

Sprache und Medialität des Rechts
Language and Media of Law

Band 2

**Legal Linguistics Beyond Borders:
Language and Law in a World
of Media, Globalisation and
Social Conflicts**

**Relaunching the International Language and
Law Association (ILLA)**

**Edited by
Friedemann Vogel**



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Herausgegeben von

Ralph Christensen und
Friedemann Vogel

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Legal Linguistics in Spain

By Gianluca Pontrandolfo, Trieste¹

Abstract

The aim of this chapter is to provide an overview of the emerging interdisciplinary academic field of legal linguistics in Spain. After introducing the features of the complex relation between law and language in Spain, the chapter aims at mapping the most important areas of research of Spanish scholars, underlining the main research foci. Emphasis is put on traditional linguistic studies, legal genres, discourse analysis, modernisation of legal discourse, forensic linguistics, legal translation, and interpreting studies. The paper also mentions the main research groups and projects, the editorial panorama devoted to Spanish legal linguistics, as well as the training initiatives carried out for legal and linguistic experts. The overview confirms that, notwithstanding the inexistence of a long-standing tradition in this field and the difficulty in drawing clear-cut lines of research, legal linguistics is constantly growing in Spain and it is witnessing a consolidation from an academic perspective.

Keywords: legal linguistics, law and language, research, didactics, research groups, Spain

I. Introduction

The last four decades have witnessed a consolidation of the relationship between law and language in Spain, so much that legal linguistics (sp. *lingüística jurídica*, *lingüística forense*, *lingüística legal*) is now starting to be considered as a full-blown discipline, declined into a wide range of theoretical and applied perspectives (Taranilla 2011: 32–47; Ballesteros / López Samaniego 2017: 43–44).

The idea that linguists can put their knowledge at the service of other disciplines and take part in contemporary society is nowadays widely accepted. However, when it comes to Spain, as Taranilla puts it (2011: 41), most of legal linguistics studies in Spain are conceived, at least at the dawn of this emerging discipline, within the English linguistics sphere of influence, Translation Studies or teaching of *Language for Specific Purposes* (LSP). This means that the contrastive perspective has always prevailed over the monolingual one, with the final result that the interest in Spanish legal

¹ This chapter is partially framed within the project entitled “Discurso jurídico y claridad comunicativa. Análisis contrastivo de sentencias españolas y de sentencias en español del Tribunal de Justicia de la Unión Europea” (FFI2015-70332-P), financed by the Spanish *Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad* and FEDER funds (Principal investigator: Prof. Estrella Montolío Durán, *Universitat de Barcelona*).

linguistics has not produced unified, specific lines of research, but a number of different yet complementary perspectives (Cassany et al. 2007: 466)².

The present chapter discusses some of the most important research perspectives, bearing in mind that it would be impossible to mention every single study carried out in this field. Moreover, tracing the trajectories of legal linguistics through theoretical perspectives and analytical tools would be a hard task since most of the scholars who studied legal linguistics did so by selecting a specific genre and describing its features, combining heterogeneous analytical tools. For this reason, research in legal linguistics in Spain is, in Taranilla's words, "atomised" in the sense that there are many individual studies on specific genres, most of them isolated, which rarely propose a theoretical and methodological perspective of investigation, thus limiting the dialogue and interactions with other genres and the systems of genres (2011: 43–44).

II. Topics and directions

In order to map the research fields, the areas of interest and topics of Spanish scholars have been categorised in the following groups:

- 1) analyses of legal language: the linguistic description of the typical features of legal language distinguishing it from other *Languages for Special Purposes* (LSP); these preliminary analyses focused on specific functional varieties, initially tackled from the lexical and morphosyntactic perspective;
- 2) analyses of legal genres: the notion of discursive genre, fruit of the interest of linguistics for the communicative and pragmatic dimensions of texts, arose in Spain thanks to the seminal works by Swales (1990) and Bhatia (1993), whose insights were then applied to the analysis of Spanish LSP;
- 3) studies on the relationship between the linguistic form and the linguistic function in legal contexts (legal language in context, e. g. the linguistic process of questioning suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings) (see among others: Figueras 2001; Ridaó 2009; Taranilla 2011);
- 4) pragmatic analyses of legal language: due to the inner features of legal discourse, Pragmatics has always been a privileged area of research for legal scholars: speech acts and politeness are just two illustrative examples (see: Ridaó 2009; Taranilla 2009);
- 5) conversation analyses in legal contexts: communication ethnography and conversational analysis, the study of the nature and functions of language in the negotiation of social order within the framework of legal semiotics (Mattila 2013: 13);

² This is confirmed also by Mattila: "In the Spanish-speaking world, the term [legal linguistics] appears not well established. Indeed, it did not appear at all in the source texts for the chapter on legal Spanish" (2013: 7).

