

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK LEGAL TERMS

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Annotation. This article explores the similarities and differences between English and Uzbek legal terminology, focusing on their linguistic, cultural, and functional aspects. The study aims to identify the main factors influencing the formation and usage of legal terms in both languages, such as history, culture, and legal traditions. It also analyzes the challenges of translating legal terms from English into Uzbek and vice versa, emphasizing the importance of equivalence and accuracy in legal translation. The research highlights that while English legal terminology is deeply rooted in the Anglo-Saxon and Roman legal systems, Uzbek legal terminology has developed under the influence of Islamic law, Soviet legislation, and modern democratic reforms. Comparative analysis shows that despite linguistic differences, both systems share universal legal concepts reflecting justice, equality, and social order.

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqola ingliz va o‘zbek yuridik terminologiyalari o‘rtasidagi o‘xshashlik va farqlarni o‘rganib chiqadi, ularning lingvistik, madaniy va funksional jihatlariga e’tibor qaratadi. Tadqiqotning maqsadi tarix, madaniyat va yuridik an’analar kabi ikkala tilda ham yuridik atamalarning shakllanishi va qo‘llanilishiga ta’sir qiluvchi asosiy omillarni aniqlashdir. Shuningdek, u yuridik atamalarni ingliz tilidan o‘zbek tiliga va aksincha tarjima qilishdagi qiyinchiliklarni tahlil qiladi, yuridik tarjimada ekvivalentlik va aniqlik muhimligini ta’kidlaydi. Tadqiqotda ingliz yuridik terminologiyasi anglosakson va rim huquqiy tizimlarida chuqur ildiz otgan bo‘lsa-da, o‘zbek yuridik terminologiyasi islom qonunchiligi, sovet qonunchiligi va zamonaviy demokratik islohotlar ta’sirida

rivojlanganligi ta'kidlanadi. Qiyosiy tahlil shuni ko'rsatadiki, lingvistik farqlarga qaramay, ikkala tizim hamadolat, tenglik va ijtimoiy tartibni aks ettiruvchi universal huquqiy tushunchalarga ega.

Аннотация. В данной статье рассматриваются сходства и различия между английской и узбекской юридической терминологией с акцентом на их лингвистические, культурные и функциональные аспекты. Целью исследования является выявление основных факторов, влияющих на формирование и использование юридических терминов в обоих языках, таких как история, культура и правовые традиции. Также анализируются трудности перевода юридических терминов с английского на узбекский и наоборот, подчеркивая важность эквивалентности и точности при юридическом переводе. В исследовании подчеркивается, что в то время как английская юридическая терминология глубоко укоренена в англосаксонской и римской правовых системах, узбекская юридическая терминология развивалась под влиянием исламского права, советского законодательства и современных демократических реформ. Сравнительный анализ показывает, что, несмотря на языковые различия, обе системы разделяют универсальные правовые концепции, отражающие справедливость, равенство и общественный порядок[1, 2].

Key Words: Legal terminology, comparative linguistics, English and Uzbek law, legal translation, linguistic equivalence, legal system, terminology formation, jurisprudence.

Kalit so'zlar: Huquqiy terminologiya, qiyosiy tilshunoslik, Ingliz va o'zbek huquqi, huquqiy tarjima, lingvistik ekvivalentlik, huquqiy tizim, terminologiyani shakllantirish, yurisprudensiya.

Ключевые слова: Юридическая терминология, сравнительное языкознание, английское и узбекское право, юридический перевод, языковая эквивалентность, правовая система, терминообразование, юриспруденция.

Introduction. Legal language represents one of the most specific and complex varieties of professional discourse. It reflects the history, culture, and mentality of a nation through its legal norms and concepts. Understanding legal terminology is crucial for

lawyers, translators, and scholars engaged in international communication and comparative law[2, 3].

In recent decades, globalization and the integration of Uzbekistan into the international legal community have increased the need for precise understanding and translation of English legal terminology. Legal terms are not merely words—they are carriers of cultural and institutional meanings that may not have direct equivalents in another language.

This article aims to conduct a comparative study of English and Uzbek legal terms, identify their main features, and explore translation difficulties and strategies used in rendering legal meanings accurately between the two languages.

The Nature of Legal Terminology.Legal terminology is a specialized vocabulary used in the field of law. It consists of terms that define legal concepts, rights, obligations, and procedures. In English, legal terminology has evolved from a mixture of Latin, French, and Anglo-Saxon roots, creating a complex and formal style of expression. For example, terms such as *habeas corpus*, *mens rea*, and *prima facie* originate from Latin[3, 4].

