

needs, as part of the obligations arising out of the contract, may be totally ensured.

16. Right to Information Act 2005 requires all organizations, particularly Public sector and State organisations should keep all records updated and must be able to supply even to third parties, if requisitioned.

17. The best safeguard in materials management is acting honestly, with integrity

and with utmost transparency, so that the purchasing decision may not be questioned on the ground of irregularity or impropriety. This can easily be done by strictly adhering to the procedures for material procurements, storage and supply to various departments of the organization. This may ultimately lead to high performance in the area of materials management and attain excellent results in this vital, functional and management area of the organizational activity.

ENGLISH IS DEAD – LONG LIVE ENGLISH

By

—V. VENKATESWARA RAO, Advocate
Member Editorial Board
ANDHRA LEGAL DECISIONS
Hyderabad

District Munsif Court

Time : After lunch

District Munsif : I will hear the arguments in the case of S.P.C.L.E.L. as it is a very old case and as evidence was closed long back.

Plaintiff's

Counsel : May it please your honour. I appear for the plaintiff S.P.C.L.E.L. namely Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Lovers of the English Language represented by its centenarian president who is a retired professor of English. He filed the suit against some practising advocates alleging that on one of his visits to the local Courts in connection with his personal case he found to his dismay that the defendants mercilessly maimed, mangled and mutilated the English language which reveals that they had scant respect for grammar and syntax and that any high school boy would be sent out of the class room for such bloomers. He also alleges that their mouthing of English was execrable and it was mortifying to endure

the audio visual linguistic mayhem. As a result of it he suffered great mental agony and anguish as an ardent lover of English and as an old student of Late *Raghupathi Venkata Ratnam Naidu* garu who was a redoubtable scholar in English and a renowned English teacher with a legendary reputation. He further alleges that dull competence and mechanical intelligence are mistaken for coruscating brilliance and men of really outstanding merit are being elbowed out by mediocres who occupy the centre of the stage and hog the limelight. Men have lost their judgment and cannot tell eminence from prominence. In support of his contention he filed the latest edition of *J.V. Ramanayya's* English Grammar and usage and certified copies of some complaints and written statements. I do not want to waste your Honour's valuable time by reading the documents and depositions. I humbly pray that the Honourable Court may be pleased to decree the suit for an injunction restraining the defendants from indulging in violence to the English Language in any manner whatsoever.

Defendant's

Counsel : May it please your honour On behalf of the defendants I humbly submit that the suit is liable to be dismissed for the following reasons.

Firstly there is only a bare and bald averment in the plaint about the so called mental agony and anguish. There is no proof to substantiate it. At best it is only a subjective feeling. Daily hundreds of educated persons attend the Courts and no body complained about the quality of English.

Secondly we have shaken off the shackles of an alien rule and became a free nation. We have a constitution which guarantees freedom of speech and expression. None can deny to any Indian citizen this invaluable and inviolable fundamental right. Freedom includes freedom to err also.

Thirdly, admittedly English is an alien language. It is not our mother tongue. We are not proficient in our own mother tongue and commit countless howlers in it daily. Then what wrong is there if we commit them in an alien language ? Even in the higher echelons also English is daily maimed, mangled and mutilated with impunity and in blissful ignorance of the violence indulged in by its users. These gentlemen and may others of their ilk are fired with an irrepressible reformatory zeal to redeem the English language from the suffocating stranglehold of pompous purists and overzealous grammarians.

Fourthly, the plaintiff alleges that the defendants mouthing of English is execrable and is more in the nature of an infliction than a treat. May be. He forgets the obvious fact that English is an unphonetic language and any attempt at improving their pronunciation will spoil their spelling in view of the confounding divergence between its phonetics and orthography. Why English ? For that matter our Telugu pronunciation is

not above reproach. After all, language is only a vehicle to convey our thoughts and feelings to others. When they readily understand us, why should we needlessly wrangle over correct spelling and pronunciation ? It is an exercise in futility. It is an avoidable waste of time. We have better things to do than waste our valuable time over niceties and subtleties of archaic principles of grammar and silly rules of syntax.

Fifthly the plaintiff filed *J.V. Ramanayya's* English Grammar and Usage. I request your honour to see the cover of the book. It has tell-tale look. It is printed in bold letters "For High School Students". It is admittedly meant for high school boys. Practicing lawyers are not school boys to learn grammar at this stage. They are long past the stage of learning. In fact they have been earning from a long time. The plaintiff makes a vain bid to establish nexus between work and worth. The learned professor ought to know that as bad money drives out good money, mediocres drive out the brilliant.

Sixthly the plaintiff stated in his evidence that English is an international language whose beauty and utility cannot be disputed. The learned professor overlooks the fact that English does not figure in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution which means that it is not recognized as a national language in our country. The reason is obvious. "Angrezi Hatao" is the policy our Government. Continued use of English even after the attainment of independence militates against our sense of self respect and national pride. Of course, we have the least objection to use foreign goods and gadgets. Our objection is with regard to the English language only irrespective of its beauty or utility.

There is no gainsaying the fact that there is a steep decline in standards in every walk of life. Then why should the legal profession alone be singled out for criticism. We want equality but not excellence.

The days of ornate English are gone. We are living in a fast changing and fast moving world. Utilitarian English is the need of the hour. Cultivation of literary graces and leisurely perfectionism do not suit this age of impatient hurry and impenitent money making. Muse and mammon cannot both be worshipped. Comparisons are odious and invidious. Each age or generation has its own standards. Standards are not static. Even in the so called golden age of the profession, there were brilliant lawyers and mediocre lawyers. Today also there are really outstanding lawyers and lawyers of low calibre. To brand all lawyers of the present generation as men of mediocre stuff argues a prejudiced mind.

The suit is mischievous and malicious, frivolous and vexatious. The motive for filing the suit is that while the plaintiff retired long ago on a measly pension, the defendants are minting money as leading lawyers. The plaintiff is a veritable sadist and faddist and a decrepit crank. Let him use impeccable English but he has absolutely no right to inflict his views on others, especially lawyers who belong to an independent profession. By his misplaced admiration and irrational infatuation for an alien language he has dragged to Court busy lawyers with roaring practice. Hence I pray that the suit may be dismissed with exemplary costs.

District Munsif : Judgment reserved.

THE TYPIST AS TERRORIST

By

—V. VENKATESWARA RAO, Advocate
Member Editorial Board
ANDHRA LEGAL DECISIONS
Hyderabad

It is a far cry from the typist to the terrorist. The former is as far away from the latter as a type machine is from the machine gun. But there is one thing common between the two. Whereas the terrorist mows down living beings (his adversaries) with his machine gun, the typist mangles a very fine living language like ENGLISH with the aid of his seemingly harmless machine. With the best of intentions he sometimes commits the worst mistakes, which though absurd on their face, make amusing reading. But in fairness to facts, it must be admitted to his credit that he has no “*mens rea*” to commit violence to the ENGLISH language or any other language, for that matter.

During the temporary absence of my full time typist (a puritan), I had to engage the services of a half-baked typist who proved to be a veritable terrorist in typing.

He is a confirmed addict to the bottle that both cheers and inebriates. Liquid diet is his staple diet. It had damaged his liver long ago. His days are numbered even though he never cared to number the typed sheets. His hearing is impaired. His eye sight is affected. In fact he sold his vacant site to have his eye sight improved through an operation but it failed. His fingers act independently of his mind. He will gladly lose his battle for life rather than give up his dear bottle. It alone makes his life worth