



UNIVERSITÀ
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Dipartimento
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E LETTERATURE STRANIERE



Faculty of Modern Languages
and Literatures

17th Conference on Legal Translation, Interpreting and Comparative Legilinguistics (#LegTICL22) Digital humanities and legal language

14-15 November 2022



Photo taken by Giulia Ghizzoni in 2019 in Taipei

Jointly organised by

University of Verona (Italy) & Adam Mickiewicz University (Poland)

Keynote speakers

- Prof. Deborah Cao (Griffith University, Australia)
- Prof. Jan Engberg (Aarhus University, Denmark)
- Prof. Rui Sousa-Silva (University of Porto, Portugal)

Organising committee

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How to attend the meeting

#LegTICL22 will be entirely held online on Zoom. To attend the meeting, you need to download the software (<https://zoom.us>) and install it. You also need to create an account. If you are not familiar with this meeting platform, please check the how-to videos on the Zoom website (<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials>).

ZOOM meeting ID: 848 1078 8346

The required **password** to enter the meeting will be sent to your email address a couple of hours before the event starts. Please keep the password confidential and do not share it in public.

Each regular speaker is given 30 minutes, including Q&A. The suggested format is 20 minutes for paper presentation + 10 minutes for Q&A.

Each plenary speaker is given 1 hour, including Q&A. The suggested format is 40 minutes for paper presentation + 20 minutes for Q&A.

Speakers are required to turn on their camera when speaking, as so are participants during the discussion.

All indicate times are Rome time: please check a trustworthy source to convert these to your local time zone (e.g., <https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html?p1=215>).



Conference programme

Rome time	DAY 1 14 November 2022
9:30 – 10:00	Conference opening and institutional greetings
	Chair: Lara Colangelo
10:00 – 10:30	Silvia CAVALIERI (University of Verona). Commenting on legal case judgements: self-mention and authorial stance in law blogs
10:30 – 11:00	Vanessa LEONARDI & Patrizia GIAMPIERI (Sapienza University of Rome & University of Camerino). A corpus-based translation analysis of an employment contract
11:00 – 11:30	COFFEE BREAK
	Chair: Stanislaw Gozdz-roszkowski
11:30 – 12:00	Danni HICKEY (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology). Feminist Translation Beyond the Literary World
12:00 – 12:30	Irina GVELESIANI (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University). An effective usage of corpora in legalese studies (on the example of the <i>fiducie</i>)
12:30 – 13:00	Edyta WIĘCŁAWSKA (University of Rzeszów). Binomials in English/Polish legal translation in the corpus and empirical paradigm
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
	Chair: Paula Trzaskawka
14:00 – 14:30	Anna SETKOWICZ-RYSZKA (University of Lodz). Academic legal writing in Polish-English translation. Corpus analysis of lexical items that cause difficulties in titles and abstracts of legal papers
14:30 – 15:00	Stanislaw GOZDZ-ROSZKOWSKI (University of Lodz). Appraisal, Abortion and the Counter-Majoritarian Dilemma. A Comparative Investigation of Poland's Constitutional Tribunal and the US Supreme Court Value-laden argumentation
15:00 – 15:30	Noumidia MEZIANI & Ramdane BOUKHEROUF (Université de Batna 1 - Université Mouloud Mammeri de Tizi-Ouzou). A propos de la valorisation numérique des anciens manuscrits berbères à graphie arabe. Essai d'analyse lexicométrique de la terminologie de la jurisprudence
15:30 – 16:00	COFFEE BREAK
	Chair: Silvia Cavalieri
16:00 – 17:00	Rui SOUSA-SILVA (University of Porto). Language as evidence: The power of forensic translation in the fight against cybercrime (KEYNOTE)
17:00 – 17:30	Miranda LAI (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology) Forensic Transcription and Translation – A Missing Link in Criminal Justice
17:30 – 18:00	Patrizia ANESA (Bergamo University). Discourse approaches to romance cybercrime



Rome time (click here)	DAY 2 15 November 2022
9:30 – 10:30	Chair: Barbara Bisetto Deborah CAO (Griffith University). Legal translation in the digital age: the Chinese challenge (KEYNOTE)
10:30 – 11:00	Tanina ZAPPONE (University of Turin): Chinese Government's positioning in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. An analysis of Foreign Ministry spokespersons' regular press conferences
11:00 – 11:30	Michele MANNONI (University of Verona). Metaphors, law, and digital humanities in the Chinese language
11:30 – 12:00	COFFEE BREAK
12:00 – 12:30	Chair: Tanina Zappone Anna Chiara TRAPANI (University of Naples "L'Orientale"). Between technology and traditional Chinese law: how the digital humanities have contributed to the study and the translation of the Jiaqing China court cases
12:30 – 13:00	Lara COLANGELO ("G. D'Annunzio" University of Chieti-Pescara). The expression of the concepts of <i>dolus</i> and <i>culpa</i> in Chinese legal language: distinctive features and criticalities
13:00 – 13:30	Sara D'ATTOMA (University of Verona). Words matter: judicial discourse on domestic violence in China
13:30 – 14:30	LUNCH BREAK
14:30 – 15:00	Chair: Emilia Wojtasik-Dziekan Zakeera DOCRAT (University of the Western Cape). Enhancing access to justice in the South African Police Service: The creation of a Speech-To-Text model for African language speaking complainants
15:00 – 15:30	Paula TRZASKAWKA (Adam Mickiewicz University). Selected clauses of a copyright contract in Polish and English in translation by Google translate: a tentative assessment of quality
15:30 – 16:00	Lucia A. FERRARI & Carolina G.F. MARQUES (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais). Architecture and research on LEX-BR-lus corpus: a representative corpus of Brazilian Portuguese Legal Language.
16:00 – 16:30	Emilia WOJTASIK-DZIEKAN (Adam Mickiewicz University). Your words can kill. On verbal online bullying cases in South Korea and Poland
16:30 – 17:00	COFFEE BREAK
17:00 – 17:30	Chair: Aleksandra Matulewska Corina VELEANU & Weiwei GUO (Université Lumière Lyon 2). From "aged care" to "smart elderly care". A corpus-based jurilinguistics analysis in Chinese and English
17:30 – 18:30	Jan ENGBERG (Aarhus University). Students in the Third Space: Constructions of Knowledge of Foreign Law in Legal Translations from German into Danish (KEYNOTE)
18:30 – 18:45	Conference closing



Plenary speakers

Prof. Jan ENGBERG
Aarhus University

Students in the Third Space: Constructions of Knowledge of Foreign Law in Legal Translations from German into Danish

In my talk, I will be applying a digital humanities tool in the form of the AntConc corpus tool for assessing the degree of variability in translations of terms and argumentative markers conventional for the genre across a group of students translating German court decisions into Danish.

