



The third international conference:

LANGUAGE AND LAW – TRADITIONS, TRENDS AND PERSPECTIVES

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

8th-9th June 2017

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Białystok Legal English Centre (BLEC) is happy to announce its third 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. Halina Świączkowska

Prof. UW dr hab. Romuald Gozdawa-Gołębiowski

Prof. UŁ dr hab. Stanisław Goźdz-Roszkowski

Prof. UAM dr hab. Aleksandra Matulewska

Doc. dr. sc. Ljubica Kordić

Dr hab. Barbara Polityńska

Dr Dorota Potocka

Dr Halina Sierocka

The Organising Committee:

Dr Izabela Kraśnicka

Dr Magdalena Perkowska

Dr Halina Sierocka

Mgr Maria Cudowska

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Prof. Vijay Kumar Bhatia

RECONCEPTUALISING TEACHING OF LEGAL COMMUNICATION: INSIGHTS FROM CRITICAL GENRE THEORY

Abstract

Legal communication is uniquely interdiscursive in nature, in the sense that most legal genres, share the same concerns and constraints in, and conventions of, legislative provisions, i.e., they are essentially meant to be clear, precise, unambiguous, and all-inclusive, whether we consider courtroom interactions, legal briefs, judgments, cases, court case documents, contracts and agreements, affidavits, or any other. However, the notion of interdiscursivity has rarely been exploited in the teaching and learning of legal communication. Drawing on the theory of critical genre as ‘interdiscursive performance’ (Bhatia, 2017) I would like to demonstrate how interdiscursivity can be exploited in academic and professional legal communication in pedagogical and training contexts.

References:

Bhatia, Vijay K., (2017). *Critical Genre Analysis: Investigating Interdiscursive Performance in Professional Contexts*, London, Routledge.

Professor Vijay Bhatia recently retired as Professor from City University of Hong Kong. He is now an Adjunct Professor, at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and a Visiting Professor at the Hellenic American University in Athens (Greece). He is also the founding President of the LSP and Professional Communication Association for Asia-Pacific. Some of his research projects include *Analyzing Genre-bending in Corporate Disclosure Documents*, 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 in new media contexts; ESP and Professional Communication; simplification and easification of legal and other public documents. He has more than 150 publications to his credit. Three of his books, *Analyzing Genre: Language Use in Professional Settings*, *Worlds of Written Discourse: A Genre-based View*, and *Critical Genre Analysis; Investigating Interdiscursive Performance in Professional Practice*, which has recently been published by Routledge, are widely used by researchers interested in genre theory and practice.

Prof. Maurizio Gotti

GLOBALISING TRENDS AND DISCURSIVE CHANGES IN THE LEGAL FIELD

Abstract

Nowadays legal texts are often subject to the pressures of globalisation operating upon contemporary legal systems. Indeed, in this context law is fast assuming an international perspective rather than remaining a purely domestic concern. However, in spite of the growing efforts of the international community to guarantee greater harmonisation in legislation and procedures, local constraints and specific cultural aspects still represent a relevant conditioning factor. Indeed, the formulation of legal norms is greatly conditioned not only by different juridical systems and drafting traditions, but also by specific linguistic features and socio-cultural aspects.

This is clearly visible in the normative texts in use in various contexts, which show discrepancies deriving not only from differing legal and cultural systems but also from the use of different linguistic codes. These issues are especially relevant in international trade, which often involves documents written in English but incorporating norms enacted by a non-English-speaking country.

Moreover, the need for all-inclusiveness implicit in the globalising process may at times result in some vagueness and indeterminacy in the wording of legal texts, mainly caused by the use of general terms conveying wide semantic values. As a result, their meaning in the context of those provisions is not as clear as expected.

This paper investigates the means whereby normative discourse is employed in different cultural, linguistic and legal environments; to illustrate this phenomenon, it mainly targets legislation on international arbitration, particularly that deriving from the Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration enacted by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law to promote greater harmonisation in the field.

Maurizio Gotti is Professor of English Language and Translation, Head of the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures, and Director of the Research Centre on Specialized Languages (CERLIS) at the University of Bergamo. His main research areas are the features and origins of specialized discourse. He is also interested in English syntax and English lexicology and lexicography. He is a member of the Editorial Board of national and international journals, and edits the Linguistic Insights series for Peter Lang. He is author and editor of twenty books, guest-editor of five journal special issues and has published over one hundred and fifty journal articles and book chapters.

