

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF
WORLD LANGUAGES

ДОБРЕДОЇДОВТЕ WELTKOMM स्वागत छ
VÄLKOMMEN FÄLTE VÍTEJTE HERZLICH KΑΛΩΣ ΗΡΘΑΤΕ
Laipni lūdzam ك ب ال ه أ WILLKOMMEN
BEM VINDA Сaрдэчнa зaпpашaeм 환영
ÜDVÖZÖLÜK 歡迎 ようこそ
आपले स्वागत आहे DOBRODOŠLI स्वागत हे
BIENVENUE HOŞGELDİNİZ FÄLTE
BENVENUTO Tuhinga o mua SELAMAT DATANG
VELKOMINN wilujeung sumping
SALUTATIO வரவரேற்பா BI XÊR HATĬ
BINE ATI VENIT ಸವಾಗತ

International Journal of World Languages

Volume 5, No. 2, March 2025

Internet address: <http://ejournals.id/index.php/IJWL/issue/archive>

E-mail: info@ejournals.id

Published by ejournals PVT LTD

Issued Bimonthly

Requirements for the authors.

The manuscript authors must provide reliable results of the work done, as well as an objective judgment on the significance of the study. The data underlying the work should be presented accurately, without errors. The work should contain enough details and bibliographic references for possible reproduction. False or knowingly erroneous statements are perceived as unethical behavior and unacceptable.

Authors should make sure that the original work is submitted and, if other authors' works or claims are used, provide appropriate bibliographic references or citations. Plagiarism can exist in many forms - from representing someone else's work as copyright to copying or paraphrasing significant parts of another's work without attribution, as well as claiming one's rights to the results of another's research. Plagiarism in all forms constitutes unethical acts and is unacceptable. Responsibility for plagiarism is entirely on the shoulders of the authors.

Significant errors in published works. If the author detects significant errors or inaccuracies in the publication, the author must inform the editor of the journal or the publisher about this and interact with them in order to remove the publication as soon as possible or correct errors. If the editor or publisher has received information from a third party that the publication contains significant errors, the author must withdraw the work or correct the errors as soon as possible.

OPEN ACCESS

Copyright © 2025 by Thematics Journals of Applied Sciences

EDITORIAL BOARD

Ambreen Safdar Kharbe,
Najran University,, Saudi Arabia

Erdem Akbaş,
Erciyes University, Turkey

Oksana Chaika,
National University of Life and Environmental
Sciences of Ukraine, Ukraine

Fatma Kalpakli,
Selçuk University, Turkey

Zekai Gül,
University of Minnesota, Islamic College of
Languages and Translation

Birsen Tütüniş,
Kültür University, Turkey

Nurdan Kavakli,
Izmir Democracy University, Turkey

Anette Ipsen,
University College Copenhagen, Denmark

Lotte Lindberg,
University College Copenhagen, Denmark

Miriam Eisenstein,
New York University, United States

Boudjemaa Dendenne,
University of Constantine I, Algeria

Ismail Hakki Mirici,
Hacettepe University, Turkey

Lily Orland Barak,
University of Haifa, Israel

Maggie Sokolik,
University of California, Berkeley, United States

Manana Rusieshvili-Cartledge,
Tbilisi State University, Georgia

Maryam Zeinali,
Urmia University, Iran Islamic Republic

Zebiniso Ibroximovna Odinayeva,
National University of Uzbekistan

Sidikova Khulkar,
Jizzakh state pedagogical university
named after Abdulla Kadyri

Normamatova Dilfuza Turdikulovna,
Gulistan State University

Mehmet Demirezen,
Ufuk University, Turkey

Sejdi M. Gashi,
Institute of Albanology-Pristina(Kosovo), Albania

Priti Chopra,
The University of Greenwich, Greece

Rome Aboh,
University of Uyo, Nigeria

Salam Yusuf Nuhu Inuwa,
Kano State College of Arts and Sciences, Nigeria

Zelege Arficho Ayele,
Hawassa University, Ethiopia

Mustafo Zhabborovich Bozorov
Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

