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The German Language as a Tool for Construction of Social Groups in Legislative Texts of the Federal Republic of Germany

ABSTRACT. *The study focuses on the analysis of legislative texts regulating the use of the German language in the Federal Republic of Germany. The absence of the constitutional status of the German language has led to the need to include separate paragraphs about the use of the German language in legislative texts on various topics. The novelty of the study lies in the fact that legal texts in the context of language regulation in Germany have not been sufficiently studied. The aim of the study is to define the conceptualization of language in legislation and to distinguish the social groups constructed in this regard. The research methods include the following: observation, linguistic text analysis, description, and critical discourse analysis. The research methodology is based on the consideration of legal texts within the framework of the social constructionism paradigm [Dubrovskaya, 2017] and the Social Actors Theory [Leeuwen, 2008]. The factual material under analysis includes text fragments of German normative legal acts on the federal level that regulate the use of the German language. As a result of the study it has been found that the German language legislation regulates such spheres of interaction between social actors as labor relations, immigration, education, activities of state bodies (including courts), and more often than not the German language is represented as an instrument for the implementation of social practices, and less often as a patient or beneficiary, which is demonstrated by its syntactic object position to the predicate in the form of active and passive modal constructions in the present tense. The state and the individuals mainly act as an agent, less often as a patient or beneficiary. Their active role can also fail to be expressed explicitly, but is determined by social context.*

KEYWORDS: *social practices, social actors, social groups, German language, legal discourse, German legislature, legislative texts, normative-legal acts, social constructionism.*

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Немецкий язык как инструмент конструирования социальных групп в законодательных текстах Федеративной Республики Германии

АННОТАЦИЯ. *Статья посвящена исследованию законодательных текстов, регулирующих использование немецкого языка в ФРГ. Отсутствие конституционного статуса немецкого языка привело к необходимости включения отдельных параграфов, посвященных регулированию использования немецкого языка, в законодательные тексты различной тематики. Новизна исследования заключается в том, что юридические тексты в контексте языкового регулирования в Германии изучены недостаточно. Цель исследования — определить концептуализацию языка в законодательстве и социальные группы, конструируемые в этой связи. Методы исследования: наблюдение, лингвистический анализ текста, описание, критический анализ дискурса. Методология исследования основана на рассмотрении юридических текстов в рамках парадигмы социального конструкционизма (Дубровская, 2017) и теории социальных актов (Leeuwen, 2008). Материалом исследования являются фрагменты нормативных правовых актов ФРГ федерального уровня, регламентирующие использование немецкого языка. В результате исследования было установлено, что языковое законодательство ФРГ регулирует такие сферы взаимодействия социальных акторов, как трудовые отношения, иммиграция, деятельность государственных органов (в том числе судов), причем в основном немецкий язык представлен как инструмент осуществления социальных практик, реже — как пациент или бенефициар (актуализируется объектной позицией к сказуемому в форме активных и пассивных модальных конструкций в настоящем времени). Государство и граждане в основном выступают в роли агенса, реже — как пациент или бенефициар, причем активная роль государства и граждан может быть не выражена эксплицитно, а определяться социальным контекстом.*

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: *социальные практики, социальные акторы, социальные группы, немецкий язык, правовой дискурс, немецкое законодательство, законодательные тексты, нормативно-правовые акты, социальный конструкционизм.*

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1. INTRODUCTION. MATERIAL AND METHODS

A feature of the German language legislation is the absence of a constitutional status of a state language in the context of actual dominant position of German. As a result, there is the need to include paragraphs devoted to the language in legislative texts of various kinds. The study is devoted to the analysis of the German legislative texts which regulate a state language policy.

The relevance of the paper is determined by its broad social context and insufficient studies of legislative texts from the point of view of sociolinguistics. The novelty of the work lies in the fact that for the first time linguistic legislation is considered from the point of view of social constructionism and social actors theory is used to highlight typical models of interaction in a society.

