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Linguistic features of English popular legal texts: Theory and practice

Abstract

The article describes the basic text features applied to a number of typical English popular legal texts. These include integrity, connectedness, continuity, pragmatic attitude, informativeness, completeness. Each feature is briefly described: integrity reflects the indissoluble connection of all elements of the text, connectedness refers to the internal semantic unity of the text and the continuity implies the input of new information into the existing semantic indissoluble chain of text, pragmatic attitude is a functional orientation of the author of the text to achieve specific objectives, informativeness involves the gradual disclosure of the topic text by entering all new information, completeness means the disclosure it threads to the necessary extent. The paper also analyzes the manifestation of these features in relation to the research material.

The analysis shows that pragmatic attitude of English popular legal texts is specific because of the author's intention to clarify legal rules, court's decisions, and legal practice related to a particular legal issue. The recipient's purpose is to receive the necessary amount of professional information on the relevant legal topic in an understandable form. A number of conclusions are made: about the interconnectedness, interdependence and imperativeness of the main linguistic features of popular legal texts; about the specificity of each feature in relation to the texts considered (primarily due to their genre originality and pragmatic attitude).

Keywords: discourse, legal discourse, text, text linguistic features, internet discourse.