INVESTIGATING SPEECH ACTS USED IN CRIMINAL CYBER SEXUAL EXTORTION

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Abstract

This paper investigates the criminal speech acts that occur in the cases of cyber sexual extortion as a growing cybercrime that has recently been increased in social media platforms. In this paper, an eclectic adopt based on Shuy's linguistic tools to analyze and the researcher adds the criteria to further analyze the criminal cases according to the data collected. This study hypothesizes that the extortionists use threatening and ordering because they are more powerful than victims. Finally, this study finds out that the exortionists use threatening, ordering and false promises in order to achieve certain expected behaviors of grooming and manipulating the victims. While the victims use pleading, claiming, requesting and promising.

1.Introduction

1.1. Speech Acts in Criminal Cases.

The primary definition of a speech act is that a locutionary act performed by a speaker who uses linguistics tools to convey a message to a hearer. Since Searle (1969), and forensic linguists have been using the linguistic unit of speech acts in Criminal Cases (Shuy 1993; 2008; 2010;2011;2012). They usually find speech act analysis more helpful in determining meanings than the smaller language units, particularly in criminal cases such as bribery, money laundering, defamation and sexual misconduct, in which the speech act of agreeing, denying, and offering are central parts of the evidence. Language propositions have both a content (the body of the message) and attitude (the orientation the speaker takes toward the speech act proposition). Propositional attitudes are identified with the speakers' various psychological states, including the following:

1. The belief attitude represented in the proposition is true (speech acts of reporting, claiming, admitting, advising, and warning).

2. The desiring attitude to bring about the proposition (speech acts of requesting, ordering, and pleading).

3.The commitment attitude that the proposition be brought about (speech acts of promising, taking an oath, and committing).

4. The regret attitude for bringing out the proposition (speech acts of regretting, apologizing, and confession).

5. The intending attitude to bring about the proposition (speech acts of promising and threatening).

The following presents the related criminal speech acts of cyber sextotion language crimes:

2. Cyber Extortion

Cybercrimes involve a large range of phenomenon that has been recently increased such as, among other things, hacking, cyber extortion, business frauds, online abuse and hate speech and privacy violation. In this respect, a clear positioning of cybercrimes from a definitional perspective is key to a better understanding of the phenomenon, that is necessary to developing appropriate responses to prevent and combat it. (Guillen-Nieto, Stein, 2022: 420).

Many scholars including Davidoff, Durrin; Sprenger, (2021) agree to define cyber extortion that is an attack through which an aggressive attempts to get something of value by means of threatening or intimidation the confidentiality, integrity, and/or availability of information technology resources. The extortionist or perpetrators use threat as an important element of extortion in order to damage the victim's property for instance by exposing disgracing photos and videos or libelous material or even falsely accuse the victim of committing a bad or criminal thing, United State v. Avenatti (2020).

2.1 Cyber Sextortion

It is generally defined as a new cybercrime that has recently been increased due to the rapid growth of technology. It is a form of sexual exploitation in which non –physical threatening is used in the compelling of sexual intimacy or agreement from victims. It is sometimes carried out when the hacker steals photos or videos from an individual's computer for the purpose of sexual acts, money or something else. (cited in Navarro; Clevenger; Marcum, 2019). Moreover, generally, it occurs when ″ a person takes advantage of another person against his or her will by means of threat of violence or threat harm of any kind to the person″ (Forsyth& Copes, 2014,p:266)

According to police makers and law enforcement, it is usually described as a new type of online exploitation of people and having several related terms (e.g., *sexting, nonconsensual sharing of sexual images, revenge pornography*) that have basically been concerned with malicious or criminally motivated distribution of nude or seminude photos. It particularly refers to the cases through which extorters threaten to reveal explicit or intimate photos to compel the victims for providing extra photos, involve in sexual intimacy, or accept to do other demands (Wolak; Finkelhor; Walsh and Treitman, 2017).

