



The fifth international conference:

LANGUAGE AND LAW – TRADITIONS, TRENDS AND PERSPECTIVES

The Białystok Legal English Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Białystok, Poland

9th-10th June 2021

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Białystok Legal English Centre (BLEC) is happy to announce its fifth international conference: **Language and Law – Traditions, Trends and Perspectives** which will take place at the Faculty of Law, University of Białystok, Poland.

THEME

The Conference aspires to provide a forum for sharing both theoretical and empirical findings, as well as pedagogical practices on the broad topic of Legal English. It is hoped that the contributions will cover issues concerning research traditions, current trends and perspectives in the subject area.

ORGANISERS:

The Conference is organized by the Białystok Legal English Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Białystok, Poland.

The Scientific Committee:

- Prof. UŁ dr hab. Stanisław Goźdz-Roszkowski
- Prof. UAM dr hab. Aleksandra Matulewska
- Prof. UwB dr hab. Anna Piszcz
- Associate Professor, Ph. D. Ljubica Kordić
- Dr Halina Sierocka

The Organising Committee:

- Dr hab. Izabela Kraśnicka
- Dr Halina Sierocka
- Mgr Patryk Topolski

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

VIJAY KUMAR BHATIA

English for Legal Communication Programmes: Exploiting Statutory Genres

Statutory writing, though very complex and difficult to process, has always been considered the core of legal discourse in the practice of law. Most people, including (applied)linguists and newly initiated legal experts, have often avoided any encounter with this form of writing. Moreover, it is interesting to note that statutory writing, more than any other professional writing, demonstrates a typical use of lexico-grammar, which is an important aspect of interpretation of law (Bhatia, 2005). However, it is surprising that in spite of its distinctive prominence in legal communication, it has never figured in English for Legal Communication (ELC) programmes (Candlin et al, 2002), which appears to be a matter of pedagogic convenience rather than curriculum need. Drawing on recent research in Critical Genre Theory, which has shown that statutory genres contribute significantly to the intertextual as well as interdiscursive appropriation of genre conventions (Bhatia, 2017) across a wide range of legal practices, I would like to argue for their inclusion in ELC curriculum to facilitate a more informed understanding and appreciation of legal discourse (Bhatia, 1993). In this talk, I would like to give more substance to this claim and argue for a reorientation of ELC curriculum to include some of the key aspects of statutory genres as input to teaching materials, thus making it easier for learners to manage most other forms of legal communication, such as cases, judgements, contracts, agreements, and even courtroom interaction.

References:

- Bhatia, V. K., (1993): *Analysing Genre --Language Use in Professional Settings*, London, Longman.
- Bhatia, V. K., (2005): Plain English in Asia, Clarity and Obscurity in Legal Language.
- Bhatia, V. K., (2017): *Critical Genre Analysis: Interdiscursive Performance in Professional Practice*, Routledge.
- Candlin, C. N., Vijay K Bhatia, and C. Jensen, (2002): 'Must the Worlds Collide? Professional and Academic Discourses in the Study and Practice of Law', in Giuseppina Cortese and Philip Riley (Eds.) (2002): *Domain-specific English: Textual Practices Across Communities and Classrooms*, Bern, Peter Lang (101-114).

Vijay Bhatia retired as Professor from City University of Hong Kong and is now Adjunct Professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Visiting Professor at the Hellenic American University in Athens (Greece). Some of his research projects include *Analyzing Genre-bending in Corporate Disclosure Practices*, and *International Arbitration Practice: A Discourse Analytical Study*, in which he led research teams from more than 20 countries. His research interests include, (Critical) Genre Analysis of academic and professional discourses in legal, business, promotional, and new media contexts; ESP and Professional Communication; simplification and easification of legal and other public documents. Three of his monographs on genre theory, *Analysing Genre: Language Use in Professional Settings* (1993), *Worlds of Written Discourse: A Genre-based View* (2004), and *Critical Genre Analysis: Interdiscursive Performance in Professional Practice* (2017) are widely used in genre theory and practice.

GÁBOR GYULAI

**Linguistic and Intercultural Distortions in Legal Practice –
Challenges and How to Resolve them**

Laws, administrative decisions, judgments and treaties exist through the words and sentences that make up their content. Official hearings, interrogations and negotiations are conducted through explicit, verbal communication. Law, and even its most abstract concepts, are always embodied through the means of language. Therefore, language and its wider cultural context have a pivotal impact on how legal norms are born and interpreted in daily practice. Yet, legal systems around the world often remain blind to this enormous source of distortion, creating a hotbed for discrimination and misunderstandings with a potentially dramatic impact on the outcome of legal procedures. Based on a rich selection of practical examples, the intervention will present a few typical scenarios of how linguistic and cultural diversity can affect the proper application of law, including both monolingual (such as the legalese vs plain language dichotomy) and multilingual examples (such as technical and semantic distortions in legal procedures conducted with the use of an interpreter). The intervention will conclude by showing examples of how to reduce the impact of these challenges with the means of law, education and simple awareness.

