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FORENSIC LINGUISTICS AND TRANSLATION DIFFICULTIES³⁴**Turaeva Umida Shukhratovna***Doctor of philosophy in philology (PhD)**Associate Professor**Alfraganus University**E-mail: turaevaumida2@gmail.com**ORCID ID: 0009-0006-7044-0978***ABSTRACT**

This article investigates the linguistic and translation-related aspects of rendering English forensic and legal terminology into Uzbek. The main aim of the study is to conduct a comparative analysis of English and Uzbek legal terms in terms of their semantic, structural, and functional characteristics, as well as to identify the major challenges encountered in the translation process. The research problem focuses on issues of non-equivalent vocabulary, terminological inconsistency, and the translation of neologisms within legal discourse. The methodology of the study is based on descriptive, comparative, content analysis, and contrastive linguistic approaches. The empirical data include authentic legal documents, judicial case materials, and bilingual as well as specialized legal dictionaries. The analysis reveals that significant conceptual differences between the English and Uzbek legal systems often lead to semantic shifts and translation difficulties, requiring careful selection of translation strategies. The results demonstrate that transcription, transliteration, calquing, and descriptive translation are the most frequently employed methods in translating legal terminology, with their effectiveness largely dependent on contextual and functional factors. The study concludes that accurate translation of forensic and legal terms necessitates not only linguistic competence but also profound knowledge of legal systems and cultural contexts. The findings contribute to improving English–Uzbek legal translation practices and developing context-based terminological equivalence.

KEY WORDS

Forensic linguistics, terminology translation, equivalence, legal discourse, neologism, bilingual dictionary, semantic accuracy, Uzbek-English translation.

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SUD LINGVISTIKASI VA TARJIMA QIYINCHILIKLARI

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Mazkur maqolada ingliz tilidagi sud-huquq va kriminalistik terminlarning o'zbek tiliga tarjima qilish jarayoni lingvistik va tarjimashunoslik nuqtayi nazaridan tadqiq etiladi. Tadqiqotning asosiy maqsadi ingliz va o'zbek tillaridagi huquqiy terminlarning semantik, strukturaviy va funksional xususiyatlarini qiyosiy tahlil qilish hamda tarjima jarayonida yuzaga keladigan muammolarni aniqlashdan iborat. Shuningdek, maqolada terminologik nomuvofiqliklar, muqobilsiz leksika va neologizmlarning tarjimasini bilan bog'liq masalalar muammo sifatida qo'yilgan. Tadqiqot metodologiyasi sifatida tavsifiy, qiyosiy, kontent-tahlil hamda kontrastiv lingvistik tahlil usullaridan foydalanildi. Empirik material sifatida autentik huquqiy hujjatlar, sud materiallari, ikki tilli va maxsus yuridik lug'atlar tahlil qilindi. Tadqiqot natijalari shuni ko'rsatadiki, ingliz va o'zbek huquq tizimlari o'rtasidagi konseptual farqlar termin tarjimasida semantik siljishlarga sabab bo'ladi. Bu holat tarjimada transkripsiya, transliteratsiya, kalkalash va ta'rifiy tarjima kabi usullardan kontekstga mos foydalanishni talab etadi. Xulosa sifatida aytish mumkinki, sud-huquq terminlarini tarjima qilishda lingvistik bilim bilan bir qatorda huquqiy va madaniy kompetensiya ham muhim ahamiyat kasb etadi. Tadqiqot natijalari ingliz-o'zbek huquqiy tarjimasini takomillashtirishga xizmat qiladi.

KALIT SO'ZLAR

Forensik tilshunoslik, termin tarjimasini, semantic ekvivalentlik, huquqiy diskurs, neologizm, ikki tilli lug'at, morfologik tafovut, ingliz-o'zbek tarjimasini.