Martaba Numonovna Melikova
Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

Mastura Mizrobovna Oblokulova
Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

Erkinov Sukhrob Erkinovich
Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

Eko Susanto
Menegment of journal Indonesia

Shirinova Inobat Anvarovna
Guliston State University

Akramjon Abdikhakimovich Shermatov
Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

Akhmedova Shoir Nematovna
Professor of the Department of Uzbek Literature,
Bukhara State University

Aslonova Malokhat
Akramovna PhD, associate professor Navoi State
Pedagogical Institute

Bobojanov Sharipboy Xudoshukirovich
Dr., associate professor at
Pedagogical Institute of Karshi State University

Ibragimova Rano Isakovna,
Karakalpak Institute of Agriculture and Agrotechnologies

Nadim Muhammad Humayun,
Department of Uzbek Language and Literature,
Termiz State University

Sidikova Khulkar,
Jizzakh state pedagogical university,
named after Abdulla Kadyri

LEXICAL FEATURES OF LEGAL TERMS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

Jumabayeva Adolat Sabirovna

Lecturer, Foreign Philology Faculty,
Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhon Beruni
adolat.j@urdu.uz

Abstract: Legal terminology forms the core of legal discourse, serving not only as a means of communication but also as a mechanism for defining rights, duties, and relationships under the law. English legal language, deeply shaped by Latin, French, and Old English, features a lexicon rich in compounds, affixation, and nominalization, reflecting its historical evolution and legal traditions. In contrast, Uzbek legal terminology demonstrates a complex, multilayered system influenced by Arabic, Persian, Russian, and Turkic elements, with a reliance on agglutinative suffixation and increasing adoption of international legal vocabulary. This paper explores the lexical features of legal terms in English and Uzbek, highlighting their etymological roots and morphological structures.

Keywords: Legal terminology, lexical features, English legal language, Uzbek legal language, etymology, morphology, legal translation, comparative linguistics, legal discourse, bilingual law.

Introduction:

Legal language is a highly specialized register of language characterized by its demand for precision, consistency, and unambiguous expression. As noted by Mellinkoff (1963), "the law is a profession of words," and legal terms are the fundamental building blocks of this linguistic system. These terms do not merely describe reality—they define legal obligations, rights, and relationships. Legal terms, often described as terms of art, are semantically dense and resistant to lay interpretation. Tiersma (1999) observes, "Many legal terms have meanings that are radically different from their ordinary counterparts," citing examples such as consideration, action, and tender. In everyday language, these words may seem simple, but within legal contexts, they take on technical meanings embedded within broader legal doctrines. The complexity of legal terminology is heightened by its historical roots. English legal language has been heavily influenced by Latin, French, and Germanic traditions, resulting in a layered lexicon where words such as jurisdiction, subpoena, and tort originate from classical languages. According to Crystal and Davy (1969), legal English "preserves a large amount of archaic vocabulary and syntax" to maintain continuity and precision in legal interpretation.

In contrast, Uzbek legal language has undergone significant evolution, influenced by Arabic, Persian, Russian, and increasingly, English legal systems. As Ahmadaliyev (2020) points out, "O'zbek huquqiy terminologiyasi tarixiy, siyosiy va ijtimoiy omillarning ta'sirida shakllangan ko'p qatlamli tizimdir" ("Uzbek legal terminology is a multilayered system shaped by historical, political, and social factors.") emphasizing that Uzbek legal terminology reflects not only native structures but also foreign borrowings and legal reform trends. This paper aims to analyze the lexical features of legal terminology in both English and Uzbek, focusing on aspects such as etymology, morphological structures, semantic characteristics, and their functional roles in legal discourse. By comparing these two legal lexicons, we aim to highlight the linguistic and cultural factors that influence how legal meanings are constructed and conveyed. This comparative approach is essential, particularly in the context of legal translation, bilingual legislation,

and the training of legal professionals in multilingual environments.

