

**Issues of Synonymy and Polysemy in Legal Terminology  
(On the Example of English and Uzbek Legal Terms)****Turaeva Umida Shukhratovna**

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**Annotation:** This article discusses the emergence of the doctrine of law, as well as the idea of the language of law, the issues of synonymy and polysemy in legal terminology on the example of English and Uzbek legal terms

**Key words:** language of law, law, synonym, doublet, variant, legitimacy, terminology.

With the advent of the doctrine of law came the idea of the language of law. Since ancient times, some scholars have provided information about the legal language. Abu Nasr al-Farabi, the great thinker of the East, wrote in his book “Tal-xisunavomisi Aflotun” (The essence of the Plato’s laws) a detailed commentary on Plato’s work on the content and essence of laws. According to the book, Plato also paid special attention to the language of the laws, writing: “The owner of the law should be clear to each group of people. To do this, the legislature must take into account the perceptual capabilities of the people so that people can understand it. Because people may find it difficult to understand and apply them in practice. Misunderstandings can lead to the owner abandoning the law and overthrowing it”<sup>1</sup>. So, the issue of translation of legal texts has always been one of the most pressing issues for our scholars. In particular, the emergence of differences in the terminological system, such as synonymy and polysemy, which are considered negative in terminology, are among the most negative phenomena that occur in this system.

The problem of synonymy of terms is one of the most pressing and difficult problems in modern linguistics. It should be noted that the debate over what to call a single concept is still ongoing.

A.P. Evgeneva<sup>2</sup> defines synonyms as follows: “Synonyms are words whose meanings are close or similar to each other, express a concept, and differ from each other in meaning or stylistic color”.

There are different views on the issue of terminological synonymy. Most scholars are in favor of reducing synonyms to maintain the accuracy of the terms. According to some scholars, the existence of synonyms in terminology is a natural process.

In particular, L.L.Kutina<sup>3</sup>, who is specifically concerned with the history of scientific terminology, writes: “The phenomenon of widespread synonymy in the field of scientific terminology is characteristic of the first stage of the functioning of terminological systems, ie the period of its formation”.

A.A.Reformatsky<sup>4</sup> points out that in addition to synonyms that represent the same concept in terminology; there are many different variants of a word. The scientist calls such variants doublets (morphological, lexical, and syntactic). At the same time, A.A.Reformatsky emphasizes that doublets with synonyms are not the same phenomenon at all. When a series of synonyms consists

<sup>1</sup> Abu Nasr Farobiy. Fozilodamlarshahri. –T: Abdulla Qodirynomidagixalqmerosi, 1993.24 b.

<sup>2</sup> Евгеньева А.П. Проект словаря синонимов. – М.: Изд-во сов. Энциклопедии, 1964. – 47 с.

<sup>3</sup> Кутина Л.Л. Формирование языка русской науки. –М., 1964. 219 с

<sup>4</sup> Реформатский А.А. Что такое термин и терминология. В сб: «Вопросы терминологии». М., 1961. С.46-54.

of different words (*chidam-bardosh*), doublets are different forms of the same word (*yumaloq-dumaloq*).

Given the neutrality of terminology, some linguists call different expressions of the same concept "doublet terms", while others say that they can also be called "synonymous". Another group of scholars supports the idea of calling it a "doublet" because the synonymy in terminology differs from the common language<sup>5</sup>.

In general, not only in terminology, but also in linguistics, the specific features of such concepts as "synonym", "doublet" and "variant" are not clearly defined, and the issues of their differentiation are not sufficiently explained.

R.A.Budagov<sup>6</sup> defined synonymy as "words that have similar meanings but different pronunciations, expressing different aspects of the same concept. "It is clear from these definitions that in order to consider words as synonymous with each other, similarity and closeness in their meanings are used". However, these two criteria are not always used to identify synonyms.

As an example, we will interpret the term right of "*Vorislikhuquqi - meroshuquqi*". As an example, we will interpret the term "right of inheritance - the right of inheritance." These two terms are in fact the same concept and refer to the legal status of citizens' rights and obligations to private property after their death. However, as with any synonymous series, these two terms have their own semantic characteristics. In other words, "*meroshuquqi*" has a much broader meaning than "*vorislikhuquqi*". Inheritance consists of the rights and obligations that a person may transfer to another person after his death.

