

COMPREHENSIVE ENGLISH LEGAL TERMINOLOGY: ESSENTIAL TERMS AND THEIR INTERPRETATIONS

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Abstract: This article discusses the vital role of precise legal terminology in English, particularly in the context of globalization. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, English has emerged as a crucial common language among legal professionals from diverse backgrounds. The study categorizes legal terms and analyzes the use of Anglicisms, highlighting their importance for clarity and precision in legal documents. It emphasizes that a strong grasp of legal language is essential for preventing misunderstandings and fostering effective communication in international law. The findings illustrate that mastery of legal terminology enhances professional relationships and promotes justice in a globalized society.

Keywords: Anglicisms, legal terminology, legal communication, Rights and Obligations, Legal Professionals, Common Terms, Specialized Legal Terms, English Language, Jurisprudence, Lexicology.

Introduction

In the 21st century, our world is increasingly interconnected, propelled by significant advancements in technology and communication. This globalization has notably influenced the field of law, where English has emerged as a pivotal common language. Lawyers from diverse countries now collaborate more effectively, bridging the gaps between various legal systems. As international treaties and cross-border

transactions become more frequent, the ability to communicate in English is essential for fostering strong relationships and ensuring justice. This evolving landscape underscores the importance of understanding legal terminology and practices in a shared language.

Additionally, the impact of English extends beyond law into critical areas such as science, education, and tourism. Researchers collaborate and disseminate findings in English, students pursue higher education in institutions where English is the language of instruction, and the tourism industry relies on English to facilitate interactions between travelers and locals, enriching cultural experiences. In our globalized world, English holds a dominant position, highlighting its significance as a universal language. Much of the world's communication occurs in English, reflecting its essential role in connecting people across various fields, including law. This text emphasizes the importance of the English language, illustrating its extensive use in jurisprudence and demonstrating how it continues to enhance understanding and cooperation in our dynamic global environment.

This article examines the crucial role of precise and unambiguous legal terminology in English, employing examples from the lexicology of the Russian language. The use of clear and well-defined terms is vital for ensuring the clarity and reliability of legal documents. When language is vague or ambiguous, it can lead to misunderstandings and legal disputes with serious consequences for all parties involved. Accurate legal language is fundamental for effective communication among lawyers, judges, and clients. It not only facilitates dialogue but also ensures the correct interpretation and protection of the rights and obligations of all participants. In an increasingly interconnected society, where international transactions and collaboration are becoming standard, a solid grasp of legal terminology is particularly important. Such knowledge helps prevent cultural and linguistic misunderstandings that can significantly influence the outcomes of legal cases.

Through this study, we aim to illuminate key aspects of legal terminology in English and its impact on legal practice. We will analyze important terms, their meanings, and contexts of use, as well as discuss how a thorough understanding and application of these terms can contribute to a more transparent and equitable legal environment.

Methods

A term is primarily understood as a "linguistic sign"—a word or phrase that expresses a concept from a specific field of knowledge. These terms have clear definitions (interpretations) that users depend on. This is equally true for legal terms, which signify professional concepts within the realm of law. It is crucial to recognize that jurisprudence encompasses not only the study of law and governance but also the practical activities of lawyers who navigate various legal issues. Therefore, legal terms play an essential role in both the theoretical and practical dimensions of law.

G. H. Shamseyeva [11] suggests the following classification of legal terms:

1. **Common Terms:** These are terms that are easily understood by everyone and are used in everyday communication. For example, **accomplice** (noun: A person who assists another in committing a crime or wrongdoing).
2. **Specialized Legal Terms:** These terms possess specific legal meanings and are primarily understood by legal professionals. For instance, **consensus** (the agreement of the parties on matters related to legal relations).
3. **Specialized Scientific and Technical Terms:** These terms are used in specific fields of expertise that must be known by lawyers specializing in particular areas. An example is **non-patentable** (referring to an invention or idea that cannot be protected by a patent, usually because it fails to meet the legal standards for patentability).

Terms can also be categorized into simple, compound, and phrases. Simple terms consist of a single root word or base. Examples of simple words include **law** and **justice**, along with derived terms formed using affixes.

Legal terms are frequently created through prefixation. For example, the following prefixes change the meanings of words or indicate temporal aspects:

- **dis-** (as in **discontinue** — (прекратить дело) to stop providing or doing something; to end something).
- **fore-** (as in **forejudge** (судить предвзято) —(to make a judgment about someone or something before knowing all the facts; to judge prematurely).
- **il-** (as in **illegal** (незаконный) — not permitted by law; against the law).
- **post-** (as in **postmortem** (посмертно) — an examination of a deceased body to determine the cause of death, also known as an autopsy).
- **ex-** (as in **ex-prisoner** (бывший заключенный) — a person who has been released from prison after serving a sentence).