Literature review:

The study of legal terminology has long attracted scholarly attention due to its unique linguistic features and socio-legal implications. Legal terms are central to legal discourse, functioning not only as linguistic signs but also as legal constructs tied to specific legal systems and traditions. In this context, the lexical features of legal terms-such as etymology, morphology, semantic range, and syntactic behavior-have been a primary focus for both linguists and legal scholars.

English legal language has been studied extensively in Western academia, with seminal works such as Mellinkoff's "The Language of the Law "(1963) laying the foundation for understanding the historical layering of English legal vocabulary. Mellinkoff emphasizes that "the roots of legal English are tangled in Latin, French, and Anglo-Saxon," noting that this multilingual heritage contributes significantly to the complexity of legal terminology in modern legal practice.

Tiersma (1999) further elaborates on the lexical distinctiveness of legal terms, arguing that legal English maintains an "archaic and technical lexicon" to uphold precision and authority. He points out the persistence of formulaic expressions and "terms of art," which possess highly specific meanings within legal contexts. For example, the word *consideration* in contract law does not simply mean "thoughtfulness," but refers to something of value exchanged between parties-a definition unique to the legal field.

Bhatia (1993) and Crystal & Davy (1969) also highlight the syntactic and lexical rigidity of legal English. These features ensure clarity in legal interpretation but simultaneously create barriers for lay comprehension and legal translation.

In contrast, scholarly attention to Uzbek legal language is relatively recent but growing. Researchers such as Ahmadaliyev (2020) and Karimov (2018) have explored the structure, sources, and evolution of Uzbek legal terms. Ahmadaliyev (2020) notes that "O'zbek huquqiy terminlari o'zining ko'pqirraligi va tarixiy qatlamlari bilan ajralib turadi," pointing to the influence of Arabic, Persian, Russian, and Turkic elements. These influences have resulted in a layered terminology system that is both reflective of Uzbekistan's legal history and responsive to contemporary reform efforts.

Karimov (2018) emphasizes the impact of Soviet legal traditions on current Uzbek legal vocabulary, observing that "huquqiy atamalar ko'p hollarda rus tili orqali shakllangan," particularly in fields like criminal and civil law. With recent legislative reforms and increased interaction with international legal standards, new challenges have emerged in translating and localizing foreign legal terms.

The comparative study of legal lexicons is essential in multilingual legal systems and for legal translation. Šarčević (1997) in *New Approach to Legal Translation* argues that effective legal translation requires an understanding of both the linguistic form and legal content of terms, particularly when source and target languages belong to different legal traditions. This is especially relevant in comparing English common law terminology with Uzbek civil law terminology.

Similarly, Cao (2007) argues that legal terms are frequently "impossible to translate literally" because of variations in legal concepts, necessitating "functional equivalence" instead of a direct, word-for-word translation. In the context of English-Uzbek translation, this is a significant challenge, as some English legal terms like *equity*, *trust*, or *estoppel* have no direct counterparts in Uzbek.

While English legal terminology is well-documented, and Uzbek legal lexicon is gaining scholarly attention, comparative studies between the two remain limited. Most existing research focuses on monolingual description, translation difficulties, or legal drafting rather than in-depth lexical comparison. This paper aims to fill that gap by

exploring how English and Uzbek legal terms differ or align in structure, origin, and function, thereby contributing to both legal linguistics and legal education.

Etymology and historical origins.

Understanding the etymological foundations of legal terminology provides key insights into the historical development of legal systems and the linguistic influences that shape legal discourse. Legal terms are rarely neutral or ahistorical-they carry within them traces of the legal traditions, foreign dominations, and reform movements that have marked a nation's legal history.

The vocabulary of English legal terminology results from a combination of linguistic influences, predominantly from Latin, French, and Old English. These influences mainly originate from two significant historical events: the Roman occupation of Britain and the Norman Conquest in 1066. Latin, the language of Roman law, made a deep imprint on ecclesiastical and scholarly texts. Many Latin expressions remain in modern legal discourse, particularly in procedural and doctrinal phrases such as *habeas corpus* (you shall have the body), *mens rea* (guilty mind), and *subpoena* (under penalty).

