

KEY DIFFERENCES IN LEGAL TERMS BETWEEN UZBEK AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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Annotation: This topic explores the key differences in legal terminology between the Uzbek and English languages. Uzbek legal terms often involve compound phrases and native vocabulary, influenced by Russian and Soviet legal traditions, which can make concepts more explicit but sometimes more complex. In contrast, English legal terms are typically derived from Latin and Old French, leading to concise, standardized terms that are efficient but may be difficult for non-experts to understand. The comparison highlights how each language reflects its unique legal history and cultural influences, impacting the clarity and accessibility of legal language in both systems.

Annotatsiya: Bu mavzu o'zbek va ingliz tillari o'rtasidagi yuridik terminologiyadagi asosiy farqlarni o'rganadi. O'zbek huquqiy atamaları ko'pincha rus va sovet huquqiy an'analari ta'sirida qo'shma iboralar va mahalliy lug'atni o'z ichiga oladi, bu esa tushunchalarni yanada aniqroq, lekin ba'zan murakkabroq qilish imkonini beradi. Aksincha, ingliz huquqiy atamaları odatda lotin va qadimgi frantsuz tillaridan olingan bo'lib, samarali, ammo mutaxassis bo'lmaganlar uchun tushunish qiyin bo'lishi mumkin bo'lgan qisqa, standartlashtirilgan atamalarga olib keladi. Taqqoslash har bir tilning o'ziga xos huquqiy tarixi va madaniy ta'sirini qanday aks ettirishi, ikkala tizimda ham yuridik tilning ravshanligi va foydalanish imkoniyatiga ta'sir qilishini ta'kidlaydi.

Legal terminology plays a crucial role in ensuring clarity, precision, and fairness in the legal system. However, there are significant differences between the legal lexicons of different languages, including Uzbek and English.

The Uzbek legal system is deeply shaped by its historical and cultural background, which includes a blend of Soviet law, Islamic law, and Central Asian legal customs. During the Soviet era, Uzbekistan was part of the Soviet Union, and its legal system was heavily influenced by Soviet legal principles. This influence is reflected in the use of legal terms derived from Russian, especially in terms of administrative law, criminal law, and property rights. The Soviet legacy continues to influence the Uzbek legal system in areas like state control over resources and collectivism in some aspects of family law.

Islamic law also plays a significant role in shaping the Uzbek legal system, particularly in matters related to family law, inheritance, and marital relations. In these areas, terms like “mahr”, “nikoh”, and “mirath” carry specific religious and cultural meanings that differ from Western legal systems. Islamic law has influenced

the way these legal concepts are understood and applied, emphasizing family values, community obligations, and religious duties. The Central Asian legal traditions also contribute to the vocabulary, especially in areas like land ownership and dispute resolution. Traditional methods of resolving disputes through mediation or customary law have left a mark on legal terminology, particularly in rural and community settings.

As a result of these influences, Uzbek legal terms often do not have a one-to-one correspondence with English legal terms. For instance, while terms like “property rights” and “inheritance” exist in both systems, they may carry different cultural and social connotations in Uzbek law due to the unique combination of Islamic, Soviet, and Central Asian influences.

English legal terms have a different historical foundation, primarily shaped by common law traditions, which evolved from medieval England. This long history has had a profound impact on the structure and terminology of the legal system. The roots of English common law can be traced back to Anglo-Saxon law, which was based on customary law and local customs. Some legal terms in English, such as “tithes” and “writs” originate from the Anglo-Saxon period and reflect medieval feudal society. The combination of Anglo-Saxon and Norman law emerged as English common law. It developed as custom and precedent rather than by written code. This common law came to be a real force in 14th century. Courts and lawyers began to defer to precedents in legal decisions and commentaries. Another strain of English law is the law of equity. These were laws issued by the monarchy to order or prohibit specific acts. The first major compendium of English common law was Sir William Blackstone's *Commentaries on the Laws of England*.¹ The focus on custom and precedent rather than written codes allowed the law to evolve organically, making it adaptable to changing societal needs. The emergence of equity law added flexibility by addressing injustices common law couldn't resolve, ensuring fairer outcomes. Blackstone's *Commentaries* were crucial in systematizing and disseminating common law principles, significantly shaping modern legal systems. Overall, this evolution created a dynamic and enduring legal framework still influential today.

The issues of the relationship between law and language, both lawyers and linguists have been practicing for a relatively long time and despite the fact that in Ancient Rome, where initially, jurisprudence as a science was born as such a concept “Legal linguistics” did not exist already then eminent to this day lawyers expressed the idea that the legal text should be simple, accessible and accurate in its content and at the same time be understandable for all subjects of legal relations: both for an “ordinary” citizen and for professional lawyer.

¹ <https://www.histclo.com>.

That is why the culture of lawmaking any state from time.² The influence of Roman law is another key element in the development of English legal terms. The use of Latin in legal terminology, such as “habeas corpus”, “tort”, and “contract”, traces back to the Roman legal system, which was absorbed by English law through the Normans after their conquest of England in 1066. Many Latin terms are still used in English legal language to describe concepts that originated from Roman law, and their meaning has remained largely unchanged over centuries.

