

IDENTIFICATION AND CAUSES OF THE AMBIGUITY AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS CREATED BY TERMINOLOGICAL VOCABULARY IN LEGAL ENGLISH DOCUMENTS

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ABSTRACT

This study concerns about the identification of ambiguous features of legal English language which create ambiguity for a common reader of English language. The central contention of this thesis is that common readers of English language face ambiguity in the reading of any legal English documents due to the diverse features of the legal English language. It has explored by this research study that it is possible to detect such barriers and to replace these ambiguous features of legal English language with the features of plain English language. The primary intention of the study is to explore the lexical ambiguous features of legal English language which are varied to plain English language. Qualitative approach was used in this research study and the data were analyzed by the methodology of Content Analysis. Fifteen documents of legal English language were selected by convenient technique in this study from the Lahore Bar and Nankana Sahib Bar. There are three types of documents (Application, judgments and contracts) which cover all the aspects of legal system. Consequently, the findings confirmed that most of the common persons of English language face ambiguity in comprehension of legal English language due to the diverse lexical features of legal English language from plain English language. They need to learn a mixture of general and specific legal English terminologies, polysemous terms, archaic words, foreign words, words with suffixes and slang words in legal English language with the comparison of the words of plain English language which are the causes of ambiguity and misunderstanding in the legal English language.

1. Introduction

Study about law and language is not only the pervasive from the field of linguistics but also from other social fields as medicine, law, business etc. Mellinkoff (1963) discusses in his book that language has great importance in every field of the world. Language has different pictures in every field as medicine, business, law etc. This dynamic nature of a language creates the ambiguity and misunderstandings when a person uses it in a specific context or domain of a particular field. The field of law is a social science which is suffering from the problem of ambiguities and misunderstandings for the students of ESL, laypersons and even for most of the professionals of law.

Smejkalová (2009) asserts that the legal English language is a language of particular legal customs and concerned discourse. Legal English language has a number of different features from the plain English language. But there is no uniform shape of language of law that is understandable to all other languages. Moreover, he discusses that it is usually considered that law cannot exist without language. All the jargons in the language of law are the particular commands for the rules and regulations in a specific field. The whole legal concepts and processes work in this field through language. If the legal text is complicated for the general public, this problem is mostly concerned with the language.



Boleszczuk (2011) reinforces this ambiguity by asserting that the complexity in the legal language is an exclusive phenomenon and it has been an interesting topic for a long time. But the solution of these complaints about the difficulties of legal terminologies is to transfer it in plain language. The aim of the Plain English Movement is to transfer the jargons of legal language into plain language. The linguistics plays an important role in the removal of these complexities and misunderstandings with the description of the way of its sentence structure and its contextual meaning. Boleszczuk (2011) further describes the specialized words of legal English language which create ambiguity and confusion to understand the field specific terms in a particular situation and these words are known as ambiguous lexeme or legalese. For example, there are some jargons of legal domain which have different meaning in plain language as the term "Pray" means 'to ask something from Allah Almighty' but in specific domain, it means 'it is a special request in the court from the judge.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In this modern age, this world has become a web of fields. Language plays a very important role in every walk of life. Every field has its own language and terminologies which are used specifically in a limited domain of a particular field. There is a linguistic problem that a layperson or a student of ESL is unable to understand the specific legal terms and different unfamiliar expressions in legal English language; and even sometimes professionals do not use these terms perfectly. So there is a dire need to understand the legal terms for their better use of terminologies in legal English documents. The main focus of this study is to identify the legal terminologies and find out the causes and remedies for them. Since, people are familiar with general English language but when they encounter legal English language, they face much ambiguity due to the different features of legal English language. The comparison of legal English language and plain English language identifies the diverse features of both languages.

1.3 Research Questions

- 1. How can the identification of legal English jargons make the understanding better of a non-technical person in reading the legal documents?
- 2. How can this study develop the remedial techniques for exploiting lexical ambiguity in legal English language?

1.4 Research Objectives

The objectives of this study are:

- To find out that the identification of legal English jargons make the understanding better of a common person in reading the legal English documents.
- To develop the remedial techniques for exploiting lexical ambiguity in legal English language.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This research is informative about the identification of legal English features for the comprehensibility of the legal documents. The difficulty to understand the legal language can be minimized with the identification of the specific terms in this specific domain. This study will develop the remedial techniques for exploiting lexical ambiguities in the classroom of law. This study shows the causes of the change of meaning in a particular discipline which will be helpful for the new students of law, for the new practitioners and for common speaker of English language. This study will be helpful for understanding the exact sense of legal English language.



