LEGAL DOCUMENTATION: INTERFACES OF READING, LANGUAGE AND DISCOURSE ANALYSIS IN THE TREATMENT OF INFORMATION

DOCUMENTAÇÃO JURÍDICA: INTERFACES DA LEITURA DOCUMENTÁRIA, LINGUAGEM E ANÁLISE DE DISCURSO NO TRATAMENTO DA INFORMAÇÃO

DOCUMENTACIÓN JURÍDICA: INTERFACES DE LECTURA DOCUMENTAL, LENGUAJE Y ANÁLISIS DEL DISCURSO EN EL TRATAMIENTO DE LA INFORMACIÓN

Roseli Miranda¹
Cibele Araújo Camargo Marques dos Santos¹
¹Universidade de São Paulo

Correspondência
¹Roseli Miranda  
Universidade de São Paulo  
São Paulo, SP  
E-mail: rmiranda.cedoc@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT: Reflections on information approach in Legal Documentation based on the triad: documentary reading, legal language, and discourse analysis. In this context, terminology and information representation are discussed considering language hermetism and how professional librarians strive to identify types of legal discourses. This article concludes emphasizing the importance of discourse analysis research on types of discourses used in Legal Documentation, which can help to recognize structures and parts of the document containing relevant information, thus contributing to the representation of information.


RESUMO: Reflexões sobre o tratamento da informação na Documentação Jurídica, com base na tríade: leitura documentária, linguagem jurídica e análise de discurso. Nesse contexto, discutem-se terminologia e representação da informação, em função do hermetismo da linguagem e da dificuldade para o profissional bibliotecário na identifcação os tipos de discursos jurídicos presentes nos documentos da área. Conclui ressaltando a importância da pesquisa sobre a análise de discurso voltada para os tipos de discursos empregados na Documentação Jurídica, que podem propiciar o reconhecimento da estrutura do documento e das partes que contém informações relevantes, contribuindo com a representação da informação.


RESUMEN: Reflexiones sobre el tratamiento de la información en la Documentación Jurídica, con base en la tríada: lectura documental, lenguaje jurídico y análisis de discurso. En este contexto, se discuten terminología y representación de la información, en función del hermetismo del lenguaje y de la dificultad para el profesional bibliotecario en la identificación de los tipos de discursos jurídicos presentes en los documentos del área. Concluye resaltando la importancia de la investigación sobre el análisis de discurso orientado a los tipos de discursos empleados en la Documentación Jurídica, que pueden propiciar el reconocimiento de la estructura del documento y de las partes que contiene informaciones relevantes, contribuyendo con la representación de la información.

1 INTRODUCTION

Legal Documentation, as a social exercise instrument, presupposes access and availability. In this way, the structure and forms of organization and representation of information must be improved. Terminology, for example, is an important component for legal documentation for its particular features and formal structure. Since this is a special field, it is essential to learn about legal terminology and language, which has been pointed out by professional librarians as one of the most relevant aspects for technical organization.

Passos (1994) found that the difference between legal information and other types of information is longevity. Unlike other specialty fields, the purpose of a legal documentation is to provide consultation and references, as well as to be used by different bodies in the legal field and in variable situations. Consequently, there is a tendency to accumulate information and texts, so the demand to organize and present well-structured information according to theoretical and methodological premises is crucial and immediate.

Legal language has a reputation for being coded in the linguistic vocabulary. Along with other sciences, Law has its own terminology that develops very particular concepts and terms. Moreover, legal discourse often brings implicit information that is deliberately presented indirectly, thereby hampering the technical reading and organization of information for librarians.

In this perspective, the documentary reading interface of the legal language and discourse analysis can shed light on this issue and assist librarians on the information representation work. Thus, this study will be presented based on the work of authors with studies from the same field.

2 DOCUMENTARY READING IN THE LEGAL FIELD

Regardless of the professional segment, the work of the librarian is related to reading, being it as a social act, an educational practice, or even daily technical activities. There is an inherent relation between librarian and reading, when this kind of profession is mentioned we tend to think about the act of reading in a library.

