

## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SYSTEM OF LEXICAL UNITS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN THE FIELD OF LAW

*Isanova Feruza Tulqinovna*

*Tashkent State Agrarian University*

*Teacher of the Department of Languages*

**Annotation:** The present article is devoted to the study of general features of English. Language of law. Language is used in every nation to write, interpret, and uphold the law. The English language of law is acknowledged as a distinct phenomenon. Some people claim it is strange. As a result, its esoteric and enigmatic nature has often drawn criticism. This study's main goal is to improve the comprehensibility of legal English through analysis.

**Key words:** language of law, lexical features, syntactic features, structure, linguistics.

In the course of their practical and scientific work, lawyers and other legal professionals employ the English legal language as a language subsystem to pronounce legal standards, both general and specialized. The legal written language that can be found in contracts, warrants, court papers, court invites, verdicts, judicial reports, legislation, judicial precedents, and legal correspondence is also taken into consideration here. A portion of the general language code and legal language, which stands for the normative legal code, make up the language of the law as a distinct language subsystem. The actual application of the legal language's components is accomplished through spoken or written legal discourse or actions, which result in what are known as legal messages. Pronouncing basic legal standards, special (particular) legal forms (sentences, decisions), legal reports, complaints, testimonies, verbal offenses, etc., are all examples of legal speech. These legal actions are legal activities in written form. The challenging comprehensiveness, "remoteness," and complexity of the English legal system, along with other legal systems, are some of their primary features for non-legal professionals. This is due, in part, to the fact that some historical records and case summaries, particularly in the context of the English legal system, are extremely valuable and that their reformulation may create ambiguity that some may exploit as a legal loophole. For this reason, governments frequently adopt versions of previous laws while enacting new ones.

The language of the law is a particular kind of language that is divided into two sections: normative legal language and generic language code. There are various areas where it varies from standard English: Legal language is characterized by several factors, including: a) long, complex sentences; b) the use of terms unfamiliar to non-

professionals in English; c) words from everyday language with special meanings in the legal domain; d) impersonal and passive constructions and nominalizations; e) the writing of legal acts in an emotionless, unexpressive, and rational manner; g) the unusual use of the modal verb "shall" in legal language.

It should come as no surprise to legal translators worldwide that the English language of law can be described as "... flabby, prolix, obscure, opaque, ungrammatical, dull, boring, redundant, disorganized, grey, dense, unimaginative, impersonal, ponderous, weaseling, overblown, pseudo-intellectual, hyperbolic, misleading, in civil, labored, bloodless, vacuous, pretentious, convoluted, rambling, incoherent, choked, archaic, orotund, and fuzzy." The language that lawyers use to create, interpret, and uphold the law is an immediate result of extremely complex socio-historical conditions in which it has developed for hundreds of years for the purposes of the legal system in which it has existed, i.e. the Common Law. This helps to explain the rationale behind the current status quo of the English language of law. Since the English language of law is so difficult for laypeople to understand, several projects have been made to simplify and make law more understandable in a number of nations, including the UK, Australia, Canada, and the United States. Regretfully, it seems that attorneys are too hesitant to change and revolutionize the way they write. For this reason, legal translators and regular people who want to comprehend the Anglo-American legal writing style have no choice but to become acquainted with the essential characteristics of the legal language, which is reminiscent of Chaucer or Shakespeare.

The most distinctive lexical characteristics of the English language of law among its many varieties have been determined to be the following: the use of Latin words and phrases, the use of Old French and Anglo-Norman words, the use of common words with uncommon meanings, the use of formal words frequently, the intentional use of words and expressions with ambiguous meanings, the use of terms of art, the use of argot, the use of Old English and Middle English words, the use of common words with uncommon meanings, and the attempts at extreme precision in expression.

The use of common words with uncommon meanings, which is one of the most prevalent characteristics of the legal writing style, is generally attributed to the existence of homonyms—words that sound the same but have different meanings—and polysemy-words that are generally understood to be one word but have multiple distinct but related meanings. Such words, which have a legal meaning different from the common connotation—which may appear to have a similar meaning in everyday speech, but actually has a completely different meaning—are abundant in Anglo-American law.

The terminologies listed below, which are used in everyday speech, have completely distinct meanings for lawyers: actions, lawsuits, alien transfers, avoid

cancellations, considerations such as benefits to the promisor or harm to the promise, counterparty documents, letters authorizing one to act, master—employer, motion—formal court request for action, naturally—as a matter of law, party engaging in contracting or litigation, plead-file pleadings, pray-form of pleading request addressed to the court, presents this legal document, provided wording of introduction to a proviso, purchase-to acquire real estate by means other than descent, previously mentioned-save-except, serve-deliver legal papers, specialty—sealed contract, tenement-estate in land, virtue-force or authority, as in "by virtue of," without prejudice—without loss of any rights.

