THE THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF LINGUISTIC EXPERTISE IN LEGAL DISCOURSE

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Abstract

This article analyzes the role and significance of linguistic expertise in legal discourse. Identifying the semantic, stylistic, and pragmatic characteristics of speech units in legal relations is considered an important scientific tool in judicial processes. The study examines the issues of determining insult, defamation, hidden meanings, and communicative intention through linguistic expertise. Particular attention is also given to the role of context, the importance of pragmatic analysis, and the application of linguistic expertise in judicial practice. The article also substantiates the relevance of linguistic expertise in resolving speech conflicts arising in social media discourse.

Keywords

legal discourse, linguistic expertise, forensic linguistics, speech analysis, context, pragmatics, semantics of insult, communicative intention, judicial practice, social media discourse

INTRODUCTION

In modern society, as the system of legal relations becomes increasingly complex, the interconnection between language and law continues to strengthen. Most legal relations are expressed through speech activity. Legislative documents, court decisions, contracts, applications, and other official documents are created and interpreted through language. Therefore, legal linguistics and linguistic expertise, which have emerged at the intersection of linguistics and jurisprudence, are considered important scientific fields.

Legal discourse refers to speech activity occurring within the framework of legal relations, where legal norms, judicial processes, and official communication are implemented through linguistic means. In this type of discourse, every word or phrase conveys a specific legal meaning. For this reason, identifying the semantic and pragmatic features of speech units is an important scientific task.

In certain cases, even the incorrect interpretation of a single word may influence the content of legal decisions. Particularly in cases related to insults, defamation, or the violation of a person's honor and dignity, linguistic expertise plays a significant role.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Linguistic expertise is the process of analyzing speech materials based on scientific methods in order to identify their semantic, stylistic, and pragmatic characteristics. This expertise serves as an important tool in judicial practice for clarifying controversial speech situations.

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Linguistic expertise in court proceedings involves the scientific analysis of speech materials. Through the identification of semantic, stylistic, and pragmatic features of language units, this process contributes to clarifying disputable situations.

According to the theory of forensic examination, "the structure of an expert method requires three elements – justificatory, analytical, and technical components." The justificatory component presents the scientific basis of the method and the rationale for its application. The analytical component includes the methods of analysis used in the expertise, while the technical component encompasses the materials and technical tools necessary for conducting the examination.

Linguistic expertise performs the following tasks:

- identifying the presence of insult or defamation in speech;

- determining hidden meanings in speech units;

- interpreting contracts and legal documents from a linguistic perspective;

- analyzing speech materials distributed on social media;

- identifying the authorship of texts.

Today, the rapid development of the internet and social media has further increased the importance of linguistic expertise. This is because linguistic analysis plays a key role in resolving speech-related conflicts arising in the virtual environment.

The Role of Context in Identifying Insults

In the process of linguistic expertise, not only the lexical meaning of a word but also its contextual meaning is of great importance. Some words may appear insulting when considered independently; however, depending on the communicative situation, they may convey a different meaning.

For example, in controversial situations, the expression "idina*" may convey various meanings from the perspective of linguistic expertise. This expression belongs to slang speech and usually expresses the following meanings:

1. demanding the interlocutor to move away in a rude manner;

2. expressing a desire to get rid of someone;

3. expressing dissatisfaction with the interlocutor's words or actions.

For instance, when used during a telephone conversation, this expression often conveys the following meaning:

"I do not want to listen to you; I am not interested in what you are saying."

According to the results of linguistic expertise, in such situations the expression mainly indicates the intention to end communication or terminate the conversation. Therefore, determining whether a word constitutes an insult can only be carried out on the basis of context.

Researcher K. Musulmonova emphasizes that nonverbal means should also be considered in the linguistic expertise of insulting situations. She notes that analyzing a conflict-related text may lead to the conclusion that not only the use of words but also additional elements accompanying them determine the scale of insult. For example, gestures such as rotating the index finger near the head, offensive hand movements, or turning one's back may also indicate an intention to insult. Consequently, such additional elements should not be overlooked during analysis.

Through analysis, these elements are separated and then combined through synthesis. In accordance with this approach, the process begins with the analysis of the conflict-related text: identifying insulting words, determining their meanings through explanatory dictionaries, examining the contextual situation, and analyzing accompanying gestures. The separated components are then generalized in order to clarify situations where insult may or may not be considered present.

Induction and deduction also play an important role in linguistic expertise. During the process of identifying and analyzing evidence, facts are generalized and specific conclusions are drawn.

Pragmatic Analysis and the Issue of Communicative Intention

Pragmatic analysis occupies an important place in linguistic expertise. Pragmatics studies the communicative purpose of speech. In other words, determining the intention expressed by the speaker through speech is one of the primary tasks of linguistic expertise.

For example:

"Apparently, he is a very honest person."

Depending on the context, this sentence may have two meanings:

- genuine praise;
- irony or sarcasm.

In judicial processes, identifying such hidden meanings constitutes one of the essential tasks of linguistic expertise.

The contextual meaning of language units can also be clearly observed in literary texts. For example, in Abdulla Qodiriy's novel *O'tkan kunlar*, in a scene depicting Otabek's psychological state, he uses the word "jalab" in reference to Zaynab.

When considered independently, this word may be interpreted as an insult. However, within the context of the literary work, the expression conveys a different meaning. It functions as a stylistic device expressing Otabek's emotional distress and decisive determination.

This example demonstrates that analyzing words outside their textual context is scientifically incorrect. Each speech unit must be evaluated within its own context.

The Importance of Linguistic Expertise in Judicial Practice

In court proceedings, linguistic expertise serves as an important tool for resolving numerous controversial issues. It is particularly necessary for answering the following questions:

- Does the speech contain an insult?

- Does the expression damage a person's honor and dignity?

- For what communicative purpose was the expression used?

- Does the speech contain irony or hidden meaning?

For example:

"This leader governs the people by deceiving them."

Was this statement presented as a factual claim or merely as a personal opinion? Linguistic expertise helps determine this.

Researcher N. Najmiddinova classified words with insulting meanings as follows:

Table 1. Semantic Classification of Words with Insulting Meaning

Strong negative connotation	Requires contextual evaluation	Weak insulting semantics
Illegitimate dog (haromi)	Fool	Narrow-minded
Sexual insults	Concussion	Illiterate
Dayus	Dishonest	Dishonorable
Orphaned curse expressions	Donkey	Misfortune
Parasite	Rat	Disabled
Hermaphrodite	Pig	Idiot
Prostitute	Nahs	Half-educated cleric

In this classification, words are divided according to the degree of insult. The red scale represents words with strong negative connotations, the green scale represents words that may express negative evaluation rather than direct insult, and the yellow scale includes words whose meaning depends on context.

For example:

"Everything has become nahs here." – referring to a place.

"Get out of my house, nahs!" – used as an insult.

It should be noted that the effective application of linguistic knowledge in forensic linguistic expertise significantly increases the effectiveness of expert conclusions.

CONCLUSION

Legal discourse is one of the most important communicative spheres of social life. Since linguistic units used in this discourse express specific legal meanings, their scientific analysis is essential.

Linguistic expertise helps provide a scientific evaluation of controversial situations by identifying the semantic and pragmatic features of speech units. In particular, the role of linguistic expertise is increasingly growing in resolving disputes arising on social media platforms.

In conclusion, linguistic expertise represents an important scientific and practical field at the intersection of linguistics and jurisprudence in the study of legal discourse.

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