My basic assumption is that the translation of such elements may be described as knowledge communication in accordance with the following definition:

Translating terms in legal documents consists in strategically choosing relevant parts of the complex conceptual knowledge represented in the source text in order to present the aspects exactly relevant for this text in the target text situation in order to enable a receiver to construct the intended cognitive structure. (Engberg, 2015)

From this definition it is clear that such legal translation must create a Third Space (Wagner, 2016) between the source and target legal systems, enabling target language readers to access knowledge about the communicative situation in which the source text is embedded. This Third Space can only be created on the basis of insights into the specificities of legal knowledge from the source as well as the target legal system, and students learning to translate legal texts are exactly in the process of achieving such knowledge, as well as developing strategies for building the Third Space. Thus, a variation depending on the actual individual insights is to be expected.

In my study, I report the analysis of how a total of 22 students from three different groups in their third semester MA have solved the problem of translating source language terms and source language argumentative markers from German into Danish. My main interest is to find out to what extent they choose similar formulations for their target texts, and to what extent the type of knowledge communication strategy chosen can help explain the choices made.

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Prof. Deborah CAO
Griffith University

Legal translation in the digital age: the Chinese challenge

This presentation focuses on legal translation in the digital age, in particular legal translation between Chinese and English. It discusses and illustrates some of the problems and challenges in this important area of translation activities in cross-cultural communication.



Prof. Rui SOUSA-SILVA
University of Porto

Language as evidence: The power of forensic translation in the fight against cybercrime

The technological developments of the last decades provided citizens worldwide not only with the power to communicate instantly and globally, but also with a convenient use of devices that was previously unthinkable. However, technology has also exposed users to a series of risks, including cybercrimes. Such exposure to threats, coupled with system vulnerabilities, resulted in an exponential increase in the number of victims of cybercrime. This increase, however, is in contrast with the resources available to law enforcement — including human — to fight such crimes: not only are cybercrimes more complex than traditional crimes due to the use of stealth technologies by cybercriminals, they also tend to be cross-border, thus imposing limitations on the possible action of jurisdictions. In the fight against cybercrime, however, law enforcement agencies have neglected the power of forensic linguistic analysis: not only can linguistic analysis be used to identify the author of a cybercriminal communication from a pool of possible suspects, by building upon the concept of idiolect, it can also narrow down the possible suspects to a group by analysing the sociolect of the cybercriminals based on the language that they use. This talk discusses the applications and the potential of forensic linguistic analysis in cybercriminal contexts, and demonstrates the usefulness of forensic translation to fight cybercrime. The presentation ends with an outlook of the potential of combining linguistic and translation analysis in forensic contexts to argue that cybercrime can only be deterred by applying a proper analysis of language.



Abstracts
(alphabetized by first author's last name)

Patrizia ANESA
Bergamo University

Discourse approaches to romance cybercrime

The evolving nature of romance cybercrime brings with it the need to constantly redefine the theorisation of this form of crime. In the light of the global dimension of this phenomenon, it is crucial to investigate it from different perspectives, including a discourse analytical one, which can contribute to the uncovering of the processes on which these forms of frauds are created (Anesa, 2020).

Whereas romance scams have often been explored in laboratory settings, investigation in more naturalistic situations is relatively less common (Hancock & Gonzales, 2013). Thus, this paper focuses on real examples of online romance scams to define some of its key features. This analysis adopts a multi-perspectival framework, in which Forensic Linguistics models are integrated with Applied Societal Discourse Analysis (ASDA), which represents as an applied form of Discourse Analysis addressing societal issues in order to suggest practical recommendations going beyond purely descriptive considerations.

This study includes both textual and discourse analysis of scamming texts as well as interviews with the victims in order to offer an emic perspective on the phenomenon, which is deemed essential to gain novel and authentic insights into the scamming process. This type of data can be crucial to confirm the hypothesis concerning errors of judgment on the part of the victims.

This paper also outlines an aetiology of romance scams and clarifies how scammers may acquire status and power in the eyes of victims through linguistic, discursive, and pragmatic devices. The quantitative and qualitative lexical analysis of the corpus under study shows that specific words and expressions related to given semantic fields appear frequently in scams. Therefore, insightful reflections on the determinants that may stir such compliance are necessary and raising awareness about the strategies implemented in romance frauds can help to improve their early detection.

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Silvia CAVALIERI
University of Verona

Commenting on legal case judgements: self-mention and authorial stance in law blogs

A blog is “a website containing an archive of regularly updated online postings” (Grieve et al. 2010: 303), characterised by three distinctive features: reverse chronology of its entries, frequent updating, and a combination of links with personal commentary (cf. e.g. Miller/Shepherd 2004; Herring/Kouper et al. 2005; Garzone 2012). Substantial research has been devoted to the different genre realizations of blogs considering their functions or the topics they deal with (see among others van Dijk 1992; Vestergaard 2000; Westin 2002; Herring/Scheidt et al. 2005; Bruce 2010; Garzone 2012; Mauranen 2013).

This paper focuses on law blogs also called “blawgs” (Garzone 2014: 167): “blogs used by the legal and professional community to exchange scholarly opinions, to debate topical issues and discuss important legal cases”. As research has shown (Caron 2006; Garzone 2014; Tessuto 2015; Diani 2021), blogs are proving an attractive vehicle among legal scholars for “expressing their position and acknowledge their readers in the presentation and discussion of research-focused issues within the scholarly discipline” (Tessuto 2015: 85). Looking at law blogs from a linguistic perspective, the paper aims at identifying patterns of self-mention and authorial stance in blogs commenting on legal case judgements. The analysis is carried out on a corpus of blog posts written by legal scholars and published on American and British law websites dedicated to commentary on law court judgements. Results will be discussed in the light of the personal/ existential dimension of law blogs (Garzone 2014).

