THE THESAURUS OF LEGAL TERMS: SOME ISSUES OF THE STRUCTURE

Nodir N. Ramazanov,
Tashkent State University of Law,
Head of the Department of Uzbek Language and Literature,
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Philological Sciences, Associate Professor,
Tashkent, Uzbekistan
n.ramazanov@tsul.uz; nodir_ramazanov@mail.ru
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5556-188X

INTRODUCTION

Improvement of special rules, methods and tools of legal technique is one of the most active areas of legal research at the current stage. But it pays very little attention to the problems of legal thesaurus, which is one of the most important ways of systematizing legal terminology. Of course, this situation is a situation that needs to be reformed today. It is clear that this is not an easy task, therefore, we hope that this work will be long and arduous, but fruitful and useful.

So what is a legal thesaurus? This is, first of all, a set of key words selected from normative legal documents related to various fields and their semantic content combined into descriptors according to the nature of interdependence, that is, the discursive direction of law. Creating a thesaurus involves the use of information retrieval systems and dictionaries, in which each term is placed in its place (in a certain order).

Thesaurus allows standardization, homogenization, generalization of legal information, facilitates their use. The object of attention when working on the thesaurus is the texts of legal documents, primarily laws and regulations. So, the thesaurus is actually a tool for systematizing legal information. The thesaurus can be called a specific semantic standard of legal terms.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

With the help of the thesaurus, the sources of regulatory and legal information are indexed, requests (number of requests) are recorded. The most important thing is the possibility of indexing coordinates through keywords and terminological rubrics. Thus, the desired document can be found by single terms (words) in different variants and their combinations. In addition, at the request of the searcher, additional indexing (annotation) can be carried out in the search results, which allows to group words within the «opinion».

But here there is a problem of grouping words. In language thesauruses, this requires the presence of synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, therefore, in their analysis, it is necessary to use the general rules of the literary language. The most difficult task is to bring him to law school.

The complexity is that legal terms must be unambiguous, and it is desirable to avoid synonymy as much as possible in the use of legal terms.

Indeed, a thesaurus should group words that are similar in meaning and spelling. Only then will it be effective. At the same time, in order to avoid synonymy, it is required to combine not only synonymous, but also conditionally synonymous keywords selected from the document's texts into one group. But at the same time, among the words of the specified group, it is necessary to choose the most accurate in terms of meaning, which will be dominant (descriptor) and essentially unite all other words in this group. It is known that this combination is called «conditional equivalence» in science. This allows you to use the interrelationships between the meanings of words and terms.

According to the rules of the Uzbek language, words with the same meaning can be used in different semantic meanings in different legal documents, so it is very difficult to choose the main one among them. For example, take the terms "deal" and "contract", "property" and "possession", "complaint" and "protest", "prison" and "arrest"/"dungeon", "theft" and "robbery", "victim", "witness", "suspect" and "accused". In the laws, each of them has its own meaning, but if only the rules of the Uzbek language are used without taking into account the specific features of the legal terminology when compiling the thesaurus, differences arise.

At the same time, thesaurus compilers rely on the following rule: «If a word (a part of a word, a group of words) in any text of a data array served by a search engine can be replaced by another word (a part of a word, a group of words), then the answer to any logical query will be replaced such words (a part of a word, a group of words) are equivalent in terms of their meaning in the field in which the search engine operates» [Бернштейн, 1963 / Bernshteyn, 1963].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In modern literature, information-search systems (ISS) are divided into 6 main groups and analyzed [Касумов, 2004 / Kasumov, 2004]. These are:

1. According to the type of metadata database consisting of document search forms (images, images). Three types of ISS are distinguished:
– topic catalogs;
– automatic indexes created by special programs called robots, spiders, spiders, etc.;
– hybrid databases.

2. ISS can be divided into two groups according to the methods of choosing terms describing information sources:
– the first group uses the established method of term selection. According to this method, the terms related to the documents may not be present in their content, but they must reflect the content of this document in the most accurate sense, for which various dictionaries, thesauruses and reference books are used;
– the second group includes ISS that implements the sampling method. In this case, terms are selected and extracted from the body of the document using special indexing methods.

3. According to the methods of implementation of indexing procedures, ISS is divided into two groups:
– manual indexing ISS, where the indexing process is performed manually by a person familiar with the field;
– software for indexing Internet information resources - ISS with automatic indexing performed by robots (artificial intelligence).