The material of the study is text fragments of the German legal acts at the federal level. We have found and analyzed in all 1058 references to the language in various legislative texts. We have found that language use is regulated by legislative texts of various kinds, and in this paper we present typical examples of social practices and interactions of social actors. We consider social groups constructed in legislation as well as linguistic means of their actualization applying methodology presented by T. V. Dubrovskaya [Dubrovskaya, 2017]. The researcher proposes to consider law as a discursive practice and language not separately, but in the context of ongoing discursive processes [Dubrovskaya, 2017: 101]. A prospect of studying legislative texts is seen “in line with critical discourse analysis, which conceptual basis is understanding of discourse as a socially constructive phenomenon that produces representations” [Dubrovskaya, 2020: 197]. We also apply the theory of social actors by T. van Leeuwen [Leeuwen, 2020].

Research methods: observation (gathering fragments of legislative texts in the field of German language policy), linguistic text analysis, description (determination of used linguistic means), critical discourse analysis.

The aim of the study is to determine how language is conceptualized in legislative texts and which social groups are constructed in this regard. To do this, it is necessary to solve the following problems:

1. To identify typical areas of interaction and groups of social actors constructed in legislative texts in the field of language policy;

2. To define the roles of the social actors;

3. To define linguistic means of representation of these groups and the actors in considered legislative texts.

2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

In our paper, when identifying general patterns in modeling social spheres subject to language regulation, we use Theo van Leeuwen's Social Actors Theory. In view of the fact that our study is based on the analysis of legislative texts, which main purpose of which is prescriptive (and constructive normative social order), we also refer to the category of modality.

2.1. Social Actors Theory

Language and society are inextricably linked, and in linguistics today one of the key categories is discourse: “Discourse — language as social practice determined by social structures” [Fairclough, 1989: 17]. N. Fairclough glosses “language as a form of social practice» and implies, that 'language is a part of society, and not somehow external to it <...>, that language is a socially conditioned process, conditioned that is by other (non-linguistic) parts of society” [Fairclough, 1989: 23]. That is, the researcher defines the language through the category of social practice.

Let us consider the definition of social practice by T. van Leeuwen: “Social practices are the things people do to, for, or with each other insofar as they follow recognizable patterns. <...> When the actions are represented, whether linguistically or otherwise, this will be mediated by a discourse” [Leeuwen, 2005: 286]. The researcher points to the role of discourse in the actualization of social practices by actors.

N. Fairclough notes: “The main social actors are 'people', and what one might group together as the 'movers', those who make things happen (governments/trade unions/employers)” [Fairclough, 2003: 147]. T. van Leeuwen also includes animals in the category of social actors: “The actors are the people — sometimes also animals — involved in the practice, and the different roles in which they are involved, for instance active and passive roles” [Leeuwen, 2005: 108].

P. Baker and P. Ellece give the most complete definition of social actors, including people, animals and social institutions: “Social actors are participants in clauses, who may be represented as subjects (agents) or objects (goals) in the clause. <...> Social actors are normally animate and/or human, but can in-

clude groups or abstract entities like 'council' or 'community'. And sometimes, however, inanimate objects or abstract concepts can be represented as if they have agency" [Baker, Ellece, 2011: 133].

In this article we focus on representation of social actors as participants in social practices, depending on their certain roles in texts (classified by T. van Leeuwen): instigator (stimulates an action), agent (performs an action), affected (being influenced by an agent), beneficiary (makes gains from an action), and we also consider tools of social practices (first of all a language) [Leeuwen, 2008: 7].

2.2. Modality

The study of the problem of modality is one of fundamental investigations in the field of the European languages theory. Considering the problem of modality in the German language I. P. Tagil' gives the following definition: "Modality (from Latin *modalis* 'modal') is the relationship between the subject of the sentence and the action expressed by the verb in the infinitive (possibility, necessity, ability, probability, permission, prohibition, desire, etc.). Along with this, modality can characterize the attitude of the speaker to the action, primarily the assessment of the reality of this action. Thus, modality express not an action, but an attitude towards it" [Tagil, 2019: 168]. I. P. Tagil' notes the key role of modal verbs (*können*, *dürfen*, *müssen*, *sollen*, *mögen*) in the actualization of modality in the modern German language.