СУДЕБНАЯ ЛИНГВИСТИКА И СЛОЖНОСТИ ПЕРЕВОДА

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В статье рассматриваются лингвистические и переводоведческие особенности перевода судебно-правовой и криминалистической терминологии с английского языка на узбекский. Основной целью исследования является выявление семантических, структурных и функциональных различий юридических терминов в английском и узбекском языках, а также анализ переводческих трудностей, возникающих в процессе передачи специализированной лексики. В качестве научной проблемы выдвигаются вопросы безэквивалентной лексики, терминологических несоответствий и перевода неологизмов в правовом дискурсе. Методологическую основу исследования составляют описательный, сравнительный методы, метод контент-анализа и контрастивный лингвистический методы. Материалом исследования послужили аутентичные юридические документы, судебные дела, а также двуязычные и специализированные юридические словари. Полученные результаты показывают, что различия между правовыми системами английского и узбекского языков существенно влияют на выбор переводческих стратегий и могут приводить к семантическим потерям. В ходе исследования установлено, что наиболее продуктивными способами перевода юридических терминов являются транскрипция, транслитерация, калькирование и описательный перевод, выбор которых определяется контекстом и функциональной нагрузкой термина. В заключение подчеркивается, что успешный перевод юридической терминологии требует не только языковой, но и правовой и культурной компетенции переводчика.

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА

Судебная лингвистика, перевод терминов, эквивалентность, юридический дискурс, неологизм, двуязычный словарь, семантическая точность, перевод английский-узбекский.

INTRODUCTION

The rapid development of science and technology, the accelerated growth of industrial production, and the processes of globalization and integration taking place worldwide have significantly intensified contacts among the world's languages. These processes contribute to the continuous expansion of lexical resources in many languages. In the modern era, individuals are increasingly required to be knowledgeable in various fields, which, in turn, facilitates the active incorporation of specialized terminology into the general literary vocabulary.

Although terms have existed for centuries as an integral component of every scientific discipline, systematic and specialized research devoted to their study began relatively recently. The emergence of terminology studies as an independent scientific field date back to the 1920s. Initially, terminology was regarded as a branch of lexicology. However, it gained recognition as a separate discipline following the work of the Austrian scholar Eugen Wüster, who in 1931 defended his doctoral dissertation devoted to lexical units in technical language. Wüster is considered the founder of the first school of terminology, and his work was later continued by his student, Helmut Felber. H. Felber is the author of the world's first international textbook on terminology, *Terminology Manual* (Wüster, E., 1931, 132).

Research on terminological issues is extensive and encompasses a wide range of theoretical and practical problems. These include the relationship between terms and general literary words, the interaction between terminological systems and the general language, the formation and development of terms, determinologization processes, and issues related to the translation of terminology. The study of these aspects remains highly relevant in contemporary linguistics, particularly in the context of growing interdisciplinary communication and multilingual interaction.

Until the 1990s, the introduction of new terms into the Uzbek language primarily occurred under the influence of the Russian language. During the 1980s and 1990s, terminological systems in Uzbekistan were actively studied, particularly on the basis of materials from Romance, Germanic, and Slavic languages. In subsequent years, the Uzbek language has been increasingly enriched by neologisms and terms borrowed mainly from English, French, Turkish, and Arabic.

The principal reason for this process lies in Uzbekistan's integration into the global community following independence, as well as the rapid penetration of universal innovations in science, culture, social life, and the arts into the daily life of the Uzbek people. This process, which began at a fast pace, continues with the same intensity today, reflecting ongoing globalization and international cooperation.

In Uzbekistan, considerable attention has been paid to the study of domain-specific vocabulary, particularly terminology related to zoology, botany, politics, economics, and the natural sciences. The scope of research devoted to terminological issues is extensive, addressing a wide range of theoretical and applied problems. These include the relationship between terms and general literary vocabulary, the interaction between terminological systems and the general language, the formation and development of terms, processes of determinologization, and issues related to the translation of terminology. Such studies play a crucial role in understanding the dynamics of lexical development in the Uzbek language under contemporary sociolinguistic conditions.

