

## ANALYSIS OF LEGAL TERMINOLOGY TRANSLATION FROM ENGLISH INTO UZBEK LANGUAGE

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### ABSTRACT

This thesis examines the translation of legal terminology from English into Uzbek. The study focuses on terms that are frequently found in legislation, contracts, court-related documents, and official legal communication. The main purpose is to identify how meaning, legal function, and contextual accuracy are preserved during translation. The research is based on comparative, descriptive, contextual, and terminological analysis. English legal terms are compared with their Uzbek renderings in order to show cases of full equivalence, partial equivalence, descriptive translation, and borrowing. The study finds that legal terms cannot always be translated word for word because English and Uzbek belong to different linguistic systems and are connected with different legal traditions. The most reliable translation is usually achieved when the translator considers not only the dictionary meaning of a term but also its legal role in a specific text. The thesis concludes that accuracy in legal terminology translation is essential for clear legal understanding and for the practical validity of translated documents.

**KEYWORDS:** legal terminology, English-Uzbek translation, legal equivalence, contextual meaning, descriptive translation, legal discourse.

### INTRODUCTION

Legal terminology is one of the most sensitive areas of specialized translation. A single term may carry a clear legal effect, define the rights of a person, establish an obligation, or determine the meaning of a legal norm. For this reason, the translation of legal terms from English into Uzbek requires a high level of precision. A grammatically correct translation may still be weak if the legal meaning is incomplete or shifted.

The relevance of the topic is connected with the growing role of international communication, foreign legal documents, agreements, academic materials, and comparative legal studies in Uzbekistan. English is widely used in international law, commerce, diplomacy, and academic exchange. Uzbek translators, students, and researchers therefore face a practical need to render English legal terminology in a clear and functionally correct way.

The main problem is that legal systems do not match perfectly. English legal terminology is shaped by common-law traditions, while Uzbek legal language is mainly connected with a codified civil-law framework. As Susan Šarčević explains, legal translation is not a simple replacement of words; it is a transfer of legally relevant meaning between systems. This view is important for the present thesis because many English terms have no exact one-word equivalent in Uzbek.

## **2. AIM AND RESEARCH TASKS**

The aim of the thesis is to analyze the main translation features of English legal terminology in Uzbek and to determine which translation strategies help preserve legal meaning most effectively.

To achieve this aim, the following tasks are addressed:

- to define the role of legal terminology in specialized translation;
- to review key scholarly views on legal equivalence and terminology translation;
- to identify common translation strategies used for English legal terms in Uzbek;

- to compare selected English terms with their possible Uzbek equivalents;
- to explain the main translation difficulties caused by conceptual and system-based differences;
- to formulate practical suggestions for translators and students.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The theoretical foundation of the study is supported by established research in legal translation. Šarčević's *New Approach to Legal Translation* presents legal translation as an interdisciplinary field where language, legal concepts, and communicative purpose must be considered together. Her work is especially useful for understanding why formal similarity does not always guarantee legal accuracy.

Łucja Biel studies legal terminology as a practical translation problem and shows that translators often search for equivalents through dictionaries, parallel texts, and other sources. Her analysis highlights that terminological choices depend on legal context and that the same source term may require different renderings in different documents.

Prieto Ramos focuses on legal terminology and phraseology in inter-systemic translation. His research emphasizes conceptual incongruity, meaning that terms from one legal system may only partly correspond to terms in another system. This idea directly supports the present analysis of English and Uzbek legal terms because many terms require explanation, functional matching, or contextual adjustment.

Recent studies on functional equivalence and legal translation also confirm that legal terminology should be translated with attention to use, effect, and document function, not only lexical form. This approach is valuable when translating terms such as jurisdiction, liability, due process, consideration, and injunction, because the target language may not contain a direct structural match.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The thesis uses a qualitative research design. The first method is the comparative method, which is used to place English legal terms next to their Uzbek equivalents and identify similarities or differences in meaning. The second method is descriptive analysis, which explains how each translation solution functions in the target language. The third method is contextual analysis, which considers how a term behaves inside a legal document or legal statement. The fourth method is terminological analysis, which focuses on the semantic content and legal role of the term.