P. Eisenberg points to the important role of the indicative and conditional moods in the actualization of modality in the German language: "The indicative and conditional moods are syntactic unit categories, those serve for signaling of modality. Formally and semantically, the indicative plays the role of the unmarked category" [Eisenberg, 2013: 107]. Thus, the researcher notes the presence of a modal meaning in almost every statement.

W. Abraham adheres to a broad understanding of modality (similar to the P. Eisenberg's point of view) and notes the important role of "the syntactic constructions like the middle construction, the passive *sein + zu + Infinitiv* as well as the *haben + zu + Infinitiv* formations" [Abraham, 2008: 185]. The researcher identifies the following types of modality: deontic, permissive and boulomaic ('modality of desire').

In our paper we also adhere to the point of view that modality is inherent in every statement. Given the prescriptive and regulative nature of the empirical material, following W. Abraham, we also use the category of deontic modality.

3. STUDY RESULTS

As a result of studying texts of documents, we have identified several social areas, in which social actors interact, namely:

- labor relations;
- immigration;
- education;
- activities of state institutions (including courts).

Let us consider each of these social spheres in more detail (after each fragment of the legislative texts is a translation into English).

3.1. Labor relations

German legislation regulates such social practice as labor relationships and defines knowledge of the German language as a prerequisite for the implementation of labor activities in the country:

(1) *Die Eignungsprüfung ist eine in deutscher Sprache abzulegende staatliche Prüfung, die die notwendigen Kenntnisse im deutschen Recht betrifft und mit der die Fähigkeit beurteilt werden soll, den juristischen Vorbereitungsdienst erfolgreich abzuschließen. (§ 112a Deutsches Richtergesetz (DriG))*

This fragment presents the social practice of conducting a state exam for the person's admission to fill the judge position. The instigator is a state, what is actualized by the adjective *staatliche*. The agent is not explicitly expressed, but it implies a person taking such exam. The German language (*die deutsche Sprache*) acts as a mandatory tool for the implementation of social practice, which is represented by deontic modality. This modality is actualized by the gerundiv *zu + Partizip I (abzulegende)*. I. P. Tagil' notes: "The gerundiv expresses an obligation, necessity, requirement, possibility or prohibition. The specific modal meaning is determined by the context" [Tagil, 2019: 201]. The gerundiv *abzulegende* actualizes the requirement to conduct the exam exactly (and only) in German.

The legislation also regulates the scope of labor relations with the foreign participation:

(2) *Einem geduldeten Ausländer kann eine Aufenthaltserlaubnis zur Ausübung einer der beruflichen Qualifikation entsprechenden Beschäftigung erteilt werden, wenn der Ausländer <...>*

3. über ausreichende Kenntnisse der deutschen Sprache verfügt <...>. (§ 19d Gesetz über den Aufenthalt, die Erwerbstätigkeit und die Integration von Ausländern im Bundesgebiet 1) (Aufenthaltsgesetz — AufenthG))

This fragment presents the social practice of granting permission for temporary residence in Germany in connection with the imple-

mentation of professional activities. The implicitly expressed agent here is a state (because an issue of such documents is exclusively a state prerogative), the affected is a temporary residence permit, actualized by a noun in the accusative case and a passive voice of the modal construction *können erteilen*, expressing “the ability to perform some action” [Tagil', 2019: 168] (*kann <...> erteilt werden*). Proficiency in German is presented as a prerequisite, what is actualized with a conditional clause with the conjunction *wenn* and a predicate in the Präsens Indikativ form of the verb *verfügen* (*wenn <...> verfügt*). The German language (*die deutsche Sprache*) is a tool for the implementation of this social practice.

