

## II. BOOK REVIEW

**KAROLINA GORTYCH-MICHALAK, *Struktura polskich, greckich i cypryjskich aktów normatywnych. Studium porównawcze w aspekcie translologicznym.* (Η δομή των πολωνικών, ελληνικών και κυπριακών νόμων. Συγκριτική ανάλυση από μεταφρασεολογική άποψη), Wydawnictwo Naukowe publ., Poznań, 2013, 320 p.**

The reviewed monograph appeared in print in the series *Dissertationes legilinguisticae* (Studies in Legilinguistics) at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (Poland). It makes part of a broader, systematic research into legilinguistic issues that are undertaken there in the Laboratory of Legilinguistics. The work deals with the structure of Polish, Greek and Cypriot legal acts from a perspective that is dominated by translological issues. It is the first publication of this type in Poland. The book is written in the Polish language, yet it also includes summaries in English and in Greek. The longer Greek-language summary that contains six pages provides some general knowledge about the background of the work as well as about its main results. The book is written within the research tradition that emerged in the Laboratory of Legilinguistics as a part of legal-linguistic studies. Legilinguistics is the name used by the Laboratory for this type of studies into the interrelation of law and language, which are undertaken there mainly from the comparative perspective.

The author argues that the structure of legal texts is reflected in their formation and application processes. The linear organization of legal texts influences the reception and the application of texts, such as statutes and ordinances. Finally, the interrelation of textual components such as cohesion, coherence, intentionality, acceptability, informativity, situationality and intertextuality makes legal texts operative as communicative occurrences. The author also explores how legal communication is influenced by textological factors that constitute the superstructure, the macrostructure and the microstructure of legal texts. The author goes beyond the purely translological perspective that focuses upon terminological equivalences and tries to approach the law from a broader textological perspective. This approach is particularly interesting for jurists who, as a rule, are trained in conceptual analysis, yet tend to underestimate broader textual units that constitute law and that steer legal communication. Therefore, the most interesting part of the research

is the application of the legilinguistic and textological methods upon legal texts that make structural aspects of law more visible. Jurists are aware of structural aspects of legal texts mostly in an implicit way. They may have problems with identifying superstructures, macrostructures and microstructures in texts explicitly and the book shows practically how to do it. It also explains how the structural levels of analysis work together in processes of formation and application of legal texts.

The research into the Greek legal acts is preceded by the review of the legal-linguistic research accomplished in Greece in the recent decades. In the review, around thirty monographs have been used to distill the results of these efforts that include works by G. Angelidis, D. Mexis, A. Stavrakis, G. Rallis, D. Evrygenis, E. Panaretou, H. Paparizos, as well as G. Brousalis and G. Mikros. This part of the research is particularly valuable as it provides a synthetic overview of the state of the art in the Greek research that is difficult to find in other works. The monograph also includes an overview of the relevant legilinguistic research concerning the Polish and the Cypriot law in the Greek language. Likewise, the author mentions the particular situation in Greece that has been the controversial debate about the use of *dimotiki* in the legislation. These aspects have been previously scrutinized in the legal-linguistic research by Heikki E.S. Mattila<sup>1</sup> as well as Jaakko Husa<sup>2</sup>. For the author, these aspects constitute a particularity in the development of the legal language in Greece. They are also responsible for some delays in treatment of other legal-linguistic characteristics that were canvassed more fully in other countries such as Poland. The approach to the Greek language in the monograph is decidedly neohellenistic and it particularly stresses the development determined by the use of *dimotiki* in the Greek legislation. Communicational aspects of language use dominate the analysis of the author in this part of the monograph. Furthermore, when taking into account the Cypriot legislation in the Greek language, the author discovers the correlation between the structure of texts and their belonging to different legal traditions of common law and civil law. At this point, it would be also important to contrast the development of the textual structure of the Greek law with German texts that have influenced the modern Greek law, as done e.g. by J. Husa in his quoted work on the Greek legal language (pp. 133-134). J. Husa also stressed that Greek texts are not particularly difficult to translate into Finnish due to the conceptual affinity provided by the Continental law. This finding might also apply upon the translation of legal texts from Greek into Polish.

The author regularly publishes in Poland on issues regarding the Greek law and its terminology, especially in the *Journal of Legilinguistics*, edited by the Labora-

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1. H.E.S. MATTILA, *Comparative Legal Linguistics, Language of Law, Latin and Modern Lingua Francas*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Aldershot, 2012.

2. J. HUSA, *Kreikan oikeus ja oikeuskieli*, Helsinki, 2007.

tory of Legilinguistics<sup>3</sup>. The reviewed monograph also illustrates the trend within the legal-linguistic studies on the territory of the European Union to include smaller and lesser known legal systems in the comparative perspective. I already signaled the appearance in print of another important contribution to this growing trend that has been Jaakko Husa's *Kreikan oikeus ja oikeuskieli* that focused on the Greek law and its language towards the background of the Finnish law<sup>4</sup>. The mentioned author also published 2013 a work on the Byzantine legal culture that however goes beyond the issues discussed in this review<sup>5</sup>. With regard to the reviewed monograph, it is also rewarding to state the progress achieved by European researchers in the broadening of the perspective upon law and language through coverage of smaller and less influential legal systems, such as the Polish and the Greek law. One would however wish a better institutionalization of such efforts that sometimes may pass unnoticed due to their commitment to issues that transgress the traditional perspectives in the mainstream European legal and legal-linguistic research.

*Marcus Galdia*

*Adjunct Professor of Law, International University of Monaco*

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3. K. GORTYCH-MICHALAK, Polisemia w przekładzie prawniczym grecko-polskim i polsko-greckim, *Comparative Legilinguistics. International Journal for Legal Communication*, 2013, pp. 163-170.

4. M. GALDIA, Review of J. Husa's *Kreikan oikeus ja oikeuskieli*, *HREL*, 2009, pp. 217-219.

5. J. HUSA, *Bysantin oikeushistoria: Johdatus itäroomalaiseen oikeuskulttuuriin*, Helsinki, 2013.