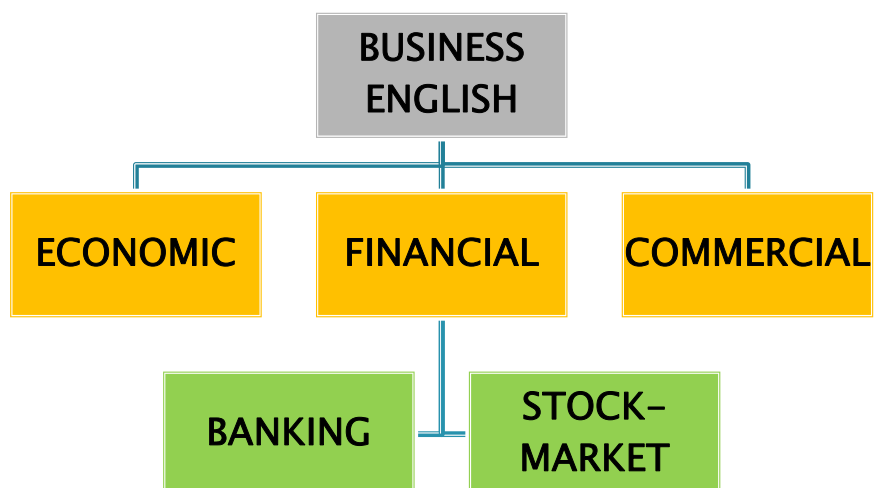


CHARACTERISING ESP

MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF PROFESSIONAL LANGUAGES

- ▶ Referential function
- ▶ Depend on a common language or other languages
- ▶ Are homonymic
- ▶ Show figures of speech
- ▶ Share use with the general language

BUSINESS ENGLISH



SYNTACTIC AND DISCURSIVE ASPECTS

- Exemplification:
such as, for example, including, is typified by, etc.
- Direct explanation introduced by verbs such as:
means, is known as, is taken to mean, concerns, etc.
- Formal definition.
- Noun chains modifying the main noun:
roof aerials, factory playing fields, safety belts, frost damage.
- Comparison.
- Modal verbs.
- Conditional sentences.

LEXICAL ASPECTS

- False friends:
commodity (mercadería).
- Colloquial lexis and semitechnical language.
- Vocabulary from colloquial register (financial texts):
hedge instead of protection.
- Figures of speech: metaphors, similes and metonymy:
bull and bear, The White House.
- Puns, as in newspapers headlines.
- Abbreviations, acronyms, and apocopes, as in currency abbreviations.

LEXICAL ASPECTS

- ▶ Lexical neologisms:
 - Foreign words: **broker**, **marketing**, **CD-ROM**, **holding**, **CPU**, **ranking**, **toner**.
 - Loan words: **chequear** (check), **escáner** (scanner), **resetear** (reset), etc.
 - Calques: **balanza comercial** (balance of trade), **bonos del tesoro** (Treasury bonds), **flujo de caja** (cashflow).
 - Equivalences: **conocimiento de embarque** (bill of lading), **mercado alcista** (bull market), **tiburón** (raider), **grupo de presión** (lobby).
- ▶ Polysemy.
- ▶ Lexical collocations.

ECONOMIC LANGUAGE

- ▶ More formal and academic than Financial language.
- ▶ Majority of vocabulary with Latin root: **adverse selection** (selección adversa) or **múltiple correlation coefficient** (coeficiente de correlación múltiple).
- ▶ Easier translation.

FINANCIAL LANGUAGE

- Influence of *The Economist*.
- Tendency to colloquial and popular language:
front-loading loans y back-loading loans, haircut, bed-and-breakfast deal, evergreen loan.
- Anglo-saxon vocabulary control:
hedge, swap, rating.
- Expressiveness in images:
mainstream, upstream y downstream.
- Fun in puns:
concert party, fan club.

FINANCIAL LANGUAGE

Acronyms and short forms	Examples
Tom	Tomorrow
Deb	Debenture Debit
EYES	Equity Yield Enhancement Securities
CHIPS	Clearing House Inter-Bank Payment System
STRIPS	Separate Trading of Registered Interest and Principal Securities

FINANCIAL LANGUAGE

- Expressions referred to animals
bull, **bear**, **bear's hug**, **bear's squeeze**, **CATS** (Certificate of Accrual on Treasury Securities or Computer Assisted trading System), **dead cat bounce**, **bulldog**, **from the horse's mouth**, **racing certainty**.
- Adjectives of transparent meaning
naked bonds, **naked debentures**, **dirty**.

FINANCIAL LANGUAGE

► Use of colours.

Blue	The Big Blue Blue chips
Red	Red interest, Red tape
Green	Green shoe, Green back White-collar job, White knight
Black	Black market, Black night
Yellow	Yellow press, Yellow dog contract
Pink	Pink-sheet market

► Communicative clarity.

COMMERCIAL LANGUAGE

- ▶ Balance between Latin and Anglo-saxon vocabulary.
- ▶ Norman origin words.

LEGAL ENGLISH

TYPES OF LEGAL DISCOURSE

- ▶ The **legal discourse community** is made up of lawyers, judges, and all those involved in drafting laws. The 'insiders'.
- ▶ There are **different types of legal discourse (subgenres)**: e.g. the language used between **lawyer and client** or between **two lawyers**; the language of the **courts** (much of which is oral); the language of **law reports** and **academic texts** on legal matters; the language of **legal documents**.
- ▶ '**Legal language**' covers any sort of discourse which is concerned with legal matters (descriptive and prescriptive), whereas '**the language of the law**' is concerned with prescriptive legal discourse.