METHODS

This study employs a combination of descriptive, comparative, and content analysis methods to investigate the translation of English forensic terminology into the Uzbek language. The descriptive method is used to systematize and classify forensic terms according to their lexical, semantic, and functional characteristics within legal discourse. This approach enables the identification of key terminological features and patterns of usage in both source and target languages.

Comparative analysis is applied to examine correspondences and discrepancies between English and Uzbek forensic terms. Through this method, similarities and differences in meaning, structure, and usage are identified, with particular attention paid to cases of partial equivalence, semantic shifts, and terminological gaps. Content analysis is further utilized to assess the frequency and contextual usage of forensic terms in selected texts, allowing for the detection of recurring translation inconsistencies.

The empirical data for the study (Khujakulov S., & Ivanova T., 2025, 28) are drawn from authentic legal documents, bilingual and specialized legal dictionaries, as well as translated forensic and judicial case materials. These sources provide a reliable basis for identifying lexical and semantic inconsistencies that arise in the translation process. Special attention is given to the analysis of terminological choices made by translators in real legal contexts.

In addition, the research employs contrastive linguistic analysis to highlight fundamental differences between the English and Uzbek legal systems and their respective terminological frameworks. This method makes it possible to account for legal and cultural specificity when interpreting forensic terms. Based on the findings, context-based translation strategies are proposed to ensure terminological accuracy, functional adequacy, and conceptual equivalence in the translation of forensic terminology.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of this study demonstrate that translation plays a crucial role not only in the process of learning foreign and related languages but also in fostering a deeper and more conscious understanding of the native language. Translation is closely interconnected with all stages of the educational process, as it assists learners in mastering linguistic phenomena across languages by comparing, interpreting, and systematizing concepts. The analysis confirms that translation is not merely a mechanical transfer of meaning but a cognitive and analytical activity that strengthens linguistic awareness and terminological competence.

Rapid scientific and technological development, the global scientific–technical revolution, expanding international cooperation, and increasing intercultural communication have significantly intensified interactions among nations and linguistic communities. These processes, coupled with demographic growth and globalization, have contributed to the expansion of multilingual societies and the necessity for effective translation practices. As a result, translation has become a vital tool in ensuring mutual understanding among speakers of different languages, particularly in specialized domains such as law, forensic science, and judicial discourse.

In this context, forensic and legal translation has gained exceptional importance. Legal texts are characterized by high semantic density, institutional rigidity, and strict normative requirements. The study reveals that inaccuracies in the translation of forensic terms may lead not only to semantic distortion but also to legal misinterpretation, which can have serious consequences in judicial practice.

According to A. Fedorov (Fedorov A. V., 1974, 15), the primary aim of translation is to introduce a reader who does not know the source language as closely as possible to the original text. The results of the present study confirm this theoretical assumption, demonstrating that effective translation requires not only lexical equivalence but also grammatical, stylistic, and pragmatic adequacy.

Translation is a complex and multidimensional process. The findings indicate that rendering the precise meaning of the source text involves more than selecting appropriate lexical items; it also requires the accurate transfer of grammatical structures, syntactic relations, stylistic tone, and functional intent. This complexity becomes particularly evident in forensic and legal translation, where terminological precision and contextual clarity are essential. Recent linguistic research increasingly focuses on translation and the challenges arising during the translation process. The growing number of scholarly works in linguistic translation studies further confirms the relevance of this field. The present study contributes to this body of research by

providing an in-depth analysis of terminological translation strategies used in English-Uzbek legal discourse.

One of the key findings of the study is that successful translation depends heavily on the translator's extralinguistic knowledge. A translator must be familiar with the life, history, culture, traditions, and legal systems of the people described in the source text. This responsibility requires the translator to fully comprehend the meaning and function of the original text and then reproduce it in accordance with the linguistic norms and cultural conventions of the target language.

The creation of generalized translation equivalents demands a comparative study of linguistic resources in language pairs, as well as an understanding of the aesthetic, emotional, and conceptual dimensions of the text. In legal translation, this includes awareness of institutional frameworks, procedural norms, and legal traditions specific to each language community.

