KAPITEL 11 / *CHAPTER 11* [11]
LEGAL LANGUAGE OF THE LATIN LEGISLATIVE DOCUMENTS: FEATURES OF THE GENRE AND MAIN LINGUISTIC AND STYLISTIC CHARACTERISTICS

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Introduction

The basics of modern legal science were laid many centuries ago, based on the first examples of legislative documents that functioned in specific historical epochs – legislative acts. A Latin-language legislative document is the basis for the creation and development of jurisprudence as a science and can be considered as a complex semiotic system with various types of connections between its components. It has a multi-code structure, characterized by non-linear relationships, and can be defined as a unique hypertext and creolized text.

The fundamental provisions and rules for the publication of legislative documents were established during the era of the flourishing and functioning of the Latin language. A legislative document, as a distinct genre of writing, provides an opportunity to study the language used in its creation. This is the language of law, a unique stylistically and genre-specific form of literary language that reflects the characteristics of the legal field and is subordinated by its professional communication needs.

This work is dedicated to the characteristics of the linguistic and stylistic features of the main legislative documents that functioned in Europe during the 8th to 17th centuries: papal bulls, capitularies, charters and edicts

11.1. The language of law as a distinct stylistic genre

As noted by S. E. Zarkhina: "The language of law is one of the professional languages that have emerged based on the national literary language (alongside the

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languages of medicine, technology, art, etc.). It includes a number of relatively independent varieties: the language of legislation and subordinate legal acts, the language of legal practice, the language of legal science and legal education, the language of legal journalism, etc." The Legal Encyclopedia defines the language of law as "... a functional variety of literary language, which has relevant stylistic and structural-genre features, determined by the specifics of the legal sphere and its communicative-professional needs ... one of the most important legal phenomena, serving as the primary form of existence for legal acts" (1).

The phenomenon of the language of law is the subject of study in several fields: legal (general theory of state and law, philosophy of law, history of state and law, logic of law, legal hermeneutics, legal technique), philological (theory of language communication, stylistics, terminology studies, lexicography, semantics, history of language, applied linguistics, language culture, judicial rhetoric), as well as formal logic, informatics, philosophy, sociology, history, diplomacy, textology, etc. Each of these scientific disciplines studies the language of law in a highly specific manner, considering the phenomenon of verbal embodiment of legal thought from different perspectives, in various aspects and dimensions, using the research approaches and methods inherent to each discipline. However, by the end of the last century, a new independent science emerged that uses an interdisciplinary approach to studying the language of law, developing its own scientific-theoretical and methodological apparatus aimed at fundamental, systematic research of linguistic phenomena and processes in the legal field, as well as tools and instruments for effective legal communication – legal linguistics (2).

There are several spheres of interaction between language and law. Based on the classification of the research group on the study of the language of law at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, I. D. Shutak and I. I. Onyshchuk, referring to the works of M. Muschinina, identify the following key areas of research in the field of language and law in foreign science:

1. Communication in court – language behavior of the parties in court. This broad area of research includes, among other things, issues of rhetoric, stylistics, text

linguistics, and various purely linguistic aspects, such as social and dialectal differences in the speech behavior of communicators.

2. Legal argumentation – ways and possibilities of expressing legal arguments using natural language, considering its ambiguity, variability, and uncertainty. Legal logic is examined through the lens of the possibilities of language properties.

3. Forensic linguistics – the study and development of technical methods in legal practice for investigation using linguistics.

4. Language norms in law – legal prescriptions regarding language in court, requirements for legal translations, issues of linguistic designations, for example, in the field of name rights, trademark rights, etc.

5. The legal force of linguistic actions – the validity of laws and legal norms, types of their linguistic marking, and specific cases of linguistic actions.

6. Criteria for text interpretation – the interaction of linguistic regularities and extralinguistic criteria that allow for the clarification of text meaning.