- 6) studies on the social conditions in which legal discourse is generated (production conditions of legal texts, ideology, power in the administration of justice);
- 7) studies at the interface of *Applied Linguistics and Law*, such as forensic linguistics and simplification of legal language;
- 8) legal translation and interpreting studies.

The following sections emphasise some of these perspectives – more specifically, lines 1., 2), 6), 7) and 8) – chosen for being particularly representative of the current research trends in Spain. An overview of legal linguistics in Spanish-speaking countries (not limited to peninsular Spanish), especially from the point of view of legal Spanish, has also been carried out by Mattila (2013: 273–304).

1. Traditional studies on legal language

The first and most productive research area is the investigation into the typical traits of legal language. This area corresponds to what Mattila considers as “the real nature of legal linguistics”, that is to say, the study of “the development, characteristics, and usage of legal language; studies in this discipline may equally concern vocabulary (notably terminology), syntax (relationship between words), or semantics (the meaning of words) of the language” (2013: 11).

Influenced by seminal books on English legal language (e. g. Mellinkoff 1963; Tiersma 1999), this strand of research has been characterised by the identification of the linguistic and discursive features that distance legal language from ordinary language.

Interestingly, the very first studies on law and language were carried out by legal experts (e. g. Rodríguez-Aguilera 1969; Hernández Gil 1987; Prieto de Pedro 1991; Martín del Burgo y Marchán 2002; Cazorla Prieto 2007). These earlier studies, drafted by experts in law, are characterised by a *philosophical* approach to the study of law and language: the legal perspective prevails over the linguistic one and the considerations on the inner features of legal language are just embryonal.

The first systematic work from the linguistic perspective is that of Alcaraz Varó / Hughes (2001), who targeted the book to translation and interpreting specialists (both students and professionals). The book is still a point of reference for many scholars working in Legal Translation studies (see: II.6.): it contains a study of Spanish legal language and particularly of legal terms and concepts analysed from the linguistic perspective (lexical, syntactical and stylistic features) and translated into English and French. The study was followed by other similar pieces of research, focused exclusively on the linguistic perspective (Hernando Cuadrado 2003; Samaniego 2004).

Many of these *traditional* studies on the features of legal language have been focusing on terminological and lexicographic aspects of legal texts (see among others: Cruz Martínez 2002; Fernández Bello 2008; Giráldez Ceballos Escalera 2007; Felices Lago 2010).

2. Research on legal genres

Swales' (1990) and Bhatia's (1993) theories of genre, considered as "a class of communicative events, the members of which share some set of communicative purposes" (1990: 58), highly influenced the *GENTT* (Textual Genres for Translation) (see: II.6.) research group of the *Universidad Jaume I de Castellón* (among its members: Anabel Borja Albi, Isabel García Izquierdo and Esther Monzó Nebot).

García Izquierdo's (2007) and Borja Albi's (2007) chapters on genre in LSP and legal genres³ respectively were one of the first studies in which the genre theory was systematically applied to the analysis of legal texts and later applied to translation (García Izquierdo 2005) and legal translation (Monzó 2002; Borja Albi 2005).

The idea behind these first studies is that legal language is not a homogeneous variety, but a prism of different varieties highly influenced by the discursive genres, which acquires a theoretical status able to justify how language works in legal settings. The characterisation of legal genres is the core of other works (Castellón 2000, 2001; López Samaniego 2010; Taranilla 2010; López Samaniego / Taranilla 2012).

As far as the single genres are concerned (see Borja Albi 2007 for a detailed classification), research has focused on the following macro-genres:

- *administrative texts* (see among others: Calvo 1980, 1985; Castellón 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001; de Miguel 2000; Duarte 1997; Etxebarria 1997; Reig 2005; Ricós 1998)
- *legislative texts* (see among others: Calvo 2007, Montolío 2000; Taranilla 2010)
- *judicial texts* (especially judgments) (Tomás Ríos 2005; López Samaniego 2006; Montolío y López Samaniego 2008; Henríquez Salido / Valera Portela 2010; Taranilla 2011)

3. Discourse analysis

A rich contribution to the study of Spanish legal discourse comes from the *EDAP* group⁴ of the *Universitat de Barcelona*. Led by Montolío Durán, they have been investigating the inner relationship between law and language from a *discourse* point of view in different contexts.