Literature Review

This chapter shows the historical perspective of the ambiguity in English legal language. Language has a dynamic nature which changes its shape and mood in different domains as medicine, law, and business etc. English adopts a distinct form according to the need of a particular field. In every domain of a society, language looks in a different mood and form.

Hutchison (2012) described that human beings have a unique feature to use a language to share the ideas and feelings. First of all, it looks that the basic function or use of language is to communicate ideas and emotions with one another. The role of language with thoughts itself is more important than just transferring the ideas and emotions to other people. It is language which helps a man to think about anything. In various circumstances, there is only language that permits the intellectual, thought or idea. Language is the basic source which people use to theoretically classify different objects in the world. On the one side, language is the source of internal ideas and feelings and on the other side; it allows the man to conceptualize the external world through his abstract ideas. The role of language is very important in both the understanding of the things and in engaging them in their ideas. Levitt (1998) referred to plain English as a means to investigating and determining what message the writer wants to deliver before writing a paragraph, sentence and a word. In plain English documents, the writer uses the words carefully which the listener or reader can comprehend easily. Plain English language uses a restrained sentence structure. It uses the straightforward and comprehensive tone. It constructs the design of language which attracts the audience. The text in plain English language looks comprehensive and easily readable. The aim of plain English language is to write the complex and ambiguous words of a legal document in clear words where a reader can understand the message easily.

Eunson (2012) added that plain English is a direct and pure communication which uses words according to the need of a common reader. Plain English language avoids vagueness, exaggerated words and complex sentence structure. The plain language does not show a childish way of talking and not the simplest form of English language. In the process of writing plain language, the writer makes their audience to concentrate on the message not on the structure of the language. The writer tries his best to make the message easy and clear for the audience. In this way, the writer of plain English writes his documents according to the mind and understanding of his viewers. A plain language document also has so many jargons but the message becomes clear for the laypersons.

Sullivan (2001) stated that the main aim of drafting legal text in the plain language is to increase the involvement of law by making legislation reachable for those parsons who take the effect of law. But the plain language has possibly the fundamental suggestions that it discloses and encounters the conventions or norms of the legal domain.

Boleszczuk (2011) elaborated that the style of the general plain language is to unrestraint the custom of using a word for different meanings in different places (doublets and triplets) but the general plain language transfers the doublets and triplets words or terms of legal language with one word synonyms. To convert the doublets and triplets words of legal English language looks good methodology for the exactness and shortness of legal English documents.

Kimble (2006) has much discussed about the introduction of plain language. The foremost aim of plain language is to make the writing more comprehensible and understandable for the ordinary reader of legal English language. The main feature of this



plain language is to use short sentences and avoidance from the particular jargons of the specific field which work only in the specific domain.

Research Methodology

This chapter highlights the criteria to assess and find out the legalese in legal English documents which creates ambiguity for the common person to understand the context and to interpret the legal English documents. These features of legal English language create ambiguity for a lay person of ESL in the particular legal domain to read or understand legal English documents. The researcher used the parameter to find out the efficiency of the text of legal English documents whether they are effective or poor. This parameter depends on the comprehensibility of the text of the legal English documents.

The research methodology used for the present study is to evaluate the research objectives and to get the answers to research questions. This research helps to explore the ambiguity in reading legal English documents for the English second language learners when they encounter legal English documents.

The research is descriptive in its nature and the primary purpose of this study is to identify the diverse lexical features of the legal English language from the plain English language and their contrastive analysis. The identification of diverse syntactic features of legal English language from plain English language is the secondary purpose of this research.

The common people are inexpert in the law field and in the use of the terminologies of its language so, they face much trouble to comprehend the traditional legal English language. The features of the traditional legal English language as wordiness, complex sentence structure and redundancy etc that create the hindrance and barriers in the comprehension of legal English documents for ESL. This thesis reviews the documents before and after applying the plain language strategies and shows that how a legal English documents can become comprehensible for a layperson of English second language learner. This research study demonstrates that the reader, who is inexpert in legal field, achieves the clear understanding at the transformation of legal English documents into plain English language.