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Lara COLANGELO
"G. D'Annunzio" University of Chieti-Pescara

The expression of the concepts of *dolus* and *culpa* in Chinese legal language: distinctive features and criticalities

The reception of the Romanist legal system in China has led to the appearance of a large number of neologisms in the Chinese language, contributing to the formation of a specialized lexicon which, along with both the translation of foreign legal works and the composition of volumes by Chinese jurists, has been subject to a constant growth and stratification. This kind of terminological transposition has frequently resulted in the emergence in Chinese of more than one translant of the same Latin - or foreign - word and of a consequent lexical richness or lack of homogeneity. As a concrete example of such a phenomenon, this paper aims at providing a synoptical overview of the rendering in Chinese of the concepts of *dolus* and *culpa*. The sources analyzed from a diachronic and comparative perspective range from the earliest manuals of Roman law published in China at the beginning of the XX century (like, for instance: Huang 1918, Qiu 1933, etc.), to more recent texts, translated or directly composed in Chinese, such as: the Contract Law of the People's Republic of China (1999), manuals of commercial law published in the last decades, the Civil Code of the People's Republic of China (effective in 2021), etc.

More specifically, this paper will try to answer the following questions: what is the historical evolution of the main terms used in Chinese to express the concepts of *dolus* and *culpa*? What are the criteria adopted by Chinese translators/authors in choosing those terms? What are the main characteristics and problems related to the linguistic rendering of the two legal institutions?

As for the results of this research, attention will be paid, in the first place, to one of the peculiarities of the linguistic rendering of the concept of *culpa*, that is its split into two different translantants: *guoshi* 过失 and *guocuo* 过错. This feature, absent in Latin (and in other languages such as Italian), with the exception of some cases of improper use, seems to be meeting a specific criterion, namely the distinction of the two meanings of *culpa*: *culpa* in the broad sense, encompassing both *culpa* and *dolus* (i.e. "guilt"), and *culpa* in the narrow sense (i.e., mainly, "negligence"), excluding *dolus*.

At the same time, another aspect on which this paper will shed light is the existence of a plethora of translantants related to the concept of *dolus* (*qizha* 欺诈, *guyi* 故意, *e'yi* 恶意, etc.). This specific feature of the Chinese legal lexicon in some cases might be interpreted as the Chinese translator/author's will to express the multiple semantic shades of *dolus* ("fraud", "bad faith", "criminal intent", etc.), hence the use of different translantants; nonetheless, this use is not always referable to well-defined criteria.

Lastly, with regard to the contribution to the state of the art, after showing how the presence of multiple translantants may cause dishomogeneity and lexical confusion, this paper will highlight the necessity of a further refinement of the process of standardization of the Chinese legal lexicon related to the field of Roman law.

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Sara D'ATTOMA
University of Verona

Words matter: judicial discourse on domestic violence in China

The expression “domestic abuse” (*jiating baoli* 家庭暴力 literally “family violence”) has been introduced in the Chinese legal system in the Nineties and for the first time in a national law in 2001. Two decades after the UN Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995 and many campaigns carried on by women associations, the Chinese lawmaker released a specific law to fight against domestic abuses in 2016.

The discourse about domestic violence focuses on power and control by the abuser among the victim through different means, one of those is the language. Besides the domestic walls within the abuses are perpetrated, a more institutional and usually regulated language on family violence is traceable in the public discourse, specifically in the People’s Court judgments. In cases regarding family matters, especially divorce proceedings, Chinese judges do often use paternalistic and educational language towards the couple. The aim of this paper is to carry out a preliminary research and analysis on the judicial discourse about domestic violence in order to evaluate to what extent, how and whether these paternalistic and educational nuances emerge in the language and statements used by judges. This research will be firstly carried on through the building of a corpus of judgments involving “domestic violence” matters and then comparing data and analysing the specific use of language by the authority.



Zakeera DOCRAT
University of the Western Cape

Enhancing access to justice in the South African Police Service: The creation of a Speech-To-Text model for African language speaking complainants

Access to South Africa's criminal justice system commences with the South African Police Service (SAPS). The SAPS language policy (2015) and practices is guided by legislation as well as the legal system's monolingual language of record policy (2017) that prescribes all documents be provided to the court in English. The SAPS working language for police officers is English. Complainant and witness statements are handwritten in English, by a police officer. This despite the fact that only 9.6% of South Africans speak and understand English (Census, 2011). The majority of persons in each of the nine South African provinces speak either an African language or Afrikaans as their mother tongue (Census, 2011).

SAPS officers do not undergo any linguistic or legal training before being appointed (Docrat et al, 2017). Their employment requirements include a six-month basic training course and a matric (completion of schooling) certificate; although police officers are essentially transpreters (translators and interpreters) (Docrat et al, 2020).

Current South African case law (Omotoso v State 2019; State v Van Breda 2019) illustrates that there are linguistic discrepancies between written evidence (police statements) and oral evidence in court. This affects the witness's credibility and the State's ability to discharge the onus and prove a crime has been committed. The issues primarily arise where African language speaking complainants enter a police station and provide their oral version of events relating to the alleged crime. A police officer, who in the majority of cases cannot speak English at a level of competency that ensures the facts are recorded correctly, has to translate onto paper what the complainant has said. Where a complainant cannot read English, they merely affix their signature to the handwritten statement, with no knowledge of whether the facts have been recorded correctly.

As part of the presentation, which makes use of a mixed-methods approach, using both qualitative and quantitative data, I will highlight the current plight of official African language speaking complainants through various case law examples. Additionally, I provide an overview of interviews conducted with police officers and witnesses on the difficulty of recording a police statement in English and the adverse effects thereof within courtroom discourse.

I will offer relevant conclusions and recommendations, one of which is the proposal of a Speech-To-Text model in Human-Computer Interaction focussing on police statement taking. I am currently working alongside a technologist in ensuring the successful development of the model in police contexts. Bosch (2020) and De Wet and Niesler (2020) explain that language technologies facilitate communication between human and computer by using ordinary language, including speech-to-text conversion. My presentation draws on the Australian model and the developments being undertaken to ensure complainants are able to aid police investigations by recording statements in a witness/ complainant's mother tongue and producing a digital translated version for record purposes and use in court (Heydon, 2020). Furthermore, I draw a parallel between the CSIR's model, namely, AwezaMed, an application that enables obstetricians to communicate with patients in their mother tongue (Aweza, n.d & Marais, 2020).