A strand of research has been studying the relationship between legal language and the media (see: Yúfera et al. 2013; Polanco / Yúfera 2015) which is a topic

³ Legal discourse encompasses a large number of genres (wills, agreements, powers of attorney, statutes, law text books, law reports, legal opinions, etc.) which are organised into different subsets of interdependent genres and have interacting purposes and forms (Borja Albi 2000, 2013: 34).

⁴ http://www.ub.edu/edap/?page_id=424 (03/11/2018).

that deserves attention, since legal discourse is often distorted when popularised online.

Other scholars have investigated the discursive traits of legal language, ranging from the enumeration strategies in judicial texts (Yúfera / Polanco 2012) to the organisation of discourse through paraphrastic constructions (Polanco Martínez / Yúfera Gómez 2013).

Some scholars have also investigated the domestic violence discourse, a topic for which Spain has always been a pioneer country in Europe. A contrastive perspective is offered by Orts Llopis (2017), whereas an interpreting point of view (see: II.6.) is provided in the research of Maribel del Pozo Triviño, *Universidad de Vigo* (see: del Pozo Triviño / Álvarez Escobar 2014). An important contribution is also offered by legal experts: Blanca Rodríguez-Ruiz from the *Universidad de Sevilla*, who, for example, has been researching on gender in constitutional discourses on abortion (2016).

As far as the works carried out in Spain by scholars working with other legal languages (not Spanish), there are many researchers studying English legal linguistics and discourse: Ruth Breeze (*Universidad de Navarra*) has extensively published on legal discourse; María Ángeles Orts Llopis (*Universidad de Murcia*) and Esther Vázquez del Árbol (*Universidad Autónoma de Madrid*) who have also investigated legal translation between English and Spanish; Miguel Ángel Campos Pardillos (*Universidad de Alicante*) who is one of the first scholars who studied metaphors in legal settings; Teresa Fanego (*Universidad de Santiago de Compostela*) who, in many of her studies, adopts also a diachronic perspective on English legal discourse (see: the CHELAR project⁵).

4. Simplification of legalese

The problem of the quality and readability of legal texts has always been a topic of interest among Spanish scholars, both linguists and legal experts (Cassany 2005; Mattila 2013: 294–297).

The baroque style of Spanish legal texts, characterised by a number of “ills” (Mattila 2013: 289) or “patologías” (CMLJ 2011: 9–10) – such as over-long sentences, repetitive and formal expressions, over-use of nouns and nominalisations, use of capital letters and punctuation marks contrary to the recommendations of language specialists – has been the target of many initiatives aimed at simplifying legal (especially administrative and judicial) texts.

The Spanish government has always been very active and devoted great attention to the topic of a clear administrative language. Since the 80s, importance has been attributed to the language of public administrations (Castellón 1998: 31, 2006).

⁵ <http://www.usc-vlcg.es/CHELAR.htm> (03/11/2018).

The interest for a clear and understandable administrative language culminated in 1990 with the publication of the *Manual de estilo del lenguaje administrativo* by the Spanish Ministry of Public Administration. Several other publications followed on administrative language (Calvo 1980; Prieto de Pedro / Abril 1987; Prieto de Pedro 1996; Duarte 1997; Duarte / Martínez 1995; Etxebarria 1997; Castellón 2000, 2001) as well as on legislative language (see: GRETEL 1989).