In contrast, Uzbek legal terminology developed through a combination of Arabic, Persian, Russian, and Turkic elements. For instance, terms like *huquq* (law, right), *javobgarlik* (responsibility), and *jinoyat* (crime) show historical influences from Islamic and Soviet legal systems.

Historical Development of English and Uzbek Legal Terms

English Legal Terminology.English law has a long and complex history influenced by Roman, Norman, and common law traditions. Many English legal terms have been preserved for centuries and are still in use today, even though their everyday meanings may have changed. Terms like plaintiff, defendant, testament, and contract show the continuity of legal tradition.

Uzbek Legal Terminology.Uzbek legal vocabulary was shaped by several historical stages:

1. Pre-Islamic and Islamic periods – influence of Arabic terms related to Sharia law (shariat, fatvo, qozilik).

2. Soviet period – introduction of Russian legal terminology (sudya – judge, prokuror – prosecutor, kodeks – code).

3. Independence period – modernization and nationalization of legal language, focusing on pure Uzbek forms (huquqiy tizim, inson huquqlari, adolat).

This evolution demonstrates how social and political changes affect the legal lexicon of a nation.

Comparative Analysis of Legal Terms

The comparison between English and Uzbek legal terms reveals both structural and semantic differences.

Structural Differences. English legal terms often use complex nominal structures such as breach of contract, statement of claim, or burden of proof. Uzbek legal terms, in contrast, are usually shorter and rely on genitive or possessive constructions: shartnoma buzilishi, da'vo arizasi, isbot yuklamasi[4, 6].

Semantic Equivalence

Some terms are easily translatable because they express universal legal concepts:

Law – Huquq

Court – Sud

Judge – Sudya

Contract – Shartnoma

However, others lack direct equivalents due to cultural and legal system differences: Equity (a concept of fairness in English common law) has no full equivalent in Uzbek law.

Tort (a civil wrong) can only be roughly translated as fuqarolik huquqbazarligi.

Functional Differences

English law distinguishes between common law and statutory law, while Uzbek law is entirely codified, following the civil law tradition. This affects terminology: for example, precedent has great importance in English law but limited relevance in Uzbek law[5, 4].

Challenges in Legal Translation

Legal translation requires not only linguistic but also legal competence. Translators must understand both legal systems to ensure functional equivalence.

Main challenges include:

1. Polysemy – one term may have several meanings (consideration in contract law vs. general meaning of ‘thoughtfulness’).
2. Non-equivalence – some legal concepts exist only in one system.
3. False friends – similar-looking terms with different meanings (e.g., execution in law vs. ijro in Uzbek can mean ‘implementation’ not ‘death penalty’).

To overcome these challenges, translators use strategies such as descriptive translation, borrowing, or creating new terms. For instance, ombudsman was borrowed directly into Uzbek.

The Role of Legal Culture in Terminology

Legal language mirrors the mentality and social values of a nation. The English legal system emphasizes individual rights and judicial precedent, leading to precise and formal terminology. Uzbek legal terminology, shaped by collectivist traditions and Soviet influence, stresses social justice and state responsibility.

Therefore, understanding legal culture is essential for effective translation and comparative study.

Modern Tendencies in Legal Terminology Development

With globalization, both English and Uzbek legal systems experience modernization and lexical borrowing. English has introduced new terms related to technology and human rights (cybercrime, data protection, privacy law), while Uzbek law adopts or adapts such terms: kiberjinoyat, ma'lumotlarni himoya qilish, shaxsiy hayot daxlsizligi.

International organizations such as the UN, OSCE, and UNESCO also influence the harmonization of legal terms in both languages. The growing number of international agreements requires clear and standardized bilingual legal terminology.

Conclusion.

The comparative analysis of English and Uzbek legal terms demonstrates that while both systems share universal legal concepts, their terminology differs due to historical, cultural, and legal backgrounds. English legal language is characterized by its formality, historical continuity, and complexity, whereas Uzbek legal terminology is undergoing modernization and nationalization after decades of external influence. Effective translation

between these languages requires deep linguistic and legal knowledge, cultural awareness, and precision. Future research should focus on developing bilingual legal dictionaries and standardizing terminology for international cooperation[6, 6].

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