

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

Discourse Analysis of Courtroom Interaction

000000

A Thesis

**Presented to
the College of Education
De La Salle University**

**In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts in Language and Literature
English for Specific Purposes**

by
Grace Muncada-Sekhon
April 1995



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|------|
| Title page | |
| Acknowledgement | i |
| Dedication | ii |
| Abstract | iii |
| CHAPTER | |
| I INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| 1. Statement of the Problem | 2 |
| 2. Significance of the Study | 3 |
| 3. Scope and Delimitation of the Study | 4 |
| 4. Definition of Legal Terms | 6 |
| II THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY | 8 |
| 1. Speech Events | 8 |
| 2. Speech Acts | 12 |
| 3. The analysis of Meaning | 16 |
| 4. Implicatures | 18 |
| 5. General Principles of Cooperative Behaviour | 24 |
| 6. Presuppositions | 25 |
| 7. Acts | 27 |
| 8. Moves | 29 |



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

| | | |
|------|--|----|
| 9. | Exchange | 30 |
| III | METHODOLOGY | 33 |
| 1. | Sample Selection | 33 |
| 2. | Procedure | 33 |
| IV | REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE | 35 |
| V | PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS OF THE DATA AND DISCUSSIONS | 39 |
| VI | SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS | 65 |
| 1. | Summary | 65 |
| 2. | Conclusion | 67 |
| 3. | Recommendations | 69 |
| VII | REFERENCES | 70 |
| VIII | APPENDIX | 75 |



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyse courtroom interaction, specifically the patterns of questioning in an interrogation. This aims to establish the types of questions asked by the counsel when he wants to verify the statement made by the witness.

The data in this study consist of excerpts of transcripts of criminal cases gathered randomly. Observations of actual hearings and informal consultations with lawyers support the data. A review of past studies related to this research is included in the methodology.

Excerpts of six transcripts are examined; the interrogation of the witness by the counsel is analysed specifically focusing on the questions asked by the counsel. The patterns of questioning are determined. Different patterns are evident in the interrogation, but only dominant patterns in terms of frequency are noted.

The analysis reveals that the counsel indeed follow certain patterns of questioning when he wants to establish contradictions in the witness' testimony, refute the testimony or claim of the witness, bring up to the court the point of contention, and when he wants to cast doubt on the credibility of the witness.



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

The results of this study hopes to serve as a guide for students of law and those in the legal profession in developing a methodology in analysing and preparing a case for trial. This also hopes to help them develop a technique in interrogating. For language teachers, the results of the study will guide them in teaching the patterns of discourse interaction, particularly the implications of utterances.

