

Michael S. J. Ford

ENGLISH FOR LAW

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Theory and practice

I EDIZIONE 2018 2018

**Michael S. BOYD**

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## **Theory and practice**

**I edizione  
2018**

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The language of the law in English-speaking countries has long been a stumbling block for both native and foreign speakers. We merely have to look at a contract or licence, even for the most basic of services, to make us que

both an , or and whe her which creates a rather complex syntactic structure. The words used are both legal and technical, which is not surprising as we are dealing with a legal agreement for computer software, and would probably not create many problems in comprehension for most readers. However, if we look at some of the words we might wonder what exactly the document is referring to. For example, what is meant by ocumen a ion, in erfaces and con en ? If we look up the words in a dictionary the meanings are not difficult to understand, but what exactly is being referred to in this document and why has the author decided to use both ocumen a ion and con en , when they appear very similar in meaning? In addition, although many scholars have noted that legal English is characterized by a lack of personal pronouns in private documents such as contracts, in this case we find ou/ our used six times. There appears to be a clear-cut attempt by the writers of the document to address directly, and also perhaps, engage the reader, or the person who is signing the agreement i.e. the licensee . Does this mean that this is not a typical example of legal English? Of course, it does not. On the contrary, it means there are many different types of legal texts that we encounter on a daily basis. While many of them are complex and may challenge the layperson, their complexity may vary greatly.

The goal of this book is to bring into focus both the complexit

It is therefore the particular aspects of Anglo-American common law that provide the bedrock to defining the language and style of a text such as a software agreement. Consequently, in order to understand such documents we need to look at the linguistic, stylistic and even historical aspects of legal language.

This book aims to introduce Italian students of law, legal practitioners and learners interested in legal English to some of the most important features of the English and American legal systems, and the language they use through an



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Introduction.

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Introduction.

What is legal English?

Genres in legal English.



- Some difference between US and English legal use.
- Some aspects of EU legal English.
- False friends.
- The language of common law and the courtroom.
- Some features of private law documents.

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## INTRODUCTION



## INTRODUCTION

introduces the history and theory behind legal English and attempts to answer