

EXTRALINGUISTIC FEATURES OF LAWYERS' WRITTEN SPEECH

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Abstract

Legal writing is a complex form of communication. Just as syntax, semantics, and legal terminology are important, extralinguistic features - that is, the state of communication, social roles, institutional context, and cultural norms - play an important role in the structure and content of documents written by lawyers. This article analyzes the most relevant extralinguistic factors in the written speech of lawyers and examines their influence on content, interpretation, and legal force. The analysis is based on various legal documents: contracts, court decisions, and professional correspondence. The article substantiates the importance of the role of extralinguistic factors in the formation of clear and professional communication in legal texts.

Keywords: Legal discourse, extralinguistic features, legal writing, institutional communication, speech of lawyers, pragmatics, legal genre.

Introduction

In legal speech, speech is not only a means of persuasion, but also a means of encoding rights, obligations, and legal processes, that is, adapting legal terms to the language understood by the population. Although most scientific studies focus on the linguistic aspects of legal texts - for example, the morphological aspects of syntactic lexical units, extralinguistic features, that is, factors that have no relation to language, but directly affect the content of legal writing, are still not fully studied. Legal writing is formed not only by knowledge of grammar, but also by contextual thinking, genre-appropriate writing, and the assimilation of institutional culture. Therefore, extralinguistic knowledge is of particular importance in the training of lawyers.

The written speech of lawyers is formed in a social, institutional, and cultural context. This article is aimed at identifying, classifying, and revealing the functional significance of extralinguistic factors in legal writing.

Extralinguistic features are external factors that are not a direct component of language, but influence the formation of communication. In the written speech of lawyers, they may consist of:

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1. Institutional context (court, law firm, parliament, etc.)
 2. Legal status of the author (judge, prosecutor, lawyer, etc.)
 3. Text genre (contract, statement of claim, legal opinion)
 4. Audience (client, competing party, government agency participants)
 5. Cultural and jurisdictional norms
 6. Purpose of communication (informing, persuading, defending, accusing, legalizing)

Although these signs are not visually visible in the text, their presence directly affects the content and interpretation of the text.

The following types of extralinguistic means can be found in the written speech of lawyers.

1. Institutional and genre characteristics

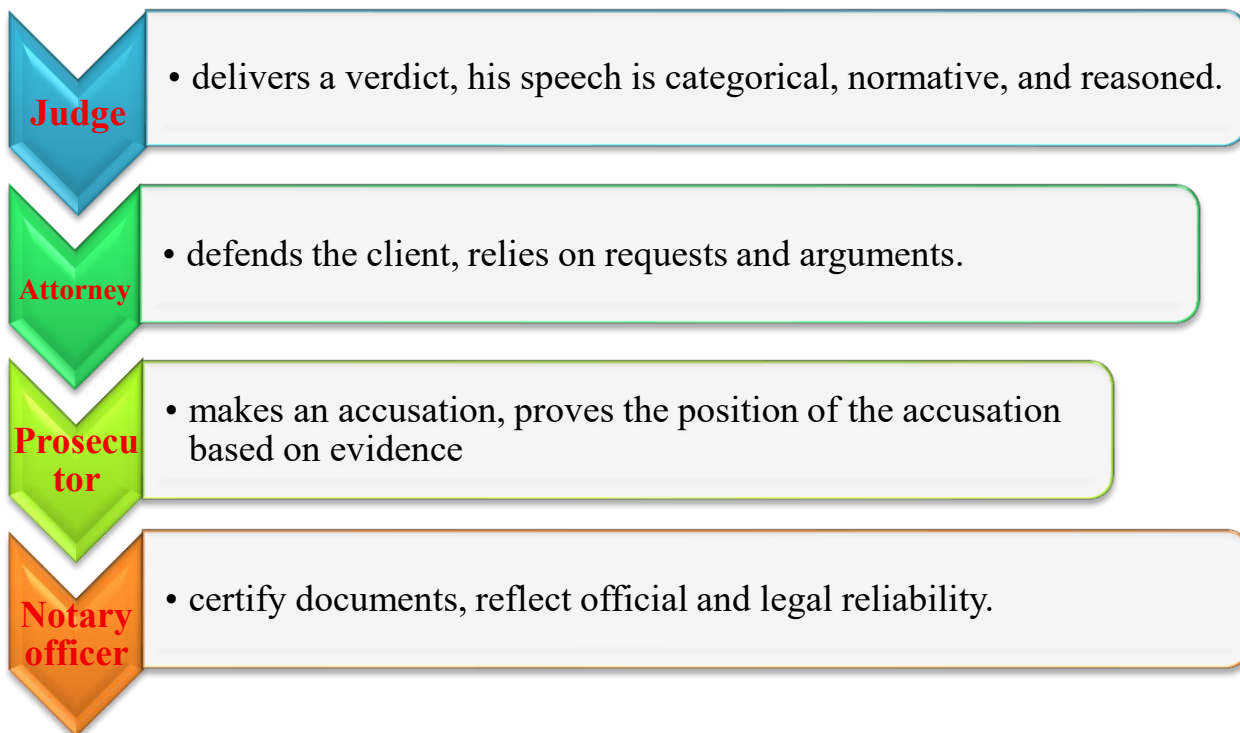
Documents or court decisions written by a lawyer have a strict structure, which, in addition to the parts of facts, issues, analysis, and decisions, reflects the institution or official system within which the speech originated. Contractual texts are constructed using standard expressions and special terminology and sectoral semantics. These differences depend on the rules of the institution where the author works. For example, in court decisions, stereotypical expressions such as "the court determined," "the plaintiff's claim must be satisfied" are usually used. In notarial documents, it is possible to find out which institution the documents belong to through templates such as "with the consent of the parties," "this document was drawn up in two copies."