The employment of some Old and Middle English terms and meanings that have long since disappeared from common usage is another quirk of the English language used in law. In phrases like "aforesaid and forthwith," "hereafter, herein, hereof, heretofore, herewith, let as in the law tautology: without let or hindrance, said," and adjectives like "thence and thenceforth," "there words" like "thereabout," "afterward, thereat, thereby, therefor, therein, thereon, thereto, thereupon, therewith," and "where words" are heavily reliant on Old English and Middle English. These expressions show how Old English and Middle English are used in legal English.

The English language used in law may also be distinguished by significant lexical and expressive borrowings from other languages, either directly or indirectly through French and Latin.

Furthermore, Latin terms and expressions are often used in the English language of law. Some examples of these are affidavit, alias, alibi, bona fide, proviso, and quorum; other terms, like habeas corpus, prima facie, and versus, seem to be used frequently in courts; the remainder is found in law dictionaries.

The use of terms of art, which are understood as technical words with a specific meaning, is another characteristic of the English language used in law. It is explained that technical terms are words that seem to have a very precise meaning, while words that are thought to be less precise in meaning should be classified as "argot." A term of art is defined as "an expression which is used by persons skilled in some particular profession, art or science, and which the practitioners clearly understand even if the uninitiated do not" by Walker.

Argot is frequently used interchangeably with cant, jargon, and slang to characterize legal English. It has been observed that lawyers use language that is meant to be understood by both lawyers and laypeople, such as in contracts, jury instructions, notices, and even laws. However, lawyers also use language that is meant to be understood primarily by one another, such as in pleadings, opinions, articles, books, arguments, and discussions that are part of the practice of law. In this latter instance, jargon is used as a term for a "professional language" that goes beyond strictly technical

terms; in other words, legal jargon refers to any words or phrases that are frequently used in a profession or trade.

The system of lexical units of the English language in the field of law is a complex and dynamic one, reflecting the ever-changing nature of the legal landscape. This system is characterized by a number of general characteristics, including:

**Specialized vocabulary:** The field of law has its own specialized vocabulary, which is used to describe the concepts and institutions of law. This vocabulary includes terms such as “contract,” “tort,” “crime,” and “punishment.”

**Formal style:** The language of law is typically formal and precise. This is due to the need for clarity and accuracy in legal documents and communications.

**Use of Latin:** Latin is still used in some legal contexts, particularly in the names of legal documents and in legal maxims. This is a legacy of the historical use of Latin as the language of law.

**Influence of other languages:** The system of lexical units of the English language in the field of law has been influenced by other languages, particularly French and Norman French. This is due to the fact that many legal concepts and institutions originated in these languages.

In addition to these general characteristics, the system of lexical units of the English language in the field of law is also characterized by a number of specific features, including:

**Use of technical terms:** The field of law uses a number of technical terms, which are used to describe specific legal concepts and institutions. These terms are often defined in law dictionaries and other resources.

**Use of abbreviations:** Abbreviations are commonly used in the field of law to refer to legal concepts, institutions, and documents. For example, the “UCC” is the abbreviation for the Uniform Commercial Code, and the “FRCP” is the abbreviation for the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

**Use of legal maxims:** Legal maxims are short, pithy sayings that express general principles of law. These maxims are often used in legal arguments to support a particular position. For example, the maxim “stare decisis” means that courts should follow precedent.

The system of lexical units of the English language in the field of law is a complex and dynamic one. It is characterized by a number of general and specific features, which reflect the unique nature of law as a field of study and practice. Even though the Plain Language Movement has worked to promote a plain and concise writing style among attorneys, everyone who works with the Anglo-American language of law is still astounded by it. Governments demand that laws be written in a clear and understandable manner; however, the process of simplifying legal terminology seems to be drawn out and controversial, as the majority of lawyers contend that legal

language should retain its mystique. Because of this, the only option available to regular people trying to comprehend legal drafting language is to accept things as they are and learn about its essential characteristics.

#### **The list of used literature:**

1. Baugh, Albert and Thomas Cable. 2002. A history of the English language.(Fifth edition) London: Routledge.
2. Bhatia, Vijay K. 1994. “Cognitive structuring in legislative provisions”, in: John Gibbons (ed.), Language and law. London and New York: Longman.
3. Butt, Peter and Richard Castle. 2006. Modern legal drafting: A guide to using clearer language. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
4. Cao, Deborah.1996. “Towards a model of translation proficiency”, Target 8:2, 325-340.
5. Cao, Deborah. 2006. Translating law. Clevedon·Buffalo·Toronto: Multilingual Matters Ltd.
6. Cao, Deborah. 2010. “Legal translation”, in: Yves Gambier and Luc van Doorslaer (eds.), Handbook of Translation Studies. Antwerp: John Benjamins Publishing Company, 191-195.
7. Cao, Deborah. 2010. “Legal translation: Translating legal language”, in: Coulthard, Malcom and Alison Johnson (eds.), The Routledge handbook of forensic linguistics. London and New York: Routledge, 78-95.
8. Charrow, V. R., R.P. Charrow. 1979. ‘Making legal language understandable: a psycholinguistic study of jury instructions’, Columbia Law Review 79, 1306-1374.