



NORMATIVE REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS IN THE TRANSLATION OF OFFICIAL AND LEGAL DOCUMENTS

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Abstract

This article analyzes the normative requirements and international standards regulating the translation of official and legal documents, with a particular focus on the Uzbek–English language pair. The study highlights the importance of terminological precision, structural consistency, and compliance with professional quality standards such as ISO 17100 and ISO 20771. Using a qualitative analytical approach, the research examines a corpus of legal documents and identifies common linguistic, structural, and procedural challenges faced by translators. The findings demonstrate that mistranslations often arise from terminological non-equivalence and insufficient adherence to translation standards. Recommendations are provided for improving translator competence, terminology management, and the overall quality of legal document translation.

Keywords: legal translation, normative requirements, ISO 20771, terminology management, official documents.

Introduction

In the context of global legal cooperation, the accurate translation of official documents—such as contracts, agreements, court decisions, and governmental



acts—plays a critical role in ensuring legal validity across different jurisdictions. Legal texts possess a high degree of terminological density, structural rigidity, and cultural specificity, which requires translators to apply not only linguistic skills but also legal knowledge and professional standards.

Although research on legal translation has increased in recent years, studies focusing on the practical implementation of international standards—particularly for Uzbek–English translations—remain limited. Many translations still suffer from terminological inconsistencies, inadequate rendering of legal formulas, and insufficient application of quality assurance procedures.

This study aims to examine the normative frameworks governing legal translation and to assess how these standards are implemented in practice. The research addresses the following questions:

1.What normative and procedural requirements shape the translation of legal documents?

2.What types of errors and inconsistencies most frequently occur in Uzbek–English legal translations?

3.How can compliance with international standards improve translation accuracy and reliability?

Literature Review

Existing research emphasizes that legal translation is a specialized field requiring linguistic competence, legal knowledge, and awareness of institutional norms. Studies such as Jumabayeva (2025) and Hasanbayeva & Mannonova (2025)



explore the lexico-semantic features of legal terminology in English and Uzbek, noting frequent issues of polysemy, non-equivalence, and context-dependency.

Shodmonova (2022) analyzes translation strategies for rendering English legal terms into Uzbek, highlighting structural and cultural challenges. Pusatova et al. (2025) investigate legal terminology within the context of international law, showing that system-specific concepts often require descriptive translation or functional equivalents.

A crucial contribution to the field is ISO 20771:2020, which defines competence requirements, quality assurance procedures, and ethical principles for professional legal translators. This standard provides a practical framework for terminology management, document handling, and revision processes.

Collectively, previous studies suggest that legal translation requires systematic approaches combining linguistic precision, cultural adaptation, and compliance with normative standards. However, the practical application of these standards in Uzbek–English translation remains understudied, forming the research gap addressed in this article.

Materials and Methods

This study employs a qualitative analytical approach to examine normative requirements in the translation of official and legal documents. A corpus of 20 legal and official texts was analyzed, including contracts, government resolutions, business agreements, and court-related documents. These texts were selected for their terminological complexity and representation of typical legal genres.



1. Analytical Framework

The analysis was conducted according to three interrelated criteria:

A. Terminological Accuracy

Assessment of legal terms, equivalence strategies, consistency, and appropriateness based on legal context.

B. Structural Fidelity

Evaluation of sentence structure, clause hierarchy, modality, and legal performatives to determine whether syntactic forms preserve legal meaning.

C. Normative Compliance

Review of adherence to ISO 17100 and ISO 20771 standards, focusing on translator competence, revision procedures, and quality assurance.

2. Procedure

Each document was profiled according to type and legal domain.

Key terms, clauses, and culturally bound elements were highlighted.

Source and target texts were compared to identify mistranslations, omissions, and structural distortions.

Findings were categorized into common error types, and recommendations were developed accordingly.

The most complex and frequently misused phrases, words, and sentences in the translation of official and legal documents between Uzbek and English, along with their correct translations and explanations. This is particularly useful for the translation of court documents, contracts, laws, and government decisions.



1. Shartnoma shartlariga rioya qilmoq follow the contract terms comply with the terms of the contract “Comply” huquqiy majburiyatni bildiradi; “follow” erkin va noaniq.

2. Fuqarolik - Civil - Citizenship “Civil” boshqa ma’noda ishlatiladi; qonuniy kontekstda “Citizenship” to‘g‘ri.

3. Da’vo qilmoq - Complain File a claim / Sue Sud jarayonida “complain” juda umumi; “file a claim” yoki “sue” aniq.

4. Qonuniy kuchga ega - Legal power Legally valid / Enforceable “Legal power” kuchni bildiradi; huquqiy mazmunni noto‘g‘ri aks ettiradi.

5. Vazirlar Mahkamasi qarori Decision of Cabinet Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers “Resolution” rasmiy va xalqaro kontekstda mos.

