

Centro Interuniversitario di Ricerca
*Corpus and Language Variation
in English Research*



UNIVERSITÀ
degli STUDI
di CATANIA



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CLAVIER 2026 Seminar

Status quaestionis: Multiple perspectives on English Legal Language and Translation

10-11 December 2026

University of Catania

Department of Law

Call for papers

The contemporary landscape of Legal English is increasingly defined by a shift from a monolithic entity to a diverse array of Legal Englishes, reflecting the role of English as a global lingua franca in legal, judicial and institutional settings. Within multilayered legal systems, practitioners and professionals from various fields (e.g. lawyers, judges, translators and interpreters, but also public servants) must navigate national, supranational, and international varieties, which often leave linguistic "traces" in texts, such as when supranational law is transposed into national legislation or when international case law interacts with national legislation. The interaction between varieties, and the need for translation in many communicative settings, may lead to significant hurdles for Legal English terminology, but also to a (rapid) evolution beyond terminology of both Legal English and other languages for legal purposes.

In recent years, the awareness of the wide audience which legal and judicial written and spoken communication may reach has been driving simplification in legal drafting, translation, and institutional communication to ensure that information is accessible to laypersons. This focus on inclusion encompasses the implementation of plain language and easy-to-read language, which require a detailed profiling of the target audience, as well as the use of gender-neutral and gender-sensitive language. Furthermore, the dissemination of legal knowledge has been expanding through knowledge mediation, popularization, transmediation, and transcreation, recurring for instance to visual design and modern media entertainment/infotainment to explain complex law to the general public.

These shifts present profound challenges in both using and teaching Legal English(es) and legal translation, which are changing at an incredibly fast pace due to the incorporation of innovative technologies, specifically Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Large Language Models (LLMs). Despite the benefits brought by AI and LLMs, their application in specialized legal translation raises critical concerns regarding accuracy, data reliability, and ethical implications.

Given the variety of aspects that fall within the broad areas of Legal English(es) and legal translation in and to English and the need to adopt interdisciplinary and mixed-method approaches to study them, this seminar is intended as a platform where scholars with different expertise engage in scholarly dialogue aimed at fostering research interaction and possibly collaboration.

Possible topics include but are not limited to:

- Defining the boundaries of Legal English(es);
- National, supranational and international varieties of Legal English;
- English as a lingua franca in legal and judicial discourse;
- Legal English terminology;
- Simplification in legal drafting, legal translation and institutional communication;
- Inclusion in Legal English (plain language, easy-to-read language, gender-neutral and gender-sensitive language);
- Legal knowledge mediation, popularization, simplification, transmediation and transcreation involving Legal English;
- Legal English in modern media entertainment and audiovisual translation;
- Benefits and challenges of innovative technologies (e.g. AI and LLMs) in Legal English and legal translation in and to English;
- The challenges of teaching Legal English and Legal translation in and from English.

Keynote speakers

Jan Engberg (Aarhus University)

Giuliana Garzone (IULM)

Presentation Guidelines

Papers will be allotted 20 minutes, plus 5 minutes for discussion.

Abstract Submission

Please send your anonymous abstract of no more than 300 words (including max 5 references) to the following addresses: g.digregorio@unict.it and kperuzzo@units.it.

Please do not include any self-identifying information in the abstract; indicate only the title and the abstract itself. In a separate file, include:

Title:

Author(s):

Affiliation(s):

Postal mailing address (for primary author):

E-mail (for primary author):

Important dates

Abstract submission: 30 June 2026

Notification of acceptance: 31 July 2026

Information on registration will be provided in due course.

Organising Committee

Cristina Arizzi, Massimiliano Demata, Giuseppina Di Gregorio, Maria Teresa Musacchio, Giuseppe Palumbo, Katia Peruzzo, Giuliana Russo, Marco Venuti, Francesca Vigo, Raffaele Zago.

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