

AMBIGUITYAWAY.AI

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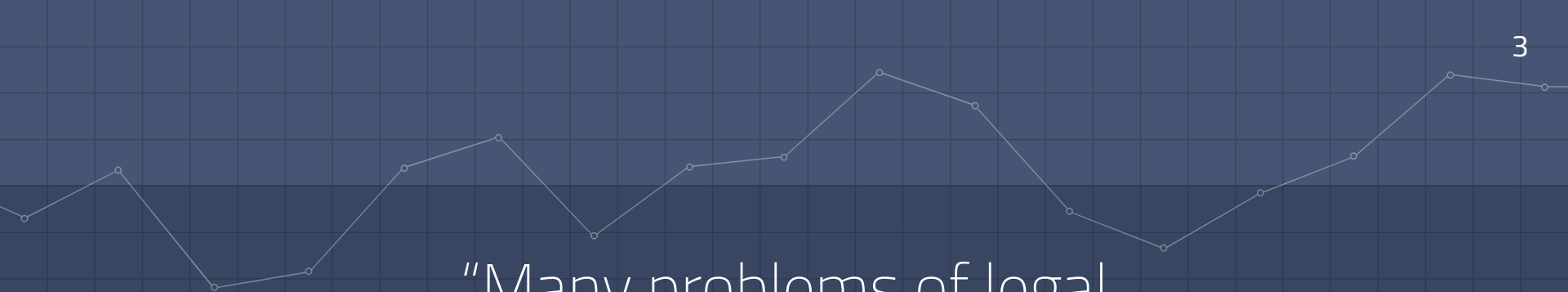


THE PROBLEM:

Language is ambiguous.

(i.e. almost all words, phrases, and sentences have more than one legitimate, distinct meaning.)

Those who can justify linguistic ambiguities are rarely present or consulted when the lack of recognition of such ambiguities can have dramatic, tangible consequences: in the legal scenarios.



“Many problems of legal interpretation arise from a gap between the structure of our language faculty on the one hand and the goals of a language-based rule of law on the other”

Solan (2018), pg 354.

Different types of linguistic ambiguities

Semantic Ambiguity

“Joe stood on the bank.”

Does this mean that Joe stood on the bank of a river or on the roof of a financial institution? A semantic ambiguity arises when there is more than one sensible meaning of a specific word in a sentence that can only be understood correctly with context.

Syntactic Ambiguity

“Bill saw the man with a telescope.”

Does this mean that Bill used a telescope to see the man or that the man Bill saw possessed a telescope? Syntactic ambiguities arise when the relationships between words/phrases and how they are organized produces multiple interpretations. They can be alleviated by “rearranging” the sentence.

Scopal Ambiguity

“Every dog chased a cat.”

Does this mean that every dog chased the same cat or that every dog chased its own cat? Scopal ambiguities arise when the *scope* of one of the words in the sentence, (i.e. how much of the rest of the sentence it modifies) is unclear. Scopal ambiguities are the hardest to alleviate because to do so often requires that we know the mindset of the speaker who uttered them.

- All of these result in questions of *meaning*.
- They can be seen independently or in conjunction with one another.
- They are so common that in everyday life we work through them without thinking about doing so.
- But in the courtroom, they cause a problem.

In layman conversation, we are able to easily disambiguate between the many plausible meanings of a text and choose the one that makes the most sense using our experiences as rational speakers and surrounding context.

However, very often, those involved in interpreting legal language (lawmakers, lawyers, judges) revert from their everyday humanistic way of analyzing language when they are presented with legal texts, which are also rampant with ambiguities.

In layman conversation, where a person might quickly jump to the correct interpretation of a phrase without thinking about it, the other possible interpretations are not lost on them and are still easily accessible.

Legal actors often default to a single interpretation of a legal scenario or text and seem unable to acknowledge the other possibilities provided by the ambiguity of language, that ultimately could end up being a helpful resource to make their case.

