

## **Summary**

Negotiating the relevant facts is in the centre of the interactive linguistic activity of those participating in the investigation stage of criminal procedures. During police interrogations, linguistic presentation of the case is mainly determined by the expectation towards legal professionals to rephrase lay narratives in a form accepted in legal procedures. Scientific analysis of this intralingual translation is a favorite topic in the law and language discipline. Analyses of tape recordings prepared at police interrogations reveal, however, that the identity of the participant and its linguistic presentation also play a key role besides presenting and negotiating facts. In criminal procedures, two questions are equally important: “what happened” and “what is the person like” who committed a crime. Linguistic analyses of police interrogations strongly support the statement that several linguistic expressions occur in such conversations with the help of which participants of the interaction mutually bargain, modify or dispute casual identity features. Interdisciplinarity is very important in this field: both sociology of law and sociolinguistics focus on the addressing and presentation of such interactive linguistic processes.

The linguistic study of legal procedures started in the 1980s when several research in the English as well as in the German-speaking countries started to apply the method of conversation analysis in order to identify the linguistic features of legal procedures. These studies focus on the question how everyday action presentations are transformed into presentation of facts phrased in legal language. The effect of legal interpretation on semantic and stylistic changes of expressions in police interrogations and at court trials was also examined.

In accordance with the perception of ethnomethodology and conversation analysis, criminal procedure is perceived as an interactive linguistic process in the thesis, where the facts are bargained by the participants in an interactive manner. The dissertation focuses on police interrogation as a specific type of conversation in the investigation stage of criminal procedures. The empirical basis of the analysis is a tape recording and transcription of a police interrogation of witnesses which was recorded and assessed with the method of conversation analysis.

In the centre of the qualitative linguistic analysis there are linguistic interactive processes with the help of which the conversational partners make their positions and casual identities

relevant. The analysis focuses on the linguistic self-representation of participants and on the question what types of social positions they assign to each other and how these positions change during the interrogation. In conversation analysis, this phenomenon is discussed within the theory of social positioning. Furthermore, the dissertation raises the question to what extent the success or failure in linguistic self-representation influences the scope of verbal action opportunities during the interrogation, and the connection between verbal self-representation and the selection of presented facts is also examined.