

Michał Drożdż

*University of John Paul in Cracow*

## **COMMUNICATION COMPETENCE IN LAW LANGUAGE. REVIEW OF MONOGRAPHS**

Maria Teresa Lizisowa, *Komunikacyjna teoria języka prawnego*, Scientific Publishing House CONTRACT, Poznań 2016, 492 pages, ISBN 978-83-65287-32-8.

The study is published in the series *Dissertationes Legilinguisticae 4 – Legilinguistic Studies 4* (Studies in Legal Language and Communication). In terms of content is very extensive. Editorial reviews made by Marcus Galdia, Andrzej Malinowski and Aleksandra Malinowska.

In terms of content layout – this work consists of six chapters, a very broad end, a list of schemas, and a list of tables.

In the review content you pay attention mainly to three issues. First of all, monograph is one of the first papers on communication theory of legal language. The main thesis is the analysis of legal language treated as “communication”. Under the premise – there is a personal interpretation of law as a system of legal norms established by the state and applied in social life. Also in the assumption (default) there are numerous moral connotations, in accordance with the power of law and the ethical principles of the right law.

Secondly – the author is widely present (especially in the sixth chapter – pp. 353–436). The study takes into account the whole of the law and the legal language in the first three chapters – as it states – the ontological nature of objective positive law (*lex*) and subjective subjective law (*ius*). It broadens the theme that “the positive law is the set of rules of conduct of people connected with legal nodes, and the subjective law is the fact of law in interpersonal relationships, determined by positive law and judged in the sphere of duty of human action” (p. 284).

Thirdly, the description of varied methods of linguistic research done in the whole work is interesting. Therefore, the author uses the legal demands of language analysis. It shows the convergence of the legal system and the legal language system. The value

of the work emphasizes not only systemic studies of language phenomena but also dozens of social and legal phenomena (interactional contacts, language signs, legal texts, subordination, competence, etc.). The whole of the work is manifested as a good reconstruction of the semantic system of the legal language, the structure of the texts of the legal act and the pragmatic discovery of the legal order in the structures of the language.

In the review one should pay attention to the cohesiveness of the main research intent with the content of the study. The intention of the author was to show the legal language fixed in the legal text. The novelty of the work is to present the “semiotic code of the legislator” and the possibility of its reception by lawyers as well as ordinary people. It is very well presented in the paper “Normative in semantics of linguistic signs conveying general legal norms which regulate legal relations” (p. 295n). With particular interest, the author deals with, as he calls it, the “deontic modality” in expressing the will of the legislator in the structures of the language (p. 321n). Two different realities are presented in monograph, which are possible to know from the legal language itself. On the one hand, it is “the abstract nature of legal content” (e.g. sentences setting sanctions – p. 269n). On the other hand, there is a need to “translate” the legal language into the popular language (p. 317n).

Monographs also have a valuable layer of reference to widely understood legal culture. This what the author needed to show – especially in the fifth chapter on *Legal language in the pragmatic aspect* (p. 291n) – several issues of “dynamics of the text of a legal act” and “communication in the legal language” (p. 294n). Indirectly in this chapter, the author proves that functional premises integrate the rights of persons, their deeds and things with the communication of legal norms and the interpretation of these norms. The law creates and communicates legislative texts, and interprets these texts as legal practices, legal texts and law texts, primarily the media.

The research method applied in the work is also worth pointing out. The author makes the legal language of “fitting” the language of the theory of personalistic communication to the transmission of legal content. It does so in terms of normativity and axiology. Although the legal language is present throughout the text, it is interesting to note the laws passed by the legislature, the language of communication theory. The author describes this as “performative modality”. Simply put – the author justifies that in practice life exists both normative legal languages, legal interpretative languages and colloquialisms about events defined by law. These languages constitute the legal language – lingua legis. Legislative acts necessary for the implementation of the statutes are issued by the central and local administrative bodies. These documents, like the law, are the source of law, the sender of which is the legislator, but the lawyer or official is their linguistic interpreter. And it is very rich in practice – as it is in the title of monograph – “communicating with the legal language”.

The whole work is consistent, valuable in terms of content. Objective legal concepts are adapted to legislative function, but are perceived objectively. These concepts communicate the legal norms and thus result in semantic knowledge of the law. It is therefore worth to study the peer-reviewed monograph.