Gábor Gyulai is the director of the Refugee Programme at the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, a leading a multiple award-winning human rights NGO in Central Europe. He has been working in the field of asylum since 2000. His particular professional interests in this field are evidence and credibility assessment in asylum procedures; interdisciplinary (psychological, intercultural, linguistic and gender) issues related to asylum; human rights safeguards concerning the detention of migrants; nationality and statelessness; as well as innovative training, communication and capacity-building methods in the field of human rights and forced migration. He has extensively researched and published on these issues. Gábor is a passionate international trainer: in the past fifteen years he taught over three thousand lawyers, judges, public administration and police officers, journalists, professors, NGO workers and staff members of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) from all continents of the world, on various topics related to asylum, migration and statelessness, in six languages. He is the president and a founding member of the European Network on Statelessness (ENS), a listed expert with the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) and an external expert with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO).

LJUBICA KORDIĆ

Metaphors Lawyers Live by

The usage of metaphor in languages for specific purposes has been in the focus of interest of cognitive linguistics for years, especially after Lakoff and Johnson published their famous book “Metaphors We Live by” in 1980. They have proven that a metaphor is a basic process pervading all our speaking, thinking, and acting (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980). Inspired by that book, the author of this plenary speech aims to prove that a metaphor was intensely present in the history of law as it pervades the language of legal theory and practice in modern times. Terms like *injury of law*, *burden of evidence*, *soft laws*, *hard laws*, etc. are so often used by lawyers in their professional communication that they hardly recognize them as metaphors.

In the introductory part, the terms *conceptual metaphor* and *lexical metaphor*, as well as *the source domain* and *the target domain of the metaphor* are defined. Accordingly, conceptual metaphor and lexical metaphor are interpreted from the perspective of the language of law. As an introduction to the discussion of currently used metaphoric terms in the field of law, a number of metaphoric legal expressions will be discussed from the historical point of view, indicating that the metaphoric and other poetic expressions were recognized as the features of legalese back in the early 17th century.

In the main part, the author presents and discusses most common conceptual metaphors in connection with the terms *law*, *justice*, *court*, and some metaphors typically used in the criminal law, company law and the contract law. The examples that are excerpted from selected Legal English dictionaries and textbooks are organized and discussed in three main groups: structural, orientational and ontological metaphors. Special attention is paid to metaphoric terms and phrases of the EU Law based on the analysis of the Treaty Establishing the European Community (Consolidated version 2002). In the closing part, some interesting examples of the metaphoric use of colours in legal expressions will be discussed from the perspective of cognitive linguistics.

Keywords: metaphor, the language of law, cognitive linguistics, conceptual metaphors

Ljubica Kordić is an Associate Professor at the University of Osijek, Faculty of Law, Croatia. She holds a PhD in Linguistics from the University of Zagreb, Croatia. She has been teaching German and English as foreign languages since 1984. Since 1994, she has been teaching Legal English and Legal German at the Faculty of Law, University of Osijek, Croatia. Her main research interests are languages for specific purposes (Legal English and Legal German), applied linguistics, legal linguistics and sociolinguistics, especially multilingualism and minority languages. She has published more than 50 scientific papers, authored two books, co-authored two books and translated one book from German into Croatian. Ljubica Kordić is a member of several international and national associations: Croatian Applied Linguistics Society (CALs), EULETA, Kroatischer Deutschlehrerverband (KDV), Eurolinguistics Association.

ANNE WAGNER

The Endless History of Law - The *Perpetual Pendulum* in Legal Translation

The legal translation process is swirled in an ever-changing whirlwind of concepts in both the source and target languages. The large variance is sometimes significant in this translation process, or rather legal transfer, since it calls for precision, meticulousness and skill on the translator's side. This is a constant requirement that is questioned by the perpetual transformation of society and by the adjustment of new rules, which sometimes result in minor changes, sometimes in profound modifications in meaning. This perpetual pendulum of meaning steadily entails a complex translation process of the law as a living organism. And yet this living entity called law means that legal translation simultaneously is a living organism subject to both internal (source language) and external (target language) influences to overcome this perpetual pendulum, while considering that it is invariably and inevitably bound to a precise time and space.

In this presentation, we will endeavor, by means of some concrete examples, to show the evolving nature of the law and its resulting challenges in transferring it from one language to another.