6. Har ikki tomonning roziligi bilan By mutual understanding By mutual agreement / With the consent of both parties “Mutual understanding” erkin, rasmiy-huquqiy matnda yaroqsiz.

7. Shartnoma tomonlar tomonidan bekor qilinishi mumkin The contract can be cancelled by parties The contract may be terminated by either party under the agreed conditions “Cancelled” noaniq, “terminated” rasmiy va aniq.

8. Sud qarorining ijrosi Execution of court decision Enforcement of the court judgment “Execution” boshqa ma’noda ishlatiladi; “enforcement” to‘g‘ri.

9. Shikoyat arizasi Complaint application Petition / Appeal “Complaint application” umumi; “petition” yoki “appeal” huquqiy nuqtai nazardan to‘g‘ri.

10. Iqtisodiy majburiyatlar Economic obligations Financial obligations / Economic liabilities “Economic obligations” erkin; huquqiy matnda “financial obligations” yaxshiroq.



11. Jinoyat ishining ko‘rib chiqilishi Consideration of criminal case
Adjudication / Trial of a criminal case “Consideration” sudiyl jihatdan xato; “adjudication” yoki “trial” to‘g‘ri.

12. Sud qaroriga da’vo qilmoq Claim the court decision Challenge / Appeal the court judgment “Claim” noaniq; “appeal” sud jarayonida to‘g‘ri.

13. Mulkiy huquqlar Property rights Ownership rights / Property rights Ba’zan “ownership rights” aniqroq; huquqiy kontekstga qarab.

14. Band (shartnoma) Clause Article / Clause “Band” ba’zi tarjimalarda “clause” yoki “article”; noto‘g‘ri ishlatilsa matnni buzadi.

15. Majburiyatni bajarish Fulfill obligation Perform / Discharge the obligation “Fulfill” ko‘proq ma’naviy; “perform” yoki “discharge” huquqiy jihatdan to‘g‘ri.

Results

Analysis of the corpus revealed several recurring issues in Uzbek–English legal translations.

1. Terminological Inconsistencies

Many mistranslations stemmed from failure to use legally accurate equivalents.

Examples include:

shartnoma shartlariga rioya qilmoq → “follow the contract terms” instead of the precise comply with the terms of the contract.

da’vo qilmoq translated as “complain” rather than file a claim or sue.



sud qarorining ijrosi rendered as “execution of court decision”, which is incorrect; the proper term is enforcement of the court judgment.

These errors indicate gaps in legal terminology management and insufficient familiarity with legal concepts.

2. Structural Challenges

Translators frequently altered or simplified complex legal structures. For example:

shartnoma tomonlar tomonidan bekor qilinishi mumkin was inaccurately translated as “the contract can be cancelled by parties,” which lacks legal specificity.

The correct rendering is the contract may be terminated by either party under the agreed conditions.

Structural distortions often changed the legal effect of clauses, particularly in cases involving modality, conditionality, or party obligations.

3. Normative Compliance Issues

The corpus showed limited adherence to ISO 20771 recommendations.

Common problems included:

absence of revision by a second qualified translator;

inconsistent terminology across similar documents;

incorrect use of legal formulas and institutional titles;

failure to apply confidentiality and documentation procedures.

These findings suggest that many translators rely primarily on linguistic intuition rather than structured professional standards.



4. Cultural and Systemic Non-Equivalence

Expressions rooted in local legal culture often suffered from literal translation.

For example: *har ikki tomonning roziligi bilan* was frequently translated as “by mutual understanding,” which is legally vague; the correct equivalent is by mutual agreement or with the consent of both parties.

Such errors highlight the need for translators to understand differences between Uzbek and Anglo-American legal systems.

Discussion

The findings confirm that high-quality legal translation requires more than linguistic ability. Terminological inaccuracies, structural distortions, and insufficient normative compliance remain the primary sources of error in Uzbek–English legal translation.

A comparison with previous literature shows that many challenges identified in this study—such as non-equivalence and system-specific terminology—align with observations by Jumabayeva (2025) and Shodmonova (2022). However, the present study also demonstrates that practical adherence to ISO standards is still limited, which exacerbates errors and reduces reliability.

Implementing terminology databases, enforcing mandatory revision procedures, and providing specialized training on legal systems can substantially improve translation quality. Standardization not only enhances accuracy but also reduces legal risks associated with mistranslation.

Conclusion This study demonstrates that normative requirements and international standards play a crucial role in ensuring accuracy, consistency, and



legal validity in the translation of official documents. The analysis of real Uzbek–English translations revealed frequent terminological, structural, and procedural shortcomings, many of which can be mitigated through systematic application of ISO 17100 and ISO 20771 standards.

For practical improvement, translators should adopt structured terminology management, undergo specialized legal translation training, and implement multi-stage quality assurance procedures. Future research may expand the corpus to include judicial opinions, regulatory documents, and specialized contracts, as well as explore the effectiveness of digital tools in improving legal translation quality.

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