Norman French became the language of the courts and legal professionals after the Norman invasion. Words such as *tort*, *estate*, *jury*, and *verdict* originate from Old French and reflect the feudal and judicial structures introduced during that era.

Old English provided foundational legal vocabulary for common and everyday legal actions, including words like *law*, *right*, *deed*, and *land*.

As Mellinkoff (1963) states, "Legal English is not a modern tongue, but rather a mosaic of linguistic deposits from centuries of institutional borrowing." This multilingual background gives English legal language a distinctive texture that is both rich and at times opaque.

Uzbek legal terminology, like its English counterpart, has evolved through multiple phases of foreign influence and internal development. It is characterized by a multi-layered structure, reflecting Arabic, Persian, Russian, and Turkic elements.

Arabic and Persian Influence: During the Islamic Golden Age and the rule of various Muslim empires in Central Asia, Arabic became the language of law, science, and theology. Legal terms such as *huquq* (law/rights), *qonun* (law/statute), and *jinoyat* (crime) have Arabic origins. Persian also played a significant role, particularly in administrative and legal terminology used in the courts of the Timurid and Bukhara emirates.

Russian Influence: With the annexation of Central Asia into the Russian Empire and later the Soviet Union, a large number of legal terms were imported from Russian. Words like *prokuror* (prosecutor), *sud* (court), *advokat* (lawyer), and *kodeks* (code) entered the Uzbek legal lexicon, often unchanged or slightly adapted.

Turkic Roots: Indigenous Turkic terms remain in use, especially in customary law and oral traditions. Words like *yig'in* (assembly), *boshqaruv* (governance), and *jazo* (punishment) reflect native legal concepts.

Modern Globalization and Reform: Since Uzbekistan's independence in 1991, legal reform has introduced international legal vocabulary, often through English loanwords. Terms like *konstitutsiya* (constitution), *biznes huquqi* (business law), and *kompaniya* (company) reflect the shift toward harmonization with global legal standards and the adoption of market-based legal frameworks.

Ahmadaliyev (2020) notes, "O'zbek huquqiy terminologiyasi bu - o'zaro bog'liq tarixiy, madaniy va siyosiy omillar mahsuli bo'lgan ko'p qatlamli tizimdir," highlighting the deeply rooted and dynamic nature of the terminology.

Morphological features of legal terminology.

The morphology of legal terms-how words are formed and structured-reveals much

about the linguistic system and the legal conceptual framework of a language. Both English and Uzbek legal terminologies show distinct morphological characteristics rooted in their respective language families: English, a Germanic language with considerable Romance influence, and Uzbek, a Turkic language with an agglutinative structure.

English legal terminology displays morphological complexity, especially through compound formation, affixation, and nominalization. Compound Terms: Legal English frequently employs compound words to concisely convey complex legal concepts. Terms such as attorney-general, law enforcement, case law, and class action illustrate how nouns are combined to form fixed legal expressions. These compounds are often semantically opaque, requiring familiarity with legal context to be understood.

Affixation: Prefixes and suffixes play a central role in creating nuanced meanings. Common affixes in legal language include:

Prefixes: non- (e.g., noncompliance), un- (e.g., unenforceable), il- (e.g., illegality)

Suffixes: -able (e.g., justiciable), -tion (e.g., termination), -ment (e.g., settlement)

Nominalization: Legal English frequently turns verbs into abstract nouns, which adds formality and detachment to legal texts. For example:

to investigate - investigation

to terminate - termination

to comply - compliance

This nominalized style aligns with the formal and impersonal tone characteristic of legal writing. As Bhatia (1993) notes, nominalization contributes to the "density and complexity" of legal language by "condensing legal processes into abstract entities.

Uzbek, as an agglutinative language, relies heavily on suffixation to build meaning. Legal terminology in Uzbek reflects this characteristic, allowing for precise expression of roles, actions, and abstract legal concepts through systematic affixation.