The analysis highlights that selecting the appropriate lexical unit during translation is of paramount importance. Words are chosen based on the type of discourse, the target audience, and communicative intent. For instance:

- Journalistic discourse requires emotionally charged and persuasive vocabulary with political or philosophical connotations;
- Scientific discourse relies on precise terminological units;
- Literary discourse employs stylistically marked and imagery-rich lexical items (Newmark P. 1988, 47).

Legal and forensic texts primarily belong to scientific and official-functional styles, where terminological accuracy and neutrality dominate. The translator relies on the developmental level of the native language, existing translation traditions, and accumulated professional experience while accounting for linguistic and stylistic differences. The study identifies several major trends in the use of legal and forensic terminology in Uzbek:

Many legal terms have been adapted to Uzbek using the language's internal resources. Some terms are translated using existing Uzbek equivalents, others are calqued or newly coined according to Uzbek morphological and derivational rules: *auction* → *kimoshdi*, *broker* → *dallol*, *merchant* → *tijoratchi*. This approach enhances linguistic independence and strengthens national terminological systems.

Another widely observed method is the direct borrowing of international terms commonly used across many languages. Due to the absence of precise Uzbek equivalents, many legal terms retain their original forms to ensure international comprehensibility. Examples include: *auditor*, *veto*, *currency*, *advocacy*, *justice*. This practice facilitates international legal communication and information exchange.

The study identifies three primary translation methods used when Uzbek equivalents are unavailable. Transcription is one of the most widely used methods in contemporary translation practice. It conveys the phonetic form of the source word rather than its orthographic structure. Due to differences between English and Uzbek phonological systems, transcription often incorporates elements of transliteration.

Transliteration involves representing source language letters using the target language alphabet. This method is particularly common for proper names and institutional terms:

Inauguration → *Inauguratsiya*

Benelux → *Benilyuks*

Nikkei → *Nikkei*

Although transliteration may appear non-translational, it serves as a functional substitute when semantic translation is impractical.

Calquing occupies an intermediate position between direct translation and borrowing. It preserves the internal structure of the source term while translating its components (Vinay J.-P., & Darbelnet J., 1958, 360):

United Nations → *Birlashgan Millatlar*

Air bridge → *Havo ko'prigi*

Nuclear umbrella → *Yadroviy soyabon*

The advantage of calquing lies in its transparency and semantic motivation. When direct equivalents are absent, descriptive translation is employed to explain the concept:

to lobby → *exert pressure on legislators*

brain drain → *migration of highly skilled professionals*

think tank → *research-oriented analytical group*

This method ensures conceptual clarity, albeit at the expense of brevity. The study identifies three major types of translation difficulties:

1. Lexical problems – absence of equivalents;
2. Stylistic problems – genre-specific lexical restrictions;
3. Grammatical problems – structural mismatches between languages (Nida E.A., Taber C.R., 1969, 14).

Semantic losses during translation are often inevitable. However, strategic choices can minimize distortion. In legal texts, differences in grammatical number and syntactic structure pose challenges. For example:

The horror of Vietnam → *Vetnamdagi urush dahshatlari*

Anxieties are pressing → *Qo'rquv kuchlidir*

Such cases require semantic adaptation rather than literal translation.

Non-equivalent lexical items arise due to cultural, institutional, or systemic differences. Examples include:

death penalty → *o'lim jazosi*
warrant → *ruxsatnoma*
non-refoulement → *tazyiq o'tkazmaslik*

The study confirms that non-equivalent vocabulary is often translated through restructuring, explanation, or calquing.

The emergence of neologisms such as *officialdom*, *bangdom* reflects ongoing lexical expansion. Their translation requires creative and context-sensitive approaches.

The translation of forensic terminology is one of the most complex areas of applied linguistics, since it lies at the intersection of several disciplines—law, linguistics, criminology, and psychology. Each of these fields introduces its own conceptual framework and specialized vocabulary, which makes the establishment of clear equivalence between English and Uzbek terms particularly challenging. The purpose of this part of the research is not only to identify the existing difficulties but also to demonstrate how these difficulties manifest in authentic texts, including court proceedings, police reports, and forensic linguistic analyses (Husanbayeva S. A., 2020, 76).

