

Legal Language Translation: Theory behind the Practice

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Abstract

Having in mind in this day and age legal translation challenges and limitations, it really is essential to outline major procedural translation themes that should interest legal translators the most in their everyday professional encounters; syntactic and stylistic characteristics of legal language, specialized legal terminology applicable to communication within this discourse, and the cultural foundations of official “bureaucratic discourse” use in two languages involved in the process of translation, these issues call for a vigorous debate, if the true nature of legal language use is to be established. To effectively comprehend the multidimensional pragmatic functions of legal lexis in a given cultural identity, one has to, for instance, be able to explain the impact of a language spelling convention on the actual translation moves when the source language wordstock (in this case English) is habitually implemented into other languages in few spelling variants. This paper’s main aim is to put more light on legal language translation with a specific focus put on lexical and syntactic characteristics of the English language legal discourse accommodated to observable segments types of the legal discourse lexicon in Polish.

Short Bio

Prof. Michał Garcarz, D.Litt., Ph.D., and DPA diploma holder, Head of Department of Translation in the Institute of English Studies at University of Wrocław, Poland, where he teaches and researches various areas of specialized translation and translation environment for specialized purposes (technical, legal, and audiovisual), specialized varieties of language (data, texts and corpora), sociolinguistics (slang and ponglish studies, in particular), language management for professional endeavors, and lexicography and linguistic data documentation (dictionary or corpus edition). He is freelance translator, communication for business trainer and language coach, and corpus maker.

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