Concerning other related internet sexual offenses terms, such as *sexting*, generally refers to as an umbrella term that is defined by the distribution of sexually explicit content in terms of digital devices(Leary,2009; Siegle,2010; Weins,2014),nonconsensual pornography (i.e., sharing of sexual photos without agreement), and revenge pornography (i.e., malicious sharing of sexual pictures. These kind of offenses may involve sextortion but it is associated with threatening to reveal sexual pictures to coerce the victim into doing something, even if the nude images are actually never occurred. As shown by a report of the U.S. Department of Justice (2016), sextortion is the most significantly increasing kind of online youth exploitation which is based on Reponses by more than 1.000 law investigators and related practitioners surveyed. However, there are also reports describing unwanted digital communications about sexual pictures from cyber dating abuse (i.e., pressuring dating partners to send nude images, threatening partners to send unwanted sexual images, or doing other sexual activities. However,

cyber dating abuse and requests for sexual activities are not necessarily included threats to do such activities (cited in Wolak; Finkelhor; Walsh and Treitman, 2017). As also indicated by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) demonstrate that sextortion as *" a serious crime that occurs when someone threatens to share someone's private and sensitive material if they don't provide the perpetrator with images of a sexual nature, sexual favours, or money"* Similarly, the extortionist may also threaten to damage a targeted victim's friends or relatives in terms of using the obtained information from the victim's digital devices or online profile. FBI states that the online perpetrators work to gain the trust of the targeted victim by pretending to be someone they are not (Cadzow,2019).

3. Methodology

Four cases have been collected from criminal court of Babylon which are particularly concerned with different stories of cyber sextortion.

3. 1. Data Analysis

After collecting the data (written conversations between the extortionist and the victim), they will be classified and analyzed by adopting Shy's model (2010) to investigate the criminal speech acts. Simply, this model will be adopted because it is very convenient to analyze the language crimes including cyber sexual extortion. To investigate criminal speech acts, it is very important linguistic tools of such model. According to Austin (1962) and Searle (1969), speech acts have been used to describe the functional dimension of language, and how language achieves a certain purpose or an effect. It is proposed that the application of speech act theory can assist solve certain problems related to cyber sexual extortion. This theory holds that every utterance is made up of both an illocutionary act, concerning its intended force, and a perlocutionary act, concerning its effect on the addressee (Tiersma 1987, 303-350 cited in Shuy 2010). It is very convenient to identify the criminal speech acts such as claiming, agreeing, promising, threatening, denying used by the extortionists to groom and manipulate victims in such cases because speech act theory is used to get things done while using language.

3.1.1. The Qualitative Part of Analysis

This part is mainly concerned with how to identify the criminal speech acts in the selected cases.

Case (1)

1.1. Identifying Criteria of Case

1.1.2. Type of cyber extortion: Sexual.

1.1.3. Means of obtaining extorting material: Deception.

1.1.4. End of the case: Police was being notified and the extortion process was not executed.

1.1.5. Relationship between Extortionist & Victim: Friendship

1.2. Identifying Speech Acts

1.2.1. Speech Act of CLAIMING.

In this case, the plaintiff expresses this kind of speech act as in the following:

افادة المشتكية بالقول" واحدة من زميلاتي بالكلية اخبرتني بان هناك شاب يريد التعرف عليج ويريد تليفوني وانطيتاه يزوجني وطلب رقمي

"One of my colleagues in the college told me that there was a young man who would like to get know me and to ask my hand. Therefore, he requested my phone number and I send it to him".
The plaintiff also claims that she has got threatened by receiving this message in return for going with him to his flat to have sex.

English Translation	Original Arabic
Extortionist: I will defame you in your college colleagues and family".	القائم بالابتزاز: راح افضحج كدام الكلية وكدام اهلج.

