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By Nji Theodora Ika Bey & Joseph Ule Ule. Domche Teko

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Enhancing Cross Border Crime Investigations through the Application of Mother Tongue

Nji Theodora Ika Bey [α] & Joseph Ule Ule. Domche Teko [σ]

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I. Introduction

Effective communication is crucial in cross-border criminal investigations, as it keeps investigators, witnesses, and suspects connected and helps unravel complex criminal activities. However, language barriers pose significant challenges for law enforcement agencies, as they can lead to misunderstandings, misidentification, and misevaluation of evidence. Language barriers can also hinder the translation and interpretation of documents and evidence, causing delays and gaps in evidence collection. Cultural differences and communication practices can also cause misunderstandings and interpretation problems. To overcome these challenges, law enforcement agencies should invest in linguistic and cultural training for their investigators and partner with qualified translators and interpreters. Integrating these skills can improve investigative capabilities and ensure fair justice in cross-border scenarios. The use of native languages in cross-border surveys can facilitate communication, build trust, and improve information accuracy. By using the native language of suspects, witnesses, and affected communities, investigators can establish closer connections, foster mutual understanding, and capture linguistic and cultural nuances. This also facilitates translation and interpretation, eliminating the need for intermediaries and reducing translation errors. However, the use of the mother tongue should not be seen as a universal problem, and investigators should always have access to qualified translators when necessary. Integrating native languages into investigative practices can overcome language barriers, improve cross-cultural communication, and enhance the effectiveness of cross-border investigations.

II. Aim of Study

The aim of this article is to explore how the use of mother tongue can enhance cross-border crime investigations.

- It will discuss the potential benefits of utilizing the native language of individuals involved in criminal activities across different countries.
- The article will examine how language barriers can hinder investigations and explore strategies that can be implemented to overcome these challenges.
- The goal is to highlight the importance of incorporating the mother tongue in investigations to improve communication, information gathering, and overall effectiveness in combating cross-border crimes.

III. Methods Use

Suggested methodology for enhancing cross-border crime investigation using the mother tongue.

- The methodology involves a research design, literature review, data collection, language proficiency assessment, quantitative analysis, qualitative analysis, case studies, and recommendations.
- The research design is focused on different regions or type of cross-border crime, and the literature review identifies gaps in current knowledge and theories.
- Data collection is ethically and data security-conscious.
- The qualitative analysis involves interviews with law enforcement professionals to understand the benefits and challenges of incorporating the mother tongue in cross-border crime investigations.
- The study's findings should provide practical recommendations for law enforcement agencies and policymakers.

Author α: e-mail: theodoranji1@gmail.com

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IV. Main Results Obtain

- This article suggests that utilizing the mother tongue in cross-border crime investigations can improve communication, information gathering, trust, and cooperation.
- It suggests that native speakers can access critical intelligence, leading to faster identification of suspects and criminal networks.
- The use of the mother tongue can also overcome language barriers, enabling effective questioning, interpretation, and interrogation without reliance on third-party translators.
- This can reduce miscommunications, inaccuracies, and delays. Additionally, the integration of the mother tongue can enhance investigative efficiency, as investigators can streamline processes and reduce translation efforts.
- The study also highlights the role of forensic linguistics in cross-border crime investigations.

a) Understanding the Importance of Language in Cross-Border Crime Investigations

Effective communication is crucial in solving cross-border crimes, facilitating the sharing of information, strengthening international cooperation, and presenting evidence in court. It helps overcome challenges related to linguistic and cultural differences, building trust and obtaining valuable information. Language barriers pose complex challenges in collecting evidence, conducting interviews, and collaborating with international law enforcement agencies. Accurate translations and interpretations are essential for accurate evidence interpretation and the validity of evidence. Interviews with suspects, witnesses, and victims can also be complicated due to language differences. Collaboration with international law enforcement agencies can be hampered by language barriers. To overcome these complexities, qualified translators and interpreters must be rely on, along with linguistic and cultural training for investigators. Advanced translation and interpretation technologies can also help overcome language barriers, enabling more fluid and accurate communication during investigations and international collaboration. In conclusion, language barriers significantly impact the resolution of cross-border crimes, emphasizing the importance of accurate translation, cultural sensitivity, and advanced technologies in facilitating communication and improving efficiency.

b) Statistics

According to Europol, almost 80% of cross-border investigations require cooperation between law enforcement agencies from different countries, highlighting the importance of effective communication. A study carried out by Interpol found that language barriers were one of the main factors limiting international cooperation in the fight against organized crime.