7. Linguistic requirements for legal formulations, particularly in relation to the need for clarity and unambiguity (3).

The language of law functions based on the use of standardized, formulaic phrases known as clichés. These clichés ensure the accuracy and utmost conciseness of legal language.

The language of law, as a socially and historically formed system of linguistic means (lexical, phraseological, grammatical-stylistic), represents a polyfunctional, multi-level, open, and stylistically differentiated system. Ukrainian researcher N. V. Artykutsia highlights the polyfunctionality of legal language, its ability to perform a variety of functions in legal texts of different genres and thematic orientations:

1. **Nomination function** (naming legal realities and concepts);
2. **Epistemological function** (tool and method of legal knowledge, mastering socio-legal experience);
3. **Axiological function** (legal and moral-ethical evaluation);
4. **Communicative function** (communication);
5. **Regulatory function** (legal regulation of human behavior and social relations

through the will of the legal subject);

6. **Cultural function** (preservation and transmission of legal knowledge and legal culture);
7. **Educational function** (influence on legal consciousness and legal education);
8. **Aesthetic function** (clarity, precision, unambiguity, conciseness, normative quality, linguistic and stylistic perfection of the legal act as the standard of legal text qualities) (4).

The stylistic differentiation of the language of law is determined by its wide and diverse scope of application: legislation, judiciary, notary, office work, legal science and education, legal information, and legal journalism. Legal language in each of these communicative-functional areas is characterized by a specific set of features, functions, linguistic tools, and a compositional system of functional varieties and genre-situational styles (4).

According to N. V. Artykutsia, for the legislative substyle, which is realized in laws and other normative legal acts, the following set of specific features is characteristic (at the lexical, semantic, grammatical, and stylistic levels):

- The presence of legal terms, official nomenclature designations, abbreviations;
- Normative definiteness of terms and nomenclature names (codified legislative definitions);
- Legislative phraseology (legal formulas, stamps, clichés);
- Monosemanticism (at the contextual level);
- Generalized and abstracted presentation of legal content (appropriate lexical-grammatical models, forms, constructions);
- Standardization (lexical, grammatical, syntactic, and compositional tools);
- Noun-based nature of the text (verbal and adjective nouns, noun prepositions, etc.);
- Prevalence of verbs in the third person singular present tense, infinitive combined with a predicative adverb, adjective, or verb;
- Syntactic constructions in the form of regulatory-normative statements (affirmative, obligative, imperative, prohibitive, evaluative-legal);

- Use of the grammatical category of modality to regulate different models of legal behavior (possibility/ impossibility, desirability/undesirability, necessity, mandatory action);
- Generalized and depersonalized presentation (impersonal, indefinite-personal, generalized-personal, infinitive, gerundial, and other constructions);
- Imperative infinitive;
- Prevalence of sentences with passive-reflexive verbs as predicates and passive constructions;
- Predicative forms as impersonal sentences;
- Prevalence of complex-subordinate syntactic constructions over compound and asyndetic ones;
- Subjective-authorial detachment;
- Monological nature of the presentation;
- Stylistic homogeneity, neutrality, correctness;
- Logical organization of the normative content presentation at the level of text, rubrics, and graphical means;
- Absence of unnecessary and stylistically inappropriate elements (4).

N. V. Artykutsia emphasizes that "specific features, categories, and concepts of stylistics provide the opportunity to explore more deeply and thoroughly both the general specificity of the language of law and its separate functional varieties. Defining the peculiarities of the functioning of the language of law, typology of legal texts, patterns of using linguistic means in legal texts of various types and genres creates primarily the necessary scientific-theoretical foundation for solving a number of pressing applied tasks in the sphere of lawmaking and law enforcement" (4).

11.2. The pragmatics of the language of law

From the perspective of linguistic science, Y. I. Galyashin interprets the legislative text as "a message that is objectified in the form of an official written document, consisting of certain units united by various types of lexical, grammatical,

and logical connections, which has a modal character and pragmatic orientation" (5).