1.2.2. Speech Act of ADMITTING.
The extortionist admits that

اعترف القائم بالابتزاز " بانه يمتلك شقة وهدد المشتكية بالمجئ الى الشقة من اجل ممارسة الجنس"

"He has a flat and he threatened the plaintiff to come there to have sex".

1.2.3. Speech Act of ORDERING
After the extortionist has groomed the victim and obtained her trust, he orders her to send her photos.

English Translation	Original Arabic
a. send to me photos, I miss to see you. *b. give me ...., to kiss them.* *c. Open a cam otherwise I will destroy you* *e. Answer me otherwise I will end your life*	أ. دزلي صور مشتاقلج اشوفج ب. اعطيني ..... ابوسهن. ت. افتحي كامرا ترى ادمرج ث. ردي لا ادمرج انهي حياتج

1.2.4. Speech Act of REQUESTING
The victim expresses the act of requesting when she uses the following interrogative sentence:

English Translation	Original Arabic
what do you want from me?	أ. شتريد مني؟

1.2.5. Speech Act of PLEADING
When the extortionist has threatened the victim with exposing her private photos and conversations to her classmates and family, she starts pleading by means of using declaratives and interrogatives and expressions to ask the extortionist's mercy and help.

English Translation	Original Arabic
a. I will send it to you but please delete it. *b. Why did you do that?, why did you deceive me? What is happening to you, God saves you?* *c. What is happening to you, God saves you* *d. What is happening to you? have a mercy on me, God saves you, I already opened a cam and I did everything to you.*	أ. راح ادزلك بس اترجاك امسحهم. ب. ليش تسوي هيج؟ ليش خدعتني؟ شبيك الله يخليك ت. شبيك الله يخليك شتريد مني انتي دمرتني. ث. شبيك...ارحمني الله يخليك فتحت الك كامرا وكلشي سوتلك.

1.2.6. Speech Act of PROMISSING

The extortionist offer a false promise to the victim when he has promised her once he gets the photos, he will delete them immediately.

English Translation	Original Arabic
Victim: I will send it to you but please delete it. *Extortionist: I will, my life.*	الضحية: راح ادزلك بس اترجاك امسحهم. القائم بالابتزاز: ماشي عمري.

1.2.7. Speech Act of THREATENING

This kind of speech act is realized when the extortionist has used declarative and conditional sentences as in the following:

English Translation	Original Arabic
a. I will defame you in your college colleagues and family. *b. Open a cam otherwise I will destroy you.* *c. Answer me otherwise I will end your life.* *d. Today, we shall go to flat to show it to you?* *e. Tomorrow, I want you to come to a flat.*	أ. راح افضحج كدام الكلية وكدام اهلج ب.افتحي كامرا ترى ادمرج ت. دري لا ادمرج انهي حياتج ث. . اليوم نروح لشقتي اشوفجياه ح.اريدج تجين الشقة باجر

Case (2)

2.1. Identifying the Criteria of Case (6)

2.1.1. Type of cyber extortion: Sexual

2.1.2. Means of obtaining extorting material: Hacking.

2.1.3. Execution of the Process: the police is being notified and the extortion process was not executed.

2.1.4. Relationship between Extortionist & Victim: Friendship

2.2. Identifying Speech Acts

2.2.1. Speech Act of CLAIMING.

In this case, the plaintiff 's affidavit is expressed by claiming the following:

"قامت بإرسال جهاز الهاتف النقال العائد لها الى صاحب المحل القريب من دارها طالبة من ادخال (رمز الانترنيت) حيث انهم كانوا بأشتراك واحد في شبكة الانترنيت وعند عودة ولدها الصغير اخبرها بأن القائم بالابتزاز اخذ الجهاز ولم يعطيه له وعند ذهابها له ومعاتبته عن ذلك اخبرها القائم بالابتزاز بأنه يطلب مبلغ من المال مقابل اعادة الجهاز وبعد فترة اعاد الموبايل بعد اخذ (الرام) منه حيث يحتوي على صور شخصية لها واخذ يساومني بممارسة الجنس معها بخلاف ذلك سوف يقوم بإرسال الصور الشخصية وبعد فترة ارسل زوجته وايضا قامت بمساومتها بنشر الصور الخاصة في حالة عدم دفع المبالغ المالية"