Anne Wagner, Ph. D and Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches in Private Law, is Research Associate Professor at Lille University, ULR 4487 - CRDP - Centre de recherche Droits et perspectives du droit (France). Her main research interests lie in visual jurisprudence, legal semiotics, visual studies, language and law, legal culture and heritage, legal translation, legal terminology, law and the Humanities, and legal discourse studies. She has received the National Research Award (Rank A) for her research career. Anne Wagner has published extensively in the areas of legal semiotics and legal discourse analyses. Anne Wagner is the Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law* (Springer), she is the President of the *International Roundtables for the Semiotics of Law*, she is the Series Co-Editor of *Law, Language and Communication* (Routledge). She has been invited as Visiting Research Fellow at Örebro University in Sweden (2018, 2019), China University of Political Science and Law in China Beijing (2018, 2016, 2015, 2014), Zhejiang University in China (2017, 2018), Shanghai Jiao Tong University (2013), Zhejiang Police College in China (2012), City University of Hong Kong (2010). She has also guest lectured for the *Law and Humanities course* in Rome at Università degli Studi RomaTre (2014). She was invited to give talks in Italy, Sweden, Poland, Hungary, Germany, Spain, Finland, UK, Portugal, Estonia, China, Hong Kong, Brazil, Israel, Australia, and U.S.A. Launching in late summer 2019, Anne Wagner and Sarah Marusek (University of Hawai'i Hilo on Hawai'i Island - USA) are co-editors for the [Law and Visual Jurisprudence Book Series](#) with Springer.

Possible themes include, but are not limited to the following subject areas:

1. Legal languages and legal discourse

- legal genres
- analysis of legal discourse
- development of legal language
- legal terminology
- the European Union legal language
- legal discourse in different legal systems
- methodological aspects of academic genre analysis
- cross-cultural implications of genre use
- genre and the ESL / EFL / ELF community

2. Teaching and learning Legal English

- modern approaches & methods used in teaching Legal English
- developing language skills in a Legal English course
- syllabus design
- needs analysis for legal professionals
- the role of authentic materials
- developing materials for Legal English classes
- the role of the Legal English teacher
- the Legal English teacher as a researcher
- the impact of information technology on teaching and learning Legal English (e-learning, webinars, blended learning)
- assessment and grading in a Legal English course
- international certificates of Legal English (TOLES)
- intercultural dimension of teaching and learning Legal English

3. Legal translation and court interpreting:

- issues in translation and interpretation
- teaching and learning legal translation and court interpreting
- sworn translators and interpreters in legal proceedings
- mistranslations and misinterpreting in the legal context
- harmonisation and standardisation in translation and interpretation
- terminology and lexicography
- preparation of glossaries and dictionaries of professional terminology

4. Teaching law in English

- team teaching
- students' inadequacies in the specialist subject
- language or content – English for Specific Purposes (ESP) or a Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) approach?
- learners' specialist knowledge etc.

5. Other issues in English for Specific Purposes

- the role of languages for specific purposes in the 21st century
- other varieties of English for Specific Purposes (Business English, Medical English, Technical English etc.)
- professional disciplines: EAP (English for Academic Purposes) or EOP (English for Occupational Purposes)?
- the Bologna process in an ESP course,
- multilingualism and ESP.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

SCHEDULE:

The conference will be held on **9th and 10th June 2021**.

EQUIPMENT:

The conference will be held online on **ZOOM platform**.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Submission of abstracts: **no later than 26th April 2021**

Notification of acceptance: **by 9th of May 2021**

Registration: **by 23rd May 2021**

REGISTRATION:

Online registration can be effected between **9th May 2021 and 23rd May 2021** using the form attached here/below. **The conference fee is 20 EUR.**

*All the cancellations should be notified **no later than 30 May 2021**. In any case, a cancellation fee of 10 EUR will be charged.

Please note:

No registration can be processed unless a copy of the bank transfer is attached. All bank charges are to be borne by the participant.

METHODS OF PAYMENT: by bank transfer to the University of Białystok
Uniwersytet w Białymstoku
ul. Świerkowa 20B
15-328 Białystok, Poland

Bank Millennium S. A.
ul. Stanisława Żaryna 2A
02 - 593 Warszawa

account number: 86 1160 2202 0000 0000 6000 1031

SWIFT: BIGBPLPW

IBAN: PL 86 1160 2202 0000 0000 6000 1031

with the postscript **“LL 2021”** followed by the participant’s surname.

*Please remember to email a copy of your bank transfer, together with the registration form, to **blec.uwb@gmail.com** as soon as the transfer has been effected.

SUBMISSIONS:

The deadline for submissions of abstracts is 26th April 2021. Please send your abstract (approx. 300 words) to **blec.uwb@gmail.com** as a DOC attachment. Acceptance will be notified by 9th May 2021. A selection of accepted papers will be published in one of the scientific journals *the Białostockie Studia Prawnicze* (“*Białystok Legal Studies*”), *the International Journal for the Semiotics of Law, Comparative Legilinguistics* or *Studies in Logic, Grammar and Rhetoric*). Finalized versions of papers submitted for publication in the aforementioned journals should be emailed to **blec.uwb@gmail.com** by 20th September, 2021 at the latest. The formatting guidelines will be provided later.

HOW TO CONTACT US:

By email: blec.uwb@gmail.com

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See also: <https://prawo.uwb.edu.pl/konferencje>