The German language is regulated as a compulsory language of proficiency for a certain list of professions:

(3) *Als Seelotsenanwärterin oder Seelotsenanwärter darf nur zugelassen werden, wer für den Beruf der Seelotsin oder des Seelotsen auf Grund ihrer oder seiner Berufsausbildung und Berufserfahrung befähigt sowie gesundheitlich geeignet ist und die erforderliche Zuverlässigkeit besitzt <...>. Eignung und Zuverlässigkeit müssen während der gesamten Dauer der Zulassung vorliegen.*

Der Bewerber muss zum Zeitpunkt der Zulassung <...>

4. die deutsche Sprache in Wort und Schrift beherrschen <...>. (§ 9 Gesetz über das Seelotswesen (Seelotsgesetz — SeeLG))

The fragment presents the social practice of admission to a position (e. g. of a pilot one), and consists of two parts: the first one presents the general, basic requirements for a candidate, and the second one contains more specific requirements. In the first part the agent is not explicitly expressed and the affected is represented by nouns in the accusative case both for men and women: *Seelotsenanwärterin oder Seelotsenanwärter*. The role of these nouns as the affected is expressed using the passive voice of the modal verb *dürfen* “to be able, to have permission” [Tagil', 2019: 168] and the main verb *zulassen* (‘to allow’) (*darf nur zugelassen werden*).

In the second paragraph of the fragment the agent is represented by the noun in the nominative case (*der Bewerber*). The active role of the applicant for the job position is actualized by the predicate in the form of the modal verb *müssen* (‘must’) and the infinitive *beherrschen* (‘to own, to know something perfectly’). The German language acts as a patient, which is actualized by a noun in the accusative case (*die deutsche Sprache*), which is a direct object in the accusative case for the predicate. Thus, the deontic modality, expressing

the obligation to speak German, is actualized by the modal verb.

3.2. Immigration

German legislation regulates such social practice as immigration sphere and provides more loyal immigration rules for highly qualified specialists:

(4) *1. Einer Fachkraft ist ohne Zustimmung der Bundesagentur für Arbeit eine Niederlassungserlaubnis zu erteilen, wenn <...>*

2. Abweichend von Absatz 1 ist dem Inhaber einer Blauen Karte EU eine Niederlassungserlaubnis zu erteilen, wenn er mindestens 33 Monate eine Beschäftigung nach § 18b Absatz 2 ausgeübt hat und für diesen Zeitraum Pflichtbeiträge oder freiwillige Beiträge zur gesetzlichen Rentenversicherung geleistet hat oder Aufwendungen für einen Anspruch auf vergleichbare Leistungen einer Versicherungs- oder Versorgungseinrichtung oder eines Versicherungsunternehmens nachweist und die Voraussetzungen des § 9 Absatz 2 Satz 1 Nummer 2 und 4 bis 6, 8 und 9 vorliegen und er über einfache Kenntnisse der deutschen Sprache verfügt. § 9 Absatz 2 Satz 2 bis 4 und 6 gilt entsprechend. Die Frist nach Satz 1 verkürzt sich auf 21 Monate, wenn der Ausländer über ausreichende Kenntnisse der deutschen Sprache verfügt. (Gesetz über den Aufenthalt, die Erwerbstätigkeit und die Integration von Ausländern im Bundesgebiet 1) (Aufenthaltsgesetz — AufenthG) § 18c Niederlassungserlaubnis für Fachkräfte)

It is worth noting that the blue card in Germany is an analogue of the green card in the United States and only highly qualified immigrants can become its holders. Thus, this fragment presents the social practice of issuing a permanent residence permit to a high skilled worker. The agent is not explicitly expressed, however, it implies the state represented by the authorized bodies for issuing this document. The affected is represented by the phrase *eine Niederlassungserlaubnis*, which is a direct object in the accusative case of the predicate in the form of the modal construction *sein + zu + Infinitiv* in the Präsens Indikativ form and the main verb *erteilen* (‘to grant’) (*ist <...> zu erteilen*). Such modal construction “is used most often to express the possibility or impossibility in clearer, more convincing form (has a passive meaning)” [Tagil', 2019: 199]. The foreigner is represented as a beneficiary, what is actualized with the noun in the dative case (*Einer Fachkraft*).

