Analysis of legal terminology translation from English into Uzbek language

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ABSTRACT. This research is devoted to the analysis of legal terminology translation from English into Uzbek and examines the linguistic, semantic, and cultural challenges involved in rendering legal concepts accurately. Legal terminology constitutes one of the most complex and specialized areas of translation because legal systems are deeply rooted in the historical, social, and institutional contexts of each country. As a result, many English legal terms do not have direct equivalents in Uzbek, which requires translators to apply various translation strategies to preserve both meaning and legal effect.The study explores the nature and classification of legal terms, including constitutional, criminal, civil, administrative, and international law terminology.The findings of this study demonstrate that effective translation of legal terminology from English into Uzbek plays a crucial role in facilitating international cooperation, legal communication, and access to justice. The results may serve as a useful resource for linguists, translators, law students, and professionals engaged in legal and academic translation.

Keywords: Precision, Stability, Unambiguity, Formality, Context dependence

INTRODUCTION

Legal translation is one of the most complex and responsible fields of translation studies because it requires both linguistic competence and deep knowledge of legal systems. Unlike general texts, legal documents must be translated with absolute precision. Even a minor mistake in translating terms such as plaintiff, jurisdiction, or breach of contract may lead to misunderstanding, legal disputes, or invalidation of documents.

The translation of legal terminology from English into Uzbek presents significant challenges because the two languages belong to different language families and their legal systems are based on different traditions. English legal language is heavily influenced by Common Law, Latin, and French terminology, while Uzbek legal language reflects Civil Law traditions and incorporates Arabic, Persian, Russian, and modern international terms.

Definition of Legal Terminology

Legal terminology is a specialized set of words and expressions used in legislation, court proceedings, contracts, and official legal communication. These terms are characterized by:

- Precision
- Stability

- Unambiguity
- Formality
- Context dependence
- Examples include:
- English Term-Uzbek Equivalent
- Plaintiff-Da'vogar
- Defendant-Javobgar
- Court-Sud
- Contract-Shartnoma
- Liability-Javobgarlik
- Jurisdiction-Yurisdiksiya

Legal terminology includes words and expressions used in laws, contracts, court decisions, regulations, and other legal texts. Examples of common legal terms are plaintiff (da'vogar), defendant (javobgar), contract (shartnoma), evidence (dalil), liability (javobgarlik), and jurisdiction (yurisdiksiya). These terms often have specific meanings that differ from their general use in everyday language.

- Evidence-Dalil
- Witness-Guvoh
- Appeal-Apellyatsiya
- Verdict-Hukm
- Importance of Legal Translation
- Legal translation is essential in:
- •International trade contracts
- •Immigration procedures
- •Court decisions
- •Diplomatic relations
- •Human rights documentation
- •Notarial certifications

Main Challenges in Translating Legal Terms

1. Absence of Direct Equivalents

Some English legal concepts have no exact counterpart

in Uzbek.

Examples:

Equity

Trust

Consideration

Tort

These terms require descriptive translation.

2. Polysemy

A single term may have several meanings.

Case:

General meaning: holat

Legal meaning: sud ishi

3. Archaic Expressions

English legal documents often use words like:

hereby

herein

aforesaid

notwithstanding

4. Latin and French Borrowings

Common expressions include:

habeas corpus

pro bono

force majeure

prima facie

5. Differences in Legal Systems

The English Common Law system differs substantially from Uzbekistan's Civil Law structure.

Translation Strategies

Equivalence

Using a standard accepted term.

Court → Sud

Borrowing

Keeping the original term.

Jurisdiction → Yurisdiksiya

Calque

Literal translation.

Human rights → Inson huquqlari

Descriptive Translation

Explaining the concept.

Consideration → Shartnomaning majburiy kuchga ega bo‘lishi uchun beriladigan qiymat

Functional Equivalent

Replacing with a term performing a similar legal function.

Compound nouns: court order, legal obligation

Derived forms: enforcement, indictment

Syntactic Features

Long complex sentences

Passive constructions

Nominalization

Semantic Features

Restricted meanings

Context-sensitive interpretation

Comparative Analysis of English and Uzbek Legal Systems

English legal terminology is based on Common Law, where judicial precedents are a primary source of law. Uzbek legal terminology is based on Civil Law, where codified legislation is the principal source. Because of this difference, many English concepts are system-specific and cannot be translated directly. For instance, the English term precedent has a more central role in Common Law than in Uzbek legal practice. Similarly, trust representè a legal institution that does not exist in the same form in Uzbek law.

One of the main difficulties in translating legal terminology is the difference between legal systems. English legal language is based on the Common Law system, while Uzbekistan follows the Civil Law tradition. As a result, some English legal concepts do not exist in Uzbek law. Terms such as trust, equity, tort, and consideration have no direct equivalents and must be translated descriptively. For example, the term consideration in contract law refers to something of value exchanged between parties and may require a detailed explanation in Uzbek. Another challenge is the presence of archaic and formal expressions in English legal texts, such as hereby, thereof, aforesaid, and notwithstanding. These words are rarely used in everyday communication, but they remain common in legal documents. Translators must understand their precise function and render them appropriately in Uzbek.

Legal translation also involves many Latin and French expressions, including prima facie, pro bono, habeas corpus, and force majeure. Some of these expressions are borrowed directly into Uzbek, while others are translated or explained depending on the context.

Several translation strategies are commonly used in legal translation. Equivalence is applied when an accepted Uzbek term exists. Borrowing is used when a term is transferred directly into Uzbek, such as jurisdiction → yurisdiksiya. Descriptive translation explains concepts that have no exact

equivalent. Functional equivalence involves selecting a term that performs a similar role in the target legal system. The translator must also pay attention to consistency. If a legal term is translated in one way at the beginning of a document, the same translation should be used throughout the entire text.

CONCLUSION

The translation of legal terminology from English into Uzbek is a multidimensional process involving linguistic, legal, and cultural analysis. Due to differences in legal traditions and conceptual systems, translators must use equivalence, descriptive translation, and functional adaptation to preserve legal meaning accurately. Scientific studies show that successful legal translation requires specialized legal knowledge, contextual awareness, and terminological consistency.

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