The pragmatics of legal language is quite a broad field of study, as the term "pragmatics" can be used as a heading for much of what contemporary legal scholars and linguists have described as the basis for interpretation (6). The question remains contentious as to whether legal pragmatics is part of the pragmatics of language in general (6).

On one hand, American philosopher Andrew Marmor emphasized that the pragmatics of legal language is unique, and the principles of cooperative communication developed by American linguist Paul Grice may only be applied indirectly in legislative communication, as the latter is "strategic," rather than oriented toward the interlocutor (7). On the other hand, according to S. Schiffer, "The use of language in the adoption of a law is so closely intertwined with the use of language to exercise powers in other contexts, as well as with the use of language in games, in discussions about what is right and wrong, and, generally, in communication within families and all kinds of organizations, that the pragmatics of legal language should be seen as an inseparable part of the pragmatics of language use as a whole" (8).

It is quite clear that if linguistic pragmatics depends on the context of the utterance, the legal context of language use in legislative acts will determine the transmission of the content of the law. Scott Soames has stated that the issue of the relationship between the content of a law and legislative sources, such as legislative acts, is "an example of a more general question about what determines the content of ordinary linguistic texts" (9).

When the legislative body enacts a legislative act, it is assumed that the content of this act corresponds to what the legislators committed to approving when the law is adopted. Those who have to enact the law are obligated not to accept or support what has not been proposed by the legislators.

The pragmatics of legal language is formed at the intersection of the interaction between the legislative use of language and the law, which is shaped by the means of this language. It is assumed that, upon the adoption of the law, the relevant body or person formulates the law in such a way that it becomes clearer through its use of

language, which has been designated as the "communication model" (9). Thus, legal communication postulates a communication model of lawmaking, within which the identification of legal rights and duties of citizens based on linguistic-communicative practices of elites that produce specific legislation should take place. M. Greenberg, an American expert in legal philosophy, opposes the communication model as a means of understanding legislation: "The attempt to understand legislation through the communication model is flawed because legislation and legislative systems have purposes that have no parallel connections with communication..." (10).

The most influential theory that refuted the communication model was that of Ronald Dworkin, an American lawyer, political scientist, philosopher, and legal theorist. His main idea was the rejection of the notion that the laws of a given country constitute a system of rules. According to this view, the content of community law depends on the traditional way of recognizing legal norms. But if the members of the community share a way of recognizing their rights, how can they engage in deep disputes about the law? According to R. Dworkin, we follow general rules when using any word: these rules determine the criteria that provide the meaning of the word. The principles of law usage link "law" with historical facts and such criteria applied in forming, adopting, and rejecting statements about what is law, but at the same time, they do not have their own clear meaning. Therefore, legal philosophers must explain the law for users, relying on their linguistic-social communication practices (6).

Laws are encoded in language; all processes of the law are mediated by language. The legal system regulates the beliefs and values of society, permeating many areas of life: from the duties of a teacher to a credit card agreement (6).

The language of the law is a tool for legislative activity, a tool for fixing legal norms. The more perfect the legislation, the faster and more fully the goals defined during the creation of specific legal norms will be achieved. However, if there is inconsistency in certain norms, gaps, and some norms lack the necessary real sanctions due to imperfect linguistic provision, this significantly impacts the level of effectiveness of legal regulation. At the same time, a law, like any other legal document, can never be perfect or complete, as real life contains far more situations

than the legislator can imagine and describe using language. The norm is more or less stable, while reality is always changing, and language may not keep up with these changes. The law, like any other legal document, must strive for perfection. Therefore, legislative writing can be considered the most complex type of linguistic-legal activity: its form must be accessible to all citizens (both the law-abiding and criminals), convenient for application, and also oriented towards the distant future. The specificity of the language of law is that it must accurately convey the relationship between legal concepts and all the nuances of the legislator's thought.

