

Anita Vaivade

The Notion of Value in Legal Discourse: Perspective for Legal Axiology

The notion of value has different semiotic contexts and consequently different meanings. Legal discourse is one of the contexts possible nevertheless an important one. Referring to the view on legal discourse as self-constituting discourse, it is among the most reproduced discourses within the society. Legal terms and their meanings therefore are decisive in social semiotic interactions.

The notion of value is an abstract legal term that is used differently and contradictory in legal discourse at different levels: international, national, local. The use of value as a legal term brings social attitudes and philosophy into the legal discourse and into the legal relations and their semiotic perception. The paper analyses the semiotic value of value as a legal term.

The contribution of the paper consists also of bringing forward a broader discussion on abstract legal terms and their use in a legal discourse. The paper touches upon the issues of language economy and the necessity for the clarity of legal language where the notion of value is a problematic example, its interpretation depending strongly on cultural and social contexts.