

## Comparative Legilinguistics 18/2014

### Preface

Zuzana Nad' Ová in her paper *Distribution of semi-clause constructions in acts of parliament vs. appellate judgements* presents results of investigations performed in the light of syntactic analysis. The research is concentrated on semi-clause construction (SCC) and especially on non finite verb-forms. The corpus includes Acts of Parliament (AP) and appellate judgments (AJ) and it is analysed in the scope of some statistic data given by the author. Distribution of SCC and non finite verb-forms are widely discussed and illustrated by the examples. As it comes the conclusions it is said that syntactic analysis gives the opportunity to draw some general results, but also interesting results. The performed research is based on statistical data which improve its value. Moreover the structural approach to SCC was presented as adequate and useful tool to analyse and to interpret texts which are parallel to the corpus.

Next paper *Modal Values of Verbal Forms in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. A Linguistic Comparative Analysis of the English, Italian And Spanish Versions* written by Mariangela Copolella is also connected with corpus analysis. Subject of the paper is presentation of methods to express deontic, epistemic or performative values of verbal constructions. The comparative analysis was performed on the English, Italian and Spanish versions of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The results of the research are presented in contrast and specify the most characteristic and frequent methods to express modality, deontic or modal, in every analyzed national legal language. The paper includes valuable charts and graph containing statistical data which illustrate even more merit conclusions. The paper is very useful for further investigations of translatoric equivalence in legal translation theory and practice.

Last paper of the first part titled "Legilinguistics" is the paper of Karolina Paluszek *The Equal Authenticity of Official Language Versions of European Legislation in Light of their Consideration by the Court of Justice of the European Union*. It is devoted to comparative analysis of judgements of the the Court of Justice of the European Union. The aim of the research is to determine whether all official language versions of EU legislation are considered in the course of interpretation. The investigation is performed on eighty (80) judgements and the author concentrates on comparison of reconciliation methods. The research includes some statistical data which are congruent with the given results. The author determines that given results are only *prolegomena* to wider studies which should be performed on the larger volume of the material and underlines that a weak point of the research of that kind is limited number of documents in language versions different to analysed.

Second part of the volume is devoted to legal translation training. It contains the paper of Ewa KOŚCIAŁKOWSKA-OKOŃSKA entitled *Legal translation training in Poland: the profession's status, expectations, reality and progress towards (prospective) expertise?* It addresses translating legal texts from English into Polish and from Polish into English in the scope of skill development and translation teaching. The aim of the paper is to analyse translation teaching progress in contrary to still changing status of the translator profession. The investigation is accompanied with results of surveys filled by students. Conclusions underline that pragmatic, extra linguistic and linguistic knowledge should characterize both legal translation students and trainers.

## *Preface*

Last part of the volume contains two papers devoted to legal translation. First of them is the paper *Interpretation of ambiguous provisions of international investment treaties authenticated in two or more languages* written by Filip Balcerzak. The aim of the paper is to identify and to offer some solutions for interpretation of international investment treaties. The case study is performed on the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and the *Kilic Insaat v. Turkmenistan*, *Berschader v. Russia* and *Daimler v. Argentina* cases. The author points out that potential interpretative problems arises from the situations when the BITs have been authenticated in two or more languages do occur in practice of international investment law. The statement is confirmed by detail analysis of judicial interpretation in connection with Vienna Convention.

Last paper is the article of Justyna Walkowiak titled *One word, two languages, two interpretations: the Polish-Lithuanian treaty of 1994 and how it was (mis)understood*. It is devoted to meaning difference of one Polish word in the Treaty on Friendly Relations and Good Neighbourly Cooperation of the Republic of Lithuania and Republic of Poland of April 26, 1994. In contrary the equivalent Lithuanian word used in the same place of the treaty has only one meaning. The interpretation problem may arise in the situation where the mutual English version of the treaty was not accepted. The divergence in meaning of one word influenced the discourse which took place in media and in the public pinion of Poland and Lithuania.