THE FORMATION OF LEXICAL UNITS RELATED TO THE FIELD OF LAW IN ENGLISH

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Annotation: The present article deals with exploration the ways of forming lexemes used in English law. Moreover, this article presents etymological survey of English word stock related to the law. The analysis helps to highlight the process of the law terminology development and its functioning in different historical stages.

Key words: language of law, lexical unit, etymology, structure, linguistics.

Communication is a means of exchanging information, and it can take many forms. Written and spoken language is one means of communication. The amount of information that is given and received by the addresser and the addressee varies depending on a number of variables, including time, place, and topic. This is the rationale of studying different linguistic domains. The legal field is one of these areas.

The study of legal language has been impacted by numerous new linguistic ideas, most notably the sociolinguistic approaches and the Plain English movement.

Thanks to the active study of legal speech that began in the mid-1970s, many of the linguistic quirks of legal English are now well understood. Spoken and written language can both be studied in this context. Since written forms are how law is primarily expressed, written forms are studied extensively. Furthermore, written language is consistent, steady, and nearly context-free.

The image of the English language of law is one of solemnity, mystery, sacerdotalism, dignifiedness, and meticulous stilting. This image is created through the use of unusual vocabulary, courteous idioms from bygone eras (approach the bench rather than come here), euphemisms (the deceased and decedent), undomesticated Latin and French (arrested in flagrante delicto instead of caught in the act), and a range of dodges.

The formality of the courtroom serves as a reminder to participants that they are engaged in an adversarial setting; formal language helps to frame the proceedings; the witness and juror oath rituals, which separate them from the outside world by placing them in a special box; and the solemn, ritualistic language are some of the possible explanations for the use of formal language.

Numerous terms and expressions that are still used in legal writing today bear the Latin influence. They are as follows: Ad hoc (exceptional); de facto (really); inter alia (often translated as "including but not limited to" in English); Mensrea, which is Latin

for "guilty mind," actus reus, which is Latin for "guilty act," and obiter dictum, which is Latin for "informal opinion" or a judge's remark or observation, are the mental and objective elements of a crime, respectively, and deed of a crime.

Roman law has a significant influence on the evolution of modern jurisprudence. A significant amount of direct Latin borrowings attest to the importance of legal terminology, which were adopted into English law from Roman law. English law and other languages' legal jargon have their roots in Roman law. The precision of political linguistic terminology was the primary factor in Latinism's acceptance throughout Europe. Latin legal phrases are used in English almost entirely without altering their orthographic form, however word semantics may shift slightly. For instance, bona fides (from Latin good faith; Eng. "honest intention") and alibi (from Lat. : somewhere else; at another place) are two examples of a form of defense used by the accused to demonstrate that he or she was in a different location when the crime was committed. When someone is thought to be intentionally well-intentioned, this phrase in modern English can be used to describe them positively; certiorari, which means "to be informed" in Latin and is frequently shortened to "cert" in English, is a writ that directs a subordinate court to produce its case file so that a higher court can review it; habeas corpus, which translates to "you have the body" in Latin and is frequently abbreviated as "cert.

The process of determining whether a state's detention of a prisoner is lawful or unlawful; memorandum, which means "something to remember" in Latin; an English note, document, or other communication that aids in memory by recording events or observations on a subject; ultra vires, which means "beyond the powers" in Latin; intra vires, which means "within the powers" in law.

It is extra vires (if done without such power); veto (Lat. for "I prohibit"; Eng. for "restraint") and others.

Some contemporary legal terminology have antiquated connotations; their use lends higher style to their coloring. Emotional contrast promotes law-abiding behavior in citizens and is linked to its greater social status.

In this regard, Latin had primary meaning in the formation of legal terminology which was the language of culture and education up to V century CE.

The language of law is a specialized domain with its own distinct vocabulary, encompassing terms for legal concepts, procedures, and institutions. This article explores the various ways in which lexical units related to the field of law are formed in English.

1. Borrowing and Loanwords:

English legal vocabulary is heavily influenced by historical interactions and borrowings from other languages, particularly Latin, French, and Norman French, due to the historical development of English law.

Latin: _ad hoc, alibi, amicus curiae, habeas corpus, in camera, mens rea, per se, subpoena_

French: _voir dire, tort, estoppel, laches, chattel, attorney, plaintiff, defendant_

Norman French: _bail, larceny, felony, estate, assize, seizin_

2. Derivation:

Adding prefixes and suffixes to existing words creates new legal terms with specific meanings.

Prefixes: _misdemeanor, malfeasance, non-compete, pre-trial, post-conviction_

Suffixes: _liability, jurisdiction, indictment, acquittal, litigant_

3. Compounding:

Joining two or more words forms compound nouns and adjectives to express complex legal concepts concisely.

Compound Nouns: _case law, contract law, criminal law, property law, hearsay rule, due process_

Compound Adjectives: _bona fide purchaser, illegal search, self-defense, wrongful death_

4. Blending:

Combining parts of existing words creates new legal terms, often in informal contexts.

Examples: _legalese (legal + language), paralegal (part + legal)_

5. Acronyms and Initialisms:

Legal organizations and procedures are often referred to by acronyms or initialisms for efficiency.

Acronyms: _FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation), SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission), SCOTUS (Supreme Court of the United States)_

Initialisms: _ABA (American Bar Association), DUI (Driving Under the Influence), DOJ (Department of Justice)_

6. Semantic Change:

Existing words acquire new or specialized meanings within the context of law.

Examples: _consideration, action, motion, discovery, service_

7. Eponyms:

Legal terms derived from the names of individuals associated with specific legal principles or cases.

Examples: _Miranda rights, Roe v. Wade, McCulloch v. Maryland_

8. Archaic and Historical Terms:

Older legal terms continue to be used due to tradition and precedent, even if their original meanings have evolved.

Examples: _heretofore, aforesaid, wherein, forthwith_

9. Technical Jargon:

Specific terms unique to different areas of legal practice develop within each field.

Examples: _torts, contracts, intellectual property, criminal procedure, family law_

10. Legal Latin and French Phrases:

Certain Latin and French phrases continue to be used in legal contexts due to their historical significance and precise meanings.

Examples: _de minimis non curat lex, res judicata, mens rea, actus reus_

The diversity of formation processes reflects the complexity and evolution of legal language. Understanding these mechanisms allows for better comprehension and communication within the legal field.

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

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