

ABSTRACT

Linguistic Issues in Lawyer-Client Communication

Janielle Alicia Garcia

Miscommunication between lawyers and clients has always been an issue in the context of which the professionals have always been criticised not just by the lay population, but also by linguists and other legal professionals. There is a paucity of investigations regarding the communicative issues associated with clients in consultative sessions. As a result, this study objectively examines challenges as they arise from both parties.

Eight legal consultative sessions were recorded, transcribed and analysed using Conversation Analysis and Poststructuralist Discourse Analysis. The storytelling events (narrative) as put forth by the clients were measured on the basis of Grice's maxims. These processes were used to determine the success or failure of the sessions.

The investigation yielded results which identified both parties as sources of miscommunication and unsuccessful lawyer-client consultative sessions.

Keywords: Janielle Alicia Garcia; lawyer-client; Poststructuralist Discourse Analysis; Conversation Analysis; and storytelling event.