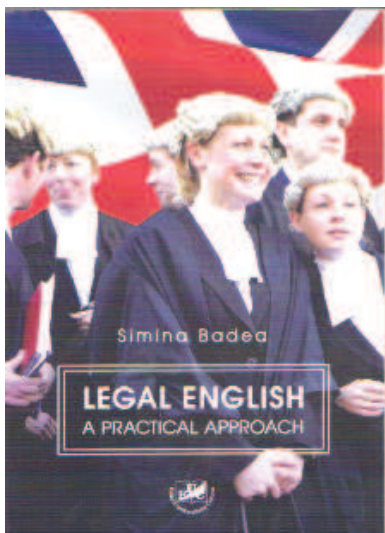


**Simina Badea, *Legal English. A Practical Approach*,
Craiova, Editura Universitaria, 2014, 246 p. (Radu Paşalega)**



This book is an illustration of the innovative trends of the law school at the University of Craiova. It consists of fourteen chapters aimed at teaching English to law students, followed by three *Annexes* whose purpose is functional. The perspective adopted by the author is characterized by a rigorous pragmatism, considered the safest path to effectiveness. The proof is the fact that in these *Annexes*, instructional supervision is minimal, pushing towards a very exact “how to” organize meetings, write letters and especially a *curriculum vitae* which exists only to facilitate the achievement of certain pragmatic goals.

Based on that, the content of the *Annexes* in terms of information is of maximum density. This book is a brief account of current English law, consisting of texts collected in each of the fourteen chapters, under the heading “Reading”. The fundamental innovation of this work is that the English language itself is seen as a simple tool, the real purpose of the book is to introduce the student to English law.

Moreover, the order and structure of the chapters follow the traditional division by branches that the Romanian school of law and especially that of Craiova made with regard to civil law, but this is only a means aimed at facilitating comprehension, as far as English law is concerned: general issues, law fundamentals, constitutional law; the next three chapters deal with English public law, namely: Parliament, the legal profession in its essential features and the court system. A chapter on EU law could in no way miss.

From 8 to 14, the orientation of chapters follows the taxonomy of Romanian law, without, however, observing the traditional order: offences (criminal law), torts (civil law), property law, contracts, family law, successions, employment law. Please note that the presentation of the branches of family law and employment law in separate chapters reflects the choice of Romanian law. In this book, the general principle is the unitary presentation of each unit topic. The other major innovation of this work is the paralleling of strictly legal issues with the study (considered traditionally) of the English language in a rather complicated symbiosis, which is most likely to bear fruit. As a matter of fact, for exercises which are purely (and professionally) legal in nature, it is the multiple-choice system that is used.

The author does not forget to provide, for comparative purposes, plenty of quotes of Romanian legal official documents, with their respective translation into English, *on which the opinion of the reader is asked!* As part of the same chapter, in strict subordination to the principle of thematic unity, the classic arsenal of language exercises is used in its entirety, in a very judicious rise by degrees, where the “bottom” level consists of reading texts in English and the “top” consists of the development,

always in English, of brief “essays” discussing the acquired legal knowledge. A sign of modernity is also the presentation, at the beginning of each chapter, of the learning objectives, actually attained.

The title of the book is well chosen in that it has a great advertising impact, but it also raises some humour (very English!) By the fact that it is not a language as such which can be called “legal” or “illegal”, but its use can be legally permitted or banned. Still, the title is inspired, because everyone knows that French and English are, by way of reciprocity, and for historical reasons, “illegal” one with the other ... and the battle is still going on at this very moment! ...

On the distinction between *substantive law* and *adjective law* (that is, legally and linguistically, correct!), in order to facilitate the connection with what young students learn, it would be appropriate to add, between parentheses: *substantial law* and *procedural law*. This is an extremely useful book for Romanian law students and it constitutes strong evidence of the innovative ambition, as well as the competence and especially the great talent of the author.