

English Language and Power

The language of power is found in different CONTEXTS...

1. Repetition - those who *betray* their party, *betray* themselves
2. Three-part lists - *He came he saw he conquered*
3. First person plural pronoun - (we) - *We* must strive together for the health of the nation
4. Figurative language - Under our leadership, the *winter of discontent* has become a *summer of prosperity*
5. Rhetoric questions - *How much longer must our people endure this injustice?*
6. Hyperbole (exaggeration) - *Plague would be a better option than the health policies proposed*

Legal language

Legal language is quite distinctive - it has it's own LEXIS. The specific vocabulary used by an OCCUPATIONAL GROUP is known as JARGON.

The syntax is often COMPLEX, with lots of SUBORDINATE CLAUSES. It's also REPETITIVE.

Because it's so complex, knowledge of this language gives SPECIALISTS a distinct ADVANTAGE over NON-SPECIALISTS. This means that lawyers have a lot of POWER - if their clients don't fully understand their difficult jargon - then they have to TRUST that their lawyers understand it and deal with their case properly.