The reading that a librarian does is part of the technical work; it is a vital activity that interferes directly in organization and knowledge. In this regard, Chartier (1999) examined that fear of losing is a concern for writing culture, as well as preservation of assets in face of textual proliferation, which can be excessive. This requires special means to select, classify and organize documents. On that note, a librarian cannot work as an ordinary reader due to his social and technical responsibility when working with the information representation and mediation. The documentary reading studies focus on professional activities that cannot be carried out based on pragmatic and non-systematized elements.
Although this kind of work is very important, according to the mapping of Brazilian scientific production made by Edilenice Passos from published from 1948 to 2017 (last update), there are few records discussing legal documentary reading or even regular documentary reading. Studies on this field have been published in Brazil since 1980. There were other published studies, for example, Silva (2010) that identified reading concepts and techniques for professionals in the legal field, with emphasis on minoring in indexation. It is important to note that the reading carried out by the librarian in specialized segments areas provide a not very objective view of the requirements that qualify a technical reading.

According to Moura (2004), technical reading approaches informational items in order to gather data that will enable the representation of these items in the information system. There are two steps in this procedure: subject analysis and indexation. Both facilitate the identification and extraction of the terms that represent the document context, which are essential for the information representation through indexation language. To simplify, technical reading aims to reconstruct the information in the original text to the representation by using suitable tools.

In the legal department the librarians reading ideas can contain influence of specific objectives, considering that working in the Law field is preceded by information determined by legal segments characteristics. Therefore, it is common the constant use of information from specialized sources that are considered as propulsive input.

Miranda (2017) understands that in order to deal with this community, it is necessary to study the sources of legal information, since considers that they play a relevant role in the performance of the activities of the legal professional. The phased increase in legal production and the speed in the circulation of information have intensified the need for the operator of the Law to have specialized information support.

With this in mind, librarians reading can have a crucial role and high value, especially when working on the information organization and representation, which can demand more attention and in-depth study depending on the subject. It should by emphasized that the legal field needs precise information and reliable sources because mistakes in the information representation can jeopardize legal transactions, judicial disputes, and even cause financial loss. Also, without legal language and documentation knowledge, a librarian will not have a broad view during both the reading and the representation work.

Due to the requirement of the field, it is important that a librarian put on effort into formal reading study, in order to acquire a greater proficiency and to learn how to deal with bigger problems during documentary treatment. According to Fujita (2004) the reading process may seem simple, but it has an implicit complexity depending on how the information is handled the reading objectives, the reader, and the context.
Documentary reading is one of the procedures in Documentary Analysis, a subject that approaches functional, methodological, and theoretical issues on the documentary context representation (KOBASHI, 1992). Thus, the concept of documentary reading was developed as an improvement proposal for Documentary Analysis. It is a specific modality in the overall reading process in which the Documentary Analysis begins (Lara, 2011, p. 100).

Essentially, documentary reading focus on summarizing and representing the documentary content in order to simplify information recovery and to meet the community needs, promoting its circulation and use. The documentary information is generated during the reading process. It identifies the informational items in the document, so that the user may decide if he/she needs it as reference or not. Kobashi (2004) examined that these activities as documentary operations are carried out in the informational institutions fields; therefore, it must reflect the organizational context. For application purposes, this means that the information treatment and recovery must be systematized and established in a global policy representing institutional parameters.

Cintra (1987) was the first among the researchers who contributed to the documentary reading development to approach reading strategies while taking into account textual typology and formal planning for text organization. As she suggested, the librarian working in specialized fields can rely on text patterns used in the area. In general, this kind of documents tend to ease the reading process because it helps to recognize parts of the document with relevant information, as well as increase the probability of acquiring a greater accuracy in its representation as the field is improved.

In relation to documentary model in Law, we can use the minutes of a documental settlement This document contains date, time and location with address, name of people present, job position and qualification, declaration of when the session started by the responsible person or secretary, and the trade board where the entity is established (if applicable). The subjects in the textual structure of this document are discussed normally, that is, the order or agenda of the day and then deliberations. In the final protocol, the final transcription is registered as a standardized text. Basically, the structure and information of a testimonial (regardless of the corporate model used by the entity) are presented systematically.

Similarly, Kobashi (1994) conducted a study that defined and systematized a methodology on documentary information, mostly focusing on the content abbreviation and representation. The objective was to prepare abstracts by establishing procedures based on textual structure and superstructure. As stated, the concept of textual typology is that all texts present a syntax that organizes its component parts. Thus, this kind of textual organization is a vital element to understand the meaning of the text, since it enables the reader to supervise the reading and to assimilate the main information among the others. Lara (1994) supported...
this method and recommended that the librarian considers textual organization and framework that helps to recognize the vocabulary of the respective area.