Suffixation (Agglutination): Uzbek legal terms are commonly formed by adding multiple suffixes to a root:

sud (court) - sudlovchi (judge - one who judges)

huquq (law) + buzar (violator) + lik (abstract noun suffix) ? huquqbuzarlik (violation of law)

Compound Terms: Multi-word expressions are widely used to describe legal categories. These often involve adjective-noun or noun-noun constructions:

fuqarolik sudlov ishlari (civil litigation)

mehnat huquqi (labor law)

jinoyat kodeksi (criminal code)

Loan Translations (Calques): Uzbek legal terminology includes many calques-literal translations of foreign legal concepts, particularly from Russian or English:

xalqaro huquq (international law) ? from international law

moliyaviy javobgarlik (financial liability)

This strategy allows Uzbek to integrate global legal concepts while preserving native linguistic forms.

Moreover, new terms are often created through a combination of native Turkic roots and borrowed elements, providing flexibility in expressing both traditional and modern legal ideas. For instance, konstitutsiyaviy (constitutional) is formed from the loanword konstitutsiya and the native suffix -viy, used to form adjectives.

While English relies heavily on prefixation, compounding, and nominalization, Uzbek prefers suffixation and compounding within an agglutinative framework. English legal terms are often concise but conceptually dense, requiring background knowledge for interpretation. Uzbek terms, on the other hand, are often semantically transparent, with each morpheme contributing clearly to the meaning of the word.

These differences in morphology also present challenges in legal translation. A single compound term in English may require an entire phrase in Uzbek, and vice versa. For example:

noncompliance - bo'ysunmaslik or talablarga rioya qilmaslik

enforceable contract - majburiy kuchga ega bo'lgan shartnoma

As such, morphological differences are not merely linguistic but reflect broader cognitive and legal conceptual distinctions between the English and Uzbek legal systems.

Conclusion.

Legal terminology is not merely a set of specialized words but a reflection of the legal, historical, and cultural evolution of a society. This comparative analysis of English and Uzbek legal lexicons reveals significant differences in their lexical and morphological features, shaped by their distinct legal traditions and linguistic structures. English legal terms, rooted in Latin, French, and Old English, are marked by complexity, abstraction, and nominalization, contributing to a formal and often inaccessible legal register. In contrast, Uzbek legal terminology, influenced by Arabic, Persian, Russian, and Turkic elements, tends to be more morphologically transparent due to its agglutinative nature and use of suffixation.

Despite these differences, both legal systems exhibit a growing trend of borrowing and adapting international legal vocabulary, particularly from English, reflecting the globalization of law and the need for cross-linguistic legal understanding. This study emphasizes the importance of lexical awareness in legal translation and interpretation, as structural and semantic differences can lead to significant shifts in meaning and legal implications.

Ultimately, a deeper understanding of the lexical features of legal terminology in both English and Uzbek supports more effective legal communication, contributes to bilingual legal education, and enhances the accuracy of legal translation. Further research should focus on functional equivalence in legal translation and the development of standardized bilingual legal dictionaries to support practitioners and scholars working in multilingual legal contexts.

References:

- 1.Ahmadaliyev, A. (2020). O'zbek huquqiy terminologiyasi va uning shakllanish bosqichlari. Tashkent: Adolat nashriyoti.
- 2.Bhatia, V. K. (1993). Analyzing Genre: Language Use in Professional Settings. London: Longman.
- 3.Cao, D. (2007). Translating Law. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters.
- 4.Crystal, D., & Davy, D. (1969). Investigating English Style. London: Longman.
- 5.Karimov, B. (2018). Huquqiy tarjima: Nazariya va amaliyot. Tashkent: Yuridik nashriyoti.
- 6.Mellinkoff, D. (1963). The Language of the Law. Boston: Little, Brown and Company.
- 7.Šarčević S. (1997). New Approach to Legal Translation. The Hague: Kluwer Law International.
- 8.Tiersma, P. M. (1999). Legal Language. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.