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Lucia A. FERRARI & Carolina G.F. MARQUES
Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais

Architecture and research on LEX-BR-lus corpus: A representative corpus of Brazilian Portuguese Legal Language

This study presents the architecture and preliminary results of the LEX-BR-lus (FERRARI & MARQUES, in preparation), the normative part of the BR-lus corpus: an ongoing project compiling a representative corpus of Brazilian Portuguese (BP) Legal Language.

The LEX-BR-lus is a written, monolingual, synchronic, PoS and lemma annotated, XML-tagged corpus of complete Brazilian Federal Legal texts in effect on the compilation date, balanced by word count and frequency of use. It will have 7 sections: Constitution, Amendments to the Constitution, Supplementary laws, Ordinary laws, Provisional measures, Codes, and Statutes, totalizing approximately 7 million words. The corpus will be available to the academic community on the CQPweb platform (HARDIE, 2012).

Compilation criteria include the decision to collect the laws in their integrity (Sinclair, 2004) and divide them into sections, following the Brazilian government classification. Representativeness is guaranteed by a sample based on previous research on the frequency of use of each normative text in both general and legal sources. The balance will be achieved through a similar number of words between each section.

Due to the particularities of the Brazilian legal texts, we created a personalized XML tagset (MARQUES, in preparation) following Hardie's (2014) Modest XLM proposal. These tags make it possible to search for specific parts of the legislation and the changes they had undergone.

We are testing different PoS taggers for this corpus by sampling its results and manually verifying their reliability for BP.

Previous studies have examined Legal Language from many perspectives, including terminology, translation, discourse analysis, and variation. Additionally, there is a large and growing number of legal corpora (PONTRANDOLFO, 2012; GIAMPIERI, 2018), most of which revolve around English or between it and other languages. The existing literature on the BP Legal Language focuses on specific linguistic aspects, namely discourse analysis and translation, and the creation of dictionaries and glossaries (FERRARI e CUNHA, 2022).

In an attempt to fill this gap, our aim is to: (a) compile a corpus of BP Legal Language; (b) identify specific morphosyntactic and lexical patterns of this language (DAHLMAN, 2006; RICHARD, 2011; GOŹDŹ-ROSKOWSKI and POTRANDOLFO, 2015); (c) investigate the linguistic variation within it (BIBER, 1988; BIBER and CONRAD, 2009; BERBER SARDINHA, 2010); (d) compare those results with other languages.

In the future, the BR-lus project will also have a Case Law corpus, the JUR-BR-lus, and a Law Literature Corpus, the DOC-BR-lus. With this research, we expect to contribute not only with investigations into BP Legal Language in its many aspects, but also in intralinguistic ones.

A brief overview of ongoing studies based on the corpus will also be provided.



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Appraisal, Abortion and the Counter-Majoritarian Dilemma. A Comparative Investigation of Poland's Constitutional Tribunal and the US Supreme Court Value-laden argumentation

Recent changes to abortion law in both the United States and Poland show a striking similarity in that the changes limiting access to abortion have arrived not via legislation or referenda but through litigation before the respective apex courts: Poland's Constitutional Tribunal and the US Supreme Court. Apart from fuelling the already heated and divisive debates about the right to abortion, these two cases also raise the issue of counter-majoritarian dilemma with both courts facing the question of their legitimacy (Bickela 1962). Against this background, I answer the following research question: how judges in the two different courts and jurisdictions are similar and/or different in their uses of value-laden argumentation to justify their controversial decisions? Value-laden words are here understood as ethical words, i.e. words "that have the power of directing attitudes" (Macagno and Walton 201: 31). Value-laden language is also typically found in abstract principles and values as second-order justification instruments (Dworkin 1974; MacCormick 1994).

The research question will be explored both quantitatively and qualitatively based on two datasets collected from two open domain sources. One consists of the full text (69039 words) of the SCOPUS case *DOBBS, STATE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, ET AL. v. JACKSON WOMEN'S HEALTH ORGANIZATION ET AL*, decided in 2022 and the other concerns the Polish Constitutional Court's judgment on family planning, the protection of human foetus and the conditions of allowing termination of pregnancy, decided in 2020 (case no. K1/20, 81540 words). Both datasets include subsets based on the types of opinion: majority, concurring and dissenting opinions to analyse different judicial standpoints and differences of opinion (van Eemeren and Henkemans 2017).

Initially, the manual identification of evaluative elements is aided by specific corpus techniques using untagged and tagged data. Using the Sketch Engine, an online text analysis tool, 50 most frequent and key elements are identified with evaluative potential. This is followed by the use of concordancing to identify their specific functions. Then the concordance analysis is applied to the tagged corpus to study evaluative adjectives and value-laden nouns. The next analytical step involves classifying the evaluative devices according to their target. This study relies on quantitative methods to reveal words which can potentially denote values or evaluative language, but it also relies on close reading of their co-text surrounding to determine and compare the function they perform in the arguments adopted in the different opinions. The methodological approach adopted corresponds to what is now known as corpus-assisted discourse studies or CADS (Partington (2004).

The study has been envisaged to contribute to the growing body of research on the role of evaluation in judicial argumentation (e.g., Goźdź-Roszkowski 2019; 2018) by taking an explicitly comparative approach not only at the interlingual and inter-systemic level (Polish civil law system and English common law) but at the intralingual level of majority vs. separate opinions. It is expected that the results will shed new light on the largely under-researched issue of the interrelations between evaluative language (Hunston 2011) and the construction of legal argument. More specifically, findings should demonstrate some shared and divergent strategies adopted by judges from two different legal systems to justify their decisions in order to persuade multiple and highly polarized audiences.



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An effective usage of corpora in legalese studies (on the example of the *fiducie*)

Corpus linguistics as a relatively young sub-discipline of linguistics appeared in the 1980s. Since its inception it has gradually become an important tool of carrying out researches in different spheres of life. If we consider corpus linguistics as the study of a language through its samples, we should give credit to its contribution to the advancement of various sub-fields of linguistics: lexicography, translation studies, applied linguistics, diachronic studies and contrastive linguistics. The latter can be regarded as a special case of a linguistic typology that is distinguished from other types of typological approaches by a small sample size and a high degree of granularity (Gast, 2011). Nowadays, corpus-based contrastive studies can be treated as a growing research area that focuses on two or more languages. According to Kirk and Čermáková, contrastive analysis relies on two types of data: translation corpora and comparable corpora (Kirk and Čermáková, 2017). Biel makes distinction between a parallel corpus and a comparable corpus. The former can be treated as a translation corpus in the strictest sense, while the latter should be described as a set of at least two monolingual corpora that may involve one language or two languages (Biel, 2010).