2. Legal status and authority of the author

The role and position of the person who wrote the document in the legal system can be determined by a number of extralinguistic features of the sentences presented in the legal document. (for example, judge, prosecutor, lawyer, notary, investigator, legal advisor).

Authority is the author's legal capacity and responsibility for carrying out legal actions (for example, issuing a judgment, filing a claim, defending, confirming).

Both of these elements directly affect the content, tone, formality, argumentation, and even the structure of a lawyer's written speech. For example



For example, "The court, based on the presented evidence, considered the civil case and made the following decision..." Through this sentence, the author says that the judge expresses his status as a judge through official and strict language.

"Dear Court, on behalf of our client, we declare that we consider the presented evidence to be misinterpreted..." In this sentence, the communicative role of the lawyer and the form of a request within the scope of authority are evident.

"Considering that the actions of the accused contain elements of Article 167 of the Criminal Code, we request the initiation of a criminal case."

In the above legal text, it can be seen that the sentence is spoken by the prosecutor through extralinguistic features such as competent inquiry, evidence, and the pursuit of practical results.

3. Time and space indicators

Legal texts, especially official documents written by lawyers, are always connected with a specific time (time) and a specific place (space). These time and space indicators are one of the main extralinguistic tools that determine the legal force, scope of application, compatibility with legal processes, and reliability of the document.

Indicators of time and space, which are one of the main features of extralinguistic features, perform the following functions.

- a) Establishes the legal force of the act
- A document without a date and place may be legally invalid.
 - For example, a power of attorney or contract without the date of signing can be declared invalid.
- b) Determines the validity period
- When does the document come into force and for how long will it remain in force?
- c) Determines jurisdiction
- The place indicated in the document indicates which court or agency is competent.

4. Strengthens reliability and legality

The correct indication of place and time in notarial and judicial documents is evidence of the authenticity of the document.

Time	Place	Compound form
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dates, periods, deadlines:• <i>"2025-yil 10-iyun kuni", "2024-yil 1-yanvardan boshlab", "30 kun ichida"</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Place names, addresses, offices:• <i>"Toshkent shahar sudi", "Farg'ona viloyati notariusi", "Buxoro tumani"</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Time + Place:• <i>"2023-yil 5-mart kuni, Samarqand shahrida tuzildi."</i>

5. Cultural and pragmatic conventions

Cultural conventions are socially accepted moral, aesthetic, and behavioral norms.

Phrases expressing respect: such phrases as "respected court," "presented to your attention," "we consider important" are widely used in the legal texts of Uzbekistan. This reflects the politeness and social hierarchy characteristic of Uzbek culture.

Public value: phrases such as "public opinion," "public interests," "based on common consent" in the text reflect collective thinking in society.

Religious and traditional values: the use of phrases such as "Relying on Allah," "with honest intention" in some notarial texts shows that these values have also entered the written legal discourse.

Pragmatic conventions are the order in which language tools are used in accordance with the situation. In legal writing, they are manifested as follows:

Formalism and Standardization: Legal texts, especially decrees, contracts, protocols, and wills, are strictly standardized. This normative is based on a pragmatic convention and reinforces legal force.

Clarity of authority and status: In the text, phrases such as "I, in accordance with Article 116 of the Civil Code...", "in the course of proceedings..." express legal status. An important aspect of these pragmatic traditions is ensuring reliability and legality.

Decision and the boundary of responsibility: In texts, expressions such as "according to this decision," "the defendant undertakes the following obligations" are widely used to clarify the responsibility of subjects.

In Western countries, however, legal texts are more reliable and evidence-rich. In other systems, formality and coding take precedence. This is the opposite of cultural factors.

Extralinguistic elements perform the following functions in the lawyer's written speech:

Legalization: phrases such as "reviewed," "signed," "approved" formalize the document.

Identification of roles: Job titles, seal, signature blocks indicate the status of the author of the text.

Pragmatic placement: Information such as date, place, and validity period connects the document to a specific location in reality.

Thus, for a full understanding of legal writing and its effective formation, a deep analysis of extralinguistic features is necessary. The legal status of the writer-lawyer, the institutional institution to which he belongs, as well as the prevailing cultural and social norms directly affect the structure, meaning, and legal force of the text. Therefore, legal speech should be considered not only as the language itself, but also as a complex communicative phenomenon closely related to the context of social communication. For a modern lawyer, legal writing skills should be combined not only with linguistic competence, but also with extralinguistic thinking, contextual analysis, and communication culture.

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