"The plaintiff claimed that she sent his little son to the next shop keeper to enter the network security key in her mobile phone because they were sharing with the same network subscription. When her son came back home, he told her that the shop keeper didn't give him back her mobile phone. Then she went there and asked him why you didn't give the mobile phone back. He told

her that you had to pay the debt in return for giving it back to you. After short a while, the extortionist gave it back after taking its ram that contained the personal and nude photos. Later, the extortionist wanted her to come home to have sex with her otherwise he would publish her nude and naked photos. After that, the extortionist sent his wife to negotiate with the victim for solving the problem and told her if you didn't pay back a debt, he (her husband) would post your naked photos"

2.2.2. Speech Act of ADMITTING.

The extortionist expresses this kind of speech act as in the following:

"اعترف بحوزته لشريحة الرام وموضوع مطالبته بمبالغ نقدية على الرغم بان الدين كان بذمة زوجها"

"He had the ram and stole the photos as well as demanding her to pay the debt in spite of being made by her husband".

2.2.3. Speech Act of ORDERING

This kind of speech act is expressed when the declarative sentence in a passive structure has been used as follows:

English translation	Original Arabic
Extortionist: my money that I demand must be paid back.	القائم بالابتزاز: الفلوس الي اطلبكم يرجعن.

2.2.4. Speech Act of REQUESTING

The victim expresses an act of requesting when he sends his little son to ask the extortionist to enter the network security key in her mobile phone.

2.2.5. Speech Act of THREATENING

Some imperative and conditional sentences have been used to express such kind of speech as in the following examples:

English Translation	Original Arabic
Extortionist : Only if you come to me, nothing won't be happened. *If don't come to as I told you, think of this issue.* *See if you don't come to my house, I will publish your naked photos that are possessed by me.*	القائم بالابتزاز: انتي بس تعاي يمي مايصيرشي بعد. اذا ماجيتي ...فكري بالموضوع. شوفي اذا ماتجين يمي للبيت صورج الاباحية كله يمي انشرهن

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Case (3).

3.1. Identifying the Criteria of Case (7)

3.1.1 Type of cyber extortion: Sexual

3.1.2 Means of obtaining extorting material: Hacking Photos.

3.1.3 Execution of the case: Police is notified and the extortion process is not executed.

3.1.4 Relationship between Extortionist & Victim: Relativeness

3.2 Identifying Speech Acts
3.2.1. Speech Act of CLAIMING.
In this case, the plaintiff expresses her a claim

"ادعت المشتكية بتعرضها للابتزاز الالكتروني وتهديد القائم بالابتزاز لها بنشر صورها العارية في مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي في حالة عدم الاستجابة له بتكوين علاقة غير مشروعة".

"*The plaintiff had claimed that she was exposed to cyber extortion by the extortionist to post her private photos via Social Media Platforms in case of her not complying with the extortionist's demands to make immoral and illegal relationship*"

3.2.2. Speech Act of ADMITTING.
At first the extortionist denies what has been claimed against him but finally he admits sending threatening messages to post the plaintiff's personal photos and also admits that the purpose of his threatening is to know how much she is loyalist and honest with him.

3.2.3. Speech Act of ORDERING
This kind of speech acts is linguistically expressed when the following imperative sentences have been used:

English translation	Original Arabic
a. unblock my accounts now.	أ. افتحي الحضر من الخطوط هسه
b. Are you unblocking my accounts or not?	ب. تفتحين لو لا
c. Read and you will get it.	ت. اقري وراح تفتهمين
d. It is better for you to comply with what I said.	ث. امشي عدل احسلج
e. Do what I said, unblock your account	ح. غصبن عليج امشي عدل
f. Behave well with me and unblock my accounts	ر. جري عدل افتحي الحضر
g. Let's make a video calling.	ز. خل نتصل كامرا

3.2.4. Speech Act of REQUESTING
The extortionist expresses this kind of speech act when he has used the following declarative sentences.

