TALLINN UNIVERSITY
Baltic Film, Media and Arts School

FOREIGN SUPERVISOR'S OPINION ON RAKHIYA TOXANBAYEVA'S PHD THESIS: 'LINGUO-SEMANTIC AND COGNITIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF LEGAL DISCOURSE: ON THE MATERIALS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE' SUBMITTED FOR DEFENCE

Tallinn, 30 June 2025

It has been a pleasure to supervise a PhD thesis that stands out for its scholarly rigor and interdisciplinary depth. I commend Rakhyia Toxanbayeva's PhD dissertation on *"Linguo-Semantic and Cognitive Characteristics of Legal Discourse: On the Materials of the English Language"* for its nuanced integration of legal linguistics, semantics, and cognitive science. The research presents a comprehensive and well-structured investigation into the complexities of legal language, focusing on polysemy, vagueness, and interpretive challenges across English and Kazakh legal texts. The dissertation is methodicly organized and impressively detailed, maintaining academic integrity and linguistic precision throughout. Each chapter contributes meaningfully to the overall argument, offering original analyses and insights into legal discourse as both a linguistic and cognitive phenomenon. Rakhyia skillfully engages with a wide range of theoretical frameworks, from classical discourse theory to contemporary approaches in cognitive linguistics and critical discourse analysis. This work holds special significance within the context of Kazakhstan's evolving legal and linguistic landscape. As Kazakhstan continues to modernize its legal system while coping with its multilingual realities, the thesis provides timely and valuable perspectives on how legal meaning is constructed, communicated, and translated. By comparing British and Kazakh legal texts, the research illuminates challenges in translation, legal drafting, and terminological precision, all of which are crucial for legal clarity and institutional trust. The thesis is distinguished by its theoretical novelty and practical relevance. It proposes informed approaches to resolving semantic ambiguities and stresses the importance of cognitive and contextual factors in legal interpretation. The empirical analyses— grounded in British and Kazakh legislative acts—are systematic and insightful. They offer practical implications for legal education, translation studies, and policymaking. The quality of the writing, analytical depth, and adherence to academic standards are commendable. Rakhyia Toxanbayeva has demonstrated high scholarly competence and intellectual independence throughout the process. I am confident that she will defend her dissertation successfully and make a meaningful contribution to the fields of legal linguistics and discourse studies. Should you require further information, please feel free to contact me via phone at +37255659113 or email at anastassia.zabrodskaja@tlu.ee.

Sincerely yours,

Anastassia Zabrodskaja, Ph.D.,
Professor of Intercultural Communication,
Head of the Master's Programme in Communication Management,
Executive Director of the *European Masters in Intercultural Communication*
Chair: International and Intercultural Communication section of the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA)
President Elect: International Association of Language and Social Psychology (IALSP)
Baltic Film, Media and Arts School, Tallinn University, Narva Road 27, Room N-430, 10120 Tallinn, Estonia