In this fragment there are two cases of German language proficiency are considered: basic and more advanced. Person's knowledge in German is represented as one of the main

prerequisites to receive this document, what is actualized with a conditional clause, the conjunction *wenn*, and a predicate in the Präsens Indikativ form of the verb *verfügen* (*wenn* <...> *verfügt*). Here the period of residence and work in Germany required to obtain a permit is 33 months. If a highly qualified specialist speaks the language at a “sufficient” (‘ausreichend’) level, then the mentioned period is reduced to 21 months. The German language (*die deutsche Sprache*) is a tool for the implementation of this social practice.

Thus, the initiator in the person of the state encourages the study of the language and makes certain indulgences to people with immigration backgrounds who speak German. Thus, the deontic modality of compulsory knowledge of the German language is actualized by the forms of the indicative mood of the main verb.

Let us move on to the next example illustrating this social practice. German legislation regulates knowledge of the German language as a prerequisite for a long stay in the country:

(5) *Einem Ausländer ist eine Erlaubnis zum Daueraufenthalt — EU nach Artikel 2 Buchstabe b der Richtlinie 2003/109/EG zu erteilen, wenn <...>*

3. *er über ausreichende Kenntnisse der deutschen Sprache verfügt <...>. (§ 9a Gesetz über den Aufenthalt, die Erwerbstätigkeit und die Integration von Ausländern im Bundesgebiet 1) (Aufenthaltsgesetz — AufenthG))*

This fragment presents the social practice of issuing a permanent residence permit to a foreigner. The agent is not explicitly expressed, however, it implies the state represented by the authorized bodies for issuing this document. The affected is represented by the phrase *eine Erlaubnis zum Daueraufenthalt*, which is a direct object in the accusative case of the predicate in the form of the modal construction *sein + zu + Infinitiv* in the Präsens Indikativ form and the main verb *erteilen* (‘to grant’) (*ist* <...> *zu erteilen*). Such modal construction “is used most often to express the possibility or impossibility in clearer, more convincing form (has a passive meaning)” [Tagil', 2019: 199]. The foreigner is represented as a beneficiary, what is actualized with the noun in the dative case (*einem Ausländer*). Proficiency in German is represented as a prerequisite, which is actualized with a conditional clause, the conjunction *wenn*, and a predicate in the Präsens Indikativ form of the verb *verfügen* (*wenn* <...> *verfügt*). The German language (*die deutsche Sprache*) is a tool for the implementation of this social practice. Thus, the deontic modality of compulsory knowledge of the German language is actualized by the forms of the indicative mood of the main verb.

German legislation regulates cases of family reunification of foreigners:

(6) *Dem Ehegatten eines Ausländers ist eine Aufenthaltserlaubnis zu erteilen, wenn <...>*

2. *der Ehegatte sich zumindest auf einfache Art in deutscher Sprache verständigen kann <...>. (§ 30 Gesetz über den Aufenthalt, die Erwerbstätigkeit und die Integration von Ausländern im Bundesgebiet 1) (Aufenthaltsgesetz — AufenthG)*

The example considers the social practice of issuing a residence permit to a spouse of a foreign citizen. The agent is not explicitly expressed, however, it implies the state represented by the authorized bodies for issuing this document. The affected is represented by the noun *eine Aufenthaltserlaubnis*, which is a direct object in the accusative case of the predicate in the Präsens Indikativ form of the modal construction *sein + zu + Infinitiv* and the main verb *erteilen* (‘to grant’) (*ist* <...> *zu erteilen*). Such type of modal constructions has the passive meaning. The foreigner's spouse is a beneficiary, what is actualized with a noun in the dative case *dem Ehegatten eines Ausländers*. Elementary knowledge of German is presented as a prerequisite, what is represented with a conditional clause with the conjunction *wenn* and a predicate in the Präsens Indikativ form of the modal construction *können sich verständigen* (*verständigen kann*). The German language (*die deutsche Sprache*) is a tool for the implementation of this social practice. Thus, the deontic modality of the obligatory knowledge of the German language is actualized by the modal verb.