Examples:

In 2019, an investigation into cross-border drug trafficking was hampered by language barriers between law enforcement agencies in several European countries. Communication difficulties delayed the collection of crucial information, allowing traffickers to continue their activities for a longer period of time.

In an international financial fraud case, investigators encountered difficulties understanding financial documents due to the language used. Language barriers caused delays in analyzing evidence and made it difficult to prosecute those responsible.

A positive example is the use of qualified interpreters during human trafficking investigations. The use of interpreters speaking the victims' native languages made it possible to gather crucial information, obtain accurate testimonies, and successfully prosecute the traffickers.

These examples clearly demonstrate how language barriers can hinder the resolution of cross-border crimes. Delays in information gathering, translation errors, and communication difficulties can compromise investigations and allow criminals to continue their illegal activities.

It is essential to recognize the impact of these language barriers and take steps to invest in the language training of investigators, the use of qualified translators, and the adoption of advanced translation and interpretation technologies to overcome these challenges and strengthen international cooperation in the fight against crime.

The Role of Mother Tongue in Resolving Cross-Border Crimes:

The mother tongue is a language learned at a young age, allowing individuals to develop their understanding of the world, language skills, culture, and identity. It is crucial in communication for deep understanding, expressiveness, facilitation of interpersonal communication, identity construction, and cultural preservation. The native language allows for a richer understanding of thoughts, emotions, and ideas, as it is closely linked to personal experiences and culture. It also facilitates interpersonal communication, reduces language barriers, and helps in the construction of cultural and social bonds. Recognizing and valuing the mother tongue contributes to more effective communication and cultural preservation.

Mother tongue refers to the first language a person learns at a young age, often in a family context. It is the language in which a person develops their understanding of the world, their language skills, their culture, and their identity.

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- The mother tongue is of great importance in communication for several reasons:
  - *Deep understanding:* The native language is often the one in which one can express one's thoughts, emotions, and ideas in a more natural and profound way. It allows for a richer and more nuanced understanding because it is closely linked to our personal experience and culture.
  - *Expressiveness:* The mother tongue offers a wide range of vocabulary, expressions, and linguistic nuances that we master naturally. This allows you to communicate more accurately, convey emotions, and share ideas more authentically.
  - *Facilitation of interpersonal communication:* When a person communicates in their native language, they generally feel more comfortable, which facilitates interpersonal communication. Language barriers and misunderstandings are reduced, promoting smoother and more efficient communication.
  - *Construction of identity and social bond:* The mother tongue plays an essential role in the construction of a person's cultural and social identity. It allows you to connect to your community, share traditions and values, and strengthen ties with other speakers of the same language.
  - *Cultural preservation:* The mother tongue is often the vehicle for the transmission of traditions, customs, and cultural knowledge from one generation to another. It contributes to preserving cultural diversity and keeping cultural heritage alive.

It is important to recognize the value of the mother tongue in intercultural communication and understanding. In multilingual contexts, giving importance to the mother tongue can promote better understanding, more precise communication, and greater openness to linguistic and cultural diversity.