The present paper makes an attempt to discuss the usefulness of a monolingual comparable corpus while dealing with legalese - the legal language, which encompasses lexical terms, phraseology and syntactic structures making it incomprehensible to a layperson (Giampieri, 2016). The effectiveness is presented on the example of the legal institution *fiducie*. The methodology of research comprises the comparative analysis as well as the corpus-based analysis of the terms related to the *fiducie*-s presented in four varieties of French: France's, Canadian, Luxembourgish and Swiss. The data of the monolingual comparable corpus built during the research shows that Quebecoise law deals with the ownerless patrimony, while France's legal system presents the *patrimoine d'affectation* - a segregated patrimony owned by a transferee. Swiss law follows the principle of the "unity of patrimony" that prevents the formation of a separated fund within a trustee's estate. The Luxembourgish legal system presents the *fiducie* property as a distinct *patrimoine*. Accordingly, the corpus-based analysis reveals the juridical-semantic differences and the problematics of a verbal realization of the concepts related to four *fiducie*-s. These hinder a proper interpretation and complicate the process of translation. The major solution may be found through the specification of meaning by renaming. Accordingly, the term *fiducie* (denoting fiduciary relations of four countries: France, Canada (Quebec), Luxembourg and Switzerland) should be replaced by *fiducie française*, *fiducie québécoise*, *fiducie luxembourgeoise*, *fiducie Suisse* that may be translated as French trust, Quebec trust, Luxembourgish trust, Swiss trust. This solution may acquire the greatest importance in today's world, because the process of globalization widens the area of utilization of *fiducie*-s and any obscurity or incomprehensibility can cause serious problems during cross-national linguistic and juridical activities.

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Feminist translation beyond the literary world

As a social group that are disproportionately impacted by a lack of public health services, transgender people lead very difficult lives. For the public health services available for transgender people, there is little support or information available to make accessing these bureaucratic services easier. This study examines a French public health report from 2009 that is yet to be followed with further research or discussion. This informative text was translated with inspiration from feminist literary translators, as well as drawing on corpora and parallel medico-legal texts. It was found that minimal intervention on the part of the translator was possible. However, where intervention was possible, it showed to be quite meaningful. Further, medico-legal translation proved to be a very lengthy process without the assistance of a centralised and standardised terminological database. Ultimately, this translation will provide information for English speaking health care professionals, researchers, legal professionals, and healthcare consumers. This target text will act as a reference point on the issue of transgender healthcare – an issue that lacks a tremendous amount of research and discussion.



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Forensic Transcription and Translation – A Missing Link in Criminal Justice

Forensic speech evidence is audio or video recordings used in criminal trials. In the Australian context, these recordings are often covertly obtained by law enforcement—by intercepting telephone calls or eavesdropping on a house or a car using listening devices (Fraser, 2017). Due to the clandestine nature of these operations, the quality of these recordings is often extremely poor (Fraser, 2017), and they may contain multi-party conversations, colloquialism, as well as coded speech. They may also include exchanges in foreign languages other than English, sometimes with various accents. Although the recordings are the primary evidence in a court of law (Gilbert & Heydon, 2021), often transcripts will accompany the recordings to counter problems of audibility and intelligibility (Fishman, 2006). When the recordings contain languages other than English, translations into English must be provided to enable the trial judge and jurors to understand the exchanges. There is a general lack of appreciation for how challenging forensic transcription is, even for clear monolingual recordings (Jenks, 2013). As a result, the judiciary often has misconstrued confidence in the transcript tendered in court, translated or otherwise, accepting them as “accurate”, from which they expect Defence to verify the accuracy of the transcript, and then mount challenges to the meaning alleged by Prosecution (Gilbert, 2014).

Contrary to court and police interpreting, where nationally certified interpreters are engaged, there are no guidelines in Australia as to whether interpreters or translators should be engaged to produce translated forensic transcripts, what skills and training are required of them, and what work procedures they should follow to produce reliable translated transcripts. Producing translated transcripts entails transferring spoken material in the source foreign language into written English, making it a hybrid inter-lingual task which calls for expertise of the interpreter to decipher spoken utterances and skills of the translator to formulate the written output.

An Australian-first survey of more than 500 translating and interpreting practitioners were conducted in 2019 to understand their experiences in providing transcription and translation services in forensic contexts. The outcomes of the study provide directions for future training, work protocols, and best practice recommendations.

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A Corpus-Based Translation Analysis of an Employment Contract

Notwithstanding the peculiarities and challenges of legal texts, it is claimed that legal translators need both linguistic and legal expertise (Van Laer 1999; Prieto Ramos 2011). From a linguistic perspective, translation should be carried out into the translator's native language, although 'there seems to be a trend towards a more realistic and open approach to translation into the L2 practice' (Vigier Moreno 2019: 91). As far as legal expertise is concerned, translators should be acquainted with comparative law or should, at least, have a good knowledge of the subject matter they address (De Groot and Van Laer 2008; Engberg 2020; Prieto Ramos 2021). As previous research has largely shown, legal translators can benefit from a wide range of technological tools, such as online and offline corpora, both in terms of translation training as well as practice (Vigier Moreno 2016 and 2019; Vigier Moreno and Sánchez Ramos 2017; Biel 2018). Past literature has often remarked how legislation and court-related documentation are over-represented in legal corpora (Biel 2018; Pontrandolfo 2019). Other genres such as corporate documents, instead, are under-represented (Biel 2018). For this reason, translating private documents, such as contracts, might be more complex and challenging as no public legal corpora are available in this respect. Furthermore, the legal corpora developed by the European Union has several shortcomings (Giampieri 2016; Seracini 2020) and, as such, they are not the most suitable or reliable corpora to be used for the translation of corporate documents. The aim of this paper, therefore, is to create an ad hoc corpus of employment contracts with a view to carrying out a corpus-based translation analysis of an employment contract translated from Italian into English by a non-native English translator. An ad hoc corpus of employment contracts was firstly built manually, then it was uploaded on the Sketch Engine platform (Kilgarriff et al. 2004). The employment contract was analysed in depth and translation candidates were initially searched and obtained from a bilingual dictionary. The Sketch Engine search functions are described in detail to corroborate or confute dictionary entries and retrieve the most suitable translation equivalents. The paper findings highlight how the use of corpora helps to translate the employment contract in a much more efficient and suitable way, especially in terms of finding the correct collocations, choosing the best translation candidate(s) and spotting some formulaic expressions. The paper contributes to the current state of the art in research in corpus-based legal translation as it highlights the usefulness of sector-based corpora to deliver accurate and qualitative translations. It, hence, remarks the importance of and need for publicly accessible corpora of private legal documents.

