

CONTRACT TRANSLATION AS A MEDIUM FOR INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

Introduction. An official and business text is traditionally understood as one that serves official and business relations between government bodies, organizations, and their subdivisions in economic, commercial, and legal activities. The main characteristic of official texts is a high degree of standardization, which applies to their structure.

The work aims to analyze the key linguistic and intercultural challenges in translating official and business documents, focusing on contract documentation as a bridge for cross-cultural professional communication.

Translating official and business documents requires a high level of professional training, knowledge of the language and terminology, and attention to detail and responsibility. A document's accuracy and legal validity depend on the quality of its translation, making this field one of the most demanding in translation practice.

Let us consider the key requirements for document translation:

Accuracy in conveying the original document's meaning. Misinterpretation can lead to incorrect conclusions, potentially resulting in legal consequences.

Adequacy (equivalence). An adequate translation is a text perceived by the target language reader in the same way as the source language reader perceives the original. Since official and business texts are characterized by specialized terminology and phraseology, selecting the appropriate terms is a key requirement for translation adequacy [3].

Formality and unambiguity. The use of standard formulations, careful attention to lexical, grammatical, and stylistic nuances, and consideration of

differences in legal systems across countries.

Currently, there is a growing interest in the drafting and translation of contracts. Every stage of a commercial transaction must be based on a legal framework and documented according to the conventions of the official and business style.

Contracts, including agreements, commercial proposals, and service agreements, have a rigid structure that must be preserved in translation. Contracts typically include essential elements such as a preamble, terms and conditions, parties' rights and obligations, force majeure clauses, and details.

The following are the main aspects of contract translation:

1) Translating the contract title: “contract” vs. “agreement”.

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, *a contract* is a legal document that states and explains a formal agreement between two different people or groups or the agreement itself. *Agreement* – a decision or arrangement, often formal and written, between two or more groups or people [1].

2) Translation of contracting parties' names.

Company names are not translated but transcribed: *General Motors* – *Дженерал моторс*, *Sony Corporation* – *Соні корпорейшн*.

Abbreviations in company names are usually transcribed rather than transliterated: *CHC Ltd.* – *Сі-Ейч-Сі Лімітед*, *IK Marketing* – *Ай-Кей Маркетинг* [2].

3) Translation of legal entity forms.

The abbreviation of a company's legal structure should be retained in the format used in the country of its registration: *Товариство з обмеженою відповідальністю (ТОВ)* – *Limited Liability Company (LLC)*, *Науково-виробниче підприємство (НВП)* – *Research and Production Enterprise (R&PE)*.

4) Naming of parties in the contract: *seller* – *buyer* (*продавець* – *покупець*), *customer* – *contractor* (*замовник* – *виконавець*). Throughout the document, these terms should be capitalized.

5) Translation of location and requisites.

Proper translation of addresses requires knowledge of conventions for rendering names and proper nouns, as well as standard abbreviations (e.g., U.S. state abbreviations, UK counties, Canadian provinces) [2].

6) Translating enforcement clauses.

The most typical way of expressing obligation in English contracts is using the modal verb “*shall*”, which corresponds to «*повинен*» or the present tense verb in Ukrainian [3].

7) Use of the passive voice.

The passive voice is frequently used to increase objectivity: “*The goods shall be delivered within 30 days*” – «*Товари мають бути доставлені протягом 30 днів*».

8) Use of standard constructions (clichés).

“*To conclude the present contract to the following effect...*” – «*Укласти контракт про наступне...*»

9) Formatting numbers.

In English, thousands are separated by commas and decimal points are indicated with periods: *U.S. \$1,000.50 = 1 000,50 дол США*.

To ensure the quality of translations of official and business texts, particularly contracts and agreements, one should use authoritative sources such as legal dictionaries and glossaries and consult with legal experts. It helps avoid errors and ensures that translations meet legal norms and standards [4].

Conclusion. This analysis demonstrates that effective contract translation demands rigorous adherence to legal terminology, structural conventions, and cross-cultural equivalency to maintain documents’ binding validity across jurisdictions. Standardizing key elements, from party designations to enforcement clauses, is essential for preventing international transaction disputes. Ultimately, the study confirms that professional legal translation is a linguistic transfer and a critical safeguard for global business relations, requiring specialized training and meticulous quality control.

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