English translation	Original Arabic
Victim: I want you to come home to negotiate quickly. *I don't know, you can find somewhere*	الضحية: اريدك تجي للبيت...نتفاهم بسرعة مادري انت شوف.

3.2.5. Speech Act of PROMISSING
The victim promises the extortionist to unblock his accounts later on in order to alleviate the stressful situation.

English translation	Original Arabic
Victim: now I can't, later , I will	لضحية: هسه ماكدر شوي بعد .

3.2.6. Speech Act of THREATENING

The extortionist expresses this kind of speech act by means of using conditional and declarative sentences to express direct and indirect threatening as in the following:

English Translation	Original Arabic
Extortionist: Unblocked my account now. *It is not my business, If you don't unblocked, I will post your photos.* *This is the last time, I am telling you, Are you unblocking my account or not.* *All your photos will be deleted only if I fuck you*	القائم بالابتزاز: اي افتحي الحضر من الخطوط هسه مالي غرض اذا ماتفتحين انشر صورج كلت اخر مرة اكلج تفتحين لو لا كل صورج راح امسحه بس اتونس وياج

Case (4)

4.1 Identifying Criteria of Case (8)

4.1.1. Type of cyber extortion: Sexual.

4.1.2. Means of obtaining extorting material: Hacking and fabricating photos.

4.1.3. Execution of the case: Police is being notified and the process is not executed.

4.1.4. Relationship between Extortionist & Victim: Relativeness

4.2. Identifying Speech Acts

4.2.1 Speech Act of CLAIMING.

In this case, the plaintiff claims that

"The extortionist had texted the victim and threatened her with making a sexual relationship otherwise, he would sent the fabricated naked photos. Accordingly, the victim planned to suicide because she couldn't bear such kind of threatening"

ادعى المشتكين بان الضحية تعرضت الى تهديد من قبل القائم بالابتزاز بنشر صور الاباحية المفركة مقابل ممارسة الجنس مما دفع الضحية للقدوم على الانتحار لأنها لم تسطيع تحمل ضغط التهديد"

4.2.2. Speech Act of ADMITTING.

The extortionist denies all alleged actions against him but finally the witness's testimony which is supported with threatening messages that have been texted by the extortionist. Therefore, this is enough evidence to convict him.

4.2.3. Speech Act of ORDERING

The extortionist expresses this kind of speech act by means of using the following imperative sentences.

English translation	Original Arabic
Extortionist : look, let me talk to you. *Answer me…Am I calling you?* *Answer!*	القائم بالابتزاز: شوفي خل احجي وياج جاوبي.. مو دا اتصل عليج الوو ردي

4.2.4. Speech Act of REQUESTING

This kind of speech act is always expressed by the victim when she has used the following:

English translation	Original Arabic

Victim: why are you doing this?	الضحية: انت ليش تسوي هيج.

4.2.5. Speech Act of PLEADING

Speech Acts	Freq	Per
Claiming	3	13.05%
Admitting	2	8.69%
Ordering or Commanding	4	17.39
Requesting	1	4.35%
Pleading	7	30.43%
Promising	1	4.35%
Threatening	5	21.74%
Total	23	100%

It is a kind of request to ask the extortionist's mercy when he has threatened the victim with posting her naked photos via social media platforms. Consider the following:

English translation	Original Arabic
Victim: aren't you fear from Allah? *Have a mercy on me, I am your relative.*	الضحية: ماتخاف من الله ماعندك اخت. مروتك.. مو اني كرايبك

