## **Cognitive Linguistics**

Cognitive Linguistics are another important concept I had previously never heard about, therefore I decided to learn more about it during my academic experience. After all the literature review I did for our independent study about law and language, I learned that Cognitive Science explains what mental representations are in our mind, and Cognitive Linguistics explain how these mental entities are expressed through language. Unlike metaphors, understanding the concept of mental representation was very challenging, especially when I tried to imagine mental representation of abstract entities. For example, if my understanding of law, thus mental representation, does not match with yours, how would we effectively talk about it? Unlike the word

crime. I concluded that, both students and our legal system think through the same metaphor in some cases.

However, there is another metaphor that encompasses the legal system. Kucheruk extensive study (2014) about Legal English showed that there are 4 domains that are used in the legal language. The most common metaphor is a war. For example, lawyers can use victory, defeat, attack or argument war in their legal process. I was not surprised by this finding, because my previous study about language and violent behavior also showed that we use war as a metaphor in everyday language (such as, immigration is invasion). In other words, legal language and discourses might possibly overlap with usage of our everyday language and legal language. Unlike everyday conversation, legal language is loaded with technical words and phrases.

## Methodology

Learning about new concepts and doing literature reviews are not enough to conduct research. Methodology plays an important role in conducting research.



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