In Law, recognizing sources may facilitate the documentary reading. The legal documentation has three main sources: doctrine, jurisprudence and legislation. A librarian can and should rely on them when performing his work. An aspect of this area is to use standardized texts in which the textual structure follows common patterns and procedures, therefore, a librarian needs to recognize which parts of the document contains the main information.

Linguistic, psychological and sociological aspects are some of the elements that also interfere the reading process and text comprehension. Fujita, Nardi and Santos (1998) suggest the reader-text interaction through strategies and schemata. They see it as a set of knowledge encompassing vocabulary, textual structure, subject matter, and even individual experience. In their study, documentary reading was analyzed through ISO 5963 (documentation norm on method of documents analysis, determination of subjects and terms selection for indexation). Also, they compared it with Giasson's (the reader-text-context triad) and Brown's reading (the reader conscious actions), both are supported by the cognitive process.

Memory is also indicated as a resource to make inferences on interpretation associated with daily situations related to technical activities that may came up as reference from previous works, which can be noticed during the reading. Moura (2004) stated that terminological appropriation by a reader-librarian is designated by a continuous storage of applicable descriptors to the action area, developing a particular encyclopedia. As a professional reader this is an essential condition for a librarian who works in specialized fields. Over time, the librarian learns certain skills during his/her professional activities to embody new information as the knowledge of new terminology grows. Cintra (1987) supported that statement and added that as the specialized field evolves, so does the improvement in the field. There is a tendency in Law that legal entities operate in specific positions, this condition can help learning terminology. Yet, this also requires that a librarian in this field continues to study and search for learning and improvement alternatives due to common characteristics in legal documents.

3 LEGAL LANGUAGE AND ITS TERMINOLOGY

According to Reale (2001), each science manifests itself in a language and in order to achieve legal unitary vision it is necessary to use vocabulary. Like other fields of human knowledge, Law has its own terminology, specialized language, definitions, concepts and terms depending on the differences of each branch. That is why, since the earliest years of his education, the jurist is encouraged to be dedicated to legal terminology studies to communicate properly.
Legal language is the backbone of Law professionals, through which judicial science is expressed and executed. The way there professionals communicate mirrors how they work in their field. Considering that communicating is the nature of language (JOSEPH, 2002) it can be asserted that legislative, judicial, forensic, notarial, tax law language are specialty studies in this field, among others that can represent specific segments of positions.

Bittar (2001) explains a jurist normally researches to establish what kind of language will express the knowledge about a particular object of study. Language analysis not only provides elements to communicate one’s thought, but also an immense plurality of other forms of symbology, which in a semiotic approach to scientific language appoints concepts, expectations, intentions, ideas, meanings, and elements present on legal texts.

On a daily basis, a legal professional uses specialized language (verbal or written communication) that is considered coded, refined, prolix, and formal to a degree where it seems to be from a higher society causing segregation of legal knowledge and access to justice.

In a lesser degree, a librarian, as mediator of information, must learn this kind of language. Acting in the legal field requires knowledge and determination, technical expertise and skills that could be compromised without minimal language and terminology knowledge. Unlike other legal positions, the work of a librarian produces immediate effects and impact on the legal activity, which generates great demands in relation to the competence of who is carrying out the work. Any operational error can lead to serious consequences since information and documents are seen as work inputs.

Therefore, it is essential that the librarian fully understands the importance of the terms and concepts used in the field. Barreto (1994) noted that information only has power when it is a message, with a specific intention and possible assimilation. Lack of understanding or misunderstanding about the meaning of a term can lead to incapacity or result errors in activities such as literature research and information organization and representation. The work of a legal librarian involves issues related to language and it is his responsibility to mediate between specialized, normal and documentary language used to represent information and documents. In this sense, Documentary Linguistics and Terminology can offer parameters to guide informational technical treatment.

Documentary Linguistics was developed as a subfield in the Information Sciences. It provides an in-depth analysis of the linguistic process related to the information treatment. Documentary Linguistics emerged in the 1990s in Spain with García Gutierrez's works who was inspired by Structural Linguistics, Discourse Analysis, Semiotics, Terminology, and Formal Logic.