4. According to the used LISS (Language of Information-Search Systems), the following categories can be distinguished:
– ISS with a simple dialogue that allows you to perform a simple search by keywords or the thematic catalog;
– ISS with an advanced dialog that allows you to construct complex search queries using logical operations.

5. In ISS, there are two approaches to the methods of presenting results to the user:
– simple list without significance analysis;
– a list of documents sorted (systematized) according to the level of relevance to the request.

6. According to the method of organizing communication with users, the following ISSs differ:
– ISS where users do not have the opportunity to send their feedback;
– ISS to allow users to submit their feedback.

It is known that synonymy is not allowed in legal terminology. But there are concepts and terms that are used in several areas of law. They do not exactly repeat each other's meaning, but at the general semantic level, they carry a meaning close to each other. The concept of equivalence can be called one of the main concepts for terminology, translation studies and linguistics in general. However, despite this, there is no clear definition of the concept of terminological equivalence, because many scientists do not agree with any of these definitions. When it comes to terminological equivalence, equivalence at the level of words and phrases is of great importance, because it is these units that fully represent legal terminology. Many scholars who study equivalence at the level of bilingual translation texts, legal terms and legal documents, note the special importance of the above level of equivalence [Hervey&Higgins, 1992; Halliday, 1992; Gerzymisch-Arbogast, 2001].

In particular, in his research, V.N. Komissarov gives a classification showing five levels of equivalence: 1) at the level of communication; 2) at the level of describing the situation; 3) at the level of message structure; 4) equivalence at the level of pronunciation and 5) equivalence at the level of language signs [Комиссаров, 1973 / Komissarov, 1973]. A similar classification it can also be observed in by F. Miyanda's work. In it, the scientist emphasized equivalence at the level of words, grammatical devices and texts, and commented on pragmatic equivalence [Miyanda, 2007].

The «Conditional equivalent» is a legal lexicon that can be compared conditionally and find inconsistencies. It is possible to compare the terms of different fields and normative documents of different hierarchies. For example, in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan «knowingly giving false testimony» (Article 238), in a number of articles of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan «knowingly giving false testimony» (Articles 55, 66, 68, 72, 117, 133 and b.) term is used. We can see that basically the same terms are used here, but their procedural meaning is different. A thesaurus facilitates the process of combining and/or differentiating them.

At the same time, we cannot choose a single term as a descriptor. It can only be defined by the most commonly used term that can be matched with other terms.

A descriptor should be open, that is, potentially applicable to new concepts. In addition, it should be compact, free of excess weight. Even a three-word descriptor is difficult to understand and even more difficult to use. If it is not possible to rely on a single-word term, they should be used as an exception. But it must be admitted that this situation is very common when organizing legal terms using a thesaurus. Because many components are characteristic of legal terms.

Phrases should be used as descriptors only when a one-word term/concept can be used to form many compounds that are similar in meaning. We should choose the most used ones. At the same time, the general meaning carried by the term is expressed by the concept (used to express the concept), each word of the phrase does not necessarily express a specific semantic meaning.

Less important elements of information may be lost during the word formation phase. This increases the level of formalization of the information language, which ultimately leads to simplification and acceleration of the search.

CONCLUSION

Thus, work on the thesaurus and its use continues in two directions: 1) directly - the dictionary of legal material is used to form the thesaurus dictionary; 2) the thesaurus itself is used to standardize legal terminology. In this case, the principle of feedback, which is the main principle of cybernetics, is applied, and the following linear sequence is formed: terminological system of law - thesaurus - improved terminological system of law.

Within the framework of this model, the «receiver» - thesaurus formed on the basis of lexical-semantic processing of the texts of the normative-legal material affects the functioning of the text of the normative-legal material, which is the «transmitter» and improves it by revealing differences and inconsistencies.

Thus, the legal thesaurus reflects two levels of the relationship of legal concepts: a) the level of conditional equivalence between the group of keywords and the descriptor, that is, between the words that actually appear in the indexed texts and the word that participates as a representative of this group of keywords; b) the degree of relationship based on the existence of certain semantic relations between a certain descriptor and other descriptors [Лафтими, 2012 / Laftimi, 2012]. The general legal thesaurus is designed to adequately reflect the semantic content of normative documents in order to search for the necessary information, and therefore its logical structure is based on the clear expression of various relationships between its lexical units. Incorrect definition of these systems and non-uniform principles of their construction can lead to inconsistent (different) grouping of concepts in them.