Starting from the XX century and following the recurrent criticism to the opacity of Spanish legal discourse, both by citizens and specialists in law and language (among others: Rodríguez Aguilera 1969, 1974; Prieto de Pedro 1996; de Miguel 2000; Alcaraz Varó / Hughes 2001; Bayo Delgado 1997; Campos Pardillos 2007; Cazorla 2007; González Salgado 2009; López Samaniego 2010), the initiatives began to spread also to justice administration with the approval of the *Carta de derechos de los ciudadanos ante la justicia* (Ministerio de Justicia 2002), the first official sign of the necessity to simplify legal matters to citizens. Following this line, the *Plan de Transparencia Judicial*, approved by the Spanish Ministries on October 2005, created the *Technical Advisory Team of the Legal Language Modernisation Commission*, whose members were academic, legal and institutional personalities guided by the joint objective of drafting some guidelines for the improvement of legal discourse in Spanish. By means of a government agreement, dated 30 of December 2009, in 2011 the most important Spanish institutions interested in language and justice (the Real Academia Española, the Ministry of Justice, among others) signed a Framework cooperation agreement to promote the clarity of the legal/administrative language. The results of the report⁶ represent an extremely useful tool for legal linguists, since they systematically map the features of legalese and propose a series of recommendations to correct some of the *pathologies* of this professional language. A huge contribution to the field has been given by the EDAP group (*Universitat de Barcelona*) whose members have been particularly interested in the clarification of legal language, especially in legislative and judicial texts (see: Montolío / Samaniego 2008).

In 2013, the first *Jornadas internacionales de modernización del discurso jurídico: acercamiento de la justicia al ciudadano* (International days for the modernisation of legal discourse: drawing closer justice to citizens) were organised by the VALESCO group in Spain (*Universitat de Valencia*)⁷. The event proved to be a fruitful arena to share some thoughts on the clarification of legal language since it gathered, at the same roundtable, legal experts, lawyers/judges and linguists. The 2012 volume edited by Montolío Durán summarises Spain's status quo on the topic and proposes useful and practical guidelines to approach legal discourse.

Today the interest in the topic is still profound, as witnessed by a recent contribution by Jiménez Yáñez (2016), with a strong training perspective on how to

⁶ The reports are available on the VALESCO group's website: <http://valesco.es/justicia/informes-modernizacion-del-lenguaje-juridico/> (03/11/2018).

⁷ <http://valesco.es/justicia/> (03/11/2018).

write clearly or the recent publication of the *Libro de estilo de la justicia* edited by Muñoz Machado (2017), conceived with the support of the *Real Academia Española* and the *Consejo General del Poder Judicial*. The editorial project also stems from the effort put in the elaboration of the *Diccionario del español jurídico* (DEJ) (2016) which has become a fundamental reference work for any scholar interested in Spanish legal linguistics.

5. Forensic Linguistics

This section focuses on forensic linguistics conceived within its strict meaning, that is to say, as the activities that see linguists participate in judicial proceedings using linguistic methods and tools, especially applying linguistic analyses to questions related to judicial evidence (Taranilla 2011: 39).

If this subfield is nowadays recognised in Spain as a productive area of research, it is thanks to the outstanding work of Maria Teresa Turell i Julià (*Universitat Pompeu Fabra de Barcelona*). President of the International Association of Forensic Linguists (IAFLM) as of 2011 and Academic Director of the University Master in Forensic Linguistics, the first course of its type in Spain, she directed several competitive projects in the field of Forensic Idiolectometry which were pioneering in Spain, Catalonia and around the world. In the legal sphere, over the last few years she acted as an expert witness in more than sixty civil and criminal cases in Catalonia, Spain and the United States. She was head of the Forensic Linguistics Laboratory (*ForensicLab*) at *Institut Universitari de Lingüística Aplicada* (IULA) (see: III.), a center at *Universitat Pompeu Fabra* that developed teaching and research activities in forensic linguistics, and made use of linguistic evidence for forensic purposes in Court (1993–2013).

Turell's contributions to the field are inestimable since she helped defining the conceptual space of Forensic Linguistics, underlining the main concepts, methods and application (see the volume she edited in 2005). Even though the *ForensicLab* is no longer active, there are still some research initiatives in Spain (especially at the UPF of Barcelona) devoted to the interaction between linguistics and forensic settings⁸.

6. Legal translation & interpreting

The panorama of legal translation and interpreting in Spain shows a varied picture but confirms an active research focus.

One of the first scholars researching on legal translation in Spain was Roberto Mayoral Asensio (*Universidad de Granada*), author of the renowned 2003 book on translating official documents. Emilio Ortega Arjonilla (*Universidad de*

⁸ See for example: https://www.upf.edu/web/uval/projectes/-/asset_publisher/uKgNfnoCAQ5K/content/id/8593203/maximized#.W8mOUUnszY2w (03/11/2018).

