

**TRANSLATION STRATEGIES FOR RENDERING CONTRACTUAL  
LIABILITY TERMINOLOGY IN ENGLISH–UKRAINIAN  
COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS**

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The processes of globalization and the intensification of international economic relations have recently led to English becoming the primary medium of professional communication in business and international commercial law. In this context, international commercial agreements function not only as legal instruments but also as a specific professional discourse, making them highly translatable. It means that the translation of contractual liability language should be of particular concern. It determines the extent of legal duties and commercial risks imposed on contracting parties.

The relevance of the study lies in the difficulty of translating legal terms in English contractual language into Ukrainian. The language of liability (liability, compensation, damages, violations, obligations) is highly complex, ambiguous, and rooted in legal systems. These characteristics make it difficult to achieve total equivalence in translation and call for the consideration of sound translation methods. In philological terms, a commercial contract can be viewed as a genre of legal discourse defined by a stable macrostructure, uniform formulaic forms, a stable structure, and a terminological vocabulary highly concentrated at the level of the commercial language lexicon.

This study aims to establish and analyze the main translation strategies used for contractual liability terms in the English-Ukrainian translation of international commercial agreements, and to assess their effectiveness from a philological and functional perspective. The study also seeks to determine how linguistic and extralinguistic factors influence translation choices and how these choices affect the legal interpretation of translated contracts.

According to V. K. Bhatia (2014), contract language comprises normativity, formalization, and pragmatic orientation, which brings specific criteria for the task of translation. Accordingly, a translation model of contractual texts must consider both linguistic and extralinguistic factors, such as legal tradition and the general commercial status.

The problem of equivalence is one of the issues in translating international commercial agreements between English and Ukrainian. Translation studies have historically defined formal equivalence, dynamic equivalence, and functional equivalence (Nida, 2003; Newmark, 1988). Practically speaking, legal translation should involve its functional equivalent, meaning the translated term should perform the same legal function as in the source text (Šarčević, 2000).

However, attaining such equivalence is difficult given the disparity in status between Ukraine's standard law system and the continental legal system to which the country belongs.

For example, the word "liability" in English-language contracts has many meanings. In common law, it may be limited to a broad legal obligation of the parties rather than a more specific financial obligation. In Ukrainian-language translations, it is frequently translated as "відповідальність", which is necessary to avoid semantic ambiguity, but at specific points would otherwise be treated as this equivalent, meaning that in many cases a translation with the same meaning should be required, either as a precise semantic translation or a description of the meaning may need to be included. Such a situation arises with "indemnity", which lacks a full structural and semantic equivalent in Ukrainian legal language and is thus generally translated descriptively or as multiple lexical units.

Translation strategies such as calquing, descriptive translation, and lexical-semantic adaptation are predominantly used in translating contractual liability terminology. If the established terminology is followed, calquing will be deemed. However, formal equivalence is achieved in many cases that do not take practicality into account. Descriptive translation allows for a more accurate expression of the legal concept. Translating these kinds of words yields words with more precise meanings and more concise terminology. Lexical-semantic adaptation, in turn, aligns the term to meet the norms of Ukrainian legal language (Kugai, 2023). Moreover, its intended audience must be able to understand it in this context.

A philological analysis of translated fragments of international commercial agreements shows that shifts in liability-related translation terminology will have significant consequences for legal interpretation. The precise rendering of a term's semantics can change the relationship between the parties, shifting their rights and obligations and introducing a novel commercial risk. In this sense, the translator is also a professional with the characteristics of integrated professional practice.

The problem in the translation thereof is the translation of contractual liability language in English-Ukrainian international commercial contracts, a highly demanding task that must combine linguistic, legal, and instrumental dimensions. Functionally oriented translation strategies contribute to translation adequacy, ensuring successful intercultural and intra-business communication. The following steps are to research a broader range of contractual genres in depth and to formulate a standard, unified manual for translating commercial/legal language.

In conclusion, the translation of contractual liability terminology in English-Ukrainian international commercial agreements is by far one of the most involved and convoluted tasks, which requires linguistic, legal, and pragmatic approaches. Translation strategies with a functional orientation constitute an indispensable means of ensuring sufficient translation and maintaining successful intercultural and business interaction at various levels. More research should be carried out to analyze specific contractual genres in detail, in addition to developing standardized guidelines for translating commercial and legal terminology, with the aim of increasing consistency and reliability in legal translation.

## REFERENCES

1. Bhatia V. K. (2014). *Analysing Genre: Language Use in Professional Settings*.