Forensic language contains a high density of specialized terminology and idiomatic expressions that reflect the structure of the Anglo-Saxon legal system. When these terms are transferred into Uzbek, which functions within a civil-law tradition, translators face the dual problem of finding lexical correspondence and ensuring conceptual adequacy. For instance, terms such as *plea bargain*, *cross-examination*, or *forensic profiling* are embedded in legal procedures that have no exact analogues in the Uzbek judicial framework. This means that translators must employ a range of strategies—borrowing, descriptive translation, or neologism formation—to preserve both the precision and the communicative clarity of the original (Munday J., 2016, 145).

The analysis of English-Uzbek forensic terminology revealed several key challenges that translators and linguists face when dealing with legal and forensic contexts. The study focused on 50 forensic terms extracted from English court reports, police statements, and forensic linguistics literature, and compared their existing or proposed Uzbek equivalents.

One of the most critical issues lies in the semantic inexactness between English and Uzbek terms. For instance, the English term “*forensic evidence*” is often translated as “*sud-tibbiy dalil*” or “*kriminalistik dalil*”, but both fail to capture the full scope of the term, which in English covers linguistic, digital, and

psychological aspects as well. Uzbek translation usually narrows it down to *medical or material proof*, losing the interdisciplinary essence.

The forensic evidence confirmed the suspect's presence at the crime scene.

Sud-tibbiy dalillar gumondorning jinoyat joyida bo'lganini tasdiqladi.

While correct grammatically, this translation omits the linguistic or digital component of “forensic,” reducing its conceptual range. Uzbek, being an agglutinative language, tends to form long compound equivalents where English uses concise nominal phrases. This morphological asymmetry often leads to overextended or ambiguous expressions.

Example: *Forensic linguist - Sud tilshunosi or kriminalistika tilshunosi*

The latter is more semantically precise but stylistically heavy. Therefore, consistency across legal documentation becomes a major issue.

Many English forensic terms are culture-specific, derived from common-law traditions, while Uzbek legal discourse follows civil-law terminology. As a result, direct equivalents are often missing, and translators must employ descriptive or adaptive translations.

Example:

- “*Plea bargain*” → there is no direct equivalent in Uzbek law; it is usually rendered descriptively as “*aybni tan olish evaziga yengilroq jazo qo'llash kelishuvi*”. Such descriptive translations increase readability but risk losing legal precision.
- The term “*forensic linguistics*” itself illustrates the interdisciplinary nature of the field, bridging linguistics, law, and criminology. However, in Uzbek usage, it is sometimes mistranslated as “*tilshunoslik ekspertizasi*” (linguistic expertise) — which is broader but less precise, ignoring the judicial application of language analysis (Attieh A. A. & Al-Issawi J. M., 2024, 58).

By discussing the examples in detail, it will highlight the role of semantic extension, legal culture, and interdisciplinary transfer in shaping the translation of forensic terms. Ultimately, the findings are expected to contribute to the development of a bilingual forensic terminology database and to the refinement of translation practices in legal and investigative contexts within Uzbekistan.

One of the most salient findings of this analysis is that the structural and lexical differences between English and Uzbek constitute significant obstacles to direct translation. English forensic terms often have precise, discipline-specific meanings, reflecting the nuances of Anglo-American legal and forensic systems. Conversely, the Uzbek language, while rich and expressive, does not always provide one-to-one lexical equivalents for these specialized concepts. This gap necessitates not only creative linguistic adaptation but also careful contextualization to ensure

that the intended meaning is preserved. For instance, terms related to criminalistics, forensic pathology, and toxicology often lack standardized Uzbek counterparts, compelling translators to adopt strategies such as semantic approximation, descriptive phrasing, or the borrowing of loanwords. While these strategies can be effective, they may also introduce ambiguity if not consistently applied across legal and forensic texts (Federov A.V. 1953, 152).