In more recent years, particularly with the UK’s membership in the EU, there has been an influx of European regulations and legal terminology. Terms such as “human rights”, “consumer protection”, and “competition law” are now common in English legal discourse, reflecting EU norms and frameworks.

English legal vocabulary, therefore, tends to reflect a blend of medieval Anglo-Saxon, Roman, and modern EU influences, with an emphasis on precedent-based decision-making and the use of Latin for specialized legal terms. The legal language reflects not only the historical evolution of English law but also the need for a flexible and evolving system that can accommodate new legal concepts, as demonstrated by the continued integration of EU laws in the UK legal system.

The second major difference lies in the legal systems and their associated terminology. Uzbekistan operates under a civil law system, which is primarily based on Roman-Germanic legal traditions. In a civil law system, legal principles are systematically codified into written codes, such as the Civil Code, Criminal Code, and Constitution. These codes provide clear, detailed rules that guide legal proceedings and decisions. As a result, legal terms in Uzbek are often closely tied to these written statutes and are less likely to be influenced by past judicial rulings or case law.

Moreover, many Uzbek legal terms are derived from Russian due to historical connections with the Soviet Union, where Russian was the dominant language of legal practice. Indeed, the new period of development of the Uzbek legal language is characterized by the establishment of the system of occupation and colonization of Russia. Therefore, Russian words and terms are actively used in many laws.³ This influence is still seen in many legal expressions, such as “sud”, “huquq”, or “shartnoma”, which mirror Russian legal vocabulary. This linguistic influence makes the Uzbek legal system somewhat different from other civil law systems that might not share such historical ties.

In contrast, English law, particularly in the UK and the US, follows a common law system, which places a strong emphasis on judicial precedents. Under common

² U.Turaeva. Comparative study of Uzbek and English legal terms legal linguistics: historical foundations, basic concepts and aspects. — Philological sciences, 2021. — 79p.

³ Jumaniyozova N.A., The stages of development of Uzbek legal discourse in linguistics. *Herakd pedagogikiNauka i Praktika*. — Poland, 2021. — №2. — P.157-158.

law, court decisions from previous cases - also known as case law - are of great importance in shaping the law. Judges have significant authority in interpreting laws and crafting legal principles through their rulings. As a result, legal terms in English often evolve over time based on judicial interpretations and legal precedents, creating a system that is more flexible and adaptable to new circumstances. In a common law system, rather than relying solely on written codes or statutes, the interpretation of laws through court decisions plays a critical role. For example, the term “tort” and concepts like “negligence” or “contract law” have evolved significantly through case law, with their meanings shaped by various judicial decisions over the years.

Thus, while Uzbek legal terminology is more rigidly tied to statutory codes, English legal terms are shaped by judicial decisions and have a more dynamic, precedent-based nature. This results in a flexible and evolving legal system in English-speaking countries, while the Uzbek legal system tends to prioritize written legal codes and more codified rules.

The structural differences in legal terminology between Uzbek and English reflect distinct linguistic and cultural developments. Legal terminology in Uzbek tends to use compound phrases to articulate complex legal concepts clearly. For instance, as you mentioned, “jinoiy javobgarlik” (criminal liability) combines the concepts of “crime” (jinoiy) and “responsibility” (javobgarlik). This construction approach provides clarity, especially when translating legal concepts that might not have a direct one-word equivalent in Uzbek.

English legal terminology’s reliance on single words or fixed multi-word phrases, many of which are derived from Latin or Old French, reflects the evolution of the legal system and its language. Over centuries, legal terminology in English has been condensed and specialized to achieve precision, efficiency, and consistency. This process, while making the language streamlined and uniform for legal professionals, can create challenges for non-experts, as these terms may not always be intuitive or easily understood without specific legal knowledge. Latin plays a crucial role in legal terminology, enabling the concise expression of complex ideas and reducing ambiguity. These Latin terms have a rich tradition and contribute to clear communication, ensuring consistent application of legal standards and endorsing fairness and justice. The timelessness of Latin reinforces the authority and depth of legal discussions, serving as a link to the historical roots of the field and perpetuating traditions.⁴ Much of English legal vocabulary comes from Latin, reflecting the influence of Roman law, particularly during the medieval period. Latin was the language of legal scholars and documents in Europe for many centuries. Legal terms such as “contract”, “habeas corpus” come from Latin.

⁴ <https://legalserviceindia.com>.

In conclusion, key differences in legal terms between Uzbek and English stem from their linguistic structures, historical influences, and cultural contexts. Uzbek legal vocabulary often uses compound phrases and native words, influenced by Russian and Soviet legal traditions, making it more descriptive and sometimes more complex. In contrast, English legal terms, derived largely from Latin and Old French, tend to be concise and standardized, benefiting from centuries of evolution in the common law system. While English terms are efficient and internationally recognized, they can be opaque to non-experts, whereas Uzbek terms may be more accessible but can sometimes require more explanation. Both systems reflect the unique legal histories and traditions of their respective cultures.

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