

Foreword

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the International Journal of Law, language and Discourse. Editions will appear quarterly. The journal is part of the Asian EFL Journal Group comprising the Asian EFL Journal, Linguistics Journal, Asian ESP Journal, TESOL Journal, Philippine ESL Journal, Iranian EFL Journal and English as an International language Journal. I warmly welcome our Academic Board and Advisors who come from the four corners of the globe. Some of the Editors were also former practicing attorneys who entered the world of Linguistics, English for Specific Purposes and Second Language Acquisitions and Research. Our First Edition features four articles.

Le Cheng and Sin conducted a comprehensive survey of previous studies on courtroom discourse. The studies give an overview of the various aspects and multi-faceted problems of courtroom discourse studied by sociologists and linguists. An overview of the issues concerning and approaches to the studies of courtroom language sheds light on the nature of courtroom discourse. The second article is by Gary Prideaux who examines several cases before the Canadian Human Rights Commission in which the author served as an expert witness. His research resulted in the creation of a “toolkit” for text analysis. The toolkit is first discussed and applied to the selected texts. Prideaux concluded that the texts were racist and anti-Semitic.

Jie Wang examines the defamation case of *Yang v Hu* in which the authors testified as expert witnesses; the study shows that analyzing and attesting controversial linguistic evidence is indispensable in judicial proceedings. Finally Wang and Sin examine the antithesis of cultural transfer vs linguistic transcoding in translation theory and in particular, analyze Snell-Hornby’s view on cultural transfer and Catford’s view on transcoding. It focuses on the clarification of the concept of cultural transfer in translation/legal translation.

We look forward to your readership, support and submissions