

## UNIFICATION AND STANDARDIZATION OF LEGAL TERMINOLOGY

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### Abstract

This article examines the issues of unification and standardization of legal terminology as key factors in ensuring clarity of legal language and consistency in law enforcement practice. The study emphasizes the importance of a systematic and scientifically grounded approach to the formation and regulation of legal terms for the accurate interpretation of legal texts. Special attention is given to issues of translation and adaptation from a pragmatic perspective, as well as the role of interdisciplinary cooperation in developing consistent and standardized legal terminology.

**Keywords:** legal terminology, term unification, term standardization, legal language, normative legal acts.

The level of development of any field of science is directly related not only to its theoretical and practical achievements, but also to the degree of formation and regulation of the terminology used in that field. The precision and stability of terminology are of great importance for the consistent expression of scientific knowledge, the correct understanding of relationships between concepts, and the provision of a unified approach in scientific communication. If the terms or their forms of expression used in scientific literature are not sufficiently clarified, this situation leads to ambiguity and misunderstandings in scientific interpretations.

After Uzbekistan gained independence, that is, starting from 1991, systematic work on the unification and standardization of legal terms began. In this process, the Terminology Commission under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as the Uzbek Agency for Technical Regulation under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan played an important role. Their activities were aimed at forming a unified, precise, and stable legal terminology in the state language within legal documents.

According to V.P. Danilenko [1], one of the important criteria for the development of a particular field of science or activity is the formation of a stable, systematic, and scientifically clarified terminology in that field. Especially in the legal sphere, the precise and standardized nature of terms is a necessary condition for the correct understanding and uniform interpretation of legal texts. Therefore, the issues of systematization, unification, and standardization of legal terminology are currently manifesting as one of the urgent scientific and practical tasks.

In studies devoted to the problem of terminology standardization, it is emphasized that this process is not limited to simply bringing terms into a uniform form, but should be viewed as a set of pragmatic strategies aimed at systematic management, normalization, and consistent application of terms in a specific professional field. In particular, S.E. Rayt [2] interprets the standardization of terminology as a complex process related to the management of the term system, the clarification of inter-conceptual relationships, and the definition of their functional role in professional communication.

In order to ensure a unified legal space in the country, the issue of unifying and standardizing terminology acquires special importance in the process of forming the legislative system. The main reasons for the insufficiently deep study of legislative language are that legal experts drafting bill projects do not fully use linguistic rules, while linguists do not sufficiently study the language of legislation as a special functional style of the literary language, and insufficient attention is paid to the linguistic analysis of the texts of legal documents.

Improving and developing legislative technique, including the correct and optimal use of legal terminology, is one of the most important directions in which legal theory influences legal practice. The main requirement of such improvement is that legal terminology must be applied in a unified and consistent manner not only in a separate law text, but also throughout the entire relevant legal field.

When translating legal terms, the effort to make them simple and understandable should not harm the precision and completeness of legal texts, and should not allow expressions to remain unclear or ambiguous. Often, legal terms are formed to express complex legal relationships, which directly affects their style and content.

In such a situation, the translator must take into account that the translated legal term should be understandable not only to professional lawyers with special legal knowledge, but also to ordinary citizens who are far from the legal field. Therefore, in the process of translating legal terms into Uzbek, when applying the adaptation method, the main pragmatic task is to find a balance between ensuring understandability and simplicity on the one hand, and preserving the original legal meaning without distortion and maintaining precision on the other. Both excessive simplification and excessive complication can damage the effectiveness of a legal term.

“In the unification of terms, their classification according to the method of expressing the relevant concept plays an important role. Terms with precise meaning as well as evaluative terms reflecting clear connections in objective reality must be used in accordance with their specific function within a particular terminological system” [3]. Abbreviations are frequently encountered in legal texts and normative-legal documents. Such shortenings are an integral part of the legal terminology system, and the need for their unification and standardization is relevant from both scientific and practical points of view.

V.Yu. Turanin considers the unification of legal terminology as the main object and emphasizes that the process of bringing legal terms into a single system should be carried out in two stages. First, “as a result of the logical analysis of legal texts, a clear system of terms that need to be unified must be developed” [4]. Second, “in the process of clarifying the names of specific concepts, systematizing them, and bringing them to a single form, it is required to follow a number of rules provided by the author” [4]. V.Yu. Turanin’s views on the unification of legal terminology are relevant from the point of view of ensuring the precision and consistency of legal language. In particular, the systematization of terms based on logical analysis and their regulation in accordance with unified rules serves the correct interpretation of legal concepts. This approach is of great importance in preventing various interpretations in legal practice.

The aspiration to standardize legal terminology is explained by a number of important factors. First of all, this process serves to minimize the ambiguity of meaning and the possibility of dual interpretation, as a result of which the incorrect understanding of terms is prevented. The use of clarified terms in legal texts enables the rapid and effective formation of documents and ensures the consistency and understandability of legislative acts. The unified and standardized nature of terms serves to strengthen terminological harmony among various legal subjects. The unification and standardization of legal terms is an important tool not only scientifically but also practically for improving the quality of legal documents.

According to S.G. Kazarina and N.B. Kazarina [5], the main tasks of standardizing scientific and technical terminology at the modern stage are as follows:

- identifying and eliminating shortcomings in the terminology used in documents;
- determining a rational minimum of terminological systems that are necessary and sufficient to meet standardization needs;
- strengthening the level of modern scientific knowledge in the terminological systems being standardized.

In recent years, the fundamental political and legal reforms being implemented in Uzbekistan have further increased the need for the unification and standardization of terminology used in the legal field. In the conditions of market relations, the effectiveness of legal regulation is determined, first of all, by the precision, uniformity, and consistency of the legal terms used in normative-legal documents.

The unambiguous and non-contradictory interpretation of the requirements and norms established in legal standards can be ensured only if a regulated and standardized legal terminology is used. From this point of view, the unification of legal terms is an important factor ensuring the stability of the system of normative-legal documents and the consistency of law enforcement practice.

One of the most effective methods of regulating legal terminology is the standardization of terms, which ensures the mandatory and unified use of legal terms in normative-legal texts. However, solving the issues of standardizing legal terms only within the framework of standardization bodies is not sufficient; in this process, the cooperation of legal scholars, linguists, and practicing specialists is of great importance.

At the present stage, the scientific-methodological foundations of standardizing legal terms are being formed. Developing draft state standards for legal terms and definitions, coordinating them from a scientific-methodological point of view, monitoring them, and passing them through state expertise is one of the main directions in the field of standardizing legal terminology.

The consistent formation of legal terminology is one of the important conditions necessary for the stable functioning of the legal system. The application of terms on the basis of unified criteria serves the correct understanding of legal norms and their uniform application in practice. Therefore, scientifically grounding the issues related to legal terms, coordinating them on the basis of a systematic approach, and harmonizing them with practical needs remain an urgent task. In this process, strengthening cooperation between the fields of jurisprudence and linguistics, as well as a comprehensive approach aimed at improving the quality of normative-legal texts, is of great importance.

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