3.2 Theoretical Framework

Content analysis is a method to calculate the qualitative data by scientifically sorting and comparing the features of the data for summarizing them. Content discusses the meaning of a particular data. In using content analysis, a research focuses on either fundamental concepts or terms in a particular data. It is a technique which describes the spoken, written and visual messages in a systematic way .Content Analysis studies the specific documents or text and contents of a communication in a systematic form. It studies the contents of a particular text or message with reference to its specific meaning, intention and context.

Holsti (1968) defined the content analysis approach as a technique which can be used to find the distinct characteristics of the text or documents in a well-defined and objective form. Berelson (1952) discussed that the content analysis is used for the analysis which finds out the existence and frequency of specific terms and phrases in a particular document or text. Moreover, the analysis through content analysis discovers the reason of the occurrence of particular terms and phrases in a text and analyzes its effects.

Content analysis can be applied on the text of newspaper contents, diaries, songs, stories, letters, symbols documents or text etc. Similarly content analysis follows the three basic rules of a scientific approach like other methods. These rules are consisted of



objectivity, generalizability and systematic approach. Content analysis makes the replicable, effective and unbiased interpretations about a specific text or document with the help of explicit rules (Prasad, 2012). Content analysis provided the opportunity to the researcher in the form of particular rules on which basis the researcher tested the particular contents of the collected data of legal English language.

In this particular research, the collected data is selected legal English documents included petitions, judgments and contracts which represent all the features of legal English language. Content analysis was used for the evaluation of collected data in this study.

Content analysis has three distinct approaches as conventional approach, direct approach and summative approach (Hsieh, 2005). These three approaches of content analysis interpret the meaning from the content of a particular text or document. The main differences among these three approaches are origins of codes, coding schemes and trustworthiness. In conventional content analysis, coding categories are derived directly from the text data. With a directed approach, analysis starts with a theory or relevant research findings as guidance for initial codes. A summative content analysis involves counting and comparisons, usually of keywords or content, followed by the interpretation of the underlying context. The summative approach of content analysis is applicable for this entire research because the objectives of this research are related to the interpretation of legal terminologies and compare the contents of legal English language with plain English language.

Content analysis has major two kinds which analyze the data in different ways. These two kinds are conceptual analysis and relational analysis. Conceptual analysis is also known as thematic analysis. Conceptual analysis can be thought of as establishing the existence and frequency of concepts which is most often represented by words or phrases in a text. In contrast, relational analysis goes one step further by examining the relationships among concepts in a text. Relational analysis identifies and relates the meaning of the certain concepts or phrases which reoccur in the data. Relational analysis approach is used for the identification of the concepts and meaningful connection between the occurrences of different concepts. This research is conducted through the relational analysis for the finding of diverse features of legal English language from the plain English language. This analysis helped the investigator to compare the diverse features of plain English language and legal English language and identified the ambiguous features and their remedies.

This research is primarily about finding out the semantic differences among the terms of legal English language and plain English language. This semantic difference shows a particular relation of the legal terms with a particular domain. According to the objectives of this study, relational analysis is a suitable approach for the analysis of the collected data.

3.3 Qualitative Research Design

The aim of this research design is to find out the method for getting the objectives of the study and raise the validity and reliability of the evaluation of the collected data. The study identifies the barriers and ambiguous features in legal English language which required the data from the related domain. It focuses on those problems which are faced by the common persons, the students of law or practitioners who use English as a second language.

The collected data in this present study is evaluated by the content analysis. Qualitative research methods have been used for the collection of data in this particular study. This research study primarily explored the ambiguous terminologies and other syntactic features in legal English language.



After detecting the detail of the actual problem and literature review of the particular study, this research opts for qualitative methodology to find out the objectives of the study. The primary purpose of this research is to figure out the ambiguous vocabulary of legal English language.

Beeson (2011) stated that qualitative approach is used to get the answer about the meaning and viewpoint of a particular term according to the perspective of the participants. The collected data by the researcher are usually difficult to counting and measuring. Qualitative research approach is used for examining the beliefs, notion of a normative behavior, a debate of a small group and a specific behavior. The analysis of a specific document or text such as diaries, articles, government reports etc shows the distributive and private knowledge about those particular documents.

