

Re: intelligibility and clarity of texts and communications...

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2006-03/msg00714.html>

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 - *Date:* Sat, 11 Mar 2006 13:39:32 GMT
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SabDor@xxxxxxxx wrote:

i'm interested in the above, especially in contexts of legal documents, consumer protection, standard contracts etc.
i'm looking for research, line of thought etc., that argues that complexity of and un-intelligibility of "legalities" is redundant and un-necessary, and serves political and corporational goals (keep the masses ignorant about their rights/obligations). other possible connections would be from information theory etc.
i have an intuition that the the intelligibility and clarity of texts could/should be measured and quantified
i will be thankful for any comment, reference etc.
Sabari G

There's a vast literature on legal language. You might start by looking for work by Roger Shuy (Georgetown) and Judith Levi (Northwestern).

The "ordinary language" movement is hugely misguided, because the precise meanings of the terms used in legal documents have been established through usage over (for English) more than 6 centuries; when you translate them into easy-to-understand words, you lose much of that tradition and risk unintended consequences when it comes time to interpret the document years or decades down the road.

Note that looking for arguments to support a particular point of view is not "research."

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