C. P. Kravchenko identifies several principles of the functioning of the language of legislative acts, including: "free formation and development of legislative language; the correspondence of the form and content of legal norms; precise choice of terms through clear regulation of the use of language units (lexical, stylistic, grammatical, and syntactical); the accumulation in the language of legislative acts of socially conditioned tendencies of changes in vocabulary; legislative consolidation of guarantees for preserving the state language; a comprehensive scientific approach to the study of language and style of legislative acts; scientific justification of the requirements for the language and style of legislative acts at all stages of the legislative process" (11).

A legislative text, unlike a literary one, is oriented towards logical rather than emotional perception. It is concise, standardized, and devoid not only of artistic expressiveness but also of authorial individuality.

The style of the law characterizes the form of expression of normative prescriptions. In the literature on legal legislative technique, the main requirements for legislative style have been formulated:

1. Absence of expressiveness (impartiality);
2. Stereotypy and standardization;
3. Rationality in sentence construction;
4. Coherence and logical sequence (agreement and balance);
5. Accuracy and clarity (word choice and term unification, their compatibility);
6. Accessibility, simplicity, and unambiguity;

7. Conciseness and compactness;
8. Impersonal (legal neutrality) prescriptions

Because of these characteristics of the language and style of normative legal acts, the price of a mistake in legislative text rises, as a linguistic error (incorrect use of a term, ambiguity of expressions, improper sentence construction, punctuation mistakes) can significantly complicate the understanding and application of relevant prescriptions.

American legal scholar B. Jackson points out: "The cognitive structures of law reflect written forms of consciousness" (12).

11.3. Linguistic and stylistic characteristics of papal bulls, capitularies, charters and edicts

The unique function of ***papal bulls*** as a special form of legal documentation within the papal state lends the language of such legislative acts a rather informal character, making it more akin to a literary work than a formalized legal text.

The texts of the analyzed bulls are rich in epithets and metaphors, which serve to emphasize the elevated style of these documents. It is worth noting that the phenomenon of monosemantism is not typical for papal bulls, particularly those related to the canonization of saints and those addressing significant political matters.

E. g.: In hac ejusque potestate duos esse gladios, spiritualem videlicet et temporalem, Evangelicis dictis instruimur. Nam dicentibus Apostolis, 'Ecce gladii duo hic,' in Ecclesia scilicet, cum Apostoli loquerentur, non respondit Dominus nimis esse sed satis. [Luke 22:38] Certe qui in potestate Petri temporalem gladium esse negat, male verbum attendit Domini proferentes, 'Converte gladium tuum in vaginam.' [Matthew 26:52] Uterque ergo est in potestate Ecclesiae, spiritualis scilicet gladius et materialis. Sed is quidem pro Ecclesia, ille vero ab Ecclesia exercendus. Ille sacerdotis, is manu regum et militum, sed ad nutum et patientiam sacerdotis.

Translation: *In the Gospel, it is said that in her (the Church) and in her power, there are two swords – the spiritual and the temporal. For the apostles say: "Here are two swords," meaning in the Church. But when the apostles spoke, the Lord did not reply, "This is too much," but "This is enough." [Luke 22:38] Certainly, the one who denies that the worldly sword is within the power of Peter does not understand the words of the Lord when He says, "Put your sword back in its place." [Matthew 26:52] Therefore, both are within the power of the Church, namely the spiritual sword and the material one. But, indeed, the latter should be used in the name of the Church; and indeed, the former should be used by the Church. The former belongs to the priest; the latter is the hand of kings and soldiers but must be used by the will and consent of the priest. (Unam Sanctam. Boniface VIII).*