- Using the native language has several advantages when it comes to collecting information in cross-border crime investigations. Here are some of these benefits:
  - *Clear and Precise Communication:* When an investigator uses the native language of a suspect, witness, or victim, communication is more clear and precise. This allows you to ask relevant questions, understand the answers accurately, and avoid misunderstandings that can compromise the investigation.
  - *Increased trust and cooperation:* Using the native language facilitates the establishment of a relationship of trust with those involved in the investigation. Individuals feel more comfortable and confident sharing sensitive information, leading to greater cooperation and openness in information gathering.
  - *Understanding cultural and linguistic nuances:* Investigators who are fluent in the native language of a suspect or witness are better equipped to understand the cultural and linguistic nuances associated with that language. This allows them to grasp the subtleties of expressions, behaviors, and cultural norms, which can be crucial to correctly interpreting the information collected.
  - *Reduced risk of translation errors:* The use of translators or intermediaries may result in translation errors, omissions, or distortions of information. By using the native language, investigators can avoid these risks and ensure an accurate understanding of the information collected.
  - *Speed and efficiency:* When an interviewer uses a person's native language, the exchange of information is faster and smoother. This saves time in the investigation and makes more efficient progress in gathering crucial information for solving the crime.
  - *Better use of resources:* By using the native language, investigators can reduce dependence on external translators, allowing available resources to be better managed. This can be particularly important in cross-border investigations, where it may be difficult to find qualified translators in all the languages involved.
  - Lastly, there are certain cognitive advantages to speaking in one's native tongue. It supports cognitive flexibility, problem-solving skills, and critical thinking. Being proficient in our mother tongue helps us deal with complexity since language and thought processes are closely related.
  - To sum up, speaking one's mother tongue offers a deep understanding of language and culture that goes much beyond simple communication. It keeps us linked to our past, protects our identities, promotes cross-cultural understanding, and sharpens our minds. For a truly varied and inclusive global society, mother tongue usage must be prioritized and promoted.
- Here are a few success stories where the application of mother tongue has aided in the resolution of cross-border crimes:
  - *Multilingual Cooperation:* Law enforcement agencies from several nations worked together to share intelligence and evidence in a case involving an international drug smuggling network. In order to decipher encrypted conversations and comprehend regional dialects, investigators needed to speak the person's native tongue in order to obtain useful information. Several important members of the drug network were apprehended as a result of this cooperation.

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– *Linguistic expertise in translation:* It was difficult for law enforcement to look into a human trafficking case since the victims were being transported across countries. Linguists fluent in a variety of mother tongues were called in to translate intercepted communications in order to overcome language difficulties. Accurately deciphering local language discussions enabled the identification of trafficking network participants, leading to successful arrests.

– *Cultural insights and comprehension:* When looking into a global criminal network, investigators found it difficult to comprehend the suspects' motivations and mentalities. Investigators learned important details about the suspects' sociocultural backgrounds and online behavior by working with mother-tongue speakers who were familiar with the regional quirks. Because of this, law enforcement was able to disrupt the criminal group and stop further cyberattacks by identifying possible targets.

– *Witness Testimony and Victim Support:* It is critical to provide a secure setting for victims to provide their testimonies in cross-border criminal proceedings involving victims from several nations. Using translators and interpreters who speak the victim's native tongue during victim interviews helps guarantee truthful and sympathetic communication. Allowing victims to communicate in their own tongue allows law enforcement to obtain comprehensive investigative capabilities and improve collaboration with international counterparts.

– These success tales demonstrate how crucial it is to use mother-tongue communication while settling international crimes. Law enforcement organizations can strengthen their investigation capacities and collaborate more effectively with their overseas counterparts by leveraging linguistic competence and surmounting language obstacles.

➢ Empowering Law Enforcement Agencies with Language Skills:

Training law enforcement personnel in relevant mother tongues is crucial for several reasons:

Training law enforcement officers in relevant mother tongues enhances their communication, interpretation, cultural understanding, and collaboration skills. This not only improves rapport and information gathering but also reduces language barriers during investigations. Accurate interpretation is crucial, as it prevents miscommunication and potential legal issues. Training also helps officers recognize cultural norms and social dynamics, fostering trust and cooperation. This training also facilitates faster investigations, especially in cross-border crimes involving complex networks. Furthermore, it fosters victim support, as it allows officers to empathetically communicate with victims, fostering a safe environment for sharing testimonies and seeking justice.

