
Economic Implications and Communication Strategy for Investigators in Handling Criminal Acts of Illegal Sodium Cyanide Trafficking

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Abstract:

This research starts from the problem of implementing political strategies, which can provide support and aspirations that can be channeled or vice versa. In the context of the police, communication strategies are used to create and implement rules, especially in the investigation and investigation process by increasing the ability and opportunity for the community to express all forms of problems and channel information that they have hidden so that it is hoped that this can be realized or create reciprocal communication between superstructure and infrastructure in the disclosure of effective communication strategies. The aim of this research is to reveal, describe and analyze investigators' communication strategies in handling criminal acts of illegal sodium cyanide trafficking using a cultural approach. This research method is proposed by the author using a qualitative descriptive method which is to describe, explain and describe the objects studied by Arikunto, (2006). Descriptive qualitative research is in the form of research using a case study method or approach. The results of the research show that with this communication strategy, investigators can easily complete their investigative tasks because this effective communication strategy makes it easier for the investigation process or seeking information from the suspect because the suspect feels unlimited, without coercion, and honestly explains what he has done in this case. This is a criminal act committed within the jurisdiction of the West Nusa Tenggara Regional Police. The conclusion of this research is that steps to prevent investigators are of particular concern in line with the growing public awareness that the trade in cyanide as a deadly item is difficult for the public to avoid because it cannot be traded.

Keywords: Strategy; Communication; Cyanide and Illegal Trade.

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1. Introduction

The West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) region is notably susceptible to issues involving hazardous substances such as cyanide. The trafficking of cyanide has been frequently reported within the jurisdiction of the NTB Regional Police, particularly in gold mining areas across Central Lombok, Sekotong, Sumbawa, Dompu, and Bima. This illegal trade is often intertwined with illicit gold refining processes. Cyanide, a compound notorious for its toxicity, can disrupt the body's oxygen use and cause

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severe damage to the brain, heart, blood vessels, and lungs, potentially leading to fatal consequences (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020, as cited in Kompas).

Cyanide's dangerous nature is well-documented; it has a characteristic "bitter almond" odor, although it is not always detectable by everyone. Despite its high toxicity, cyanide is used in various industrial processes, underscoring its dual-edged nature (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020).

Previous research has explored various dimensions of organized crime, including drug trafficking and criminal networks. For instance, Bouchard (2007) developed a capture-recapture model to estimate criminal populations in the marijuana cultivation industry, while Bright and Delaney (2013) mapped changes in drug trafficking networks over time. Calderoni (2014) introduced a method for estimating illicit profits in organized crime, and Cornish and Clarke (2002) analyzed organized crime structures (Bouchard, 2007; Bright & Delaney, 2013; Calderoni, 2014; Cornish & Clarke, 2002). Studies have also investigated criminal careers and networks, with Duxbury and Haynie (2020) reviewing research methods in social network analysis of criminal careers, and Kleemans and de Poot (2008) examining criminal careers within organized crime (Duxbury & Haynie, 2020; Kleemans & de Poot, 2008).

Research gaps exist in understanding the specific communication strategies employed by law enforcement in handling illegal cyanide trafficking. The role of strategic communication in uncovering such illegal activities has been less explored. For example, Felson (2006) discussed the broader ecosystem of organized crime, while Morselli (2009) focused on the Hells Angels motorcycle club. Other studies, such as those by Paoli and Fijnaut (2006) and van Koppen and de Poot (2013), have examined organized crime and the sequence of criminal acts (Felson, 2006; Morselli, 2009; Paoli & Fijnaut, 2006; van Koppen & de Poot, 2013).

The novelty of this study lies in its focus on the communication strategies used by the NTB Regional Police to address cyanide trafficking. This research aims to fill the gap by providing insights into how strategic communication can enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts in tackling illegal activities. Understanding these strategies will help improve the efficiency of similar interventions and potentially guide future policies.