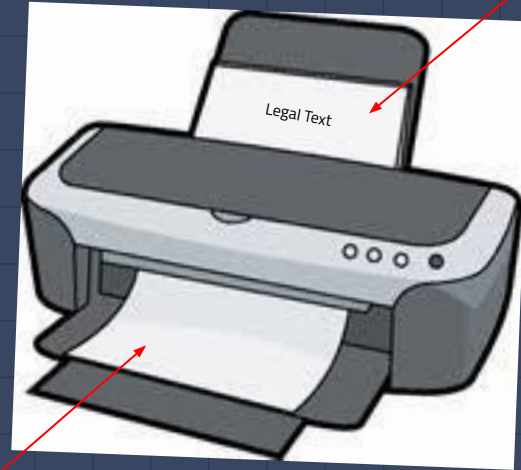
This is partly because legal actors are not trained on how to spot these ambiguities, understand why they arise, and the differences between them (This is the job of a linguist).

If they had access to this type of knowledge and way of thinking, they could easily spot, justify, and utilize more ambiguities in order to make a more informed argument or judicial decision.

WHAT IS AMBIGUITYAWAY.AI?

AmbiguityAway.AI is a machine that scans legal documents and analyzes them to spot and explain linguistic ambiguities. Using centuries of corpus studies of language, it had been trained to spot ambiguities that can arise in virtually any scenario of human language. It then produces a guide that has found and explained all the potential ambiguities in the text provided. It is then up to the legal actor to acknowledge whether or not the ambiguities that have arisen may or may not be helpful to the goals and desires of the legal actor.

User inserts copy of legal text



AmbiguityAway.AI produces a physical guide that outlines where in the original text the ambiguities lie, how they arise, and what extra information is needed to alleviate them.

USER MANUAL

How it works:

STEP 1

A legal actor (lawyer, judge, or lawmaker) creates a copy of a legal text (law, statute, transcript of a court case, contract, etc.) They insert each page individually into the AmbiguityAway.AI machine. After the first page has been scanned for ambiguities, the machine will produce a copy of the first page that outlines any of the ambiguities that may have been found on that page.

STEP 2

Continue with the remaining pages of the legal document in question. The analysis of an entire singular legal document can take anywhere from 10 minutes to one hour, depending on the length of the legal text and its age. The more colloquial language used, the faster the machine will run, as it has more modern language resources from which to create its ambiguity assessment

STEP 3

Once the AmbiguityAway.AI machine has completed its guide, the legal actor is free to use the ambiguities it outlines in whatever way may help them craft a law, argue a case, or make a court decision that aligns with their desires, needs and beliefs.

USER MANUAL

Conditions of Use

1. Must adhere to all current rules of legal proceedings.

2. Only statutes that are relevant to the legal situation at hand may be analyzed and used in a given scenario. This relevancy is determined by the judge at hand in a courtcase, and by an appointed judge lawmaking scenarios.

3. The AmbiguityAway.AI machine must reside solely in courthouses or lawmaking buildings, as to make its abilities equally accessible to all legal actors.

4. IMPORTANT:

The analysis guide that AmbiguityAway.AI provides does not indicate a "correct" interpretation of a legal text, or the intentions of the drafters of the legal document. It merely provides a tool to acknowledge ambiguities in legal texts that may or may not be helpful to the legal actor engaging with that ambiguity.

INTENDED CONSEQUENCES :

Ideally, AmbiguityAway.AI provides access to information that would allow legal actors to make more educated and linguistically informed arguments, court decisions, or laws, so that ultimately, their arguments, decisions, and laws, are more linguistically accurate for whatever purpose they are trying to achieve with legal methods.

In the broadest, long term sense, AmbiguityAway.AI would attempt to make our justice system more impartial as judges, lawyers, and lawmakers would no longer be relying on unsound heuristics, but instead, would call upon legitimate objective facts about language and its construction when it comes to utilizing and analyzing legal language.