



STRATEGIES AND TECHNIQUES IN TERMINOLOGY TRANSLATION: FROM BORROWING TO NEOLOGISMS

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15386063>

Abstract

This article examines practical strategies for translating specialized terminology across disciplines such as medicine, technology, and law. By analyzing methods including calquing, descriptive translation, borrowing, and neologisms, the study highlights how translators navigate linguistic and conceptual challenges.

Keywords: Calquing, borrowing, neologisms, descriptive translation, ISO

Specialized terminology forms the backbone of precise and effective communication in numerous professional fields, including medicine, technology, and law. Translating such terminology accurately, however, poses considerable challenges due to linguistic, conceptual, and cultural complexities. Translators must not only exhibit linguistic proficiency but also possess a profound understanding of specific domain knowledge, cultural nuances, and institutional norms. The goal is to select strategies that maintain the accuracy and usability of terms within the target language context, considering various influencing factors such as established linguistic equivalents, cultural distance, the balance between conciseness and explicitness, and compliance with institutional standards.

One prevalent strategy in translating terminology is calquing or loan translation. Calquing involves translating individual morphemes or words directly from the source language to the target language, preserving the original structure. This method proves especially beneficial when languages share similar morphological structures. For instance, the English term "superconductor" is translated into Uzbek as "supero'tkazuvchi," maintaining transparency and conformity to Uzbek morphological patterns. Similarly, the German term "Fernsehen," meaning "far-seeing," translates effectively into English as "television." While calquing ensures semantic transparency and linguistic consistency, it also risks creating unnatural expressions or false cognates when source and target structures differ significantly, as illustrated by the German word "handy," which means "mobile phone."

Another crucial translation method is descriptive translation, which uses explanatory phrases to convey the meaning of terms lacking direct equivalents. This approach enhances clarity for non-specialist audiences by explicitly describing the term's function. For example, the English term "firewall"





translates descriptively into Uzbek as "kompyuter tarmog'ini himoya qiluvchi dasturiy vosita" (software protecting computer networks). Similarly, the Latin legal term "habeas corpus" is translated into Russian as "судебный приказ о доставке заключённого" (court order to deliver a prisoner). While descriptive translation provides clarity, it may also result in lengthy phrases that hinder readability in technical texts and require frequent updates if concise equivalents subsequently emerge.

Borrowing, or transcription, represents a third significant strategy, directly adopting source language terms with minimal adjustments. This method is particularly effective in fields that evolve rapidly, such as information technology, promoting immediate international recognition and facilitating communication across linguistic borders. For example, "algorithm" in English directly translates into Uzbek as "algoritm," and "software" translates into Arabic as "وير سوفت." Despite its advantages in global communication, borrowing can alienate audiences unfamiliar with foreign terminology and potentially impede the development of indigenous terminology within the target language.

The creation of neologisms, involving new terms crafted using native morphemes or semantic extensions, constitutes a dynamic method that fosters linguistic identity and local comprehensibility. The English term "smartphone," for instance, translates into Uzbek as "aqli telefon" (intelligent phone), while the French term "courriel," blending "courrier électronique," offers a native alternative to "email." Neologisms align well with linguistic traditions but require widespread acceptance and institutional support. Furthermore, the coexistence of competing neologisms may fragment language use and complicate standardization.

Institutional frameworks play a pivotal role in terminology translation, providing guidelines and standards that ensure consistency and clarity across international platforms. Organizations such as ISO, IATE, and WHO develop standardized terminologies, illustrated by ISO 704:2019, which outlines term formation principles, and IATE, which harmonizes terms across European Union languages. These frameworks significantly reduce ambiguity and facilitate multilingual documentation, notably aiding minority languages in developing technical vocabularies.

Practical examples underscore the complexity and necessity of context-specific translation strategies. In medical terminology, the WHO standardizes terms such as "diabetes mellitus," translated into Uzbek as "qandli diabet" (sugar diabetes), ensuring interoperability across global healthcare systems.





Legal terminology poses unique challenges, exemplified by the term "common law trust," lacking direct equivalents in civil law jurisdictions. Russian incorporates the English "trust," while other languages employ descriptive translations like "доверительная собственность" (fiduciary property).

In conclusion, effective terminology translation demands strategic flexibility to balance accuracy, clarity, and cultural adaptability. While calquing and borrowing offer practical immediacy, descriptive translations and neologisms emphasize inclusivity and linguistic independence. Institutional standards remain essential for maintaining global consistency, but translators must continuously adapt to evolving language usage. Future translation strategies should leverage collaborative digital platforms, artificial intelligence tools, and policies supporting minority languages to enhance the precision and accessibility of terminology across diverse linguistic and cultural contexts.

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