

Preface

This volume of *Comparative Legilinguistics* contains five articles. Two of them refer to language and terminology in legal settings, two to legal translation and one to legal corpora.

Michal KUBANEK and Ondřej KLABAL from the Czech Republic (*Plain or Archaic: The New Czech Civil Code Going against the Flow*) discuss the terminology included in the new version of Civil Code of the Czech Republic which will enter into force on January 1, 2014 and terminological decisions made by legislators. The analysis and survey carried out by the authors have revealed that the applied terminology is to a large extent unknown to lay people. However, the authors remind the readers that statutory instruments play a very special role and therefore they cannot be expected to be understood by everyone.

The second paper by Mami Hiraike OKAWARA from Japan (*Lay Understanding of Legal Terminology in the Era of the Japanese Lay Judge System*) touches upon the unintelligible nature of legal terminology from the perspective of persons not well versed in law, that is to say, lay judges and the attempts to make the terminology more easily accessible and understandable for them. In the second part of the article a case study is presented illustrating the discussed terminological quandaries.

Hanna JUSZKIEWICZ (Poland) in her paper titled *Dissolution of Marriage: Functional Approach to Polish-English Translation of Selected Court Documents* presents the analysis of problems which may be encountered when translating selected court documents in divorce and judicial separation cases. The research reveals that translators need a more advanced and context sensitive legal dictionary than the typical ones available on the market.

Łukasz ZYGMUNT, a Polish prosecutor, (*Lexical Pitfalls in Polish-English Legal Translation: a Case Study Involving Students of English Philology in Poland*) deals with difficulties connected with the lack of full equivalents for Polish legal terminology in English. The author presents a selection of examples and discusses why they may not be considered sufficiently equivalent.

The next section contains only one paper by Juliette SCOTT from the UK (*Can Genre-Specific Diy Corpora, Compiled by Legal Translators Themselves, Assist Them in 'Learning the Lingo' of Legal Subgenres?*) who presents very inspiring research into the role of corpora in legal translation. The author rightly notes that highly specialized corpora are indispensable in the legal translators' work especially if there are no legal dictionaries and thesauri for a given language pair.

The last section in the volume contains three reviews. Marcus GALDIA reviews *The Oxford Handbook of Language and Law*, edited by Peter M. Tiersma and Lawrence M. Solan published by the Oxford University Press in 2012. Karolina KACZMAREK reviews *Vagueness in Normative Texts* edited by Vijay K. Bhatia, Jan Engberg, Maurizio Gotti and Dorothee Heller published as 23 volume of the Linguistic Insight Series. Finally, Aleksandra MATULEWSKA reviews the book edited by Maurizio Gotti and Christopher WILLIAMS titled *Legal Discourse Across Languages and Cultures*, issue 117 of the series Linguistic Insights edited by Maurizio Gotti and published by Peter Lang.

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