Suffixation also plays a crucial role in the formation of legal terms, for example:

- **-ion** (as in **violation** (нарушение) — the act of breaking or failing to comply with a law or rule).
- **-ation** (as in **legislation** (законодательство) — a law or set of laws proposed by a government and enacted by a parliament).
- **-ment** (as in **enforcement** (принудительное исполнение) — the act of ensuring compliance with a law or rule).
- **-er** (as in **lawyer** (юрист) — a professional who provides legal advice or represents clients in legal matters).
- The suffixes **-ion**, **-ation**, and **-ment** denote legal concepts, while **-er** signifies individuals associated with the law.

Additionally, there are terms formed through a mixed method (utilizing both prefixes and suffixes), such as **dis-** + **-ance** (as in **discontinuance** — the act of terminating a legal proceeding). Conversion, which creates new words without altering the base form, is also employed; for instance, **to appeal** (verb) and **appeal** (noun), although it is less productive compared to affixation.

A linguistic analysis of the use of Anglicisms by legal professionals allows for an exploration of the reasons for these borrowings and the functional characteristics of English vocabulary in this domain. A.I. Dyakov and O.A. Shilyaeva analyze and

propose various methods of terminology used by lawyers, which can be systematically categorized into two main groups:

1. **Discursive Anglicisms:** These are English borrowings of various thematic focuses used in the speech of individuals engaged in legal activities across different sectors, such as interactions with commercial and non-commercial organizations, work with governmental bodies, and internal legal operations. For example, **precedent** (a previously established court ruling that serves as a model).

2. **Terminological Anglicisms:** These Anglicisms denote elements of legal activity, including subjects, objects, legal actions and operations, means, and outcomes. For instance, **mediation** (the process of resolving disputes with the involvement of a third party).

In this context, the term "**discursive**" refers to language that is understood "in a situational aspect," connected to various extralinguistic factors. Such Anglicisms indicate a lawyer's level of knowledge in specific areas, serving a professional marking function.

A lawyer working in international trade must be well-versed in specialized terminology that includes numerous English borrowings related to international commerce, such as Incoterms, DAF, DEC, EXW, CIF, FAS, FOB, free-out, and others. Commercial law specialists use Anglicisms in both oral and written communication, which is essential for effective operation in the trade sector. Familiarity with borrowed terms that denote participants in economic activities (outsourcer, startup, franchising), processes (barter, dumping, job offer), documents (business plan, tender, triplicate), and methods (brainstorming, case method, focus group) enables lawyers to express their thoughts confidently, engage in business discussions, and build trusting relationships with clients.

Lawyers specializing in financial law must also be knowledgeable about Anglicisms related to the names of securities and financial instruments (IPO, blue chips, warrant), as well as insurance documents and processes that regulate public relations concerning the formation, distribution, and use of funds (debit note,

underwriting, voting trust), among others. Lawyers in the field of international law frequently employ numerous political terms that are Anglicisms, many of which are latent Anglicisms.

Latent Anglicisms are words or expressions borrowed from English that have become firmly established in other languages, but their English origin is often unrecognized. For example, some latent Anglicisms in the Russian language include:

- **Protocol** (протокол) — an official agreement or document.
- **Convention** (конвенция) — an international agreement between states.
- **Sanction** (санкция) — a measure of influence against a country or organization.

There is also a category of Anglicisms known as "transplant Anglicisms." Transplant Anglicisms are words and expressions borrowed from English that have been adapted and integrated into another language with minimal changes. They retain their form and meaning but may conform to the grammatical and phonetic rules of the recipient language. Examples include:

- **Case** (кейс) — a legal case or dispute.
- **Contract** (контракт) — an agreement between parties.
- **Lobbying** (лоббирование) — the act of influencing legislation.
- **Transaction** (транзакция) — a deal or operation.

The use of transplant Anglicisms in legal texts indicates the professionalism of the author and their affiliation with a specific social group (social marking function). Conversely, an excessive presence of Anglicisms in a lawyer's speech can have a "**repressive**" effect, creating difficulties for the listener in understanding and fostering feelings of inadequacy and incompetence.

Conclusion

The significance of precise legal terminology in English is increasingly recognized in our interconnected world. As globalization reshapes various sectors, particularly law, a clear understanding of legal language is essential for effective communication among legal professionals from diverse backgrounds. The classification of legal

terms and the incorporation of Anglicisms highlight the evolving nature of legal discourse. Clarity and precision in legal language are crucial for preventing misunderstandings that can lead to serious consequences. Analyzing the nuances of legal terminology reveals that proficiency in English is not merely advantageous but vital for lawyers navigating both national and international legal systems. This expertise enables them to navigate complex legal frameworks, draft clear documents, and advocate effectively for their clients.

As international treaties and cross-border transactions become more common, the ability to articulate legal concepts in English fosters stronger professional relationships and enhances collaboration among lawyers from various jurisdictions. This underscores the need for legal education to emphasize mastery of English legal terminology. Ultimately, the changing legal landscape requires ongoing engagement with language, ensuring that legal practitioners can promote justice and equity in a globalized society. Mastering legal language not only enhances professional effectiveness but also contributes to a more transparent and equitable legal system, facilitating meaningful dialogue and cooperation across borders.

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