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Metaphors, law, and digital humanities in the Chinese language

Following the path-breaking work of Lakoff and Johnson (1980) that radically shifted the paradigm about metaphors, cognitive linguists distinguish two types of metaphors: those found in the mind, through which we think, termed conceptual metaphors, and those found in language, termed linguistic metaphors. Linguistic metaphors (e.g., “This will cheer you *up!*”) are said to realise or instantiate conceptual metaphors (HAPPINESS IS UP). Identification of linguistic metaphors is a key methodological aspect of metaphor studies, to which cognitive linguists need to devote significant attention.

The focus of this presentation is on four problems of identifying linguistic metaphors in Chinese, some of which become especially salient when studying its legal variety. Since MIP (Pragglejaz Group 2007) and MIPVU (Steen et al. 2010), the most adopted procedures of identifying metaphors, take English as their bases, these aspects are not addressed by them, nor by Wang et al.’s (2019, 263) adaptation of MIPVU to Chinese. Here I illustrate that this may be otherwise.

Firstly, I show that the identification of the ‘smallest lexical unit’, corresponding to a word in MIPVU, is problematic in Chinese corpora due to the different segmentation that different corpus analysis tools produce, thus compromising the reliability and replicability of the results so obtained.

Secondly, following Packard (2000) and Yu (2017, 238), I show that the applicability of the concept of ‘word’ to Chinese is problematic, thus stressing the importance of the study of characters. Character analysis becomes indispensable when studying metaphors in a specialised variety of Chinese such as its legal language, as it is packed with neologisms that according to step 6 of MIPVU (*ibid.*, p. 26) are to be analysed through their components.

Thirdly, I show that owing to the Chinese script, metaphorical meaning and basic meanings are not necessarily found in the way characters are used, but in the way they are written. This, too, is ignored by Western-centred procedure, although is done in some Chinese studies (e.g., Yu 2009 & 2011, 137–40).

Fourthly, philological analysis of Chinese characters is also useful for metaphor identification, as the characters taken into consideration may have variants that explain or create metaphorical meanings.

The discussion leads to a fundamental question for metaphor studies: where are the basic meanings of Chinese words to be searched at? Are they in the word, in its characters, in the character components, or in their variants? The answer is key in the study of Chinese metaphor in general, and legal metaphors specifically.

My data are retrieved from three corpora: ZhTenTen (available online through the SketchEngine corpus manager), and #ChinLaC and #ChInRel (two corpora of Chinese laws created under the Project of Excellence plan (2018-2022) in digital humanities at the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature of the University of Verona, Italy).



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A propos de la valorisation numérique des anciens manuscrits berbères à graphie arabe. Essai d'analyse lexicométrique de la terminologie de la jurisprudence

Les anciens manuscrits berbères anciens en graphie arabe constituent une banque de données de corpus d'une importance capitale sur les données linguistiques et les genres du discours pris en charge. Ainsi, les données qu'ils regroupent constituent un grand corpus de référence à exploiter, entre autres, dans le domaine de la jurisprudence. Leur exploitation demeure actuellement à une phase d'exploration (inventaire, catalogage, histoire, etc.). Cependant, leur état détérioré pose un grand problème pour leur exploitation. Ainsi, l'urgence est de trouver comment les conserver en tant que patrimoine écrit et les rendre visibles et accessibles aux chercheurs pour les exploiter dans plusieurs domaines. Notre proposition de communication consiste à présenter un échantillon de quelques résultats liminaires d'un projet de recherche portant sur la valorisation numérique des manuscrits berbères anciens en graphie arabe.

Il s'agit d'un travail qui s'inscrit dans le traitement lexicométrique des données textuelles appliquées aux grands corpus et qui nous permet de dégager automatiquement des données fiables en un temps record. Ainsi, notre objectif consiste à extraire la terminologie de la jurisprudence et son organisation dans le discours. Il s'agit d'examiner, à partir de la quantification des différents vocables, la dispersion de cette terminologie dans l'ensemble du corpus et ses contextes d'utilisation. Pour ce faire, nous nous inscrivons dans le modèle lexicométrique de Labbé (2013 ; 2019) qui prend en charge les différentes étapes de l'exploitation des corpus (Préparation, exploitation et diffusion).

Concernant, l'analyse automatique des données est menée à l'aide de l'outil informatique Lexico 5. Il s'agit d'une version qui prend en charge en charge de l'encodage des corpus en Unicode. Aussi, cet outil nous offre plusieurs fonctionnalités : les fonctions documentaires (concordances, contextes), statistiques (spécificités), analyses multidimensionnelles (analyses factorielles des correspondances, arborées).

Comme résultats préliminaires, l'approche lexicométrique des données textuelles nous offre des perspectives importantes quant à l'analyse des grands corpus en mettant en exergue des résultats d'une importance capitale dans le traitement automatique des corpus. Ainsi, notre exploration nous a permis de mettre en exergue la terminologie de la jurisprudence employées dans ces anciens manuscrits et ses différents emplois dans les différents contextes de l'usage.



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Academic legal writing in Polish-English translation. Corpus analysis of lexical items that cause difficulties in titles and abstracts of legal papers

The paper is based on the author's experience in translating academic legal writing (mainly titles and abstracts of articles in legal journals) from Polish into English. Legal translation, especially between common and civil law languages, is a type of specialized translation where the level of difficulty and problems with equivalence are generally recognized (Šarčević 1997; Jopek-Bosiacka 2013; Alcaraz Varo & Hughes 2014; Scott 2017), requiring translators to employ comparative law strategies (Engberg 2013; Doczekalska 2013). Legal translators need a number of competences to deal with this level of difficulty, including awareness of and ability to address asymmetry between concepts from different legal systems, as well as knowledge of specialist genre conventions, language registers, legal collocations and terminology in both source and target languages (Prieto Ramos 2011, Piecychna 2013, QUALETRA 2014, Popiołek 2020).

