

# “RESEARCH-BASED TRANSFORMATION OF TEACHER EDUCATION: TRADITION AS A BASIS FOR INNOVATION” International Conference on Teacher Education

## TEACHING PROFESSION-ORIENTED LEGAL ENGLISH TERMS TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNERS

**Dilfuza Iskandarova,**

*ESL teacher of Uzbekistan State World Languages University at Faculty of English philology, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.  
E-mail: [d.iskandarova@uzswlu.uz](mailto:d.iskandarova@uzswlu.uz)*

**Aselya Chinazbekova,**

*Student, Faculty of English Philology, Uzbekistan State World Languages University, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.  
E-mail: [chinazbekovaaselya@gmail.com](mailto:chinazbekovaaselya@gmail.com)*

**Abstract.** *This research examines the efficiency of educating foreign language learners on profession-specific legal English vocabulary. It delves into creating new teaching methods customized to meet students' requirements in order to boost their grasp of legal English terminology. By blending theoretical concepts with practical techniques, the study aims to shed light on how foreign language learners can efficiently learn and remember specialized legal terms. The findings indicate that a focused strategy, integrating real-life situations and interactive learning approaches, significantly enhances students' understanding and utilization of profession-specific legal English vocabulary. This study adds to the current conversation on language education by presenting practical suggestions for educators looking to improve the learning of specialized legal vocabulary.*

**Keywords:** *legal terms, learning materials, interactive learning, linguistics, lesson plan, role-plays, memorizing activities, specific purpose.*

### **Introduction**

“Vocabulary acquisition is the largest and most important task facing the language learner.” [Swan and Walter 1984]. Expanding one's vocabulary is essential for language learners as it is the basis of clear communication. Language fluency is promoted, understanding is improved, and nuanced expression is made possible by a large vocabulary. Lack of a strong vocabulary might make it difficult for students to comprehend difficult materials or to communicate concepts correctly. Understanding grammar, syntax, and colloquial idioms requires a strong vocabulary, which fosters meaningful communication. Furthermore, learners with varied vocabularies are better equipped to adjust to different communication settings and styles. The foundation of language learning is ultimately vocabulary acquisition, which opens the way to both linguistic competence and cultural awareness.

The foundation of any language consists of its lexical composition, which is derived from the history of the particular populace to which the language belongs. Consequently, numerous characteristics emerge, originating from specific

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occurrences during its developmental process. From a linguistic perspective, the evolution of language is influenced by the culture of the community to which it relates, characterized by both its uniqueness and its openness to expansion through the adoption of lexical meanings from more advanced sources. From this, it can be understood that the foundations of language intertwine with another culture, forming more sophisticated relationships within the language and its perception by others. This, in turn, leads to more investments as a significant amount of effort by foreign language learners in becoming proficient in the language's lexis as this point out [A. Tokhirov, I.I. Ismatullayeva, 2023] Although tutorials offer sufficient information for learning particular vocabulary, students have challenges when attempting to use the words and phrases they have acquired in authentic contexts. For this reason, this thesis discusses linguists' perspectives on teaching vocabulary with a specific focus.

Moreover, according to [D.B. Xayitova, 2019] the ability to learn a foreign language is no longer just a desirable skill, but a necessity for life in today's competitive world of labor. As professionals in various fields rely on English to access literature, communicate with colleagues, and follow instructions, it has become the language of technology and commerce. To meet the demands of the modern world, teaching languages must be integrated into different specialties and taught with new technologies. The primary goal of teaching English is to help students independently comprehend specialized literature by acquiring technical language skills through reading, translation, and analytical exercises. A positive attitude towards learning a foreign language is important for success and can be encouraged through integration with specialized teaching techniques during the lessons. It is imperative that we recognize the importance of foreign language education, and equip students with the tools they need to excel in their future professions.

Based on the reasoning of [Badea Elena Codruta, 2012] teaching legal English as a second language presents two language-related obstacles. The initial challenge refers to the nuances and peculiarities of its vocabulary and syntax, while the second addresses the cultural distinctions between the native legal system and English language learners.

### **Main part**

Teaching linguists about legal terms and legal English is very important for a few reasons, especially for job opportunities and handling legal processes. Below they are given:

1. Job Opportunities:

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- Many linguists work in legal environments like law firms, government offices, international groups, and non-profit organizations. Knowing legal words and language is crucial for linguists who work as legal translators, interpreters, court reporters, forensic linguists, or language analysts.

- Being good at legal English and knowing the right terms can lead to various job options such as legal research, writing contracts, preparing legal papers, analyzing legal texts, and helping out with language in legal procedures.