From a stylistic perspective, this passage is one of the most interesting, as the entire text is a skillfully used metaphor to convey the political intentions of Pope Boniface VIII, which received legislative expression in all the aspirations of medieval papacy. According to this bull, the Church has one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one visible head, who is the representative of Christ and the successor of the Apostle Peter. In his hands are the two swords mentioned in the Gospel of Luke (22:38), which must be understood as the spiritual sword and the temporal sword. The Pope directly exercises the power of the spiritual sword, that is, the word; the material sword is entrusted by the Pope to secular hands and is used to defend the Church not by the Pope himself, but by the hands of kings and soldiers. Just as the temporal sword must be subordinated to the spiritual, so must secular power be subordinated to spiritual power; the latter establishes the former and judges it if it deviates from the right path. In general, the subordination of every human being to the Roman Pontiff is a dogma of faith, necessary for the salvation of the soul (cf. Papacy). Having entered the *Corpus Juris Canonici*, the *Unam Sanctam* bull became the general ecclesiastical law of the Catholic Church, and since the declaration of the dogma of papal infallibility at the

Vatican Council, the view expressed in the bull regarding the relationship between secular and spiritual power has attained the status of a dogma.

As for the grammatical and syntactic characteristics of papal bulls, it can be confidently stated that they have quite diverse features, making it difficult to talk about the unification of this type of legislative act. For instance, within a single text, there may be both impersonal passive constructions and personal verb forms, particularly in the 1st person plural, as well as nominalized gerund forms combined with the purpose conjunction *ad*.

E.g.: Nos igitur ordinem ipsum opportunis favoribus prosequentes, ad eius augumentum bengnius intendentes, ***statuimus***, ut omnes, quoad ***ad servandum*** huiusmodi vitae formam assumi contigerit, ante assumptionem seu receptionem ipsorum, de fide catholica et obedientia erga praefatam Ecclesiam diligenti examinationi subdantur. (Supra montem. Nicolai IV)

Translation: *Therefore, entering the order with pious donations, [and] aimed at its (the Church's) more virtuous increase,* ***we establish*** *that all who adhere to this way of life,* ***before their entrance or acceptance****, must diligently study the Catholic faith and their obedience to the aforementioned Church.*

The stylistics of the capitularies is not distinguished by the use of special legislative abbreviations or phraseology. Instead, this type of legislative act is characterized by clarity of presentation, standardization, and generalization of legal content.

Among the syntactic features of the capitularies, we can highlight:

• The use of syntactic constructions such as *Accusativus/Nominativus cum infinitivo*:

E.g.: Si quis confugiam fecerit in ecclesiam, nullus eum de ecclesia per violentiam expellere praesumat, sed pacem habeat usque dum ad placitum praesentetur, et propter honorem Dei sanctorumque ecclesiae ipsius reverentiam concedatur ei vita et omnia

membra, emendet autem causam in quantum potuerit et ei fuerit iudicatum;

Translation: *If someone seeks refuge in the church, no one should presumptively expel him from the church by violence, but he should be allowed peace until he is presented before the court, and for the honor of God and the reverence of the church's saints, his life and all his limbs should be granted to him. He should, however, amend the matter as much as he can and as it will be judged for him*. (MGH. Leges. Volumus II. Capitularia regum Francorum. De partibus Saxoniae)

• The use of specific phrases to convey the meaning of "capital punishment." Such a phrase typically consists of a noun in the Ablative case functioning as Ablativus modi, along with a verb in the passive voice.

E.g.: Si quis ecclesiam per violentiam intraverit et in ea per vim vel furtu aliquid abstulerit vel ipsam ecclesiam igne cremaverit, ***morte moriatur.***

Translation: *If anyone enters the church by force and in it takes something by violence or deceit, or burns the church itself with fire, let him die the death.* (MGH. Leges. Volumus II. Capitularia regum Francorum. De partibus Saxoniae).