Málaga) and Pedro San Ginés Aguilar (*Universidad de Granada*) also contributed to the field, theoretically distinguishing sub-sectors of legal translation, such as sworn translation (*traducción jurada*) and judicial translation (*traducción judicial*) (see: 1996a, 1996b). They had the merit of opening up a line of research in the training of legal translators, which was later followed by, among others, Borja Albi (2007) in her seminal book on the strategies, materials and tools for legal translation between English and Spanish.

Legal translation between English and Spanish was obviously one of the first fields of research in Spain, due to the influence of English legal linguistics on Spanish studies (see: I.). The *Universidad Jaume I de Castellón* (see: II.2.) has always been very active (Anabel Borja Albi, Esther Monzó Nebot)⁹, together with the *Universidad de Granada* (Catherine Way), the *Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona* (Mariana Orozco Jutorán, Carmen Bestué), the *Universidad de Salamanca* (Rosario Martín Ruano) or the *Universidad Pablo de Olavide de Sevilla* (Francisco Javier Vigier Moreno).

Legal translation between French and Spanish is one of the most studied combination in Spain, as confirmed by different foci of research throughout Spain: *Universidad de Granada* (Esperanza Alarcón Navio, Silvia Parra Galiano, María del Carmen Acuyo Verdejo, Guadalupe Soriano Barabino), *Universidad de Málaga* (Emilio Ortega Arjonilla, Tanagua Barceló Martínez, Iván Delgado Pugés), *Universidad Pablo de Olavide de Sevilla* (Juan Jiménez Salcedo), *Universidad de Salamanca* (Cristina Valderrey Reñones). Legal translation between German and Spanish is studied and researched at the *Universidad de Salamanca* (Pilar Elena, Iris Holl). Members of the *Universidad de Alcalá de Henares*, leaded by Carmen Valero, have been investigating legal interpreting within the framework of public service interpreting (see III.).

III. Research activities

There are a few full-blown research centers in Spain specifically devoted to legal linguistics, but many research groups and projects.

One of the first pioneer centers in legal linguistics in Spain was the above-mentioned *ForensicLab*¹⁰ (see: II.5.) at *Institut Universitari de Lingüística Aplicada* (IULA) (*Universitat Pompeu Fabra of Barcelona*). It was founded in 1993 by Turell who directed it until 2013. The center developed teaching and research activities in forensic linguistics, and made use of linguistic evidence for forensic purposes in Court.

⁹ An important bibliographic map for the study and practice of legal, court and official translation and interpreting is offered by Monzó (2010): <https://www.erudit.org/fr/revues/meta/2010-v55-n2-meta3880/044245ar/> (03/11/2018).

¹⁰ <https://www.upf.edu/en/web/uval/forensiclab> (03/11/2018).

Among the research groups active in disseminating the results of important investigations into language and law (and translation), it is worth mentioning the *GENTT* (Textual Genres for Translation)¹¹ (see: II.2.), a research group within the Department of Translation and Communication at the *Universitat Jaume I in Castellón* (Spain), focusing on the application of the concept of textual genre to the analysis of specialised multilingual communication. Since it was set up in the year 2000 it has obtained continuous funding through public tenders (over 20 projects funded). Within the context of *GENTT*, a sub-group has been created (*JudGENTT*, see: Borja Albi 2013), an action research project, aimed at improving the working processes of court translators by designing an intelligent multilingual legal documentation management system that makes it possible to automate processes of retrieval, indexing, semi-controlled composition and assisted translation of texts generated in judicial environments, always taking account of the needs, habits and processes of the end users of the texts, in this case legal translators, and in particular, criminal court translators.

As far as research projects are concerned, the *Law10n project*¹², developed at the *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)* under the supervision of Olga Torres-Hostench, is an interesting research on legal terminology and translation. The project analysed all the relevant aspects of the translation of software licensing agreements and proposed models of translation which, on the one hand, fulfil the requirements of Spanish law, and, on the other, remain faithful to the spirit and legal effects of the source text. The translation records (*fichas terminológicas*) are now available online¹³ and prove to be extremely useful for legal translators and terminologists.