Data Analysis

The chapter of data analysis is considered the practical part of research. This experimental part of the study has two main portions. The first part of this chapter consists of the analysis of the legal English documents such as Judicial Judgments, Petitions and Agreement. Hunt (2002) described that "ambiguity is the most serious disease of language and nowhere is the absence of this disease more important than in legislation" (p.114). This analysis is based on the identification of the barriers of the legal English language for the common persons of English second language learners and on the comparison of the legal English language with plain English language which makes the legal English text comprehensible for ESL. This research study compares the features of the legal English language with plain English language and identifies the ambiguous elements of the law and gives the remedial techniques for this problematic issue.

This chapter starts with the analysis of the selected legal English documents and the comparison of the legal English language with Plain English language. This Before-and-After comparison of the legal English documents shows the impact of the plain English language on the complex language of the legal English documents. The implementation of the plain English language on the legal English documents makes them clear and understandable for the common second language learners of English language.

4.3 Analysis of Civil and Criminal Applications (Appeal, Petition)

An application is a legal document which is produced by a lawyer and shows the legal mind from one aspect of pleading in a court. In this analysis, the study has identified the different types of diverse and ambiguous features of legal English language from plain English language. The study has found out the ambiguous lexical features of legal English language from the selected legal English documents.

4.3.1 Contents and Themes of Legal English Applications

4.3.1.1 Theme of Application 01, Amended Suit for Specific Performance with Permanent Injunction, 8th August, 2018

In this case, there are two parties; plaintiff (who files the case/suit) and defendant (who is defending). Plaintiffs include two persons; plaintiff No.1 and plaintiff No.2, and defendants are also inclusive of two persons; defendant No.1 and defendant No.2.

The Plaintiffs bought an agricultural land in the amount of 37, 11000 on the date of 12-01-2011 from the defendants. They paid the earnest amount at the time of agreement and promise to pay the remaining amount on the date of 15-06-2011. But before the stipulated time, the defendants refuse to sale their property and to take the remaining amount.

The Plaintiff prayers(requests) to the court for the specific performance of the agreement with permanent injunction. The Plaintiffs further request to the court for the



restriction of any unlawful interference in the peaceful and legal possession by the defendants.

4.3.2.1 Jargons, Legalisms or Technical Terms in Civil and Criminal Applications

Haigh (2004, XVI) argues that jargons or technical terms are the pure terms of legal field. Some terms are familiar to layperson but most of them are only known by lawyers. Legal jargons are those words which are not précised for everyone. This specialized language enables the professionals to communicate efficiently and quickly but individual meanings of the terms become ambiguous for non-lawyers. Technical terms are the actual legal words which are made and used in legal domain in a particular context. Legal terms are made only for the legal domain and there is no application of these terms outside the legal domain.

Ratio of Leg	al Terminolo	Comparison of Legal and Plain English	
Legal Terminologies	Parts of Speech	Percentage in Application 1-5	Plain English
Plaintiff	Noun	44,0,0,23,15	Claimant, Someone who brings an action, such as complaint
Defendant	Noun	42,0,0,15,14	Opposite party who file the case
Respondent	Noun	0,16,13,0,0	The party who makes an answer to a bill or other proceeding in chancery
Redress	Noun	0,0,1,1,0	The action of receiving satisfaction for an injury sustained
Jurisdiction	Noun	2,2,0,2,1	This term represent the authority of a court to hear and decide a case.
Impleading/Pleading	Noun	2,2,0,0,1	Statement of case
Adjucation	Verb	1,0,0,0,2	A formal decision or decision of a court
Decree	Noun	1,13,0,5,2	The judgment and sentence of a court of equity.
Stipulated Period	Noun	1,0,0,0,0	Fixed or agreed period of time.
The plaint	Noun	4,0,0,2,1	The exhibiting of any action, real or personal, in writing. Allegation.
Petition	Noun	0,0,1,3,0	A formal request made upon the court asking for it to resolve a certain matter.
Petitioner	Noun	0,0,2,8,0	A person who files an action in a court.
Statutes	Noun	0,1,0,0,0	The written, codified law that I passed by a government body.
Void	Adjective	0,1,0,2,0	From the beginning. Never legitimate or valid.
Vide	Noun	0,0,2,1,1	Which directs a person to other