Moreover, the study underscores the importance of considering cultural and legal frameworks in translation. Forensic terminology is deeply embedded in the legal traditions and procedural norms of the source language, and a literal translation may fail to convey the same implications within the Uzbek legal context. For example, concepts like “chain of custody,” “expert testimony,” or “forensic entomology” carry procedural and evidentiary connotations in English that must be carefully adapted to correspond with the Uzbek judicial system. The translator’s role, therefore, extends beyond linguistic conversion to include mediation between differing legal paradigms and professional practices. This highlights the interdisciplinary nature of forensic translation, which demands not only language proficiency but also domain-specific knowledge in law, medicine, and forensic science.

CONCLUSION

The present study has demonstrated that the translation of English forensic and legal terminology into Uzbek constitutes a highly complex linguistic, cognitive, and socio-cultural process shaped by both intralinguistic and extralinguistic factors. The findings confirm that terminological translation cannot be reduced to the mechanical replacement of lexical units but requires a comprehensive understanding of semantic content, grammatical structure, stylistic conventions, and legal-cultural specificity. The analysis has shown that translation plays a dual role in linguistic development: on the one hand, it facilitates access to foreign-language knowledge and professional discourse; on the other hand, it contributes to the conscious assimilation and enrichment of the native language. In the educational context, translation serves as an effective tool for developing comparative linguistic awareness, enabling learners to grasp not only foreign-language phenomena but also the structural and functional characteristics of their mother tongue.

One of the key conclusions of this research is that the rapid pace of globalization, scientific-technical progress, and international legal cooperation has significantly intensified the influx of new legal and forensic terms into the Uzbek language. This process, which began during the post-independence period, continues today with increasing intensity. As a result, Uzbek legal terminology exhibits a

dynamic interplay between national linguistic resources and internationally standardized lexical units.

The findings further indicate that the absence of direct equivalents for many English legal terms in Uzbek is primarily differences in legal systems, institutional frameworks, and socio-cultural realities. In such cases, translators are compelled to employ a range of translation strategies, including transcription, transliteration, calquing, and descriptive translation. Each of these methods has been shown to possess both advantages and limitations, and their effectiveness depends largely on contextual appropriateness and functional adequacy. In particular, calquing and descriptive translation were found to be especially productive in preserving conceptual clarity, while transcription and transliteration proved indispensable for internationally recognized terms and proper names.

Another important conclusion concerns the professional competence of the translator. The study emphasizes that successful legal and forensic translation requires not only advanced linguistic proficiency but also deep knowledge of legal concepts, institutional practices, and cultural norms in both source and target languages. The translator's responsibility extends beyond linguistic accuracy to ensuring legal precision, stylistic neutrality, and pragmatic equivalence. Failure to meet these requirements may result in semantic loss, terminological ambiguity, or even legal misinterpretation.

The research also highlights that non-equivalent vocabulary and neologisms pose persistent challenges in English-Uzbek translation. Such lexical units reflect ongoing lexical expansion driven by technological innovation, socio-political change, and evolving legal practices. The findings suggest that these challenges can be effectively addressed through flexible, context-based translation strategies rather than rigid adherence to literal equivalence. This approach allows translators to balance fidelity to the source text with compliance to the norms and expectations of the target language.

In sum, this study confirms that forensic and legal translation occupies a pivotal position at the intersection of language, law, and culture. The results underscore the necessity of developing standardized yet adaptable translation principles tailored to the specific features of English and Uzbek legal discourse. The proposed analytical framework and translation strategies may serve as a practical reference for translators, linguists, and legal professionals engaged in bilingual legal communication. Finally, the study opens several avenues for future research. Further investigations may focus on corpus-based analyses of legal translations, the development of specialized bilingual terminological databases, and the impact of digital technologies on legal translation practices. Such research would contribute to

the continued refinement of translation theory and practice and support the sustainable development of Uzbek legal terminology in the context of global communication.

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