To be more precise, it is not the house, car and other property that belong to the citizen on the basis of the right of private property, but the right to this property as an object of inheritance. The right of inheritance consists of a set of legal norms that determine the conditions and procedure for the transfer of private property, property rights and obligations of the deceased to other persons, i.e. heirs.

The right of inheritance includes the rules of transfer of property, property rights and obligations included in the inheritance to the persons specified by law in the will, as well as in the conditions and in the manner prescribed by law or by the testator<sup>7</sup>.

There are many synonymous lines in the texts of the Uzbek language law, such as *daromad- foyda; isbot- dalil; president respublikasi- dualistik respublika; baho- narx; chiqim- harajat; ishqo`zg`atish- ishochish; ko`chirma- nusxa; xorijiy davlat- chet davlat; oqlash- aybsiz deb topish; tarafdor- yoqlovchi; zarar- ziyon- shikast; buyruq- farmon; xibs xona- qamoqxona; tomon- taraf; o`rinbosar- muovin*.

In English, the phenomenon of synonymy is observed mainly in two forms:

1. Complete synonyms of terms;
2. Partial synonyms of terms;

An example of a term being a complete synonym is terms such as *individual- person (shaxs), border- frontier (chegara), to own- to possess (egalik qilish), power- state- nation (davlat), to*

<sup>5</sup>Sharipova O, Yo`ldoshev I. Tilshunoslik asoslari. Toshkent. 2006. 55 b.

<sup>6</sup>Будагов Р.А. Введение в науку о языке. 2-е изд. – М.: Просвещение, 1965. 492 с.

<sup>7</sup>O`zbekiston Respublikasi fuqarolik huquqi. II qism. - Toshkent: Adolat, 1999. 560 b.

*prohibit- to forbid(man qilish)*. In this case, they can often be used in combination; there is almost no significant difference between them.

As an example of the fact that the terms are partially (relatively) synonymous, we can include the most commonly used terms in the field of judicial law, such as *tort- crime, conviction- sentence, acquisition- takeover, branch- subsidiary, agreement- contract, seller- vendor, condition- term, lawsuit- claim, legal- lawful, legitimate, interim- temporary, to accuse- to charge, responsibility- liability, to appoint- to assign, to ignore- to waive, mandatory- compulsory- obligatory*. They include lexical and phraseological units with semantic-methodological differences and are divided into three groups: semantic (ideographic), methodological and semantic-methodological.

The following terms and their synonyms, which are actively used in the legal system, are given in the table below, and it is impossible to predict exactly which of them fully corresponds to a given situation or text. This requires the translator to be able to choose the most appropriate synonym in the translation process:

TERM	SYNONYMS
Juridical	administrative, authoritative, constitutional, discriminating, equitable, forensic, impartial, judgeline, judiciary, jurisdictional, juristic, lawful, legalistic, magisterial, official, pontifical, principled, regular, statutory.
Lawyer	advocate, counselor, attorney, barrister, counsel, defender, jurist, mouthpiece, pleader, practitioner, proctor, procurator, solicitor, jurisprudent, legist, legal adviser.
Order	form, line, procedure, regulation, rule, adjustment, aligning, assortment, cast, codification, composition, disposal, disposition, layout, ordering, pattern.
Evidence	clue, confirmation, data, deposition, indication, testimony, witness, dope, grabber, info, manifestation, mark, substantiation, testimonial, cincher.
Judge	expert, referee, adjudicator, arbiter, assessor, chancellor, evaluator, judiciary, magistrate, ombudsman, peacemaker, reconciler, umpire, legal official, justice of peace, warden.
Witness	bystander, eyewitness, observer, spectator, testimony, attestant, beholder, deponent, gawker, onlooker, proof, signatory, signer, testifier, viewer, watcher, corroborator.

Although these terms are used interchangeably in P.H. Collin's Dictionary of Law, each of these terms has its own meaning and differs in its scope.

There are different views on the issue of terminological synonymy. Many scholars are in favor of reducing synonyms in order to maintain the accuracy of the terms. Some scholars believe that the existence of synonyms in terminology is a natural process.

In particular, L.L.Kutina<sup>8</sup>, a researcher in the history of scientific terminology, writes: "The phenomenon of synonymy in the field of scientific terminology is characteristic of the first stage of the functioning of terminological systems, ie the period of its formation."

