

Editors' introduction

In October 2012, the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Law of the University of Porto jointly organised the 3rd European Conference of the International Association of Forensic Linguists on the theme of **Bridging the Gap(s) between Language and the Law**. The event took place in the Faculty of Law. Although the adjective 'European' in the title suggests a regional conference, the participation of delegates from over 20 countries demonstrates how international the conference was. The range of topics in the field of Forensic Linguistics / Language and the Law was equally diverse. The high number of papers presented by academics, lawyers and practitioners alike, not only from the field of linguistics, but also from the fields of law, criminology, engineering and natural language processing, demonstrates the multidisciplinary nature of this conference, which is also evident in the background of the conference Local Organising team. This was a successful accomplishment of one of the main objectives of this conference: bridging the gap(s) between language and the law. For the first time in the history of the International Association of Forensic Linguists, a meeting of the Association included a strand in Portuguese, although English was, as usual, the most widely used language in the conference.

We hope that this collection of articles does justice to the conference and adds to the increasing body of literature and helps establish how diverse the research into Forensic Linguistics / Language and the Law can be. This volume is not formally divided into sections or parts according to the themes discussed. However, readers will be able to identify the main themes approached: forensic authorship analysis and plagiarism; legal translation, interpreting and multilingualism; and interaction between language and the law. The book opens with the **Presidential address** of Maria Teresa Turell, in which the then President of the IAFL discusses the role(s) of the Association and the direction(s) of Forensic Linguistics. The volume then continues with two articles on computer-assisted authorship attribution and plagiarism detection. First, in **A semi-automatic authorship attribution technique applied to real forensic cases involving Judgments in Spanish**, Sheila Queralt Estevez and Maria Teresa Turell present the result of their analysis of real forensic data for authorship

attribution. Maria Teresa Turell and Paolo Rosso, in **Computational approaches to plagiarism detection and authorship attribution in real forensic cases**, show how computational linguistics applied to real data can assist both authorship attribution and plagiarism detection. Next Andrea Nini explores the applications of **Codal variation theory as a forensic tool**. In his paper, he demonstrates how the theoretical framework of codal variation described by Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) can contribute to authorship analysis. David García-Barrero, Manuel Feraia and Maria Teresa Turell subsequently discuss the results and implications of **Using function words and punctuation marks in Arabic forensic authorship attribution**. The two articles that follow add to the set of papers on authorship analysis and attribution. In the first paper, Firuza Bayramova presents her view of the **Complex Research on speech interference characteristics**. Then, in **Forensic Linguistics accredited: Four years of experiences with ISO 17020 in authorship analysis**, Sabine Ehrhardt initiates the much needed discussion of the issues related to accreditation in the field of Forensic Linguistics. The experience of the four years described will certainly encourage new directions in Forensic Linguistics.

The next set of articles approaches the issues of multilingualism, as well as translation and interpreting, not only in contemporary European Union, but also in the United States. Firstly, Belinda Maia investigates the EU Directive on the right to translation and interpreting in the EU. She explores **The problems and practicalities of training translators and interpreters for the future envisaged by the EU Directive 2010/64/EU** to unveil some of the less evident problems underlying the application of the EU Directive. Sandra Silva contributes to this discussion from a legal perspective, by approaching **The right to interpretation and translation in Criminal Proceedings: the situation in Portugal**. Despite concluding that Portuguese law meets the minimum standards outlined in the Directive, she makes some recommendations to remedy the gaps identified and improve the effective application of the right to interpreting and translation. Thirdly, Karolina Paluszek presents the results of an analysis of several cases taken to the European Court of Justice to discuss **Multilingualism and certainty of law in European Union**. Lastly, in **And Justice for All: Non-Native Speakers in the American Legal System**, Leah M. Nodar discusses the problems faced by non-native speakers of English in the United States when dealing with the legal system to challenge the principle that all have an equal right to justice.

The final set of articles includes a diverse range of contributions. Miriam Jiménez Bernal first approaches the topic of **Fear as a key element in deceptive and threatening narratives** by presenting the results of her analysis of real data. Then, in **Investigating legal language peculiarities across different types of Italian legal texts: an NLP-based approach**, Giulia Venturi reports on her research applied to Italian to explain how a natural language processing approach can contribute to identify and investigate legal language peculiarities across different types of legal texts. In **The Linguistic Functions of ‘Knowingly’ and ‘Intelligently’ in Police Cautions**, Margaret van Naerssen then explores the meanings of ‘knowingly’ and ‘intelligently’ to demonstrate that a linguistic analysis can not only help determine whether civil rights of police interviewees are being respected, but also that there is room for improvement of acceptability of linguistic evidence. This set of articles and the volume end with

Language and Law: ways to bridge the gap(s). In this article inspired in the conference main theme, Virgínia Colares discusses some of the issues faced by linguistics in legal contexts and makes suggestions of how the existing gaps can be bridged.

Of course, this collection of diverse and inspiring articles would not have been possible without the contribution of all the authors, whom the editors would like to thank. We hope that the readers will enjoy reading these articles as much as we did. Secondly, we would like to thank the Scientific Committee, who worked so hard to select the best papers submitted in the first place to this conference. The conference would not have been such a success without their work and support. We would also like to thank the reviewers, to whom we owe the selection of the articles to be published in this volume. Their detailed comments and suggestions to authors significantly contributed to the work presented in this book. Last, but not least, we would like to dedicate these proceedings to Professor Maria Teresa Turell, who – sadly – was unable to join us and attend the conference in Porto, but who supported us from the very beginning. Her support was priceless.

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