The paper points out a number of features of academic legal discourse that can cause difficulties in translation and focuses on such difficulties that result not so much from asymmetries in the legal systems, but rather from differences in the discourse of legal academics. They can be placed under the heading of genre conventions, language registers and legal collocations. The first item discussed is a genre called *glosa*, used to write about case law, one without a fully equivalent genre in common law countries, the closest being case comments (Giles n.d.). However, the Polish *glosa* has to express either approval or criticism of the court's determination (Łętowska 2005). Another source of difficulty is the frequent impersonal verb forms used in Polish paper abstracts, with constructions such as the English "the paper discusses/seeks to address" considered incorrect in the academic register. There are also a number of lexical quirks that can lead to the effect of false friends (e.g., *doktryna*-doctrine, *ustawodawca*-legislator, *instytucja prawna*-legal institution). These are not unique to the Polish-English pair, as they can also be traced in the DOAJ corpus, which contains papers translated from other European languages. The different repertoire of Latin expressions used by Polish lawyers (e.g., *de lege lata*, *de lege ferenda*, *expressis verbis*, *vacatio legis*) and those used by their English-speaking counterparts (e.g., *actus reus*, *mens rea*, *mutatis mutandis*, *onus probandi*) is briefly discussed (for a more extensive discussion see Setkowicz-Ryszka 2022). Examples of lexical items causing difficulties are supplemented with analyses of word/phrase frequencies and their concordances in corpora of Polish (NKJP, own translation memories), British English (BNC, BLaRC, DOAJ, EnTenTen) and American English (COCA). The results demonstrate that Polish- and English-speaking academic lawyers express themselves differently, which phenomenon can be rooted in different legal traditions of civil and common law systems, adding another layer of difficulty for translators of such texts.

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Between technology and traditional Chinese law: how the digital humanities have contributed to the study and the translation of the Jiaqing China court cases

This paper intends to illustrate the incidence of the use of digital tools in relation to the translation and analysis of authentic judicial penal cases included in the work, dated back to the late Qing Dynasty: *Qing Jiaqing Chao Xing Ke Ti Ben Shehui Shiliao Ji Kan* 清嘉慶朝刑科題本社會史料輯刊 (Compendium of court cases dating back to the Jiaqing era). Considering the particular and delicate historical period we find ourselves in, which, due to the problems linked to the pandemic, did not allow us to travel and carry out normal research activities in the field, we have made larger use of technology and of the available databases. The present work therefore aims to present these digital tools and explain how they have been used and which contributions they have given to the research. Consequently, thanks to the study and translation of the historical documentation, it was possible to analyze and exemplify the particular formulas and structures relating to legal and forensic language (e.g., reports by coroners on victims' bodies) reported in ancient trial documents.

The research presented was conducted using descriptive and historical-comparative methods. With regard to the data used, these include historical documents in digital format. The translation, analysis and annotation of this documentation, of which only a few cases will be presented, was facilitated by the use of software (open and closed source) such as Adobe Acrobat; digital dictionaries such as 漢典 Zdic.org and Pleco; and online databases of ancient document such as ctext.org.

The historical documentation presented relates to court cases from the Jiaqing era (1796-1820), in which we see the succession of many characters such as the judges in charge of examining the case, the coroners in charge of conducting the autopsies and, of course, the protagonists of the events: murderers and witnesses from all strata of Chinese society at the time.

Thanks to the study and analysis of the penal cases, it was possible to better understand the actual dynamics of the legal and judicial system, but above all to present both a complete analysis of the structure of ancient Chinese court cases and a comprehensive glossary of the terminology used and the recurring legal formulas. In conjunction with the production of a statistical analysis of the incidence rate of homicide cases in individual Chinese provinces. Having collected, over the years, over 150 pages of data, including various information, such as the place of origin, the identity of the magistrate involved in the cases and the identity of the persons involved in the criminal events, it will be possible in the future to expand not only the literature but also the pre-existing databases or to be enabled to create new ones.

As regard the pre-existing literature, historical legal documents, as well as the terminology and formulas used in them, are understudied or absent both in databases and printed literature. The most ancient work that analyzes ancient judicial cases is: "Alabaster's Notes and Commentaries on Chinese Criminal Law", while among the most important monographs on legal matter we find the work of Bodde and Morris, entitled "Law in Imperial China, exemplified by 190 Ch'ing Dynasty Cases (translated from the Hsing-An Hui-Lan) with Historical, Social and Juridical Commentaries" and the only translation of the Qing-era Legal Code is "The Great Qing Code" by Jones. These documents are the only ones that present short and incomplete glossaries and explain few formulas used in the legal documents and are only available in



paper format. As far as more recent literature on the subject is concerned, we find Hegel's work: "True Crimes in eighteenth-century China: twenty Case Histories" (available in digital format); this work presents a glossary that is slightly more extensive than the previous works, but still not exhaustive and does not include an analysis of recurring legal formulae and case structures.

In conclusion, on this journey through the history of law, this paper will also focus on explaining and presenting digital tools: how they have been used and what contribution they have made to research. However, the contribution of technology should not only be relegated to translation and linguistic analysis, but what can be done to implement and improve existing tools, putting technology at the service of technology itself.



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**Selected clauses of a copyright contract in Polish and English in translation by
Google translate: A tentative assessment of quality**

The aim of the presentation is to carry out a comparative analysis of clauses in Polish and English copyright agreements in respect of their translation by a computer assisted tool — Google Translate, and to assess the quality of such translation. The comparison of parallel texts as a research method has been applied. The research corpora include authentic Polish and English Copyright Agreements. The analysed clauses have been excerpted from the above-mentioned Copyright Agreements. The author chose the most standard clauses as well as clauses typical for copyright contracts. As a result of the analysis, translations provided by Google Translate are better in terms of typical clauses but of worse quality in terms of specialised copyright clauses.



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From “aged care” to “smart elderly care”. A corpus-based jurilinguistics analysis in Chinese and English

The term “care” appears as a professional concept belonging to different fields at the same time (Noël-Hureaux, E., 2015) while evolving at a rapid pace in our digitalized societies. Awareness of the complexity of this legal term is needed in order to better ascertain its impact and role in specific fields of activity, such as the field of aged/elderly care. By comparing English and Chinese (the two most spoken languages in the world) contexts of occurrence in legal corpora, this bilingual and multilayered linguistic analysis (semantics, terminology, translation, discourse analysis) aims to show how this legal concept is perceived, expressed and developed in different cultures (China, English-speaking countries, international organizations), as well as its multiple stakes in legal translation (Gémar, J.-C., 2013).

