World Englishes or worlds of English? Pitfalls of a postcolonial discourse in Philippine English
T. Ruanni and F. Tupas

in Philippine English: Linguistic and Literary

This chapter explores the ideological foundations of a particular paradigm in the sociolinguistics of English, that of “world Englishes” (or “WE”), within theoretical and political contexts. It demonstrates how WE, with special reference to the case of “Philippine English,” is sustained by a particular discourse of postcoloniality, one that is markedly postcolonial in spirit and form but, on historical and sociopolitical grounds, is ideologically conservative and dangerously complicit with recent ideas and practices of neoliberal globalization, the source of hotly contested debates because of its connection with rising global inequalities and fundamentalisms.

Implications of Legal Globalisation for Brazilian Legal Practice
Celina Frade

in Legal Discourse across Cultures and Systems

This chapter analyzes the implications of legal globalization in the context of Brazil, a Portuguese-speaking and civil law country, but one which is fully integrated into the global economy. It emphasizes the adjustments that need to be made to comply with the latest requirements for becoming “legally global” through the enactment of the Brazilian Arbitration Law and the implications this has on national legal practice, culture, discourse, and education. The chapter points out how national legal discourse tends to display a new texturing of meanings.
to reflect the "generalized tensions between international practices and local traditions," while at the same time legal education and professional training calls for a new perspective for training "international lawyers" to achieve "core international legal competence."

A Chinese Christmas Story
Gary Sigley
in Discourse as Cultural Struggle
Published in print: 2006 Published Online: September 2011
Item type: chapter

This chapter examines the popular Christmas celebration in the broader context of China's unfolding social transformation. It highlights the interconnectivity of political, economic, and cultural discourses. It treats the Christmas celebration as an allegory for the celebration of China's integration with the global economy and of the emergence of a so-called consumer democracy. It suggests that any examination of the discourse of Christmas and cultural nationalism in China must take into account what is excluded just as much as what is included.

Interpretation across Legal Systems and Cultures:
Vijay K. Bhatia and Christopher N. Candlin
in Legal Discourse across Cultures and Systems
Published in print: 2008 Published Online: September 2011
Item type: chapter

This chapter focuses on the construction and interpretation of international arbitration laws from the perspective of critical genre analysis. Based on the analysis of specific samples of these laws from a number of diverse legal systems and varied socio-political as well as cultural contexts, the discussion suggests that just as the constraints on construction of these legislative statements is not simply a matter of selecting particular linguistic features as a means of communicating legislative intentions in an attempt to control the behaviour of those who are governed by such statements, similarly the interpretation of these intentions does not entirely rely on such linguistic data alone. The first section focuses on the issue of the adequacy of specification of the legal scope of legislative provisions. The second section extends the argument
by incorporating socio-pragmatic factors by adducing an example that illustrates how legal interpretation draws on instances of intertextuality.