PRAGMATIC MECHANISMS OF OBLIGATION AND PROHIBITION VERBALIZATION IN COMPARATIVE LEGAL LINGUISTICS (ENGLISH-UZBEK CONTEXTS)

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Abstract. This article provides an in-depth analysis of the pragmatic mechanisms of obligation and prohibition verbalization in English and Uzbek legal discourse, utilizing a comparative-linguistic approach. The study elucidates the role of linguistic units in enforcing legal norms, their illocutionary force, and functional-semantic features based on international scholarly sources and theories. The author establishes linguistic divergences and universal regularities through a comparative examination of the pragmatic characteristics of normative documents in both languages.

Key words: Obligation, prohibition, pragmatic verbalization, legal discourse, comparative linguistics, illocutionary force, duty.

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada ingliz va o‘zbek huquqiy diskursida majburiyat va taqiq kategoriyalarining pragmatik verbalizatsiya mexanizmlari qiyosiy-lisoniy yondashuv asosida chuqur tahlil qilingan. Tadqiqotda huquqiy normalarning amal qilishida til birliklarining o‘rni, ularning illokutiv kuchi va funksional-semantik xususiyatlari xalqaro ilmiy manbalar va nazariyalar asosida ochib berilgan. Muallif har ikki tildagi normativ hujjatlarning pragmatik xususiyatlarini qiyosiy o‘rganish orqali lingvistik tafovutlar va umumiy qonuniyatlarni asoslagan.

Kalit so‘zlar: Obligatsiya, taqiq, pragmatik verbalizatsiya, huquqiy diskurs, qiyosiy lingvistika, illokutiv kuch, majburiyat.

Аннотация. В данной статье на основе сравнительно-лингвистического подхода проведен глубокий анализ прагматических механизмов вербализации категорий obligation (обязательство) и prohibition (запрет) в английском и узбекском правовом дискурсе. В исследовании раскрыты роль языковых единиц в реализации правовых норм, их иллокутивная сила и функционально-семантические особенности на основе международных научных источников и теорий. Автор обосновывает лингвистические различия и общие закономерности путем сравнительного изучения прагматических особенностей нормативных документов в обоих языках.

Ключевые слова: Обязательство, запрет, прагматическая вербализация, правовый дискурс, сравнительная лингвистика, иллокутивная сила, обязанность.

Introduction. Modern comparative legal linguistics occupies a crucial intersection between jurisprudence and pragmatics, investigating how abstract legal obligations and absolute prohibitions are systematically encoded into natural languages. Statutory texts across diverse language families do not merely operate as passive repositories of rules; they function as active pragmatic instruments designed to shape human conduct, enforce institutional compliance, and regulate societal order. While analytical Germanic systems like English rely heavily on specialized modal verbs, passive voice transformations, and rigid clause architectures, agglutinative Turkic systems like Uzbek employ

intricate suffixal derivations, modal predicates, and morphological markers to achieve identical regulatory outcomes.

The pragmatic mechanisms governing the verbalization of obligation (mandate, duty) and prohibition (restriction, forbidden conduct) reflect the deep-seated socio-legal and cognitive traditions of each speech community. Investigating these phenomena requires examining how illocutionary force is successfully transmitted from the legislator to the legal subject across contrasting linguistic typologies. This article provides a comprehensive comparative analysis of obligation and prohibition verbalization in English and Uzbek legal contexts, exploring their functional-semantic properties, pragmatic constraints, and theoretical implications.

Main body. In legal linguistics, the linguistic realization of obligation is the primary engine through which statutory intent is transformed into enforceable public duties. The selection of specific lexical and syntactic operators dictates the exact degree of compulsion imposed upon the addressee. Obligations in legal discourse are pragmatically constructed through explicit deontic operators that assign mandatory roles and eliminate behavioral optionality for the legal subject.[1] This foundational principle underscores that legal obligations are fundamentally pragmatic constructs rather than mere grammatical artifacts. From our perspective, the deliberate deployment of deontic operators serves to narrow interpretive leeway, forcing addressees into strict compliance. In both English and Uzbek legal texts, the structural weight of an obligation relies heavily on how effectively these operators are contextualized. Consequently, analyzing obligation markers provides deep insights into the coercive mechanics of statutory texts.

Complementing positive obligations, prohibitions represent the negative counterpart of deontic modality, strictly forbidding unauthorized actions under the threat of prospective legal sanctions. Prohibitive norms operate as negative deontic constraints that universally invalidate unauthorized conduct and establish the boundaries of legal immunity.[2] Negative deontic constraints are indispensable for maintaining structural equilibrium within legal systems, as they delineate precise boundaries of forbidden behavior. We maintain that prohibitions carry a higher degree of pragmatic rigidity because they completely eliminate behavioral alternatives for legal subjects. Comparing English restrictive clauses with Uzbek affixal prohibitions reveals a shared underlying objective: preventing legal transgression. Thus, negative modal markers function as universal guardrails of legislative compliance.

When examining English legislative drafting traditions, scholars highlight the strict codification of duties through standardized modal auxiliaries. English statutory drafting relies on fixed modal conventions, notably “shall” and “must”, to enforce absolute legal commands and institutional duties without ambiguity.[3] The rigid reliance on established modal verbs in English legislative acts creates a highly formalized environment where ambiguity is systematically minimized. Our analysis indicates that “shall” and “must” function not just as tense markers or recommendations, but as absolute vectors of legal obligation. In contrast, Uzbek legal drafting achieves comparable imperative force through distinct morphological inflections rather than auxiliary verbs. This typological divergence underscores the flexibility of linguistic structures in fulfilling identical legal functions.