Through several corpora, both monolingual and parallel English-Chinese, we have observed the evolution of the term “care” diachronically from the initial fields of psychological and spiritual care (“sorrow, anxiety, grief”) towards the fields of medicine, law and economy, as well as towards more technical gestures and attitudes involving the new digital technologies. Particular notice is taken concerning the explicitations of the term in Chinese where different semantic aspects of “care” are rendered through different contexts and by different words which makes the translation of this term particularly challenging (Brugère, F., 2009). New realities and terms are born in different language-cultures, such as “smart elderly care” in China and “aged care” in Australia, which then are exported to the wider aged/elderly care industry in the English-speaking world.

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Binomials in English/Polish legal translation in the corpus and empirical paradigm

The research project addresses the issue of formulaic language in legal communication in the interlingual perspective. The focus is on binomial structures which are found to have been inconsistently treated in translation and tend to be somewhat illegitimately considered as purely ornamental linguistic devices.

The research task is operationalised by the analysis of custom-designed corpus of authentic legal texts and it is followed by empirical analysis. The corpus component is to provide insights into actual translation patterns. The empirical material is obtained from the online survey and it is used to find out how the individual patterns in the translation practice are received and accepted by the expert target audience.

The research task is to enable the author to investigate the comprehensibility level of the actual translation practice patterns and formulate relevant guidelines, taking account of structural distinctions of binomials. The objective set to the paper is to propose a model scheme for translating binomials into Polish that ensures time-effective reception and excludes potential conceptual loss.

The data presented are supposed to be a modest contribution to the study of binomials which are extensively discussed in the context of their well-acknowledged, historically grounded status in legal communication, their structural complexity, including the issue of reversibility, and problems in translation (Kopaczyk, 2013; Mollin, 2017; Sauer, 2017). The added value of this research consists in considering the said problem area in the context of contemporary communication, limited to one legal domain, i.e., company registration discourse. The candidate terms are discussed in the context of translation practice by presenting the correlation between their structural aspects and related translation patterns. The hypotheses related to the correlation between the structure of binomials and the recommended translation patterns in the said domain have been positively verified.

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Your words can kill. On verbal online bullying cases in South Korea and Poland

Cyberbullying, perceived as a violence carried out through various types of media, is currently a huge social threat to the network users. While it could be said earlier that cyberbullying is more common with young people (Pyżalski 2008), as the popularity of access to the web became widespread, it affected all age groups. This led to large-scale changes: linguistic, legal, social and psychological. The subject of the article will be cyberbullying in Poland and South Korea, the general conditions of cyberbullying (in the relation of the perpetrator-victim: anonymisation of the perpetrator, heightened feelings of helplessness in the victim, psychological consequences of the attack, etc.) (Yi-Chih Lee, Wei-Li Wu 2018), legal regulations available in the current legislation of Poland and South Korea along with their limitations and potential areas of change, linguistic analysis within the changes of the legal language and attempts to determine the power of the message, the aspect of violation of women's rights as human rights (Hackett 2017) will also be analyzed as a matter of dignity expressed also verbally. The degree of verbal aggression intensifies in the network regardless of gender and age (Report of Korean National Information Society Agency 한국 정보화 진흥원 2018). According to the Amnesty International report from 2017, in Poland cyberbullying affected every fourth woman in the network. The speech will be illustrated with examples from comments obtained from the SNS online media, also with description of cyberbullying cases resulting in the death of victims (Polish and Korean celebrities as an example of adult victims; Polish and Korean children). The analysis of the gathered data will allow to see the change in attitude towards various ways of expressions, linguistically, culturally and legally and their current perception. The comparison of data from both countries allows to see the scale of the phenomenon, its effects and impact on societies to be observed; observe changes in legislation as well as their direction and effectiveness, especially in comparison of two distant cultures: Korean and Polish.

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Chinese Government's positioning in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. An analysis of Foreign Ministry spokespersons' regular press conferences

China's stance on the war in Ukraine has been the subject of much comment and speculation since the beginning of the conflict in February 2022. While the democratic world appears more united than ever in condemning Russia, it is unclear where the People's Republic of China (PRC) stands.

Although PRC's government promptly released documents stating official PRC's position on the Ukraine crisis - such as the "Five points declaration" by the Foreign Ministry Wang Yi, issued on the 26th of February (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China 2022) - and Beijing proclaims neutrality, however China's messaging on Russia's invasion seems inconsistent. On the one hand the government maintains that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries should be respected, urging nations to support any efforts to reach a pacific resolution to the conflict, on the other hand it has resisted pressure from Washington and Europe to condemn Russia.

Government's spokespersons are crucial figures in the construction of official narratives on the conflict. The Chinese government spokesperson system was established in 1983 and, through the decades, has gone through a gradual but pervasive evolution, becoming an important tool of government communication (Ni Chen 2011, 76). In recent years, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the spokespersons of the Foreign Affairs Ministry in particular have gained momentum, due to a significant change in their communicative style. In contrast with the traditional Chinese way to conduct diplomacy, based on the Deng Xiaoping's strategy of "keeping a low profile (*tao guang yang hui* 韬光养晦)", they have adopted a more assertive diplomatic style known as "wolf warrior diplomacy" (Martin 2021).

The study proposes to employ the methodology of Corpus Linguistics to indagate how official spokespersons describe the role of PRC in the conflict. Drawing upon the definition of national role identity proposed by Holsti (Holsti 1970), the analysis aims to provide insights on how China's leadership conceives and constructs at the discourse level the country's role and those of others parties involved, so contributing to the ongoing debate on PRC's "international positioning" (*guoji dingwei* 国际定位) and its transition towards a major country's identity (Pu 2019, Smith 2021).

By building a corpus including the transcriptions of press conferences held by spokespersons from February to July 2022, and adopting a mixed-method approach which combines quantitative Corpus Linguistics - to identify repeated patterns and themes - and qualitative content analysis - to consider words in context-, the study will try to answer, in particular, the following research questions:

- How do China's representatives refer to the Russia-Ukraine conflict?
- How do they define the role of China and other main actors (Russia, US, Ukraine and Europe) in the conflict?
- Which discursive strategies are mainly used to present different roles?



To answer these questions, particular attention will be paid to the employ of a variety of items used to refer to China, Russia, USA, Ukraine and Europe, their frequency, dispersion, co-occurrences and clusters, especially in identity sentences.

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