The material of the study consists of selected English legal terms commonly used in legal writing and their standard or contextually possible Uzbek renderings. The data are analyzed according to four categories: direct equivalence, partial equivalence, descriptive translation, and borrowing or calque. This grouping makes it possible to present the translation process in a clear and systematic way.

The reliability of the analysis is supported by the use of recognized legal translation scholarship and by the comparison of terms according to meaning, legal function, and contextual appropriateness. The thesis does not claim to provide a complete dictionary of legal terminology; instead, it presents an analytical model that can be applied to further legal translation studies.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The analysis shows that English legal terminology may be translated into Uzbek through several main strategies. The strongest strategy depends on the term, the legal document, and the degree of conceptual similarity between the two legal systems.

The term contract can be translated as *shartnoma* with a high degree of stability. In this case, both languages refer to a formal legal agreement, and the target equivalent is clear. This is an example of direct or near-direct equivalence.

The term liability is more complex. In some contexts, *javobgarlik* is appropriate, especially when the text refers to legal responsibility for harm, breach, or violation. In other contexts, *majburiyat* may be more suitable if the focus is on a duty arising from an

agreement. A careless one-form translation of liability can therefore weaken the legal meaning.

The term jurisdiction may be translated as *yurisdiksiya* in specialized legal discourse, but in explanatory or educational texts, *vakolat doirasi* may be clearer. The first choice preserves international legal terminology, while the second gives a more transparent Uzbek explanation. The translator must decide which function is more important in the target text.

Injunction demonstrates the limits of literal translation. The term is strongly connected with court orders in common-law practice. Uzbek translation often needs an explanatory form such as *sud taqiqi* or *sud buyrugʻi*, depending on the exact legal action described. This case shows why descriptive translation is necessary when the target system lacks a full conceptual match.

Consideration is one of the most difficult examples because it is a doctrinal term in common-law contract law. A word-for-word translation gives a poor result. A functional or descriptive translation such as *qarshi taʼminot* or *shartnoma evazligi* may be used, but the meaning should often be supported by context or explanation. This confirms the claim that legal terms should be translated as legal concepts, not as isolated lexical units.

The phrase *due process* also requires functional treatment. A literal version may sound unclear in Uzbek. Renderings such as *qonuniy tartib-taomil* or *adolatli huquqiy jarayon* better express the legal idea that procedures must be lawful and fair. This case shows the importance of preserving legal function over surface form.

## MAIN FINDINGS

- Direct lexical equivalents are possible only for a part of legal terminology.
- Many English legal terms require contextual or descriptive translation in Uzbek.
- Borrowing may be useful for internationally recognized terms, but it should not replace explanation where clarity is needed.

- Common-law concepts often create the greatest difficulty because they do not always exist in the same form in Uzbek legal language.
- The strongest translation solution is achieved when lexical meaning, legal function, and document purpose are considered together.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

The thesis confirms that the translation of legal terminology from English into Uzbek is a specialized task that requires linguistic knowledge and legal awareness. The study demonstrates that a translator should avoid mechanical word-for-word transfer when the source term contains a system-specific legal meaning. Instead, the translator should determine whether the term has a stable Uzbek equivalent, whether a partial equivalent is enough, or whether a descriptive explanation is necessary.

The practical value of the thesis lies in its clear classification of translation strategies and its application to selected legal terms. The novelty of the work is not in creating new legal terms, but in presenting a concise analytical model for examining how English legal terminology can be translated into Uzbek with attention to equivalence, function, and clarity.

The following suggestions may be offered: translators should use legal dictionaries together with parallel legal texts; legal terms should be checked in context before final selection; system-specific terms should be explained rather than forced into a weak literal form; students of translation should be trained to compare legal concepts, not only words; and future studies should build larger English-Uzbek corpora of legal terminology for more systematic analysis.

## **LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

This thesis is limited to a selected group of legal terms and does not analyze all branches of law. It also focuses on terminological translation rather than full-document legal drafting. The examples are used to demonstrate translation tendencies, not to establish one universal equivalent for every possible legal context. These limitations indicate the

need for broader future research based on larger corpora of contracts, statutes, judgments, and international legal documents.

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