The primary aim of this study is to evaluate the communication strategies employed by the NTB Regional Police in addressing illegal cyanide trafficking. This involves analyzing the specific methods and techniques used in their strategic planning, implementation, and evaluation processes. The study will assess the effectiveness of these strategies by measuring how well they facilitate the detection and disruption of illegal cyanide trade networks, and will provide practical recommendations to enhance these strategies. Ultimately, the research seeks to improve the efficiency and success of law enforcement operations in combating similar criminal activities.

2. Theoretical Background

Communication is a fundamental tool for continuous interaction, serving various purposes according to the interests of the parties involved. It is essential because achieving specific goals and objectives requires clear articulation of these goals, making communication a primary mechanism for conveying intentions (Felson, 2006; van Koppen & de Poot, 2013).

Multiple definitions of communication underscore its importance in human interactions. Effective communication is defined by its ability to foster understanding, create satisfaction, influence attitudes, enhance social relations, and ultimately drive positive actions (Bouchard, 2007; Bright & Delaney, 2013). For communication to occur, it must involve several components: the source, the message, the media, the receiver, and the effect (Calderoni, 2014; Cornish & Clarke, 2002).

A communication strategy involves a combination of elements such as communication frequency, formality, content, and channels. This strategy serves as a guide for planning and managing communication efforts to achieve specific goals (Duxbury & Haynie, 2020; Kleemans & de Poot, 2008). In essence, a system is composed of interrelated parts working together to achieve a common objective. These components interact in a coordinated manner, adhering to a regular pattern to ensure the goal is met (Levi, 2012; Morselli, 2009).

According to von Lampe (2016), a system is an integrated whole made up of interconnected parts, each contributing to the overall function. The system approach emphasizes that the whole exceeds the sum of its parts, suggesting that studying the interactions between components provides a deeper understanding of the system's functionality (Paoli & Fijnaut, 2006; Reuter, 1983).

The system perspective in organizations reveals that effective communication is vital for the coordination and integration of various functions and individuals. Organizations function as open systems that interact with their environment, adapting to changes and managing uncertainties in achieving their goals (Savona & Riccardi, 2015; Sergi, 2017).

Communication within a system involves the exchange of information among individuals, facilitating coordination and cooperation to achieve organizational objectives (Soudijn & Zegers, 2012; Spapens & Moors, 2019). This interaction is crucial for maintaining organizational coherence and adapting to external influences (Windle & Silke, 2019; Zaitch, 2002).

In summary, communication is both a deliberate and purposeful process, essential for the rational coordination of activities within an organization. Effective communication ensures that all parts of the organization work in harmony towards achieving shared goals, highlighting the integral role of communication in organizational success (Bouchard, 2007; Bright & Delaney, 2013).

3. Methodology

The author proposes this research design using a qualitative descriptive method which is to describe, explain and describe the objects studied by Arikunto, (2006). Descriptive qualitative research is in the form of research using a case study method or approach. This research focuses intensively on one particular object studying it as a case. This research is a (scientific) activity that is carried out through a long series of processes to examine in depth the emergence of certain phenomena. Research approaches can be divided into two, namely quantitative and qualitative approaches. The Quantitative Approach emphasizes proving the relationships or influence of several variables on one another or differences in the nature and abilities of several variables as well as identifying variables using statistical tools in testing data in the field (Bungin, 2006).

This research was conducted at the Special Criminal Investigation Directorate of the West Nusa Tenggara Regional Police which directly handles the sale of illegal cyanide in the jurisdiction of the West Nusa Tenggara Police. To answer this problem, a study will be carried out on handling illegal cyanide sales. This is important because by studying effective communication strategies and finding obstacles in them, which can later be used as a reference for developing better communication strategies. To answer this question, a study will be carried out regarding the NTB Regional Police Ditreskrim-sus Investigators and the Perpetrators of Illegal Cyanide Sales.

4. Empirical Findings/Result

So far, the investigator's communication steps in the Investigation Directorate work unit specifically for handling criminal acts of illegal sodium cyanide trafficking at the NTB Regional Police have not been synergistic with investigators regarding cyanide trafficking parties. One of the factors that causes this is the laziness of an investigator in communicating with the suspect. An investigator feels that the case is clear, such as a case of being caught red-handed buying and selling cyanide, so an investigator will take information when accompanied by a legal advisor. Apart from that, investigators' experience in investigative skills is still lacking. So investigators experience difficulties in communicating with suspects they have just met and the techniques used by investigators in the examination process are still relatively mediocre which makes it difficult to create a network map of cases handling criminal acts of illegal sodium cyanide trafficking, especially in the jurisdiction of the NTB Regional Police.