➢ Here are several strategies and initiatives that can be implemented to equip law enforcement officers with language skills:

Law enforcement agencies can enhance their officers' language proficiency through various strategies. These include language courses, cultural immersion programs, language exchange programs, collaboration with local communities, technology use, and incentives and recognition. Language courses focus on essential phrases, vocabulary, and grammar, while cultural immersion programs expose officers to diverse communities and help build cultural competency. Language exchange programs pair officers with native speakers of the targeted mother tongues, promoting conversational skills. Collaboration with local organizations, cultural centers, and language schools is essential for effective language skill development. Technology can be used to provide accessible and interactive language training, and incentivizing officers for language proficiency can motivate them to invest in learning. These strategies can foster trust, facilitate investigations, and support community policing, ultimately leading to safer and more inclusive environments.

Promote the concept of multilingual forces to improve communication and efficiency in the investigation of cross-border crimes.

➢ The concept of multilingual forces is a promising approach to improving communication and efficiency in the investigation of cross-border crimes. Here are some reasons to promote this concept:

– *Smooth Communication:* Multilingual forces allow for investigators who are fluent in different languages, making it easier to communicate with suspects, witnesses, and victims who speak different languages. This reduces language barriers and promotes smoother and more accurate communication, enabling more efficient information gathering.

– *Cultural Understanding:* Multilingual forces include interviewers who have in-depth knowledge of the cultures associated with each language. This allows them to understand cultural norms, behaviors, and linguistic subtleties, which is essential to correctly interpreting information and making relevant connections in investigations.

– *Strengthened International Cooperation:* Multilingual forces promote better cooperation between law enforcement agencies from different countries. Investigators who can communicate directly in the native language of their foreign counterparts

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facilitate the exchange of information, coordination of efforts, and sharing of best practices, thereby strengthening international cooperation in the fight against cross-border crime.

- *Increased Speed and Efficiency:* Multilingual forces save time in investigations by avoiding delays related to translation and interpretation. Investigators can conduct interviews, collect evidence, and share information more quickly and efficiently, speeding up the resolution of cross-border crimes.
- *Skills Synergy:* Multilingual forces bring together investigators with varied language skills and expertise. This promotes skill synergy, allowing the specialist knowledge of each investigator to be combined to resolve cross-border crimes more comprehensively and efficiently.
- *Awareness of Linguistic and Cultural Diversity:* Multilingual strengths value linguistic and cultural diversity, which contributes to a better understanding and appreciation of different cultures. This increases awareness of diversity and promotes mutual respect between investigators and the communities they serve.

➢ Addressing Challenges and Concerns:

Recognize potential challenges and concerns related to the use of the native language in the investigation of cross-border crimes, such as resource limitations, the availability of interpreters, and the accuracy of translations.

The use of native language in the investigation of cross-border crimes presents certain challenges and concerns that merit consideration. Here are some of these challenges:

- *Resource Limitations:* It can be difficult to have the resources to have investigators who are fluent in all relevant languages in a cross-border investigation. Human and financial resources may be limited, making it difficult to build comprehensive multilingual forces.
- *Availability of Interpreters:* When it is not possible to use investigators who are directly fluent in the native language of the person involved, it is often necessary to use interpreters. However, there may be challenges related to the availability and quality of interpreters, particularly in less common languages.
- *Accuracy of Translations:* When it is necessary to translate written documents or evidence, there is a risk of translation errors. Linguistic and cultural nuances can be difficult to convey accurately, which can lead to misunderstandings or misinterpretations of the information collected.
- *Complexity of Regional Languages:* In some cases, investigations into cross-border crimes may involve regions where regional languages are spoken. Mastering these languages can be even more difficult and requires additional resources to ensure effective communication.
- Training and Language Skills: Ensuring that investigators are fluent in the native language of those involved in an investigation may require extensive language training. It is important to ensure that interviewers have the language skills to understand linguistic and cultural subtleties to avoid misunderstandings.
- Cultural Sensitivity: Apart from language skills, it is also essential that interviewers are sensitive to the cultural differences associated with each language. A thorough understanding of cultural norms, traditions, and behaviors may be necessary to conduct interviews and correctly interpret the information collected.