			areas of a text or book
Provision of law	Noun	0,0,0,1,0	Common law which derives its force and authority from the universal consent and immemorial practice of the people.
The appellant	Noun	0,14,9,0,0	When a party who loses at trial or lower court appeals the decision to a higher court for review for material error.
The learned court	Noun	0,10,0,0,1	In statutes prescribing the qualification of the judges and court.
Lawful	Noun	1,0,0,0,0	According to statute law which is not forbidden by law.
The law and fact	Noun	0,1,0,0,1	Completely legal and proved
Alleged Inheritance	Noun	0,1,0,0,0	Doubtful or suspected or supposed inheritance.
Graver Illegality	Noun	0,0,1,0,0	Chief Illegal Act

(See Appendix)

4.4 Analysis of Civil and Criminal Judgments in Law

This research study has selected five judgments (Orders, Decrees) for the content analysis of the legal English data. A judgment demonstrates the legal aspect of judges or another side of the pleading in a court. In the entire content analysis, this research study has isolated different types of distinct lexical features of legal English language from plain English language. This research study is restricted to the very important feature of legal English language such as lexical features which are considered the main causes of ambiguity in legal English language, the research has pointed out all the types of the lexical features of legal English language from the selected legal English data.

4.4.1 Analysis of Legal English Documents (Judgments)

In this research study, it is exposed through content analysis of the legal English documents that the lexical ambiguity in legal English language is created for a common reader of English language due to its distinct shape and function. This content analysis of the legal English documents has classified the different lexical characteristics of legal English language which are used only in legal domain. The legal English language is different from plain English language from the different aspects.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS



In the previous chapter, the analysis demonstrated different types of legalese or ambiguous terms in legal English language which are continuously used in all the legal English documents. The legalese is incessantly used in the legal English documents regardless of the advantages of plain English language.

In this chapter, the analysis of the selected data shows the advantages of plain English language and reveals the remedial techniques for the removal of the ambiguities in legal English language. This chapter presents the strong impact of the plain language techniques on the improvement of the legal English language for its understanding. This chapter also discusses the effect of the identification of the ambiguities on the understanding of the legal language in the domain of law.

5. 2 Research Findings

After the analysis of the collected data from different selected legal English documents, this study has explored the new facts about the particular studies. The findings of this research study revealed the lexical features in the legal English documents and the effects of these features on the comprehensibility of the legal English documents.

Law should be without ambiguities because it is pertinent to daily life of every individual and everyone must understand it well in order to adhere to it. This research study explores the techniques for solving the problem of ambiguity in law.

One of the most important findings of this research study is the ten lexical features in the legal English language different from the plain English language. Moreover, there are six types of lexical features of legal English language which create ambiguity for a common reader of English language e.g. jargons, polysemous terms, archaic words, foreign words, use of unusual suffixes and slangs terms.

The meanings of the words found in legal documents are not always clear and unequivocal. They may be capable of being understood in more than one way. They may be doubtful or uncertain or sometimes both and they may lend themselves to various interpretations by different individuals such as "prayer" means a petition in equity asking for relief, "Injunction" is a legal instrument to prevent a significant or irreparable harm from occurring; "Consideration" refers to something of value given to someone in return for goods, services or other promise; "Remedy", similarly, refers to a legal means by which a right or privilege is prevented or compensated. "Injury" is the loss of plaintiff due to the breach of the contract by defendant. This leads to ambiguity in the legal English language.

The analysis explores the fact that the reason of ambiguity in legal English language is that in the legal English domain, the meaning of a word is formed according to the use of the particular object. For example, it is discovered that the file of different legal documents related to a particular case is called "instrument" because it is used as an instrument in this specific field. The word "remedy" in common English means the treatment of any person but in the language of law it means to compensate for any loss. The word "injury" in plain English refers to injure someone physically but in the field of law it has a different interpretations i.e. the loss of money or other things, the word "injunction" in simple English language refers to join things with each other but in legal English language, it has distinct meaning as to stay order of judiciary for any property, the word "sale deed" is also an important example of the ambiguous words which have diverse meanings in the legal English domain.

