

СЕКЦІЯ 3
ІНОЗЕМНІ МОВИ В КОНТЕКСТІ МОДЕРНІЗАЦІЇ СУЧАСНОЇ ОСВІТИ
І НАУКИ

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LEGAL VOCABULARY TRANSLATION: GENERAL ASPECTS

At present translation activity in all its forms is becoming extremely important due to the growing need for international contacts [3, p. 15]. Intercultural understanding takes place in various spheres of life, but often becomes impossible without a legal basis, which ensures the relevance of legal translation. Therefore, quite recently, there appeared a relatively new area of linguistics that arose at the junction of jurisprudence and linguistics – legal linguistics. It is designed to solve a wide variety of problems of the linguistic and legal field – linguistic examination of various legal documents, the formulation of recommendations for the development of the texts of draft laws, research in theory and practice in the field of legal translation, and many others.

Depending on the type of legal documents to be translated, legal translation is subdivided into translation of laws and regulations and their drafts; contracts; memoranda; apostilles and notarial certificates; powers of attorney; wills; statutes; corporate documents; certificates; statements of claim; agreements, amendments, etc.

Translating legal documents, it is necessary to consider many nuances, in particular, the existing differences in legal frameworks, general linguistic and legal features, and, most importantly, the fact that the language of legal documents is characterized by the presence of special vocabulary covering a wide range of legal branches and institutions.

Legal language has clear characteristics, such as: the use of special legal terms and realia; abbreviations inherent only in legal texts; synonyms used to avoid

ambiguity; borrowings from Latin and French (which often do not have a translation); idioms and phraseological combinations that are not used or are rarely used [1; 2].

Thus, the main task of a translator is to convey all the information contained in legal texts and documents in the most accurate way. But since the language of law is characterized by an abundance of special terms (the translation of which causes particular difficulties), translators have to resort to various linguistic techniques. This applies not only to the lexical level of legal documents, but also word-formation, semantic, syntactic.

One of the essential features of any legal document is its organization in accordance with the legal system of the country in which it was concluded. Therefore, when translating documents, it should be borne in mind that the textual conventions of the original language often depend on cultural features and sometimes, when translated literally, lose their meaning. That is why the translator must understand both the peculiarities of legal systems in his country and the country of a native speaker [4, p. 143].

Special legal terminology is the major composite of legal texts, it causes translation difficulties and requires special knowledge and skills of the translator.

There are the following types of legal terms: 1) simple; 2) derivatives; 3) complex; 4) terms-phrases.

Among the types of legal terms, the leading place is occupied by terms-phrases, and for their translation typical lexical transformations are applied: lexical equivalent; calque; transliteration; descriptive translation; approximate translation; translation with the help of an analogue; creation of a neologism. It is quite typical to combine these transformations in the process of translating one terminological unit. But as for the techniques of transliteration and calque, it is highly recommended to use it only after careful identification of any available equivalent which corresponds to a certain legal English-language term, and when it is impossible to apply other translation techniques.

Among the grammatical transformations involved into the translation of legal terminology, the most common are: 1) transposition; 2) replacement; 3) addition; 4) omission. They do not distort the structure of the document, but contribute to an adequate translation of the text.

Thus, assuming that legal terminology is a special layer of vocabulary that causes difficulties in translating legal documents, the translator is traditionally resorted to a number of lexical and grammatical transformations in order to convey the legal reality as accurately as possible. To successfully implement interlanguage communication in the field of jurisprudence, it is important to master various techniques for translating legal terminology, which are based on a sufficiently deep level of knowledge of the specifics of the vocabulary, semantics and stylistics of legal texts, with the indispensable knowledge of the concepts of law and free orientation in the conceptual legal picture of the world.

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