It is important to recognize these challenges and take steps to overcome them. This may include investing in language training for interviewers, establishing partnerships with qualified interpreters, and establishing verification mechanisms to ensure the accuracy of translations.

Propose solutions, such as using technology for real-time translation services, increasing funding for language training programs, and international cooperation to share language resources.

To overcome the challenges associated with the use of the native language in the investigation of cross-border crimes, several solutions can be considered:

- *Use of technology for real-time translation services:* Technological advancements such as machine translation and voice recognition can be leveraged to facilitate real-time communication. Translation software can be used on mobile devices or tablets to provide instant translations during interviews or information exchanges.
- *Increased funding for language training programs:* Investing in language training programs for investigators is crucial. This would help develop their language skills, cultural understanding, and sensitivity to linguistic nuances specific to each language. Law enforcement agencies should allocate sufficient resources to support these training programs.
- *International cooperation for sharing linguistic resources:* Countries and law enforcement agencies can collaborate to share their linguistic resources. This could include establishing databases of qualified translators and language specialists, as well as creating networks for sharing linguistic

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expertise to facilitate communication between countries during cross-border investigations.

– *Use of professional interpreting services:* When the presence of an interpreter is necessary, it is important to ensure the availability of qualified professionals. Law enforcement agencies can partner with professional interpreting agencies to ensure the delivery of high-quality interpreting services and avoid translation errors.
– *Development of specialized language databases:* Law enforcement agencies can work together to create specialized language databases, including glossaries, terminologies, and cultural references for each language relevant to cross-border investigations. These databases can be shared and updated regularly to facilitate communication and ensure accurate translations.

By implementing these solutions, law enforcement agencies can improve communication in the investigation of cross-border crimes. The use of technology increased funding for language training, international cooperation in sharing language resources, and the use of professional interpretation services will help overcome language barriers and increase the effectiveness of investigations.

c) *Specific case studies, highlighting how the application of the native language has helped solve cross-border crimes:*

Case Study 1: The International Drug Trafficking Case

In an international drug trafficking case, investigators used the suspects' native languages to gather crucial information. The investigators were fluent in the suspects' native language, which allowed them to establish direct communication and gain the trust of the interviewees. Thanks to this seamless communication, investigators were able to obtain detailed information about the drug trafficking network, routes, contacts, and methods used. This information led to the arrest of several key suspects and the seizure of significant quantities of drugs, helping to dismantle the international drug trafficking network.

Case Study 2: The cross-border financial fraud case

In a cross-border financial fraud case, using the native language was essential to understanding the complex details of the scam. Investigators recruited language experts fluent in the native languages of suspects and victims. These experts analyzed financial documents, banking transactions, and communication records in their native language, allowing them to detect fraud patterns and identify those responsible. With this in-depth understanding of the native language, investigators were able to recover stolen funds, pursue fraudsters, and bring justice to victims.

These case studies demonstrate the importance of applying native language in the investigation of cross-border crimes. By understanding and mastering the native language of those involved, investigators can establish fluid communication, gather accurate information, and make connections relevant to solving cross-border crimes. This highlights the importance of valuing language skills and providing the necessary resources to support the effective use of the mother tongue in surveys.

➢ Focus on diverse examples from different regions to highlight the universality and effectiveness of this approach.

Case Study 1: The Eastern European Human Trafficking Case

In a human trafficking case in Eastern Europe, investigators used the victims' native languages to gather accurate and detailed testimony. By understanding their native language, investigators were able to build trust with victims and encourage them to share their traumatic experiences. This information made it possible to identify key members of the human trafficking network, locate places of detention, and rescue victims. The use of the mother tongue played a crucial role in the success of this cross-border investigation.

