

EXAMPLE OF INTERPRETATION

SRI LANKA EVIDENCE ACT, 1896

ORIGINAL TEXT FOR LITERAL AND GRAMMATICAL INTERPRETATION

52. In civil cases character to prove conduct imputed, irrelevant.

In civil cases, the fact that the character of any person concerned is such as to render probable or improbable any conduct imputed to him is irrelevant, except in so far as such character appears from facts otherwise relevant.

CONTEXTUAL INTERPRETATION OF CLAUSES IN SECTION 52

1. in civil cases, the fact is irrelevant (*Main clause*)
2. that the character of any person concerned is such as to render probable or improbable any conduct imputed to him, except (*Noun clause, appositive to "the fact" in 1*)
3. (that) the fact is not irrelevant (*Noun clause, object of preposition, "except" in 2*)
4. insofar as such character appears from facts (*Adverb clause of reason, modifying, "is" in 3*)
5. which are otherwise relevant (*Adjective clause, qualifying, "facts" in 4*)

CLASSIFICATION OF SECTION 52: it consists of one main clause and four subordinate clauses