3.3. Education

German legislation regulates the role of the German language in education:

(7) *In Kindergärten im zweisprachigen Gebiet sind, ausgehend von den muttersprachlichen Voraussetzungen der Kinder, die deutsche bzw. sorbische Sprache in der Bildungs- und Erziehungsarbeit anzuwenden und die muttersprachliche Entwicklung der Kinder zu fördern. (§ 2 Vierte Durchführungsbestimmung zum Gesetz über das einheitliche sozialistische Bildungssystem — Bildung und Erziehung im zweisprachigen Gebiet der Bezirke Cottbus und Dresden)*

This fragment presents a social practice of receiving pre-school education in the bilingual area of the cities of Cottbus and Dresden. German and Sorbian are declared as the languages of education and upbringing. The social actors here are pre-school institutions and children. The agent is not explicitly expressed, but officials and organizations, carrying out educa-

tional and upbringing work, are implied. The German and Sorbian languages are represented as the affected, as well as language training of children, actualized by the phrase *die deutsche bzw. sorbische Sprache and die muttersprachliche Entwicklung der Kinder*, which is the direct object in the accusative case of the predicate in the Präsens Indikativ form of the modal construction *sein + zu + Infinitiv (sind <...> zu fördern)* with a passive meaning. The children (*die Kinder*) are represented as the beneficiaries. Thus, the deontic modality, representing the obligatory nature of the use of the German and Sorbian languages, is actualized by the modal constructions of the type *haben / sein + zu + Infinitive*.

German legislation regulates the support of German schools abroad:

(8) *Zur Förderung der deutschen Sprache kann die Bundesregierung Schulen im Ausland, die keine Deutschen Auslandsschulen sind, aber das Deutsche Sprachdiplom der Kultusministerkonferenz anbieten, nach Massgabe des Zuwendungsrechts fördern. (§ 17 Gesetz über die Förderung Deutscher Auslandsschulen (Auslandsschulgesetz — AschulG))*

The fragment presents the social practice of state support for foreign schools, those provide education in accordance with the German language diploma program. The social actors here are the government and such schools. The instigator is a state, represented by the Federal Government, actualized by the subject *die Bundesregierung* which active role is actualized by the predicate in the Präsens Indikativ form of the modal construction *können + fördern (kann <...> fördern)*, expressing the possibility of promoting the German language. A strictly limited circle of foreign German schools are affected, what is represented with two relative clauses (*Schulen <...>, die <...> anbieten*).

The German language (*die deutsche Sprache*) is represented as a beneficiary, since actions of the agent are aimed at increasing interest, spreading the German language abroad, what is represented by an object of the goal in the form of a phrase in the dative case *zur Förderung der deutschen Sprache* and lexical meaning of the verb *fördern* themselves ('to promote something, to encourage someone') and its cognate noun *die Förderung* ('promotion, encouragement'), which semantics has a positive connotation and represents actions to preserve and develop the language. Thus, the deontic modality, representing the obligatory measures to support and preserve the language, is actualized by the modal verb.