### **2. Meeting the Needs of Legal Procedures:**

- Legal proceedings use language a lot, whether it is written documents, spoken arguments, witness statements, or court decisions. Linguists are important for making sure legal communication is accurate and clear.

- Translating legal documents or interpreting in court requires not just knowing different languages but also understanding legal ideas and terms absolutely correctly. Linguists must explain complex legal concepts accurately, even across different languages and cultures in order to avoid consequential mistakes.

- In judicial linguistics, linguists study language evidence in legal cases, like figuring out who wrote something, profiling language use, or analyzing language in court statements. Knowing legal language and procedures well is crucial for doing thorough linguistic studies that are useful in legal settings.

### **3. Accuracy and Precision:**

- Legal language is very specific and precise, with certain terms and phrases having clear meanings and implications. Linguists need to fully understand legal terms to make sure they translate and interpret legal texts correctly.

- Legal documents, contracts, laws, and court decisions often have complicated language, formal structures, and subtle meanings. Linguists need to be proficient in legal English to express the exact legal meanings and interpretations.

- Even small language differences in legal settings can have big legal effects. Linguists need strong analytical skills to recognize and deal with language uncertainties, inconsistencies, or mistakes that could affect legal decisions.

Overall, teaching linguists about legal terms and legal English is vital for searching for job opportunities and making sure they can handle the tough demands of legal processes. With the right linguistic and legal knowledge, linguists can work effectively in legal situations, help with language issues, and contribute to making certain justice is served accurately and precisely.

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Teaching specific terms can be challenging for second-language learners. So, we attempted to use for second-year students the subject “Communicative lexis” on the topic “Crime and law” different techniques to raise students’ awareness about legal terms. Role-playing, case studies, and different quizzes were used during the lesson.

Implementing role-playing techniques to teach legal terms to adults can be an effective and engaging way to help them understand complex legal concepts. The following are some steps we followed to implement this technique:

1. **Select Relevant Legal Scenarios:** Legal scenarios or case studies that are relevant to the legal terms were chosen. Those scenarios were realistic and relatable to the participants.

2. **Assign Roles:** We assigned different roles to the participants based on the scenario chosen. Each participant took on the role of a lawyer, judge, client, and witness. That allowed them to understand different perspectives within a legal context.

3. **Encourage Interaction:** Participants were encouraged to interact with each other during the role-play. They discussed legal terms, negotiated, argued their points, and came to a resolution within the scenario.

4. **Facilitate Discussion:** After the role-play was completed, we facilitated a discussion where participants could reflect on their experiences. We discussed how the legal terms were applied, what challenges they faced, and what they learned from the exercise.

5. **Clarify Legal Terms:** The role-playing exercise was used as an opportunity to clarify any legal terms that were unclear during the activity. Explanations and examples were provided to ensure that participants had a solid understanding of the terms.

By implementing role-playing techniques in teaching legal terms to students, we can make the learning process more interactive, engaging, and effective. It allows participants to apply legal concepts in practical situations, enhancing their understanding and retention of the material. Using case study techniques to teach legal terms is an effective method because it helps students understand how legal principles are applied in real-life situations. By analyzing specific cases, students can see how legal concepts are interpreted by courts and how they play out in practice. This approach makes the material more engaging and practical, as students can see the relevance of legal terms in concrete scenarios. Case studies also encourage critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and the ability to analyze complex situations, all of which are essential skills for anyone studying legal terms.

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To implement this technique in the lesson, case studies that were relevant to the legal terms we wanted to teach were chosen. The cases covered a range of legal issues and demonstrated the application of the terms in real-life scenarios. Before diving into the case studies, we explained the key legal terms that will be encountered. Definitions, examples, and context were provided to help participants understand the terminology. Having presented case studies to the participants, they were encouraged to analyze the case and identify the legal terms was used. A collaborative learning environment was fostered where students could discuss the case study, and share their insights. At the end of the session, the case study discussion was debriefed by summarizing key learnings, highlighting important legal terms, and clarifying any remaining questions.

### **Conclusion**

Language learning involves understanding the intricate relationship between words and culture. As highlighted by various experts, mastering vocabulary, especially in specialized fields like legal English, is crucial in today's global job market to enlarge job offers from overseas countries. To overcome language barriers, as it was suggested previously, educators should employ innovative techniques like role-playing and case studies, making learning more engaging and more practical. By immersing students in realistic situations and encouraging interaction, comprehension of complex legal concepts improves significantly. Moreover, clarifying legal terms and fostering collaborative discussions assist linguists in enhancing understanding and retention. Through such interactive approaches, students not only grasp legal language but also develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills essential for their future professions. Thus, integrating specialized teaching methods is vital in equipping learners with the necessary tools to excel in today's competitive world.

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