The fact has been explored by the analysis of the collected data that the legal English language is a sub-language of natural English language with diverse features. It is a domain language which has its particular register. The register of the legal English language



has created a gap between legal English language and common English language. Ambiguity in the legal English language is due to the register of the specific field because the register reflects none of its three conventional kinds: grammatical, lexical and structural ambiguities. The register only reflects technical or incidental ambiguity and to grasp the legal English language, one requires competency in this domain language.

It has been exposed by the entire research study that the legal English language is based on the archaic features such as its many terms e.g. prepositions and adverbs. It seems a traditional language which is not acquainted with the modern English language. For example, there are archaic words in legal English language which create ambiguity for a common reader of English language e.g. "pursuant to", "hereinabove", "herewith", "supra", "abutting", "anterior to", "prior to", "hereinbefore", "hereunder", "aforementioned", "whereafter" etc. This important reason creates ambiguity for a lay person and students of law who are competent in simple English language only and are unable to understand the legal English language.

The results of the analysis illustrate that the main reason of the ambiguity in the legal English language is the lack of knowledge about the semantic change in the meaning of the words in a particular field. The common people and the students of law have low proficiency in the use of English language in a particular domain.

The analysis shows that the new students of law and other readers of simple English face ambiguity in legal English language because of the comparison of every word or phrase of legal English language with plain English language. But the analysis has identified that in the legal English domain, most of the word meanings in simple English are found in a changed from e.g. "prayer," "instrument," "remedy," "injunction" etc. These all jargons of legal English language have their distinct meaning in legal English from plain English language.

The findings of this study demonstrate that English language learning and linguistic competency are very important for the students of law for improving the language and make them competent in the use of particular lexical features. The identification of different kinds of lexical ambiguous features makes a person competent to deal with the linguistic issues to overcome the issue of ambiguity.

The analysis of the legal English documents reveals that the element of ambiguity is more prominent than other features in legal English language. This study explores the fact that identification of the register or diverse lexical features of legal English language makes the understanding better for the non-lawyer ESL readers.

5.4 Conclusion

Linguistic ambiguity is a linguistic phenomena concerned with multiple meanings in a discourse. To cover all the possible types of linguistic ambiguity, there are five main types: phonological, morphological, lexical, syntactic, and contextual ambiguity. Linguistically ambiguous expressions have multiple meanings. The research study has presented the fact that ambiguities and misunderstandings in the legal English language are due to the diverse features of the legal English language from plain English language. The lexical diverse features are the most prominent barriers in understanding the legal English documents. The solution of the problem is comparative linguistic analysis of the legal and plain English language. The analysis of the legal English documents has suggested remedies for the removal of the ambiguities in the legal English language.

Conclusion of the whole study presents the facts that ambiguities and misunderstandings in the legal English language are due to the diverse features of the legal



English language and plain English language. The solution of the problem is comparative linguistic analysis of the legal and plain English language. Through this research study, many findings are made related to the interests, needs and aims of the students of law and other persons related to it. Through the content analysis of selected legal English documents, many remedial techniques are found for the removal of the target situation. It was discovered through the analysis of the selected legal English documents that everyone should aware about the ambiguous features of legal English language which create ambiguity in reading the legal English documents for him during the procedure of court. The identification of the actual problems through the content analysis made it easy to find the causes and remedies of this important researchable issue.

This research study shows the importance of reading legal English language in the daily routine of a man but the lack knowledge of special vocabulary and the form of sentence structure create hurdles for a layperson. Therefore, the research study identifies these ambiguous lexical features of legal English language to control this problem. An adequate knowledge of the terminological vocabulary and the differences in their meaning from the plain English language are much essential for a common reader of the legal English language. This identification of the ambiguous features in the legal English language enables this research study to find out the causes and remedies of the particular issues of the study.

Through this brief research paper, the study has attempted to highlight not only some of the characteristics of plain English language and legalese but also it explained about the history of plain English language and legalese which is an important part of legal studies. Legalese persists for many reasons. Human beings normally associate legalese with felony files. Legalese offers those documents a distinctive aura and sets them apart from other types of files. This legalese creates barriers for the laypersons and other users of legal English documents and it is imperfect for the comprehensibility of legal English language for all persons of a society and the modern Standard English is completely adequate for legal purposes. This research study has verified through content analysis that plain English language is a powerful way to converse in any profession of the World. The plain English language enhances the image of the legal profession, the obscurity of whose traditional language has long been a source of ridicule.

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