Documentary Linguistics suggests methodological approaches to deal with
documentary production and its depiction supported in socio-cognitive references and the languages of communities at which the informational products are aimed.

Recognizing Documentary communication documentary linguistics work with activities related to choice of vocabulary, indexing policy (indicating content) and in the construction of documentary language, terminologies are used as references. Tálamo (2001) considers the use of terminology as a guarantee to the communication of documentary language because the interpretation of a term may require its re-contextualizing through some specific terminology.

Terminology controls the meaning of words and manages the transfer of information, with the community providing communication. Terminology itself designates a set of technical terms from a specific field and the ideas that it represents.

In a broader sense, terminology refers to the use and study of such terms, i.e., specify the words (simple or compound) in general used in specific contexts. Concisely, the set of terms of a domain and its concepts are the focus of Terminological studies (BARROS, 2004, p.34).

When we analyze terminology trends in Law, Silva (2010) approaches two important aspects. The first is the inclination to hermeticism due to the use of difficult words or deliberately obscure sense. The second is the use of ordinary words that acquire new meanings in legal language. Such aspects show the difficulty of understanding documental contents, because it casts doubts on the concepts of the field.

Reale (2001) observes that it is common that in Law, ordinary words and expressions acquire a new connotation related to the field. He uses the word "competence" as an example, meaning "qualified", "efficient" or "prepared", but in legal language, it means that one has the power to determine and resolve issues, because "competence" in such context refers to the jurisdiction's measure or extension.

With terminology, it is possible to identify how the concepts are expressed expression (if it is a specialized word, if it is borrowed or used by many fields), determine its characteristics, and understand the relation of concepts within a specific field. Therefore, it is possible to identify the vocabulary of a specific field and analyze it systematically (VOGEL, 2007).

To this end, a series of chained activities that include gathering or compilation, analysis, processing, description of terms, neologism (construction of new terms), and normalization are used methodologically (CABRÉ, 1999).

Cabré (1999) understands the need of documentation to carry out terminology works
and argues that the systematization process can only be done through specialized discourses analysis, materialized in the communication between the experts, especially through texts.

Terminology can also be employed as a resource for the construction of documental languages to be used and/or to depict information. Yet, documental language has distinct purposes (LARA, 2004).

Terminology is being a crucial element in the construction of language (especially in specialty languages). If terminology is isolated, documental communication is not successful.

In Documentary Linguistics and terminology can beacon the work of legal librarians, as it is possible to replace the empirical practice through methodologies to treat and depict information, standardizing and institutionalizing it.

4 DISCOURSE AND REPRESENTATION OF LEGAL DOCUMENTATION

The organization and representation of the Legal Documentation is supported by the assumptions of Documentation as a disciplinary field. The purpose is the document made up to message and language.

The problems related to the representation of information in the Law are derived from the reading of legal documents and from the hermetism of the language of that community.

Legal texts are the reference basis for the work of legal operators. In these texts, there are discursive manifestations that affect the organization and representation of information.

In his book "The economics of linguistic exchanges", the sociologist Pierre Bourdieu (1998, p.29) observed that there is no such thing as innocent words, and in law, words can have more than one meaning.

It is a well-known fact that legal language usually conveys ideology since the linguistic elements that constitute this language are impregnated with ideological significance. Professionals who work in this field often use the language to discursively place and assert themselves. Therefore, to decode such message it is necessary to understand it also as a way to convey ideology, amalgamated of meanings and having its own senses. These meanings are often presented in an apparently neutral fashion.

This feature is part of the artifices that make it difficult to represent the information of legal documents. It is not uncommon or unusual for legal texts to contain veiled intentions. A recurring problem in documentation is the limited time for reading books and documents to be classified and indexed.
The work of a lawyer is based on the use of information. This can put pressure on the tasks to be performed by the librarian, since the demand for information, documents and research is high. In addition, the economic factor is also preponderant.

Some professionals use content analysis, seeking to extract meanings from texts, to obtain better results in an attempt to solve the problems of meaning of legal documentation. However, this type of analysis can be insufficient.

About the use of such method, Kobasi (1994) warns that data register is one of the main problems because of the lack of precision when defining categories to be used to describe data.

Another current problem is the lack of uniformity within the collected data in the texts. In law, the usage of such methodology may require more time and attention.