The Charter, as a legislative document, is characterized by the use of the first-person plural (1st person plural), as well as the use of what is called a period sentence with the syntactic construction Accusativus cum infinitivo:

E.g.: In primis concessisse Deo et hac presenti carta nostra confirmasse, pro nobis et heredibus nostris in perpetuum quod Anglicana ecclesia libera sit, et habeat jura sua integra, et libertates suas illesas; et ita ***volumus observari***; quod apparet ex eo quod libertatem electionum, que maxima et magis necessaria reputatur Ecclesie Anglicane, mera et spontanea voluntate, ante discordiam inter nos et barones nostros motam, concessimus et carta nostra [illa carta data 21É novembris anno Domini 1214; confirmatio papae Innocentii tertii 30É martii anno Domini 1215] **confirmavimus**, et eam **obtinuimus** a domino papa Innocentio tercio confirmari; quam et nos **observabimus** et ab heredibus nostris in perpetuum bona fide volumus observari

(Magna Charta Libertatum).

Translation: *First of all, we have granted to God and confirmed by this present charter for us and our heirs forever, that the English Church shall be free, and shall have its rights intact and its liberties unviolated; and* ***we wish that it be observed****; this is evident from the fact that we granted the freedom of elections, which is regarded as the greatest and most necessary for the English Church, by our pure and voluntary will, before the discord that arose between us and our barons, and we confirmed it by our charter [the one given on November 21st, 1214; confirmed by Pope Innocent III on March 30th, 1215] and* ***obtained its confirmation*** *by Lord Pope Innocent III; which* ***we will observe*** *and wish that* ***it be observed*** *by our heirs forever in good faith.*

• It is also characteristic of this type of document to use conditional sentences with "si":

E.g.: **Si** autem heres alicujus talium fuerit infra etatem et fuerit in custodia, cum ad etatem pervenerit, habeat hereditatem suam sine relevio et sine fine.

Translation: *If, however, the heir of any of such persons is under age and is in custody, when he reaches adulthood, let him have his inheritance without payment of any relief or fine.*

• The use of Gerundium / Gerundivum with the conjunction *ad* to express the purpose of an action is also typical:

E.g.: Nulla vidua distringatur **ad se maritandum**, dum voluerit vivere sine marito, ita tamen quod securitatem faciat quod se non maritabit sine assensu nostro, si de nobis tenuerit, vel sine assensu domini sui de quo tenuerit, si de alio tenuerit.

Translation: *No widow shall be* ***compelled to remarry*** *as long as she wishes to live without a husband, but she must provide a guarantee that she will not marry without our consent, if she depends on us, or without the consent of her lord from whom she depends, if she depends on someone else.*

The general style of the charter as a legislative document is characterized by

standardization and clarity of thought. This is evidenced by the division of the document into chapters, which provides greater structure to the charter, as well as the use of various deverbal constructions.

Among the main grammatical and stylistic features of the ***edict*** as a legislative document, the following are noteworthy:

• The use of conditional-subordinate sentences:

E.g.: Ut ubicumque census novus impie addetus est et a populo reclamatur, iuxta inquaesitione misericorditer emendetur.

Translation: If anywhere an unjust new census is imposed and protested by the people, it should then be mercifully corrected through an inquisition. (Edictum Chlotari)

• The use of the first person plural verb form in place of an impersonal construction:

E.g.: Primo consideravimus de honore ecclesiarum ct sacerdotum ac servorum Dei et immunitate rerum ecclesiasticarum, ut nullus sibi de ipsis rebus contra auctoritatem *praesumat;*

Translation: *First, we consider the honor of churches, priests, and servants of God, and the immunity of ecclesiastical property, so that no one presumes to act against the authority regarding these matters.*

The stylistics of this type of legislative act does not present any fundamentally new characteristics that would set it apart from other legal documents. The only aspect worth noting is the use of period-style sentences and the accumulation of sentences with the conjunction *et* or *de*, which contribute to the text's parameters of linearity, sequence, and logical coherence:

E.g.:

14.De monachis gyrovagis vel sarabaitis.

15.De anachoritis: melius est ut bortentur in congregatione permanere, quam

animus eorum aliubi ambulare temptet.

