

Preface

This volume of Comparative Legilinguistics contains six articles and one review.

First article refers to legal terminology. It is written by Mami OKAWARA (Japan) and it is titled: *Paraphrases of Legal Terminology Based on Lay Perceptions*. The author touches upon some theoretical issues of the language of law. The paper presents the paraphrase analysis of the legal term 故意 (intention). As a result of data analysis, the author presents downloaded sentences with the term 故意 (intention) that show four characteristics of legal terms. Also, the article shows the misunderstanding of legal language for lay people.

In the second category we have three articles which deal with court translation. Ejarra BATU BALCHA (Ethiopia) is the author of the article titled: *Analysis of Legal Discourse in Cross-Examination Questionings: Adama City Criminal Courtrooms, Oromia Regional State, Ethiopia*. The author discusses issues referring to the discursive properties of both question forms and functions as cross-examining lawyers attempt to deconstruct witnesses' testimony. The analysis in this research provides an insight into the extent of the problem which can arise from a literal interpretation of such answers as indicating agreement (yes, no, OK, etc.). The findings of the study suggest that the answerers are pressured to give answers expected by interrogators which finds reflection in a wide range of linguistic parameters such as discourse, exchange and question forms.

Prolegomena to a New Criminal Trial Procedure in Poland Following the Amendment of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 27.09.2013: From Inquisitorial towards Adversarial Procedure of Witness Examination in Criminal Trials is the main issue of the article written by Grażyna BEDNAREK (Poland). The aim of the author is to present the new criminal laws in Poland that came into effect on 1 July 2015 and explain the prospective consequences that they will have on Polish courtroom discourse. The paper comprises three major parts. It commences with the demonstration of the inquisitorial procedure of witness examination in criminal trials prior to the amendment of criminal law in Poland. Then, it presents the criticism of the inquisitorial criminal trial by the representatives of academia and legal practitioners in Poland, and explains the reasons for the transformation of the inquisitorial criminal trial into an adversarial one. Finally, it presents the new regulations of the Code of Criminal Procedure pertaining to the criminal trial and establishes what effects they will have on Polish courtroom discourse.

The article of Sangi GURUNG (Hong Kong) has the objective to illustrate the *Identities, Cultural Mitigation and Ethnic Minority Interpreters*.

This paper explores the identity construction of ethnic minority (EM) interpreters in Hong Kong and the way cultural differences are incorporated into interpreting in legal settings.

The next article is devoted to legal translation. *The postulate of affective neutrality vs. verbal expressiveness in the legislative texts on German and Polish criminal law. A comparative study* is written by Karolina KĘSICKA (Poland). The text is in German and illuminates the phenomenon of expressiveness in the language of law based on empirically examined terminology selected from the German and Polish Criminal Codes. The purpose is to show the variety of measures used for the verbalisation of expressiveness in the analyzed legal texts, to clarify their text function, to research how the examined German and Polish legal terms differ in terms of the degree of expressive intensity and to outline the issues of translation of verbal expression.

Finally, the last article is devoted to linguistic rights and legal communication in the European Union – *Institutional Multilingualism in the European Union – Policy, Rules and Practice*. The article is written by Karolina PALUSZEK (Poland). The author describes problems resulting from the usage of official EU languages. Also, the inconsistencies between the practice of internal and external communication of the EU institutions are presented.

The last text in this volume is a review of the Artur Dariusz KUBACKI's book *Wybór dokumentów austriackich dla kandydatów na tłumaczy przysięgłych. Auswahl österreichischer Dokumente für Kandidaten zum beeideten Übersetzer/Dolmetscher* written by Ida SKUBIS published by Wydawnictwo Biuro Tłumaczeń KUBART.

The editors hope that this volume of our journal will be of interest to its readers.