Members of the *UAB* (Carmen Bestué and Mariana Orozco Jutarán) have also been actively involved in another project on legal interpreting (*TIPp*, Traducción e Interpretación en los procesos penales¹⁴) within the *MIRAS* group¹⁵ (Mediation and Interpretation: Research in the Social Area). The project – entitled *Quality in translation as an element to safeguard procedural guarantees in criminal proceedings: development of resources to help court interpreters of Spanish-Romanian, Arab, Chinese, French and English* – is highly innovative in its methodology since it is based on the analysis of real criminal proceedings held in Spain.

Legal interpreting lies at the heart of many projects developed at the *Universidad de Alcalá de Henares* and led by Carmen Valero. The *Training and Research on*

¹¹ <http://www.gentt.uji.es/en/> (03/11/2018).

¹² <http://lawcalisation.com/> / <http://grupsderecerca.uab.cat/tradumatica/en/content/law10n-research> (03/11/2018).

¹³ <http://lawcalisation.com/fichas> (03/11/2018).

¹⁴ <http://pagines.uab.cat/tipp/en> (03/11/2018).

¹⁵ <http://grupsderecerca.uab.cat/miras/en> (03/11/2018).

*Public Service Translation and Interpreting Group (FITISPos)*¹⁶ is actively involved in training and research in public services translation and interpreting.

As mentioned in II.4, members of the *Universitat de Barcelona* are now involved in the *JustClar* project, a contrastive corpus-based analysis of judgments delivered by the Spanish Tribunal Supremo, and judgments in Spanish delivered by the Court of Justice of the European Union (see: Garofalo 2018; Pontrandolfo forth.). The hypothesis upon which the project relies is that there are currently two varieties of judicial Spanish: the traditional one used in Spanish courts and a recent one corresponding to the language of the judgments written in Spanish by the Court of Justice of the EU. The project seeks to determine to what extent this European variety of judicial Spanish, or the judicial Spanish currently used in Spain, meet the international principles of clear wording, looking into the process of clarification of legal discourse, setting and evaluating what linguistic and discursive features of these two Spanish judicial modes make them more understandable to the average citizen.

Another interesting project, which straddles computational and corpus linguistics, *Natural Language Processing (NLP)* and comparative legal terminology has been carried out at the *Universidad de Granada* under the supervision of Ángel Felices Lago¹⁷. The *Globalcrimeterm* project aimed at developing a subontology based on a specific area of criminal law (international cooperation against terrorism and organized crime) within the architecture of *FunGramKB*¹⁸, a multipurpose lexico-conceptual knowledge base for *NLP* systems (see: Felices Lago 2015).

As far as events and conferences specifically devoted to legal linguistics are concerned, a pioneering event that reflects the interest in legal linguistics is the Jurilinguistics Conference¹⁹ organised by the *Universidad Pablo de Olavide* (Seville, Spain) (Juan Jiménez Salcedo, *Universidad Pablo de Olavide de Seville*, and Javier Moreno Rivero, *University of Cambridge*), now at its second edition²⁰. The purpose of the event was not only to offer a solid background into the professionalisation in this hybrid field, but also to explore new areas of study and/or research. The conferences emphasised the synergies between language and law, recognising jurilinguistics as a full-blown paradigm of analysis; the interaction among the methods existing in both disciplines (Comparative Law, Applied Linguistics, Jurisprudential Analysis,

¹⁶ <https://www.uah.es/en/investigacion/unidades-de-investigacion/grupos-de-investigacion/Formacion-e-investigacion-en-traducccion-e-interpretacion-en-los-servicios-publicos/#Coordinador> (03/11/2018).

¹⁷ “Elaboración de una subontología terminológica en un contexto multilingüe (español, inglés e italiano) a partir de la base de conocimiento FunGramKB en el ámbito de la cooperación internacional en materia penal: terrorismo y crimen organizado” [FFi2010-15983], PI: Prof. Ángel Felices Lago (*Universidad de Granada*).

¹⁸ <http://www.fungramkb.com/default.aspx> (03/11/2018).

¹⁹ <https://www.jurilinguistica.com/> (03/11/2018).

²⁰ The first edition was held in 2016 and titled “*From Legal Translation to Jurilinguistics: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Language and Law*”; the second one in 2018 (“*Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Language and Law*”).

Terminology, Corpus Linguistics, Text Linguistics, etc.) is giving its fruits, as can be seen from the eclectic approach presented by the attendees of the conference. Such symposia have become a meeting point for professionals and researchers from these fields.

