

Legal Language as a Special Language: Structural Features of English Legal Language



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(Dr. Isabell Wiza DDS)

LEGAL LANGUAGE AS A SPECIAL LANGUAGE: STRUCTURAL FEATURES OF ENGLISH LEGAL LANGUAGE



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Grin Verlag Jun 2007, 2007. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x3 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Titel. - Seminar paper from the year 2004 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Linguistics, printed single-sided, grade: 1-, University of Dusseldorf 'Heinrich Heine' (Anglistisches Institut), course: Domain Specific English Language - Language and Law, 5 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: The English language has taken over the key role in international trade, legislation and policy-making. It has achieved 'the enhanced status [] as the dominant world language [which] has led to an increased demand for the training of competent specialists able to mediate' (Alcaraz Varo/Hughes, 2002: 1). This goes along with a 'phenomenal increase in the teaching of [] 'English for special (or specific) purposes' ' (ibid.: 2). What is the reason for this development This piece of work might give an answer; it dedicates itself to domain specific English language: language and law. It concentrates on the characteristics of the structure of legal English in particular. An overview of the central structural features is given, without claiming completeness. Legal professionals aim at a precise explanation of facts which should leave no doubts. This aim forces them to use a certain kind of language pattern, such as including a high amount of definitions in legal texts, along with numerous complex and ancient phrases deriving from Law French and plentiful enumerations which can all together form a single sentence covering several lines. Dependent on which party they represent, lawyers make frequent use of features that reduce the agent in his identity while emphasizing the action a matter of strategy which has the impeding of comprehension as a consequence. Therefore, the field of law becomes completely unapproachable for laymen, who are scarcely able to...



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