Dr John Olsson

FORENSIC LANGUAGE AND THE UNKNOWN

Abstract

The author's theoretical linguistic interests lie in understanding the structure and construction of individual identity and how this is realised through language, while his practical forensic linguistic interests lie in developing techniques of authorship attribution. Whilst it may not be possible to entirely reconcile these pursuits in one paper, this will nevertheless be attempted, beginning with an outline of several contemporary approaches to authorship (a brief literature review), mainly in order to give the audience an overview of how forensic authorship has developed in the 25 or so years it has been practised in the courts, principally in the United Kingdom. Data from actual criminal cases will be given. The discussion will then broaden out, showing that, in fact, authorship attribution needs to fit within a humanistic, epistemological framework which necessarily includes the need to study the structure of individual identity (identities - Labov) and its realisation through language, relying on work by, inter alia, Foucault, Barthes, Bakhtin and Kristeva. The factors which promote or restrict individual expression in authorship will also be considered, in particular Kristeva's notion of intertextuality and Bakhtin's concepts of centrifugal and centripetal forces acting on language. Finally, a linguistic theory of 'range of variation' will be advanced which gives insight into individual variation on the one hand, and the influence of social forces on the other.

References:

- Nini, A. & T. Grant. 2013. Bridging the gap between stylistic and cognitive approaches to authorship analysis using Systemic Functional Linguistics and multidimensional analysis. *International Journal of Speech Language and the Law*, Vol 20, No 2.
- Zhang S. 2016. Authorship attribution and feature testing for Chinese short emails. *International Journal of Speech Language and the Law*, Vol 23, No 1.
- McMenamin, G.R. 2001. Style markers in authorship studies. *International Journal of Speech Language and the Law*, Vol 8, No 2.
- Grant, T. 2007. Quantifying evidence in forensic authorship analysis. *International Journal of Speech, Language & the Law*. Vol.14, No 1.
- Olsson, J. & J. Luchjenbroers. 2013. *Forensic Linguistics*. London: Bloomsbury Publishing.

Dr John Olsson is the director of the Forensic Linguistic Institute and a lecturer in the Forensic Linguistics in the School of Law, Bangor University, North Wales. He has been practising as an independent forensic linguistics expert since 1994. He has worked on murder, suspicious death, terrorism, product contamination, witness intimidation, blackmail, fraud, sexual assault, armed robbery, money laundering, gang violence and narcotics investigations and has analysed all kinds of texts including ransom notes, suicide texts, threat texts, cell phone text messages and language in other electronic media. In all he has written over 450 reports for police services and law enforcement agencies, lawyers and private clients and has published widely, and has presented at conferences in several countries. In addition, Dr Olsson is a barrister (non-practising) and frequently attends court to observe the law in action.

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.

SCHEDULE

The conference will start on Thursday morning (8th June 2017) and end at lunchtime on Friday (9th June 2017).

EQUIPMENT

The conference room is equipped with an OHP, microphone and video projector for PowerPoint presentations – there is no need to bring your own laptop, but your presentation should be fully Windows compatible.

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission of abstracts	no later than 26 th February 2017
Notification of acceptance	by 12 th of March 2017
Registration	by 20 th of March 2017

REGISTRATION

Online registration can be effected between **3rd January 2017 and 20th March 2017** using the form attached here/below.

The Conference fee includes two-day conference programme, publication of papers, accommodation in double room with breakfast (for 7th/8th June and 8th/9th June), coffee breaks, lunch on Thursday and Friday and conference social event (8th June).

Fees

Early payment by 11 th March 2017	900 PLN or €220
Payment from 12 th March 2017 to 30 th March 2017	1000 PLN or €240
Payment after 30 th March 2017	1100 PLN or €260

If an accompanying person wants to join the Conference events, the registration fee of 150 EUR or 600 PLN must be paid. The fee includes: accommodation with breakfast (for 7th/8th June and 8th/9th June) and conference social event (8th June 2017).

Please note:

No registration can be processed unless a copy of the bank transfer is attached. No partial registration is envisaged, so it will not be possible to register for just one day. 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. M. Skłodowskiej-Curie 14
15-097 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 2017**” 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 is 20th February 2017. Please send your abstract (300 words) to **blec.uwb@gmail.com** as a DOC attachment. Acceptance will be notified by 12th March 2017. As a selection of accepted papers will be published in the 2018 volume of *Studies in Logic, Grammar and Rhetoric*, (the journal is indexed in Scopus and Index Copernicus and credited in the European Reference Index for the Humanities – ERIH, and assigned 15 points by the Ministry for Science and Higher Education of Poland; for more information, please see: <http://logika.uwb.edu.pl/studies>), finalized versions of papers submitted for publication in the aforementioned journal should be emailed to blec.uwb@gmail.com by 20th September, 2017 at the latest. The formatting guidelines will be provided later.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME to be confirmed later.

CANCELLATION POLICY

- 100% of the conference fee is reimbursed if the cancellation is notified no later than 23rd April 2017.
- 50% of the conference fee is reimbursed if the cancellation is notified no later than 21st May 2017.
- No conference fees are reimbursed if the cancellation is notified after 21st May 2017.