The number of changes taking place in the social life of mankind at the current stage of development is so great that it is impossible to express all of them in new words. For this reason, words and phrases that already have a meaning in the language are often used to express something new, event or concept. Therefore, as a result of the expansion of the meaning of some words, they

<sup>8</sup>Кутина Л.Л. Формирование языка русской науки. –М., 1964. – 219 с.

become ambiguous, that is, polysemantic words. MM Pokrovsky's opinion<sup>9</sup> is as follows: "As culture changes, so do our perceptions and perceptions, and accordingly, the meanings of words change."

Polysemy has long been a problem for scientists. The word polysemy is derived from the Greek words "poly" - plural, "sema" - meaning plural. Words that serve to express two or more meanings are called polysemous or polysemantic words<sup>10</sup>.

For example, the original meaning of the word head is the head (the main part of the body). However, this word has different meanings in Uzbek in different combinations: represents such meanings as *ishningboshibirikmasida - ishningboshlanishi; boshvazifabirimasida - muhim, asosiyvazifa, boshko`tarmoqbirikmasida - qo`zqalmoq, harakatgakelmoq; boshbo`lmoqiborasida - rahbarliq qilmoq, idoraetmoq, ishni boshqarmoq; boshegmoqiborasida - bo`ysunmoq, taslimbo`lmoq, o`zini aybdor his qilmoq; boshbiriqtirmoq (qo`shmoq) iborasida - ahillik, ittifoqlik, birdamlik; boshboshdoqlikyasalmasida - o`zboshimchalik, tartibsizlik.*

In his dissertation, T. Alikulov<sup>11</sup> quoted Aristotle's views: "Though things are quantitative, there are a limited number of words and concepts. That is why one word and one concept, depending on its location, mean many things".

The phenomenon of polysemy also occurs in the terminological system, which is a specific layer of universal language. Studies show that 40% of words in English are polysemantic<sup>12</sup>. Each word has at least two meanings. Even words such as "run" or "set" have more than 30 meanings.

ACT			
№	Cambridge English dictionary	Sample	Tarjimasi
1.	to behave in the stated way	<i>Don't be so silly - you're acting like a child!</i>	aytilgandeko`zinitutmoq
2.	to have an effect	<i>The anesthetic acted quickly</i>	ta`siretmoq
3.	to perform a part in a movie, play, etc.	<i>Have you ever acted in a play before</i>	film, teatrlardarolo`ynamoq
4.	a law or formal decision made by a parliament or other group of people who make the laws for their country	<i>An Act of Congress</i>	parlamentyokio`zmamlakati uchunqonunlarniqabulqiluv chiboshqaguruhtomonidanq abulqilinganqonunyokirasm iyqaror
5.	An act is also one of the main parts of a play or opera	<i>The play is presented in three acts</i>	teatryokioperaningasosiyqismlaridanbiri

The French linguist M.Breal<sup>13</sup> was one of the first to study this issue, and in his work *Essai de symantique* he first called the phenomenon of polysemy of words polysemy.

It is known that all changes in social life are reflected in language. At the present stage of human development, the amount of such changes is so great that it is impossible to express them all in new

<sup>9</sup>Ahadova M.M. Terminmi,atamami, istiloh? \ Filologiyamasalalari\ Toshkent, 2007. -№ 4. 24 b

<sup>10</sup>Tog`ayev T.M. Hozirgio`zbektili. O`quvslubiy majmua. - Toshkent, 2016

<sup>11</sup>Alikulov T. O`zbektilidapolisemantikotlar: Filol.fanlarinomzodi...dis.-Toshkent,1966.-167 b

<sup>12</sup>http\www.fis.edu

<sup>13</sup>Breal M. *Essai de symantique*. - Paris, 1897.

words. For this reason, words and phrases that already exist in the language are often used to express something new, event, or object.

As a result, as the meaning of some words expands, they become polysemous, i.e., polysemantic words. About this M.M. Pokrovsky<sup>14</sup> writes: “As culture changes, so do our perceptions and imaginations, and accordingly, so do the meanings of words”.

Polysemy is a phenomenon common to almost all word groups. In linguistics, the only phenomenon that produces polysemantic words is shown to be the formation of a portable meaning<sup>15</sup>.

