

**Date- 01.04.2020**

**Reading Material for B. Com LL.B. X Semester**

## **THE USE OF DOUBLETS**

Doublets are the words which are used in pairs. They can be termed as word pairs. They are “fixed in the mind as frozen expressions, typically irreversible” (Danet 281). One of the salient features of the legalese is legal doublet. Their root can be traced in the Norman Period. “A legal doublet is a standardized phrase used frequently in English legal language consisting of two or more words that are near synonyms.” (Wikipedia). Following are some of the examples arranged in an alphabetical order:

- Able and willing
- aid and abet
- all and sundry
- acknowledge and confess
- alter or change
- answerable and accountable
- appropriate and proper
- art and part
- attach and annex
- bills and notes
- bind and obligate
- breaking and entering
- by and between
- care and attention

- cease and desist
- covenant and agree
- custom and usage
- deem and consider
- demise and lease
  
- depose and say
  
- devise and bequeath
  
- due and payable
  
- due and owing
  
- each and every
  
- final and conclusive
  
- fit and proper
  
- fraud and deceit
  
- free and clear
  
- from now and henceforth
  
- full faith and credit
  
- furnish and supply

- good and tenable
- goods and chattels
- have and hold
- heirs and successors
- hue and cry
- indemnify and hold harmless
- just and equitable
- keep and perform
- keep and maintain
- kind and nature
- law and order
- legal and valid
- let or hindrance
- lewd and lascivious conduct
- liens and encumbrances

- maintenance and upkeep
- make and enter into
- means and includes
- mind and memory
- new and novel
- null and void
- over and above
- part and parcel
- peace and quiet
- perform and discharge
- power and authority
- restrain and enjoin
- sale or transfer
- separate and apart
- sole and exclusive

- successor and assigns
- surmise and conjecture
- terms and conditions
- then and in that event
- true and correct
- understood and agreed
- unless and until
- various and sundry
- will and testament

**Besides the doublets, there are some common legal triplets:**

- cancel, annul and set aside
- convey, transfer and set over
- form, manner and method
- give, devise and bequeath
- grant, bargain, sell

- lands, tenements and hereditments
- name, constitute and appoint
- ordered, adjudged and decreed
- possession, custody and control
- remise, release and forever quit claim
- ready, willing and able
- repair, hold and maintain
- rest, residue and remainder
- right, title and interest

Doublets are but the repetition of the same word in another form. The words are synonymous most of the times and hence, repetition of any kind brings monotony. The scholars believed that because of the doublets, the legal language becomes clearer and easier for the understanding of the users. However, many modern legal scholars and writers speak against the doublets and triplets and advise to eliminate them altogether because they feel that doublets and triplets are unnecessarily superfluous and/or redundant.

Much similar to the doublets are the use of alternatives. There are collocations such as synonyms, antonyms and alternatives widely and extensively used in the legal expressions. Some of them have been listed below:

- **synonyms or near synonyms:**

- o *Situate, lying and being* at Ogodo Village

- o ... all that *piece* and *parcel* of land

- o ... has broken down irretrievably whereby to the *degree extent* or *scope* that no reasonable person can expect the parties ...

- o *total* and *absolute*

- antonyms

- o *directly* or *indirectly*

- o *proximately* or *remotely*

- o *whether accidental* or *otherwise*

- alternatives

- o *belonging to, held in trust by, or in the custody or control of*

- o *being carried in or upon or entering or getting on to or alighting from*

- o without interruption and disturbances from the Vendor or persons claiming *by, through, under* or *in trust* for him or from him and encumbrances customary or otherwise...

The doublets are usually the pairs of the synonyms. The alternative terms are used for the better comprehension of the users. Mellinkoff thinks that such words are nothing more than “worthless doubling”. (340) Robert Dick describes this as “killing one bird with three stones”.