4.2.6. Speech Act of THREATENING

The extortionist expresses this kind of speech act by means of using conditional and declarative sentences to express direct and indirect threatening as in the following:

English Translation	Original Arabic
Extortionist: if I don't have sex with you, your all photos will be posted to your family. *Your naked photos are in my possession, I will send them to you.* *When I send them, tell your family' they are not mine''* *I want to ......you, then I will delete everything.* *If you don't answer me, you will see what is going to be happened.*	القائم بالابتزاز: اذا ..... وياج صورج ينشرن كلهن لاهلج صورج الاباحية بيهن يمي راح ادزهم الج انشرهن كولي لاهلج مو صوري اريد ...... وياج امسح كلشي ..... اذا ماتجاوبين شوفي شراح يصير

3.1.2. The Quantitative Part of Analysis

4.6 Sexual Cyber Extortion Cases: Results and Discussion.

CASE (1)

Table (1): Statistics of identifying Speech Acts used in Cyber Extortion Speech Event .

According to Table (1) reveals that the increased frequency occur (7) times with (30.43%) in the speech act of pleading because the extortionist deceits the victim when he has exploited the intimate relationship with her to obtain her private photos. Consequently, she highly uses a pleading language to plead for his mercy and help in the hopes of avoiding public embarrassment

Speech Acts	Freq	Per
Claiming	3	30%
Admitting	2	20%
Ordering or Commanding	1	10%
Requesting	0	-
Pleading	0	-
Promising	0	-
Threatening	4	40%
Total	10	100%

and harm her reputation. Then, the speech act of threatening occurs (5) times with (21.74%) because it is a powerful and harmful tactic to coerce the victim into complying with the extortionist's demands. Accordingly it occurs (4) times directly and (1) time indirectly. After that, the speech of ordering or commanding occurs (4) times with (17.39%) because the extortionist intends to establish a dominant situation over his victim as well as to assert control. The next one is a speech act of a claiming uses (3) times with (13.05%) to assert the victim's right against the extortionist and then the speech act of admitting occurs (2) times with (8.69%) because of there are three claims issued by the victims and the extortionist admits to make two of them. Finally, in each of requesting and promising speech acts occur (1) time with (4.35%), because the victim has used them to create a sense of intimacy with the extortionist in order to ease the stressful situation and to ask for the extortionist's mercy and empathy to avoid posting her private photos.

CASE (2)

Table (2): Statistics of identifying speech acts used in Cyber Extortion Speech Event.

Speech Acts	Freq	Per
Claiming	1	9.10%
Admitting	0	0
Ordering or Commanding	3	27.27%
Requesting	2	18.18%
Pleading	0	
Promising	0	0
Threatening	5	45.45%
Total	11	100%

According to Table (17) reveals that the highest frequency occurs (4) times directly with (40%) in the speech act of threatening because the main concern of the extortionist is how to intimidate and control on the victim in order to make her consider the potential consequences that might happen if she does not comply with the extortionist's demand, followed by the speech act of claiming occurs (3) times with (30%) because of the extortionist and victim's friendship, such increased claims like taking the mobile phone on the pretext of victim's husband debt, hacking the photos and compelling the victim to come to his house to have sex occur depending on their friendship.

Then the third highest frequency occurs (2) times with (20%) in the speech act of admitting because the extortionist admits to take mobile phone and demanding the victim's debt but he denies hacking the photos and compelling her to come to his house to have sex. Finally, the speech act of ordering or commanding occurs (1) time with (10%). In this case, the extortionist obtains the extorting material (private photos) by hacking the victim's mobile phone as a results of this, the extortionist doesn't have full domination and control to be in a situation that enable him to use the speech act of ordering or commanding but he only uses direct threatening in the hopes of executing his process. In addition, the victim in this case uses the speech act of threatening that is an attempt to regain control over the situation.

CASE (3)

Table (3): Statistics of identifying speech acts used in Cyber Extortion Speech Event.