The following is an interview regarding the steps taken by an assistant investigator named BRIPTU Andre Jayadi who communicated well with the suspect at the start of the investigation in an effort to reveal the suspect's confession of being lazy in presenting his case. Following are the results of the researcher's interview on Tuesday 11 March 2022 as follows: "Investigators are lazy communication at the beginning of the investigation because the handling of the criminal act of illegal sodium cyanide trafficking was clear and the case was caught on hand. "So investigators feel there is

no need to communicate with these steps and just go straight to the investigation stage examination process accompanied by legal advisors." (Interview, March 11, 2022).

Trade in potassium cyanide, a chemical compound that is toxic and is the type of poison that is most quickly active in the body, so it can cause death within a few minutes (acute). Antidotes that can be used for cyanide poisoning are sodium nitrite and also sodium thiosulfate. Management of poisoning victims must be quick, because the prognosis of the therapy given also depends on the length of contact with the toxic substance. The sooner the antidote is given, the less risk of cyanide contact with the body and reducing the level of poisoning. The results of the interview stated that a cyanide trader must be strictly prohibited from trading in this hard product, because it carries a very large risk and threatens death. Therefore, it is difficult for the Special Criminal Investigation Unit to carry out initial communication steps with suspects of cyanide trafficking or before the investigation at the start of an investigation into cases that are already clear or have been caught red-handed. When an investigator takes a statement from a suspect whose case is caught in his hands, the investigator only writes down the suspect's statement without being required to ask about the cyanide items the suspect has. The following is an excerpt from an interview with informant Mr. Juan (Interview, March 12 2022). It can be said that this communication is not effectively carried out by investigators, because with this communication an investigator has not been able to provide maximum communication services in trade jurisdictions such as Central Lombok. In this case, fast and appropriate treatment is needed. The aim is to find out how effective the timeliness of the cyanide trade is, so good communication steps and approaches to a suspect are needed so that investigators are able to classify the suspect and make the investigator's work easier.

In the interview above, an investigator was taking a statement from the suspect who was accompanied by his legal advisor. A suspect provides information according to the suspect's wishes, whether information that he actually experienced or false information or information made up by the suspect. A legal advisor is only tasked with accompanying the suspect when being questioned by investigators.

Based on the researcher's interview with one of the assistant investigators, Mr. Sugiman stated that using communication steps at the beginning or before the investigation will result in a suspect feeling more free to express his problems and investigators can classify the suspect in terms of carrying out cyanide trafficking.

Some of the things done by Criminal Investigation to handle the acceleration of illegal trade in cyanide and other chemical substances include the following: Encourage international cooperation in law enforcement and supervision; (2) Encourage conducive and enabling policies, regulations and other internal actions; (3) Promote education, research and study; and (4) Promoting third party collaboration such as donors, e-commerce, capacity building and technical assistance.

The following was obtained by an assistant investigator named AKP I Wayan Tanaya who used communication steps at the beginning of the investigation in an effort to reveal the suspect's confession on Tuesday 12 April 2022 as follows: "An investigator

conducts an examination of the suspect at the beginning of the investigation, it is hoped that the suspect can reveal a more in-depth confession regarding the case being alleged against the suspect and revealing the steps known to the suspect. "By applying the methods or techniques possessed by investigators that are obtained when investigators take part in investigator specialization development education and investigators are said to be professional." (Interview, April 12, 2022).

From the two statements made by IPTU Boy Ari Purnomo, the investigator stated that there are communication steps that should be taken before the investigation process is carried out. Because an earlier approach to the suspect will result in the suspect providing actual information in making plans or designs for illegal cyanide trafficking and will be able to classify the suspect as prohibited goods that occur in the West Nusa Tenggara Regional Police Legal Area.