LEXICAL ASPECTS

- ▶ Foreign words and latinisms:

"The defense was that the plaintiff was not a **de jure** officer and that a **de facto** officer is not entitled to a salary."

"If in case B a court with power to overrule case A says that case A is overruled, the **ratio decidendi** of case A ceases altogether to have any authority so far as the doctrine of precedent is concerned."

"The Czech Republic shall remove trade barriers in the coal market with the **acquis** by accession ..."

LEXICAL ASPECTS

- ▶ Archaic or rarely used words and expressions:

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and the respective representations, warranties, covenants and agreements set forth in this Agreement and intending to be legally bound hereby, the parties hereto agree as follows:

LEXICAL ASPECTS

- ▶ Binomials and trinomials

... the terms and conditions set forth in this agreement ...

This is the last will and testament of me ...

I give, devise and bequest all my property of every nature and kind ...

... the same may be amended, supplemented or modified in accordance with the terms hereof ...

LEXICAL ASPECTS

- ▶ Formulaic expressions

Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

Now, therefore, the parties agree as follows:

I, _____, of _____ being of sound and disposing mind, do hereby make, publish and declare the following to be my Last Will and Testament ...

LEXICAL ASPECTS

- ▶ Frequent repetition of particular words, expressions and structures

Powers of vice-**chair** 11. Where (a) a member of a Board is appointed to be vice-**chair** either by the Assembly **or** under regulation 10, and (b) the **chair** of the Board has died **or** has ceased to hold office, **or** is unable to perform the duties of **chair** owing to illness, absence from England and Wales **or** any other cause, the vice-**chair** shall act as **chair** until a new **chair** is appointed **or** the existing **chair** resumes the duties of **chair**, as the case may be; and references to the **chair** in Schedule 3 shall, so long as there is no **chair** able to perform the duties of **chair**, be taken to include references to the vice-**chair**.

SYNTACTIC AND DISCOURSE ASPECTS

► Long complex sentences with intricate coordination and subordination

Resolution 1786 (2007) .Adopted by the Security Council at its 5785th meeting, on 28 November 2007

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolution 1775 (2007) of 14 September 2007,

Having regard to Article 16 (4) of the Statute of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia,

Having considered the nomination by the Secretary-General of Mr. Serge Brammertz for the position of Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (S/2007/678),

Recalling that resolution 1503 (2003) of 28 August 2003 called upon the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia to take all possible measures to complete all trial activities at first instance by the end of 2008, and to complete all work in 2010 (ICTY completion strategy),

Decides to appoint Mr. Serge Brammertz as Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia with effect from 1 January 2008 for a four-year term, which is subject to an earlier termination by the Security Council upon completion of the work of the International Tribunal.

SYNTACTIC AND DISCOURSE ASPECTS

► Syntactic discontinuities

If, after informing the supervisory authority concerned under subsection (3), any measures taken by the supervisory authority against the insurance undertaking are, in the opinion of the regulatory authority, not adequate and the undertaking continues to contravene this Act, the regulatory authority may, after informing the supervisory authority of its intention, apply to the High Court for such an order ...

Developed country Members shall, if requested by other Members, provide copies of the documents or, in case of voluminous documents, summaries of the documents covered by a specific notification in English, French or Spanish.

SYNTACTIC AND DISCOURSE ASPECTS

► Widespread use of the passive

The acronym EURES **shall be used** exclusively for activities within EURES. It **shall be illustrated** by a standard logo, defined by a graphic design scheme. The logo **shall be registered** as a Community trade mark at the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM). It **may be used** by the EURES members and partners.

If any term or provision of this Agreement **shall be deemed** prohibited by or invalid under any applicable law, such provision **shall be invalidated** without affecting the remaining provisions of this Agreement, the Original Agreement or the Loan Documents.

SYNTACTIC AND DISCOURSE ASPECTS

► Impersonal style

No one may be subjected to slavery, servitude or forced labour.

Everyone has the right of access to a) any information held by the state and b) any information that is held **by another person** and that is required for the exercise or protection of any rights.

When **a prisoner** is found guilty of an infraction of the laws of this state or the rules of the department, gain-time may be forfeited according to law.

Members shall ensure that their sanitary or phytosanitary measures are adapted to the sanitary or phytosanitary characteristics of the area – whether all of a country, part of a country, or all or parts of several countries – from which the product originated and to which the product is destined.

SYNTACTIC AND DISCOURSE ASPECTS

Long lists

- ▶ "Governmental Rule" means any statute, law, treaty, rule, code, ordinance, regulation, license, permit, certificate or order of any Governmental Authority or any judgment, decree, injunction, writ, order or like action of any court or other judicial or quasijudicial tribunal.
- ▶ "Person" means an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership (limited, general or otherwise), association, trust, business trust, unincorporated organization, or other entity or group.

SYNTACTIC AND DISCOURSE ASPECTS

- ▶ Nominalization: the process by which a grammatical expression (very often a verb phrase) is turned into a noun phrase, e.g. *to apply* = *to make an application*

An amendment to the Constitution of Canada may be made by proclamation issued by the Governor General ...

No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of these rights other than those imposed in conformity with the law ...

In the preparation and application of sanitary or phytosanitary measures, Members shall take account of the special needs of developing country Members, and in particular of the least-developed country Members.

PLAIN ENGLISH

JUDGE: The charge here is theft of frozen chickens. Are you the defendant?

DEFENDANT: No, sir, I'm the guy who stole the chickens.

- ▶ legal documents ought to be plainer--and more comprehensible--to the average person
- ▶ <http://www.plainenglish.co.uk/>
- ▶ <http://www.plainenglishfoundation.com/>
- ▶ <http://www.clearest.co.uk/editorsoftware/plain-english/index.html>