16. De oboedientia quae abbati exhiberi debet, et ut absque murmuratione fiat.
17. De decanis et praepositis: ut eorum mutatio secundum regulam fiat. (Duplex legationis edictum)

Translation:

18. About wandering monks and Sarabites.
19. About anchorites: it is better for them to remain in a congregation than for their spirit to be tempted to wander elsewhere.
20. About obedience that should be shown to the abbot, and that it should be done without murmuring.
21. About deans and abbots: their changes should occur according to the rule.

Therefore, the common stylistic and lexico-grammatical features of Latin-language legislative documents of Western and Eastern Europe from the 8th to the 17th centuries can be considered as follows:

- the use of the first person plural in verb forms;
- the application of deverbal noun and adjective forms, such as Gerundium and Gerundivum;
- the use of syntactic constructions like *Accusativus cum Infinitivo* and *Nominativus cum Infinitivo*;
- the use of conditional subordinate clauses with "si" to express a prohibition and the corresponding punishment for non-compliance;
- the use of the first person plural instead of the third person singular to express impersonality.

The style of the legislative documents of Western and Eastern Europe is not qualitatively different. It is characterized by conciseness, clarity, and specificity, avoiding abstract meanings and phraseologisms. Often, one can observe the insertion of lexical units that are specific to the scribe and are not inherent to the Latin language

but were common in the spoken language of the particular region.

A papal bull stands out significantly in its stylistic aspect from other legislative documents. The texts of this normative act are often filled with metaphors, epithets, and other stylistic figures of speech, which transform the character of the document from strictly official to ceremonious and elevated. This is primarily explained by the fact that the bull belongs not to the secular but to the ecclesiastical domain, as well as the peculiarities of the functioning of the papal chancery.

Summary and conclusions.

During the study and analysis of the topic, the results of the conducted research showed, that:

–The understanding of a legislative document as a special linguistic-stylistic phenomenon creates the basis for its study in terms of the characteristics of the language used to create it – the language of law.

– The language of law is a specific, stylistically and genre-determined form of literary language that reflects the peculiarities of the legal sphere and is subordinated to its professional-communicative needs.

–The specificity of the language of law lies in the fact that it must precisely convey the interrelation of legal concepts and reproduce all the nuances of the legislator's thought. The development of the language of law marks the transition from the oral form of language to the written one, which created the necessary preconditions for the codification of the language of law (legal dictionaries, reference books, etc.).

–The language of law requires an interdisciplinary approach to its study, which is why it has become the object of study for legal, philological, and philosophical sciences. Its linguistic patterns, lexico-grammatical and stylistic characteristics are

studied within the framework of a new interdisciplinary field of humanitarian knowledge – legal linguistics.

–A legislative text, in contrast to a literary one, is oriented towards logical rather than emotional perception. It is concise, standardized, and devoid not only of artistic expressiveness but also of the author's individuality. Its stylistic and lexico-grammatical characteristics (lack of expressiveness (impartiality), stereotyped and standardized, rationality in sentence construction; the use of the grammatical category of modality to regulate various models of legal behavior (possibility/impossibility, desirability/undesirability, necessity, obligatoriness of actions), generalization and impersonality of expression (impersonal, indefinite-personal, generalized-personal, infinitive, participial, and other constructions), coherence and sequence of expression (agreement and balance)) have a distinctive reflection within the Latin-language legislative documents, which were the empirical material for our research.

Based on the classification of lexico-grammatical and stylistic features of the language of law in legislative documents, developed for Ukrainian-language legislative acts (N. V. Artikutsa, N. A. Vlasenko), we have developed our own: 1) use of the second person plural in verb forms; 2) the application of deverbal noun and adjective forms, Gerundium and Gerundivum; 3) use of syntactic constructions *Accusativus cum Infinitivo* and *Nominativus cum Infinitivo*; 4) the use of conditional subordinate clauses with "si" to express the imposition of a certain prohibition and punishment for non-compliance; 5) to express impersonality, the first person plural is used instead of the third person.