REFERENCES:

1. Daniel Tunkelang. Faceted Search // https://web.archive.org/web/20180520185832/http://www.morganclaypool.com/doi/abs/10.2200/S00190ED1V01Y200904ICR005
2. Бернштейн С. Формализованный язык и критерий смыслового соответствия информационно-поисковой системы «Пусто-Непусто» / С. Бернштейн // НТИ. – 1963. – № 12. – С. 34 / Bernshteyn S. Formalizovanniy yazik i kriteriy smislovogo sootvetstviya informatsionno-poiskovoy sistemi "Pusto-Nepusto" / S. Bernshteyn // NTI. – 1963. – № 12. – S. 34.
3. Касумов В.А. Методы информационного поиска в компьютерных сетях ссверхнасыщенными информационными ресурсами: Монография. – Баку: Елм, 2004. – С. 44-46 / Kasumov V.A. Metodi informatsionnogo poiska v kompyuternix setyax ssverxnasishennimi informatsionnimi resursami: Monografiya. – Baku: Elm, 2004. – S. 44-46 // https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Vagif-Gasimov/publication/331232339_Metody_informacionnogo_poiska_v_komputernyh_setah_ssverhnasysennymi_informacionnymi_resursami/links/5e81aaa692851caef4acaaf8/Metody-informacionnogo-poiska-v-komputernyh-setah-ssverhnasysennymi-informacionnymi-resursami.pdf
4. Hervey S., Higgins I. Thinking Translation – A Course in Translation Method: French to English. – London: Routledge, 1992. – P.304.
5. Halliday M.A.K. Language Theory and Translation Practice // Rivista internazionale di tecnica della traduzione, No. 10, Udine, Campanotto Editore. 1992. – P.15-25.
6. Gerzymisch-Arbogast H. Equivalence Parameters and Evaluation // Meta: journal des traducteurs, vol. 46, No. 2. 2001. P.227-242.
7. Комиссаров В.Н. Слово о переводе (Очерк лингвистического учения о переводе): Монография. –М.: Международные отношения, 1973. – С. 46 / Komissarov V.N. Slovo o perevode (Ocherk lingvisticheskogo ucheniya o perevode): Monografiya. –M.: Mejdunarodnie otnosheniya, 1973. – S. 46.
8. Miyanda F. Total Meaning and Equivalence in Tranlsation // NAWA Journal of Language and Communication, June 2007. – P.46-56.
9. Лафтими И. Информационно-поисковые тезаурусы: основные понятия, назначение и методика разработки. Отраслевой рыболовный тезаурус // Молодой учёный Ежемесячный научный журнал. № 7 (42) / 2012. – С. 164–167 / Laftimi I. Informatsionno-poiskovie tezaurusi: osnovnie ponyatiya, naznacheniye i metodika razrabotki. Otraslevoy ribolovnыy tezaurus // Molodoy uchyoniy Yejemesyachniy nauchniy jurnal. № 7 (42) / 2012. – S. 164–167.
10. Gulyamova, G. (2022). TERM AND CONCEPT IN LEGAL TERMINOLOGY. Academic research in educational sciences, 3(1), 181-190.

11. Зиямухамедова, Ш., & Адилбекова, Ж. (2022). ВЛИЯНИЕ ЯЗЫКА НА СОЗНАНИЕ, КУЛЬТУРУ И МИРОВОЗЗРЕНИЕ. Academic research in educational sciences, 3(1), 537-546.

12. Bozorova, N. P., & Turabayeva, L. K. (2022). The works of ChingizAytmatov and the contemplation of the bookstore. Asian Journal of Research in Social Sciences and Humanities, 12(1), 57-59.

13. Ramazanov, N. (2021). SOME ASPECTS OF LEGAL DISCOURSE IN LITERATURE. *EDITOR COORDINATOR*, 277.

14. Ramazanov, N. N. (2023). CONSIDERATIONS ON THE ESSAY GENRE. *American Journal of Pedagogical and Educational Research*, *9*, 117-121.

15. Turabaeva, L. K., & Ramazanov, N. N. (2023). SPEECH CULTURE AND LANGUAGE PURITY. *American Journal of Pedagogical and Educational Research*, *12*, 153-156.

16. Расулмухамедова, Д. Т. (2018). ИСПОЛЬЗОВАНИЕ МУЛЬТИМЕДИЙНЫХ СРЕДСТВ ПРИ ОБУЧЕНИИ МОДУЛЮ" УСТНОЕ ОБЩЕНИЕ". In *XIV Виноградовские чтения* (pp. 284-286).