Here are some examples of terms related to polysemy in the judicial system:

word	meaning	examples
<b>discharge</b>	1. to perform one`s duties	<i>He discharged his obligations after the call of the creditors.</i>
	2.to dismiss someone from a job	<i>The judge discharged the jury.</i>
	3.to pay one`s debts or obligations	<i>He discharged all his debts before he went abroad.</i>
	4.to release from some legal obligations	<i>His liability to pay the loan to the bank was discharged due to his bankruptcy.</i>
<b>execute</b>	1.to finish, complete or perform as required	<i>In the course of the execution of the contract...</i>
	2.to assign and otherwise complete the document	<i>The contract shall take effect upon its execution.</i>
<b>accept</b>	1.a concept in contract law	<i>A contract may be formed if an offer is accepted within the specified time and in the required manner.</i>
	2.to consent to pay, used in law of negotiable instrument	<i>The draft is accepted by the negotiating bank.</i>

No matter how many meanings a word has, there is a connection between the meanings. In polysemantic words, one word has the main meaning, and the others are connected in relation to it. Subordinate or figurative meanings can be used repeatedly over time in the process of speech, and can become an independent lexical meaning as a result of being a special name, term for a thing, event, and being understood by the general public<sup>16</sup>.

As a result, the semantic connection between the main meaning and the figurative meaning is lost.

Here are some examples of polysemantic terms used in Uzbek legal terminology:

➤ *Order* :

1. *Buyruq, farmoyish, ko`rsatmadan iborat rasmiy hujjat (An official document consisting of an order, instruction, instruction).*
2. *Biror-bir narsani olish uchun hujjat (A document to get something);*

<sup>14</sup>Покровский М.М. Избранные работы по языкознанию. – М., 1959. 382 с.

<sup>15</sup>Миртожиев М. Ўзбек тилида полисемия. – Тошкент: Фан, 1975. – 140 б.

<sup>16</sup>Begmatov E.A. Hozirgi o`zbek adabiy tilining leksik qatlamlari. - Toshkent: Fan, 1985. - 200 b. Yuridik ensiklopediya \ U. Tadjixanov umumiy tahririda. - Toshkent: Sharq, 2001. - 324 b.

➤ *Naryad :*

1. *Xujjat, ish topshirig`i, farmoyish (Document, assignment, order).*
2. *Mol olish, mol-tovar berish to`g`risidagi xujjat (Document on receipt of goods, transfer of goods).*
3. *Militsiya va xarbiy xizmatda maxsus vazifa hamda topshiriqlarni bajarish uchun ajratilgan kishilar guruhi (A group of persons assigned to perform special duties and tasks in the police and military service);*

➤ *Viza :*

1. *Davlat hududiga kirish, chiqish, yashash yoki hududidan o`tishga maxsus ruxsat berilganini ko`rsatuvchi belgining pasportda qo`yilishi (Putting in the passport a sign indicating the special permission to enter, exit, reside or cross the territory of the state).*
2. *Xujjatning aniq nusxa ekanligini tasdiqlovchi yozuv (A note confirming that the document is an exact copy);*

➤ *Akademiya:*

1. *Oliy ilmiy muassasaning nomi: O`zR Fanlar Akademiyasi; O`zbekiston Badiiy Akademiyasi ( Name of the higher scientific institution: Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan; Academy of Arts of Uzbekistan).*
2. *Ayrim oliy o`quv yurtlarining nomi: Ichki ishlar vazirligi akademiyasi (Name of some higher education institutions: Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs).*

The ambiguity of words is actually the result of the transfer of meanings in different ways, the occurrence of the phenomenon of expansion or contraction in the meaning of some words over time. People's perceptions of nature, society, and industry, and the words that express those perceptions and concepts, expand and enrich their meanings.

Analyzing the above-mentioned problems, it is possible to make a number of recommendations for further improvement of the judicial system in the country and the effective use of terms:

First of all, we need to simplify the translated legal terms as much as possible, that is, we should use them with only one word (without synonyms). As an example, *muassis- ishtirokchi; ihotalangan- o`ralma; kontrakt- shartnoma; fors major- favqulotda va muayyan sharoitlarda oldini olib bo`lmaydigan vaziyatlar; aybdor- aybli.*

We also recommend that in the process of translating codified normative documents, translators choose the appropriate version of the terms in the Uzbek language, in difficult situations it is possible to take the term on its own, in its original form, and give additional explanations. For example, terms such as *transplatatsiya, bankrotlik, kreditor, abort, (transplantation, bankruptcy, creditor, abortion)* can be included in the original normative documents of the industry, as they have different meanings when used disproportionately with the Uzbek version, which leads to a number of misunderstandings. It is not advisable to use legal terms together with other Uzbek words to make them short, clear and understandable.