Please note all bank charges are to be borne **by the participant**

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Białystok is the largest city in northeastern Poland and the capital of the Podlaskie voivodeship, situated about 200 kilometres from Warsaw. It has historically attracted migrants from elsewhere in Poland and beyond, particularly from Central and Eastern Europe. This is facilitated by the fact that the nearby border with Belarus is also the eastern border of the European Union as well as the Schengen Area. It is the gateway to many natural attractions of the Podlasie region, known collectively as the *Green Lungs of Poland*, including the Biebrza and Białowieża national parks. Białystok is also the place of birth of Ludwik Zamenhoff, the inventor of the artificial language, Esperanto.

Map of Białystok – <http://www.mapabialehostoku.pl/>

The city <http://www.wrotapodlasia.pl/en/>

Weather – <http://www.accuweather.com/en/pl/Białystok/275110/weather-forecast/275110>

HOW TO GET TO BIAŁYSTOK

There are several possibilities for getting from Warsaw to Białystok. The trip to Białystok should take about 2.5-3 hours.

BY PLANE

The closest Polish international airports are: Warsaw Chopin Airport and Warsaw Modlin Airport, both located in the heart of Poland, about 200 km away from Białystok.

<http://www.lotnisko-chopina.pl/en/index.html>

<http://www.modlinairport.pl/>

BY BUS

Once you fly into Warsaw Chopin Airport or Warsaw Modlin Airport, you may take a direct express bus service that leaves for Białystok from either airport. The bus company is Plus Bus (<http://www.podlasie-express.pl/index.php?lang=en>). The schedule for buses to Białystok may be found at the following address:

Warsaw Chopin Airport – Białystok	Warsaw Modlin Airport – Białystok
http://www.podlasie-express.pl/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=175&Itemid=92&lang=en	http://www.podlasie-express.pl/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=184&Itemid=94&lang=en

Buying bus tickets online in advance is highly recommended. The price of the bus ticket is about 40-50 PLN (ca. 10-12 euro). Plus Bus operates high quality coaches equipped with air conditioning and free Wi-Fi access.

An alternative to air, train and car travel is a bus connection, PolskiBus.com or Żak Express, good value inexpensive inter-city express coach services based in Poland. The companies operate high quality coaches equipped with air conditioning and free Wi-Fi access. For more information, please see: <http://www.polskibus.com/en/index.htm>. or <http://zakexpress.com.pl/>

BY TRAIN

Another convenient way to get to Białystok is to take city bus no. 175 or train (SKM, WKD) from Warsaw Chopin Airport to Warsaw city centre (Central Warsaw) and then take a train to Białystok.

	Warsaw Chopin Airport	Warsaw Modlin Airport
by city bus & by inter city train	⇒ take city bus no. 175 Warsaw Central railway station, http://www.ztm.waw.pl/index.php?l=2 ⇒ take a train (SKM, WKD) to Warsaw Central railway station or Warszawa Śródmieście http://wyszukiwarka.ztm.waw.pl/bin/query.exe/pn?currentCSS=theme_ztm&OK#connection_C0-0 ⇒ then take a direct train to Białystok http://rozkład-pkp.pl/bin/query.exe/en?	⇒ take a Modlin shuttle-bus to Warsaw city centre, ⇒ then at Warsaw Central railway station take a direct train to Białystok http://rozkład-pkp.pl/bin/query.exe/en?
by city train & by inter city train	⇒ take a city train (SKM<, WKD) to Warsaw Central railway station, http://wyszukiwarka.ztm.waw.pl/bin/query.exe/pn?currentCSS=theme_ztm&OK#connection_C0-0 or ⇒ later take a direct train to Białystok http://rozkład-pkp.pl/bin/query.exe/en?	⇒ take a train to Warsaw Central railway station, http://www.mazowieckie.com.pl ⇒ take a direct train to Białystok http://rozkład-pkp.pl/bin/query.exe/en?

Payment in Polish currency (PLN) for a train ticket is required, but you could also use your credit card or buy a ticket by means of ticket vending machines. The price of the train ticket from Warsaw - Białystok is about 30-40 PLN (ca. 10 EUR). Please note that there are many ATMs and exchange offices at the railway stations.

HOW TO CONTACT US

By email: blec.uwb@gmail.com

By post: Faculty of Law, University of Białystok / Wydział Prawa Uniwersytetu w Białymstoku, ul. Mickiewicza 1, 15 – 213 Białystok

By telephone: +48 85 745 71 64

By fax: +48 85 740 60 89

See also: http://www.prawo.uwb.edu.pl/prawo_new/index.php?f=16