3.4. Activities of state institutions (including courts)

German legislation regulates the language of appeal to official institutions and departments, i. e. regulates the official language:

(9) 1. *Die Amtssprache ist deutsch.*

2. *Werden bei einer Finanzbehörde in einer fremden Sprache Anträge gestellt oder Eingaben, Belege, Urkunden oder sonstige Dokumente vorgelegt, kann die Finanzbehörde verlangen, dass unverzüglich eine Übersetzung vorgelegt wird. (§ 87 Abgabenordnung (AO))*

This fragment presents the social practice of functioning of the German financial department, including interaction with applicants. On the one hand, the agent is not explicitly expressed and implies an applicant, and on the other hand, it is represented by the financial department, which active role is actualized by the subject *die Finanzbehörde*, the predicate in the Präsens Indikative form of the modal construction *können + Infinitiv*, and the main verb *verlangen* ('to demand') (*kann <...> verlangen*). Provided documents are affected, which are actualized as the direct object in the accusative case (*Anträge, Eingaben, Belege, Urkunden oder sonstige Dokumente*) of the predicate in the passive voice of the main verb *vorlegen* (to submit) in the Präsens Indikative form (*Werden <...> gestellt oder <...> vorgelegt*). The role of the affected is also assigned to the translation required by the financial department, what is represented as the direct object in the accusative case *eine Übersetzung*, and by the predicate in the passive voice of the main verb *vorlegen* in Präsens Indikative form (*vorgelegt wird*). The German language plays the role of a tool of this social practice: the language for the provision of documents, the language of the functioning of the financial department. Thus, the deontic modality, representing the obligatory use of German, is actualized both by the form of the indicative mood of the main verb and by the modal verb.

Let us consider the language of communication between applicants and state bodies:

(10) *Jegliche Kommunikation zwischen der betroffenen Person und der zuständigen Behörde der Bundesrepublik Deutschland in Bezug auf die Anwendung dieses Gesetzes hat in deutscher Sprache zu erfolgen. (§ 3 Gesetz zur Umsetzung der Richtlinie (EU) 2017/1852 des Rates vom 10. Oktober 2017 über Verfahren zur Beilegung von Besteuerungsstreitigkeiten in der Europäischen Union* (EU-Doppelbesteuerungsabkommen-Streitbeilegungsgesetz — EU-DBA-SBG))*

The fragment is devoted to the regulation of the social practice of communication between a

person and a competent state body. Agents are individuals, applying to state institutions, state institutions, and departments themselves. The agent is represented by nouns in the dative case (*zwischen der betroffenen Person und der zuständigen Behörde der Bundesrepublik Deutschland*). The communication is represented as the affected, what is actualized by the direct object in the accusative case *jegliche Kommunikation* of the predicate in the Präsens Indikativ form of modal construction *haben + zu + Infinitiv* and the main verb *erfolgen* ('to occur') (*hat in deutscher Sprache zu erfolgen*), expressing "necessity, coercion, the law, while the statement acquires a clear, more convincing meaning" [Tagil, 2019: 199]. The German language plays the role of a regulated tool for performing an action — communication between a person and the state bodies. Thus, the deontic modality, representing the obligatory use of German, is actualized by the modal construction of the form *haben / sein + zu + Infinitiv*.

German legislation regulates the possibility of using German Sign Language:

(11) *Die Amtssprache ist deutsch. Menschen mit Hörbehinderungen und Menschen mit Sprachbehinderungen haben das Recht, in Deutscher Gebärdensprache, mit lautsprachbegleitenden Gebärden oder über andere geeignete Kommunikationshilfen zu kommunizieren; Kosten für Kommunikationshilfen sind von der Behörde oder dem für die Sozialleistung zuständigen Leistungsträger zu tragen. (§ 19 Zehntes Buch Sozialgesetzbuch — Sozialverfahren und Sozialdatenschutz — (SGB X))*

The fragment is devoted to such social practice as an appeal of a person with speech and hearing impairments to official institutions. The agent is represented in the first part of the complex sentence by the subject *Menschen mit Hörbehinderungen und Menschen mit Sprachbehinderungen*. The predicate is actualized by the transitive verb *haben* in the Präsens Indikativ form. The affected is represented with a direct object in the accusative case, actualized with the relative clause *das Recht, in Deutscher Gebärdensprache, mit lautsprachbegleitenden Gebärden oder über andere geeignete Kommunikationshilfen zu kommunizieren*. In this clause the German sign language (*Deutsche Gebärdensprache*) is presented as a tool for the implementation of this social practice. Thus, the deontic modality, representing the obligatory use of German, is actualized by the form of the indicative mood of the verb *sein*.