IV. Editorial panorama

One of the most important journals specialised in law and language in Spain is the *Revista de Lengua i Dret/Journal of Language and Law*²¹. Founded in 1983 and directed by Eva Pons Parera (*Universitat de Barcelona*), it collects academic papers about administrative and legal language, linguistic law and language policy, and sociolinguistics.

As far as the editorial houses are concerned, it is worth mentioning *Thomson Reuters Aranzadi*²², *Ariel Derecho*²³ and *Dykinson*²⁴, specialised in the publication of volumes devoted primarily to legal topics but also legal linguistic ones. The series *Interlingua* of the editorial house *Comares*²⁵ (edited by Emilio Ortega Arjonilla, *Universidad de Málaga*) has been publishing many volumes on legal linguistics and translation.

V. Training initiatives

Events dedicated to the training of experts in legal writing and communication are increasingly being held in Spain, organised both by legal and linguistic sectors (see also: Espaliú Berdud et al. 2017).

The *Escuela Judicial de España* (Consejo General del Poder Judicial)²⁶ is one of the key training centers in Spain dedicated to the training of judges. It is interesting to note, from the legal linguistics perspective, that the center has included specific training in linguistics (legal writing and communication techniques) (see: Montolío Durán / López Samaniego 2008), which strengthen the collaboration between legal and linguistic experts.

The *Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo* usually organises similar events (e. g. *Seminario de Comunicación para Juristas*²⁷), thus confirming the importance of mutual collaborations between the two areas.

²¹ <http://revistes.eapc.gencat.cat/index.php/rld/index> (03/11/2018).

²² <https://www.thomsonreuters.es/es/tienda.html> (03/11/2018).

²³ <https://www.planetadelibros.com/coleccion-ariel-derecho/0000930000> (03/11/2018).

²⁴ <https://www.dykinson.com/> (03/11/2018).

²⁵ <https://www.comares.com/coleccion/interlingua/> (03/11/2018).

²⁶ <http://www.poderjudicial.es/cgpj/es/Temas/Escuela-Judicial/> (03/11/2018).

²⁷ http://www.uimp.es/agenda-link.html?id_actividad=6311&anyaca=2016-17 (03/11/2018).

As far as legal translation and interpreting is concerned, apart from the numerous Masters degrees organised by many Spanish universities (especially by faculties of Translation and Interpreting) in specialised translation – which include legal translation – there are a few specific programmes entirely devoted to this specialisation. One of them is the *Masters in Legal Translation and Judicial Interpreting* of the *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona*²⁸.

VI. Concluding remarks

The overview carried out in this chapter has shown that legal linguistics is an emerging field of research in Spain. Most of the studies conducted so far have focused on the features of Spanish legal language (also compared to other languages and cultures), from a wide range of perspectives (lexico-terminological, phraseological, pragmatic, etc.) and in different written and oral genres. Attention has also been paid on how to modernise and clarify Spanish legal discourse, traditionally attacked for its baroque style which makes it too difficult to understand for laypersons.

Computer-assisted legal linguistics will definitely play a pivotal role in the future of Spanish legal linguistics; the interest in the use of corpus and *NLP* techniques for the analysis of legal discourses has been confirmed by the research projects mentioned in this chapter. Another interesting area of research, which might grow in the future, is the intersection between law and other discourses (such as politics or media discourse, see, for example, the research carried out by Ruth Breeze from the *University of Navarra*).

Future directions of legal linguistics in Spain will also be influenced by the international importance legal Spanish is acquiring and will gain in the years to come, thanks to the role Spanish plays in international organisations, such as the *UN*, *WTO* and *Mercosur* (see: Mattila 2013: 304²⁹), as well as to the widespread use of Spanish (also as a lingua franca) in the USA and Latin America. This will undoubtedly foster Spanish legal linguistics and, hopefully, give rise to new research avenues.

²⁸ <http://pagines.uab.cat/tijuridica/es> (03/11/2018).

²⁹ “The position of Spanish in communication between lawyers from different countries is somewhat modest beyond the Spanish-speaking and Portuguese-speaking worlds. It is nevertheless useful to know that Spanish possesses official status in many international organisations, where it is also used in certain cases as a working language. Of particular note is the *United Nations*, where Spanish, apart from an official language, is also one of the working languages. The same applies for the *World Trade Organisation*, *Mercosur* (unsurprisingly) and the EU” (Mattila 2013: 304).

VII. Literature

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