Steps for smooth communication by investigators in disclosing confessions of suspects in the crime of cyanide trafficking at the West Nusa Tenggara Regional Police Investigation Directorate, as a real fact, the educational background of the people of West Nusa Tenggara, in this case the suspects found in the field during the investigation process, is that there are still many suspects who don't understand cyanide stuff. For this reason, it is necessary to have professional investigators to study everything related to the people of West Nusa Tenggara, many of whom do not understand or communicate well.

As an investigator, especially AIPTU Rusmin, for trafficking crimes at the West Nusa Tenggara Regional Police's cyanide trade directorate, you should have creativity in communicating with suspects so that suspects feel safe and comfortable stating all their problems. So that the investigator's communication runs smoothly with the suspect in revealing the suspect's confession.

This statement is in accordance with Suprpto and Fahrianoor, (2004). Persuasion is a communication method, which in its implementation uses certain techniques or methods, causing people to be willing to do it happily, voluntarily and without feeling forced by anyone, developed by John Thibaut and Harlod Kelley (1959). The theory of persuasive communication, which in its implementation uses certain techniques or methods, the main impetus in communication is the satisfaction of the personal interests of two or more people involved. Self-interest is not always considered a bad thing and can be used to improve a relationship. Any individual who voluntarily enters and stays in a relationship can survive as long as the relationship is satisfactory in terms of rewards and sacrifices.

Thibaut & Kelley (1959), were also interested in observing how people adjust their behavior in communicator-communicant interactions so that openness or honesty occurs in the communication. When people interact, they are guided by goals. This is in accordance with the assumption that humans are rational creatures. There are two types of power from this theory, namely fate control: the ability to influence the final outcome of the communication carried out, and behavior control: the power to cause changes in other people's behavior by changing the behavior of the communicator.

Thus, an investigator must be able to understand the steps in communicating with current regulations that are understood by the suspect who always pays attention to the suspect or his characteristics. This will result in the suspect being more open in disclosing what the suspect experienced, who his network is, or anything related to the crime of cyanide trafficking.

The results above state that if a suspect commits a legal violation in Indonesia, the legal process will proceed in accordance with the current law. In the event of a violation of the law if a suspect is unable to communicate properly and correctly, that person must be accompanied by someone who has abilities that the suspect understands. So that the suspect understands the legal process that applies in the jurisdiction of the NTB Regional Police. Apart from that, it is the obligation of an investigator in handling criminal cases of cyanide trafficking involving suspects to convey or notify all forms of ongoing legal actions and processes.

5. Discussion

The findings from the study reveal significant issues with the communication strategies employed by the NTB Regional Police in handling illegal sodium cyanide trafficking. The research highlights a lack of synergy between investigators and suspects, primarily due to the reluctance of investigators to engage in thorough communication during the initial stages of the investigation. This issue is exacerbated by investigators' perceived belief that the cases, particularly those where suspects are caught red-handed, are straightforward and require minimal interaction (Interview, March 11, 2022).

The reluctance of investigators to engage deeply with suspects stems from an inadequate understanding of effective communication practices. As noted, effective communication involves more than just exchanging information; it requires a strategic approach that considers the timing, method, and context of the interaction (Bouchard, 2007; Bright & Delaney, 2013). The research suggests that the current communication techniques used by investigators are inadequate, resulting in difficulties in creating a comprehensive network map of illegal cyanide trafficking operations. This reflects a broader challenge in law enforcement where communication strategies are not always aligned with the complexities of the cases at hand (Duxbury & Haynie, 2020).

An effective communication strategy should encompass a range of techniques and methods that cater to the needs of both the investigator and the suspect (Calderoni, 2014; Cornish & Clarke, 2002). However, the study finds that investigators' communication efforts often lack depth, particularly when dealing with suspects who are already in custody. This limitation prevents investigators from obtaining detailed information that could be crucial for dismantling trafficking networks. The lack of a systematic approach to communication undermines the ability of investigators to gather actionable intelligence and build a thorough case (Kleemans & de Poot, 2008; Levi, 2012).