Let us consider the second part of the complex sentence: the agent in the fragment is an institution (department), which is actualized by the use of the preposition *von* ("which is used when it comes to an active producer of action"

[Tagil', 2019: 138] in the Präsens Indikativ form of the modal construction *sein + zu + Infinitiv*, used "most often to express the possibility or impossibility in a clearer, more convincing form (has a passive meaning)" [Tagil', 2019: 199], and representing the obligation of departments or authorized institutions to bear the costs of communication in the German sign language (*sind <...> zu tragen*). The affected is costs associated with communication, represented by a direct object in the accusative case (*Kosten für Kommunikationshilfen*).

German legislation regulates the language of legal proceedings:

(12) *Das Schlichtungsverfahren wird in deutscher Sprache geführt; mit Einvernehmen der Parteien kann die Verhandlung in einer anderen Sprache geführt werden. (§ 16 Gesetz über die Schiedsstellen in den Gemeinden)*

The fragment regulates such social practice as the arbitration process. Social actors are the parties of the process and a court. The fragment contains two semantic parts: the first one is devoted to the regulation of the German language as the language of arbitration proceedings. The agent is not explicitly expressed, but it implies participants of the process. The arbitration proceeding acts as an affected, what is actualized by a direct object in the accusative case *das Schlichtungsverfahren*. The passivity of the arbitration process is represented by the predicate in the form of the passive action of the main verb *führen* ('to lead') (*wird <...> geführt*). The German language plays the role of a tool for performing an action (the administration of justice in arbitration cases) and is actualized in the form of an object in the dative case with the preposition *in* (*in deutscher Sprache*). Thus, the deontic modality, representing the obligatory use of the German language, is actualized with the passive voice (Vorgangspassiv).

In the second semantic part of the fragment, which is devoted to the possibility of conducting the process in another language, the parties of the arbitration (represented by the object in the dative case (*mit Einvernehmen der Parteien*)) act as agents. The predicate is actualized by the Präsens Indikativ form of the modal verb *können* in the passive voice, expressing "the ability to perform some action" (Tagil', 2019: 168), and the main verb *führen* (*kann <...> geführt werden*).

4. DISCUSSION

The representation of the language occurs mainly through the conceptualization of social groups, relations between which are built, including through regulated use. Based on the results of the study, the following deduction can be drawn:

1. The German language legislation regulates such areas of interaction between social actors as labor relations, immigration, education, the activities of state institutions (including courts).

2. *The German language* most often acts as a tool for the implementation of social practice, less often as the affected or beneficiary, which is the most often actualized by the object position to the predicates represented by the Präsens Indikativ forms of the the main verbs and modal constructions *haben / sein + zu + Infinitiv*. The modal verbs (*müssen, dürfen* both in the active and in the passive voices) are rarely used. The obligatory use of the German language in the mentioned spheres is represented by the deontic modality.

3. The state (state bodies) and individuals (in various social roles: teachers, plaintiffs, defendants, employees, etc.) most often represented as an agent, less often — as an affected or a beneficiary. The active role of the state and citizens may also not be expressed explicitly, but determined from the social context. The agent and the affected are sometimes named implicitly, which can be explained by the universal character of the legislative texts and the coverage of the widest possible audience.

5. CONCLUSION

The study presented in this paper is devoted to the study of the language legislation in the Federal Republic of Germany from the sociolinguistic standpoint, namely from the standpoint of the social construction paradigm and the social actors theory. The legislator forms the normative (desirable) language situation in the state by means of normative legal texts.

In the absence of the state language status in Germany, there is a need to include articles in an extensive list of legislative texts of the most diverse orientation, in which we have been able to identify typical areas of interaction and characteristic social actors.

Further study of the language legislation of other countries will make it possible to draw analogies, identify similarities and differences in the construction of a normative language situation and the interaction of language and society.

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