It is necessary to consider that there are different types of legal discourse. Such types are exclusive and applied in specific documents. Besides that, vocabulary is not made up of legal terms alone. There is also the use of ordinary terms of common vocabulary, a fact that can cause ambiguities, due to polysemy.

Based on discursive and textual, discourse analysis can assist in the identification of relevant information not clearly presented in some legal texts. At first, it is important to clarify that discourse analysis is a practice of linguistics, arisen in the 1960s as a tendency of language studies. It consists of analyzing the structure of the text and understanding the present ideological constructions.

In Pêcheux (1988), its greatest representative, the notion of subject is defined by the position and the place from which one speaks, that is, from within a discursive conception that is regulated by an ideological formation.

Orlandi explains that the object of the discourse analysis is the discourse itself. Consequently, its main interest is to study the “language working for the production of meaning” (1999, p. 17), a condition that enables text analysis. It aims to understand how a symbolic object produces meanings, and how it is invested with significance for the subjects. Therefore, implies identifying how the text organizes the gestures of interpretation that relate subject and meaning.

Discourse analysis is not limited to text interpretation, on the contrary, it considers its limits and processes of meaning. Unlike content analysis, it does not seek a true explanation, but it seeks to identify the meanings present in the text so that it can listen to the other meanings to understand how they are constituted.
Given the particularities of the Legal Documentation, it is considered that discourse analysis can identify the discursive formations of the texts of this field of knowledge. Yet, it is convenient to clarify that the purpose is not perform an systematic interpretative work of the text as it is performed by the jurist in search of meaning and juridical interpretation.

On the contrary, the aim is to identify the common features between the textual types in the field and their corresponding topics. Many times those topics are presented indirectly, according to their own textual features. Therefore, it is necessary to clarify there are no standard formulas in discourse analysis to perform text analysis or methods proposing the identification of the main information. Each document requires the analyst, according to the objectives, use the theoretical concepts and devices of interpretation to perform the analysis.

On the other hand, the theoretical devices can mediate the description and interpretation, supported by the general principles of discourse analysis. Under that assumption, when analyzing a text, the analyst must have in mind that the sayings are not limited to the words to be decoded.

In general, they are produced in certain conditions that somehow leave clues in the text, which the analyst can apprehend. Among such elements, the production conditions (immediate and open context) can reveal important clues.

The immediate context can be understood as the enunciation circumstances or production conditions of the text in the strict sense. The open context comes from the social, historical and ideological domains, how it is placed in certain institution and in society.

The production process of the discourse possess three phases, its constitution (originating from the memory), its formulation (production condition) and circulation that occur in specific circumstances and in certain conditions (ORLANDI, 1999). Similar to other fields of knowledge, the legal discourse always represents the point of view of the speaker.

Similarly, the production condition is reflected on the textual composition of the document. This is, as a rule, the text explicitly states the reason for its constitution, its institution of origin, the litigants (parties involved) etc. Furthermore, all legal documents is constituted with some purpose that already seeks to predict the circumstances and conditions in which its circulation must occur.

This condition conceals or subjectively presents the ideology, because the individual is questioned as a subject by this one, so that the saying occurs.

Pêcheux (1988) understands that it is a common feature of ideology to conceal its existence within its own functioning. A strategy that often causes an impression that a given meaning interpreted in the text seems evident.
A discourse is organized in a certain way because the subject is inscribed in a discursive formation to represent a particular sense and not another. In fact, the discursive formation is defined as what in a given ideological formation delimits what can and should be said (ORLANDI, 2007). It is assumed that all discourse contained in texts of legal documents has a specific objective to apprehend a certain scope.

Such issue is clear when the legal professional professionally trained not only to interpret the legal discourse, but also to write it. Legal practice is manifested through texts, which reflect thoughts and positions. Legal discourse is present all information sources.

In each type of text, there is a model of legal discourse that has its own rules of construction. Thus, each legal information source has characteristics in the textual structure.

Considering the assumptions of Discourse Analysis, it is possible to identify the particular characteristics present in the textual discourse coming from these same sources. Recognizing these can make the task of reading, analyzing and representing legal documents less complex.

