

ENGLISH LAST WILLS AND TESTAMENTS: INTERDISCIPLINARITY OF THE OBJECT OF THE ANALYSIS

Interdisciplinarity has been the characteristic feature of modern scholarly research. It is viewed as a 20th century term. A. Chettiparamb in her work "Interdisciplinarity: a literature review" says that for most of the twenty first century, the question of knowledge has been framed by interdisciplinarity compare to the twentieth century [3, p. 12-14]. The importance of interdisciplinarity is also stressed by J. Klein who notes that interdisciplinary knowledge strengthens connections between disciplines and in that process it weakens the division of labour in disciplines, exposes gaps, stimulates cross-fertilization and creates near fields of focus for knowledge inquiry [4, p. 18]. At the same time W. Newell underlines the complexity of the subject and advises interdisciplinarians to err on the side of inclusiveness and to be alert for nonlinear connections that may have escaped attention [5, p. 17].

N. Andrejchuk, a Ukrainian scholar, indicates anthropocentric paradigm of modern Linguistics. She claims that cognitive reality is the living world of a person [1, p. 7-31]. Therefore, the research is based on existential 'language consciousness' (inherent only in human beings), the role of the language in institutionalization of a human being (how a human perceives the world through the language), the study of the language as the main factor of human being in perspective of potentialities and practical realizations for providing with social activity (how an individual identifies himself/herself through the language). The world of a person is the object of the research in all humanitarian disciplines.

A great number of foreign and Ukrainian researchers have devoted attention to the theory and practice of interdisciplinarity: R. Boehm, L. Duerr, A. Taylor, D. Joungblood, T. Dowen, C. Haynes, R. Kanakia, E. Kleinberg, J. Peterson, R. Szostakand, A. Shettiparamb, J. Klein, W. Newel, O. Kryvosheia, A. Jeremkin, O. Kurayev, O. Palahin, A. Lisnevskia, V. Tret'ko, Y. Kuz' and others.

The objective of this paper is to show interdisciplinary approach to the analysis of English Last Wills and Testaments which has not been the object of any previous research. The article also proposes a list of disciplines for such interdisciplinary research.

English Last Wills and Testaments are viewed as an interdisciplinary object of a research (Fig. 1). It involves such academic disciplines as:

1. Law

Last Wills and Testaments are legal documents by which a testator expresses his or her wishes to distribute the property at death. These documents are studied in Inheritance Law. It governs the rights of a decedent's survivors to inherit property or have the right to claim an inheritance.

2. Linguistics

Linguistics (Text linguistics, Genre linguistics and Lingual-and-cultural studies) studies how the language is used in the production and comprehension of messages. It studies language forms, language meaning and language in context. The texts of Last Wills and Testaments are of great interest for linguists. The research shows that the text of Last Wills and Testaments are characterized by institutionalized and fossilized language. They have special devices for expressing and are produced to regulate particular social behavior in society. The language of law uses established words and phrases.

3. History

The text of Last Wills and Testaments often show how past is related to humans. Sometimes they give information about historical events or objects. They also give the idea about certain periods in history. In 19-20th century English Last Wills and Testaments testators dispose their money, goods, share and interests which means that the centuries are characterized by technological and industrial advances.

4. Cultural studies

English Last Wills and Testaments often illustrate individual experience, everyday life, social relations and even power. They also touch upon the questions of moral values in the society: evaluate right versus wrong, justify decisions, intentions and actions.

5. Sociology

The texts of English Last Wills and Testaments offer insights into human social relationships. They include information about social class, family group, religion, social change and development.

6. Genealogy

Sets of Last Wills and Testaments provide information about history of certain families, trace their lineages, and demonstrate kinship and pedigrees of their members. O. Kryvosheia, a Ukrainian scientist, pays attention to high representability of Last Wills and Testaments for genealogical research as they trace the whole system of family kinship [2, p. 126]. The most common phrases to express the kinship used in the texts are *my dear father*, *my dear and loving* (means "wife"), *my said wife*, *my children*. After these phrases the names and surnames are always mentioned.

7. Onomastics

The usage of proper names in English Last Wills and Testaments is a great contribution to the study of onomastics. It can trace the names in particular social groups or areas and contribute to social or geographical distributional patterns, and study the linguistic devices that are used to create names. Toponymy is one of the principal branches of Onomastics which studies place names. Last Wills and Testaments contain place names which provide geographical reference system in the country and often give us important information about history of the places. Personal names found in the texts contribute to the study of Anthroponomastics which is another branch of Onomastics.

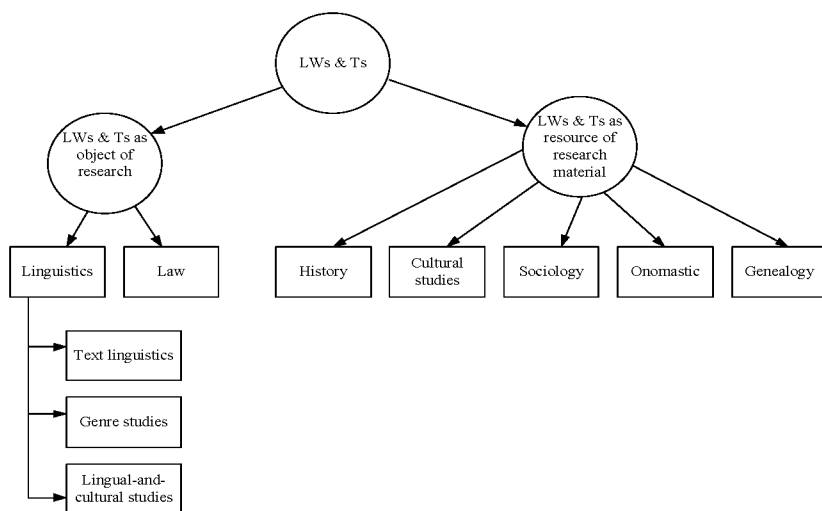


Fig. 1 – English Wills & Testaments as an interdisciplinary object of the research

The research on English Last Wills and Testaments should be conducted in interdisciplinary mode due to the limitations of disciplinary perspective. In various disciplines they are studied as object of the research and they are resource of the research material. The disciplines have anthropocentric approach to the research.

Literature

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