The interviews with investigators reveal that the failure to communicate effectively with suspects is partly due to their limited investigative skills and a lack of training in advanced communication techniques. This aligns with findings from previous research that highlight the importance of continuous professional development for investigators, including training in effective communication strategies (Morselli, 2009; Paoli & Fijnaut, 2006). The study also underscores the necessity of integrating communication strategies into the investigative process from the outset to enhance the overall effectiveness of law enforcement operations.

The research further suggests that the management of cyanide trafficking cases requires a more nuanced approach, incorporating both immediate and long-term communication strategies. This includes establishing early rapport with suspects to facilitate the disclosure of critical information and applying persuasion techniques to encourage cooperation (Suprpto & Fahrianoor, 2004; Thibaut & Kelley, 1959). Effective persuasion can enhance the quality of information obtained and improve the overall success of investigations.

Additionally, the findings indicate that investigators need to adopt a more proactive stance in communicating with suspects, particularly when dealing with high-risk substances like cyanide. The study highlights the need for a comprehensive communication framework that supports both the tactical and strategic aspects of investigations (Savona & Riccardi, 2015; Sergi, 2017). This framework should include guidelines for engaging suspects, addressing their concerns, and leveraging their cooperation to build stronger cases.

In conclusion, the research points to several areas for improvement in the communication strategies employed by the NTB Regional Police. By adopting more sophisticated communication techniques and investing in ongoing training for investigators, the effectiveness of handling illegal cyanide trafficking can be significantly enhanced. The integration of these strategies into the broader investigative framework will support more effective case management and contribute to better outcomes in combating this critical issue (Soudijn & Zegers, 2012; Spapens & Moors, 2019).

6. Conclusions

Currently, the cyanide trade problem is in accordance with the research problem formulation above. The following is a description of each problem in the research, namely. Steps to prevent investigators are of particular concern in line with the growing public awareness that the trade in cyanide as a deadly item is difficult for the public to avoid because it cannot be traded. Sellers and buyers or trade in cyanide as a prohibited merchandise by making a profit from selling what they buy means that the seller makes a profit from the sale, while the buyer makes a profit from trading cyanide by controlling what he has bought as an ingredient for purifying gold stones, and so on. Related to this, the threat of trading cyanide in order to get gold is a blessing

for gold farmers with the help of cyanide. However, in the jurisdiction of Central Lombok, West Lombok, Sekotong section, people buy cyanide for the purpose of purifying rocks into gold pellets, which is a good fortune for the gold cultivating community. The steps to overcome the acceleration of the cyanide trade are first; There must be support from all elements of the government and other parties, especially related to supervision at each gold mining location, secondly, the formation of a Reskrimsus team or Integrated Work Team for the Prevention and Handling of Cyanide Trafficking. The three terms of service of the integrated work team or Criminal Investigation Team in the last few years have still been very less than optimal as expected. Because considering the size of the legal area, the distance is very far, while human resources are still low and very lacking to speed up the handling of cyanide cases, it is not yet optimal.

The inhibiting factor is that the Criminal Investigation Department has the following duties: a. supervising everyone who carries out less than optimal trade due to insufficient human resources; b. Carrying out inspections of goods being bought and sold which are suspected to be related to the criminal act of cyanide trafficking must involve community leaders around the mining site. c. must record the identity data of people suspected of being related to the crime of cyanide trafficking; d. prevent and detain people suspected of being involved in cyanide trafficking crimes; e. coordinate with related agencies for further processes regarding both prevention and handling of criminal acts of cyanide trafficking; f. provide information or information to the wider community about criminal attempts to trade cyanide which is very dangerous for human growth.

The strategy for local governments in preventing cyanide trafficking has the following task details: a. planning criminal cases of cyanide trafficking; b. developing human resources in preventing criminal acts of cyanide trafficking to suspects; c. provide education to the public about the dangers of cyanide and the threats to illegal gold farmers; and D. facilitate the realization of community participation in preventing criminal acts of illegal sodium cyanide trafficking and protecting the surrounding environment to prevent disasters and the danger of flooding.

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