Bittar (2003) points out four main groupings recognized in legal discourses, which can be found with greater recurrence in the texts of the field: normative, bureaucratic, decision-making and scientific. In each of these modalities, we emphasize basic legal-discursive functions. According to the author mentioned above, in the normative discourse the function that corresponds to the task of conducting behaviors (allowing or obliging), electing values, directing the interpretation and the activities of the public agents predominate.

The normative discourse is the same as the legislator, someone who has the competence to comply with the rules of conduct. The legislator has the discursive role addressing the community that receives the texts he created. This type of discourse is usually conveyed in texts of normative language, such as codes of legal norms, laws, decrees, normative instructions that are generally the responsibility of the legislature at the federal, state and municipal levels. In turn, in the bureaucratic discourse there is the ordinary function, which corresponds to the activities of regularization, monitoring and conducting procedures, to guide the institutional rites. Bureaucratic discourse is subordinate to the normative discourse. The imperative is frequently used, with expressions like “Attach a copy of that document”, “Comply with that”, etc. Bittar (2001) highlights the legal-procedural information is disseminated through such type of discourse in certificates, descriptions, among others.

Another type is the decision-making discourse which corresponds to the application, dissolution (clarifying or canceling) and conclusive activity, being responsible for materializing the normative parameters.
This discursive mode illustrates which may coin, alter or extinguish rights based on textual conflicts, documents, arguments, evidence, etc., and may be drawn up by a judge or administrative authority. Judgments are presented by Bittar (2001) as an example of this type of discourse.

The author explains that the sentence is the act that settles lawsuit in court. And as an act of language it must be written to assume its concrete form, it must be issued by a vested with authority to judge, which must present the report, the grounds and instrument, since these are its three elementary formal parts. In addition, it must be subject to procedural rites and be part of a lawsuit.

The fourth type is called scientific discourse. This model is exercised, for its cognitive-interpretative function, which corresponds to the activities of knowledge, information, distinction, classification, interpretation, explanation, systematization and criticism derived from the other three models of discourse.

The scientific discourse is constituted by the willingness to produce legal sense and is basically oriented towards interpretation, criticism and understanding of the other discourses.

The legal scientific discourse is characterized through by documents, for instance, books, with theoretical concepts, doctrinaire lessons, reviews, etc. When analyzing each modality of discourse, it is verified that they have characteristics associated with the documentary typologies from the legal sources of information.

Passos (1994; 2009) informs that Legislation is the exclusive production of state power, and is presented in two basic forms: legislative information resulting from the legislative process (represented in amendments, opinions, reports, etc.) which regulates the lives of citizens. Doctrine is distinguished by its analytical and / or descriptive form, which can be expressed by a private opinion on some subject. Finally, jurisprudence is characterized by its interpretative form, acting in elucidation of the general concepts of the legislative norm.

When we relate the types of legal discourses described by Bittar, it is possible to assert that normative discourse is present in documents from the Legislation, especially those seen as normative legal information. Decisional and bureaucratic discourse is commonly found in documents derived from jurisprudence. Yet, it should be noted, that, decision-making and bureaucratic discourse could also be found in informative statements and settlement documents.

Finally, scientific discourse is found in doctrinal sources. In this context, recognition of the type of legal discourse and its source can facilitate documentary work in addition to the other resources used by Discourse Analysis.
Last of all, it is necessary to observe that the use of Discourse Analysis in the Legal Documentation field require further investigation. Referential models that can facilitate the understanding and recognition of discursive legal types will allow results that are more effective on the representation of legal information.

5 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The present article sought to discuss the importance of three fundamental elements for the work of the legal librarian: documentary reading, legal language and discourse analysis applied to this field.

When analyzing the literature of the area, it was verified there are relevant studies geared to documentary reading, but few of them deal specifically with the Legal Documentation.

Equally important is legal language, a specialized language whose recognition and mastery allows not only the appropriate documentary treatment, but also the construction of documentary languages and controlled terminology for the process of indexing information as a way to retrieve and efficiently access these documents.

In fact, it is evaluated that the studies of Documentary Linguistics and Terminology offer solutions that can help the activities of organization and representation, as well as promote the institutionalization of information.

The article helps Discourse Analysis being used as a resource for dealing with legal documents, noting that in law the types of discourses are recognized but not considered in documentary treatment.

Through Discourse Analysis, it was observed that legal texts establish the signification in a given concrete material space, exposing the organization of the discourse.

REFERÊNCIAS


