Completeness

Sources	SS	df	MS	f	p	η^2	Decision
Raters	4.933	2	2.467	2.714	.075	.087	Not Significant
Residuals	51.8	57	.909				
Total	56.733	59					

Mechanics and Grammar

Sources	SS	df	MS	f	p	η^2	Decision
Raters	2.533	2	1.267	.766	.469	.026	Not Significant
Residuals	94.2	57	1.653				
Total	96.733	59					

Overall

Sources	SS	df	MS	f	p	η^2	Decision
Raters	29.2	2	14.6	1.251	.294	.042	Not Significant
Residuals	665.4	57	11.674				
Total	694.6	59					

Table 4 presented the gained scores to analyzed and show the variances with an overall fobt (2,57)=1.251 at pvalue (.294) as not significant. This pertains to the shared or common indication that all the elements for police report narratives found in 20 corpus described similar contents and error in communicating the criminal justice document ranging from below average (≤1 corpus), to average (≤3 corpus), then good (≤2 corpus) as assessed by the evaluators.

In terms of report structure, the fobt (2,57)=1.483 at pvalue (.236) as not significantly different among the evaluators and confirmed mutual opinions that the documents ranges from average (<2 corpus) to good (<2 corpus) in accurately describing the specifics of each character and detailing the crime scene.

Focusing on coherence with fobt (2,57)=.087 at pvalue (.917), which indicate non significance. This displayed generic to deliver average (≤11 corpus) competency to describe the collective information with chronological sequence and information.

Then, mechanics and grammar having the fobt (2,57)=.766 at pvalue (.469) with no significant difference in delivering the technicalities, including supporting documents, and using correct spelling, grammar and punctuation. This ranges from below average (≤4 corpus) to average (≤2 corpus).

Table 5. Kruskal-Wallis Test

Factor	Statistic	df	p	Rank ε^2
Raters	2.615	2	0.270	0.044

Table 5 shows that the obtained Rank ε^2 (2) = .044 at pvalue (.270) confirmed non-significance towards completeness. This means that the three evaluators shared collective concern in the delivery of police report being clear, concise and captures all pertinent facts. This ranges from below average (≤3 corpus) to average (≤8 corpus).

Seemingly, all four features of police report narratives confirmed non-significance based on the assessment of the evaluators.

Conclusions

This study explored the use and significance of technical terminology and jargon in police report narratives, focusing on how they enhance clarity and communication within the criminal justice system. Through content analysis and quantitative evaluation of 20 police reports (318 pages), the research addressed two key questions: (1) What technical terms and jargon are commonly used? and (2) How do these elements contribute to the narrative's meaning?

For Problem 1, the analysis revealed consistent use of technical language across categories such as victim and suspect details, report types, legal documents, incident specifics, and timestamps. High-frequency terms were especially evident in victim information and incident details, reflecting standard practices in Philippine policing. However, notable gaps included missing contact information, suspect descriptions, and inconsistently included legal documents (e.g., affidavits, medico-legal reports, warrants), which could weaken investigations and legal proceedings.

For Problem 2, examined narrative quality using rubrics that assessed structure, coherence, completeness, and mechanics. While inter-rater reliability was statistically validated (Cronbach's α and McDonald's ω), ANOVA results showed no significant variation across the four aspects. Reports generally followed a chronological structure but often lacked depth, particularly in witness or suspect accounts. Completeness remained a challenge, with many reports omitting critical evidence or contextual information.

Overall, the findings suggest that while police reports fulfill basic procedural requirements and employ standard jargon, they often fall short in depth and clarity. Improving training on documentation practices—especially in crafting comprehensive and evidence-based narratives—could enhance the effectiveness of police reports in both investigations and judicial processes.

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