Speech Acts	Freq	Per
Claiming	1	5.55%
Admitting	1	5.55%
Ordering or Commanding	7	38.88%
Requesting	2	11.12%
Pleading	0	0
Promising	1	5.55%
Threatening	6	32.33%
Total	18	100%

According to Table (3), shows that the highest frequency occurs (7) times with (38.88%) for the speech act of ordering or commanding, followed by the speech act of threatening that has directly been performed with (6) times (32.33%) because in this case all what the extortionist intends is to compel and control the victim as possible as he can so he uses a coercing and threatening language with slightly different frequencies for achieving his intended behavior. Then, the third highest frequency occurs (2) times with (17.39%) in the speech act of requesting by the victim to ask the extortionist to come to her house in order to convince him to stop threatening and solving the issue. Finally, each of the speech acts of claiming, admitting and promising speech acts use (1) time with (5.55%) both the claiming and promising speech acts occurs by the victim in order to assert her right and to relieve the stressful situation between them.

CASE (4)

 Table (4): Statistics of identifying Speech Acts used in Cyber Extortion Speech Event.

According to Table (4) reveals that the highest frequency directly occurs (5) times with (45.45%) for the speech act of threatening in order to create a sense of fear over the victim, followed by the speech act of ordering or commanding occurs (3) times with (27.27%), it usually uses for creating a sense of power and domination to the exciting situation. Then the third highest frequency occurs (2) times with (18.18%) in the speech act of requesting. Finally, the speech acts of claiming used (1) time with (9.10%).

Table (5): Frequencies of identifying speech acts in Beneficial Extortion cases.

Speech acts	Case five	Case six	Case seven	Case eight	Total	Per
Claiming	3	3	1	1	8	14.03 %
Admitting	2	2	1	0	5	8.77%
Ordering or Commanding	4	1	7	3	15	26.31%
Requesting	1	0	2	2	5	8.77%
Pleading	7	0	0	0	7	12.28%
Promising	1	0	1	0	2	3.50%
Threatening	5	4	6	5	20	35.08%

According to Table (40) reveals the total frequency to identify the speech acts that occur in sexual cases of cyber- extortion as mentioned in the tables (14,17,20,23) as follows: the speech act of threatening occurs (20) times with (35.08%) because, the extortionists frequently threaten the victims to exercise sexual actions. This occurs both directly and indirectly in almost all cases of this type of cyber extortion but with different frequencies. It seems that the direct speech acts occur more frequently than indirect speech acts. As such, this indicates that the language of extortionists is characterized by a lack of empathy for their victims, they focus on achieving their own sexual intentions through intimidation and threatening, followed by the speech act of ordering or commanding that is given the second highest rate with (15) times of occurrence (26.31%).Then, the speech act of claiming occurs (8) times with (8.69), because in each case, the plaintiff or victim has made a claim against the extortionist in order to assert their rights and take the legal actions for their harmful activities. After that, The speech act of pleading comes third that with (7) times of occurrence (12.28%) because this kind of speech acts occurs depending largely on the relationship between the extortionists and victims. It more occurs with a former relationship of the extortionists and victims compared with when they are not friends. Then, both the speech acts of requesting and admitting have been occurred (5) times with (8.77%). Finally the speech act of promising occurs (2) times with (3.50%) because it has only been occurred by the victims to ease the stressful situation.

Conclusion

The extortionists and victims perform various kinds of speech acts such as the speech acts of commanding and threatening have only been made by extortionists. As such, the threatening and ordering speech acts are highly occurred in all types of Cyber-Extortion. This implies that the extortionists focus on how to control over the speech event. On the other hand, the speech acts of claiming, requesting, pleading and promises have only been made by the victims. This implies that the victims frequently seek a sense of mutual assistance that is very crucial for their recovery and for relieving the stressful situations. This implies that the extortionists use a threatening language rather than coercive and manipulative languages.

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