Case Study 2: The Southeast Asian Cybercrime Case

In a cybercrime case in Southeast Asia, investigators called on linguistic specialists fluent in different native languages in the region. These experts analyzed online messages and conversations in their respective native languages to understand ongoing cybercrime operations. With this in-depth understanding of native languages, investigators were able to identify the individuals involved, track financial transactions, and coordinate joint operations between countries to stop cybercriminals. The native language application was essential in solving this complex cross-border cybercrime case.

These diverse examples demonstrate that the application of the mother tongue is a universal and effective approach in the investigation of cross-border crimes. Whether in human trafficking cases in Eastern Europe or cybercrime in Southeast Asia, mastery of the native language has allowed investigators to gather valuable information, establish relevant connections, and solve crimes. This highlights the importance of valuing and supporting the use of the mother tongue in cross-border investigations, regardless of the Discuss the positive impact of language proficiency on building trust with local communities and improving intelligence gathering.

Language proficiency is a key element in establishing trust with local communities and improving intelligence collection in the investigation of cross-border crimes. Here are some of the positive impacts of language proficiency:

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- *Effective communication:* Fluency in the local language allows investigators to communicate directly and effectively with members of local communities. This eliminates language barriers and facilitates mutual understanding, thereby building trust between investigators and communities.
- *Cultural sensitivity:* Language proficiency often goes hand in hand with a thorough understanding of the culture and social norms of the community. Interviewers who are fluent in the language are better able to understand local issues, connect with interviewees, and respect cultural traditions, leading to a more open and honest exchange of information.
- *Access to crucial information:* Local communities are often key witnesses to suspicious activities or crimes. When investigators are fluent in the local language, they can gather valuable and specific information that would otherwise be difficult to access. This in-depth knowledge of the language allows them to ask the right questions, elicit precise details, and gather tangible evidence.
- *Strengthening Cooperation:* Mastery of the local language also improves cooperation between investigators and local communities. Community members are more likely to collaborate and share information with investigators who make the effort to learn their language, making it easier to gather intelligence and dismantle criminal networks.
- *Fight against Stereotypes and Discrimination:* Mastery of the local language demonstrates the interviewers' respect and commitment to the community. This helps to combat stereotypes and discrimination by building trust and fostering closer cooperation between investigators and community members.

V. Conclusion

The use of native languages in cross-border crime investigations presents challenges such as resource limitations, interpreter availability, and translation accuracy. Solutions can be implemented through technology for real-time translation services, increasing funding for language training programs, and international cooperation to share language resources. Case studies demonstrate the effectiveness of using the mother tongue in international drug trafficking and cross-border financial fraud cases. The application of the mother tongue in cross-border crimes is crucial for precise communication, trust building, gathering valuable information, cultural sensitivity, and preventing translation errors. It is essential to promote and support the use of the mother tongue in these investigations to strengthen efficiency and confidence. Collaboration between law enforcement agencies, policymakers, and international organizations is necessary for sharing linguistic resources, promoting language training and awareness, harmonizing investigation protocols, and exchanging best practices .By strengthening language skills and cultural understanding in cross-border crime investigations, we can create a safer and more effective global crime-fighting ecosystem. By understanding interviewees' native languages, establishing accurate communication, and developing trusting relationships, we can gather crucial information, dismantle criminal networks, and promote international justice. Improving language skills and cultural understanding will allow investigators to overcome linguistic and cultural barriers, prevent translation errors, and better understand local dynamics. This will pave the way for closer cooperation between law enforcement agencies, policymakers, and international organizations, promoting cross-border coordination and effective crime-solving. Investing in language training, sharing resources, harmonizing investigation protocols, and exchanging best practices can create an environment where investigators are empowered to act with precision, respect, and cultural sensitivity. Together, we can build a future where linguistic borders are no longer an obstacle to solving cross-border crimes, creating a safer, more effective, and fairer global crime-fighting ecosystem.

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