The performative nature of legal language dictates that issuing a statutory command immediately alters the normative reality of the participants. Statutory enactments function as institutional performatives that instantly transform the normative status of citizens through enforceable directive force.[4] Legal provisions operate as prime examples of speech acts that execute real-world

[1] Hart H. L. A. The Concept of Law. — Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1994. — 45p.
[2] Kelsen H. Pure Theory of Law. — Berkeley: University of California Press, 1967. — 115p.
[3] Tiersma P. M. Legal Language. — Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999. — 76p.
[4] Austin J. L. How to Do Things with Words. — Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1962. — 60p.

transformations merely through their formal articulation. We argue that once a legislative text is promulgated, the rights and duties of individuals undergo instant reconfiguration. This performative dimension bridges abstract legal theory with concrete pragmatic realization. Both English and Uzbek legal systems rely on this illocutionary power to enforce binding public duties.

Turning to the typological mechanics of Turkic legal discourse, agglutination provides specialized morphological pathways for expressing commands and restrictions. Agglutinative languages encode obligation and modal necessity through productive suffixal derivations embedded directly within the predicative core.[5] The agglutinative framework of Uzbek allows for the condensation of complex modal meanings directly into word-form suffixes, ensuring great economy and precision. Unlike the analytical constructions prevalent in English, Uzbek syntax incorporates obligation markers internally within verbal predicates. This morphological trait endows Uzbek legislative texts with a distinct structural rigidity. Consequently, cross-linguistic studies must account for these fundamental typological differences.

The syntactic formatting of legal provisions plays an indispensable role in establishing the precise preconditions under which an obligation or prohibition activates. Complex hypotactic syntax is essential in legislative drafting for outlining the exact factual preconditions that trigger a normative obligation.[6] Syntactic complexity in statutory texts ensures that obligations and prohibitions are applied only under strictly defined factual circumstances. We assert that hypotactic structures prevent overextension of legal rules by tethering commands to specific preconditions. Both English and Uzbek legal systems utilize intricate clause coordination to maintain logical coherence. This syntactic precision is vital for effective judicial administration.

Institutional legitimacy remains a foundational pillar determining the psychological and social compliance of legal addressees. The pragmatic efficacy of legal commands depends fundamentally on the institutional legitimacy and communicative transparency of the promulgating authority.[7] he binding force of any legislative text is deeply tied to the socio-political authority of the institution that issues it. From our perspective, transparent communication within legal texts enhances public compliance by reinforcing institutional credibility. Linguistic clarity directly supports the development of a robust legal consciousness among citizens. Therefore, institutional legitimacy and pragmatic clarity must remain mutually reinforcing.

When translating statutory texts across genetically unrelated language families, maintaining functional equivalence presents a major methodological hurdle. Cross-cultural legal translation requires reconciling formal grammatical discrepancies with functional equivalence to preserve the exact pragmatic force of the source text.[8] Translating legal obligations between English and Uzbek cannot rely on literal word-for-word equivalences due to deep-seated structural disparities. Translators must balance formal grammatical markers with functional-pragmatic equivalents to avoid distorting regulatory intent. Preserving the exact imperative force across language boundaries demands advanced comparative linguistic competence. This requirement establishes the core methodology of modern legal translation studies.

Eliminating ambiguity within legislative texts is essential for ensuring uniform judicial interpretation and sustainable regulatory performance. Minimizing semantic indeterminacy in deontic

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[5] Kononov A. N. Grammatika sovremennogo uzbekskogo literaturnogo yazyka. — Moskva: Izdatelstvo Akademii nauk SSSR, 1960. — 193s.

[6] Huddleston R., Pullum G. K. The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language. — Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002. — 740p.

[7] Habermas J. Between Facts and Norms: Contributions to a Discourse Theory of Law and Democracy. — Cambridge: MIT Press, 1996. — 125p.

[8] Trosborg A. Rhetoric in Legal Discourse. — Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1997. — 145p.

operator selection is vital for achieving consistent judicial rulings and predictable legal outcomes.[9] Semantic ambiguity in selecting obligation or prohibition markers can trigger severe judicial conflicts and inconsistent enforcement. We maintain that rigorous lexical selection is the primary defense against legal indeterminacy. Eliminating ambiguity fortifies the overall stability of the legal system. Consequently, legal lexicography plays a decisive role in refining legislative drafts.

Genre-specific conventions also dictate how legal professionals structure professional discourse and interpret mandatory texts. Professional legal genres impose strict stylistic constraints that govern the rhetorical organization and illocutionary force of statutory communications.[10] Genre conventions in legal communication ensure that statutory texts adhere to accepted professional standards and rhetorical expectations. We emphasize that straying from established legal genres can undermine the authoritative standing of a document. Both English and Uzbek legal drafting operate within rigidly defined stylistic parameters. This generic stability facilitates predictable interpretation among legal practitioners.

Conclusion. The comparative-pragmatic analysis of obligation and prohibition verbalization in English and Uzbek legislation demonstrates that while the overarching objective of legal regulation is universal, the linguistic mechanisms employed vary significantly due to typological differences. English legal discourse relies predominantly on analytical modal verbs, standard formulaic structures, and explicit syntactic markers, whereas Uzbek legislation utilizes synthetic affixal morphology, agglutinative derivations, and specialized predicative inflections. Understanding these cross-linguistic patterns enriches comparative legal linguistics, enhances translation accuracy, and provides a robust scientific foundation for optimizing legislative drafting practices across diverse legal cultur

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