

Abstract

Language, Translation and Law

The main objective of this thesis is to explore the interconnection of law and language with a special focus on legal translation. The author of the thesis analyses the history of legal translation together with multilingualism in European Union. The thesis is divided into three major parts: „Language in law“, „Translation in law“ and „Language(s) and multilingualism in the European Union“.

The author explains the term *legal language* in the first part. The attention is directed to indeterminacy and incomprehensibility of the legal language as well as to legal vocabulary and stylistics of legal discourse. The author furthermore analyses the role and legal regulation of the legal language in Czech legislation. The plain language movement is noted as well.

The second part of the thesis examines in detail various aspects of legal translation. The author summarises legal translation history worldwide as well as the historical development within the Czech territory. Legal translation is addressed on the basis of the specific use of translation (legislation, international treaties, certified translation and interpretation). In the certified translation and interpretation history the author introduces the sworn interpreters cabinet decree of 22 December 1835 (*Hofdecret 109. vom 22. December 1835*), that has not yet been published elsewhere. Then she draws attention to the quality of translation in association with education of translators.

The third part focuses on the unique linguistic situation of the European Union with respect to the assigned subject. Apart from the multilingualism issues the author deals with the use of languages in particular institutions of the European Union. She mentions the European Union legislation in the context of multilingualism and relevant European Union case law. The author propounds a perspective on a possible linguistic development within the European Union. She finishes the last part with information about the position of translators in the European Union and translation problems specific to legal translation within the EU.

In conclusion the author expresses her persuasion regarding the necessity to enhance language skills of lawyers, as well as legal literacy of legal translators, which may result in a refinement of the law itself. She subsequently outlines possible solutions how to improve the present state of legal translation via education of lawyers and translators. Last but not least, she emphasizes the vital role of legal translation for the evolution and the proper functioning of law, particularly in the field of international law and EU law.