

PHD THESIS ABSTRACT

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**THE ROLE OF PROFESSIONAL TRANSLATION IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUNGARIAN ECONOMIC
LAW VOCABULARY**

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1. Research subject

The subject of my empirical and descriptive research is the diachronic study of the 150-year development of Hungarian economic law terminology, in which I set out to analyse term creation, meaning variance in professional terminology, as well as the long-term use in or disappearance of terms from the professional terminology. The material, compiled in the *Annex* of my dissertation, is aimed to highlight a long-forgotten 19th century dictionary by Endre Királyföldy, entitled *Ujdon Magyar Szavak Tára* (Pest, 1854). Subsequent use of terms, originally included in the (economic) law terminology of the above dictionary, is presented in a table format in the *Annex* of my thesis. Dictionaries included in my research: *A magyar nyelv szótára* (Pest, 1862–1874), *A magyar nyelvújítás szótára* (Budapest, 1902–1908), *Jogi Műszótár* (Bécs, 1910), *Jogi Szótár* (Budapest, 1913), *A magyar nyelv értelmező szótára* (Budapest, 1959–1962) and *A magyar nyelv történeti-etimológiai szótára* (Budapest, 1967–1976). The annexed table shows the emergence and afterlife of these terms in a clear and comparable format. I wish to add this to my research in order to provide a reliable basis for any further studies. The *Research* section of my dissertation illustrates the research potentials of the *Annex* material by examining four semantic groups and also probes potential areas where the diachronic linguistic approach could be applied in the research of professional terminology and translation studies.

2. Research aims

The aim of my research is to (1) explore the development of a specific vocabulary (economic law) and the role of Hungarian-German technical translation in this process and (2) present the factors influencing the development of (economic) law vocabulary (relationship between professional terminology and standard language, changes in the examined specialised area – professional and social contexts, linguistic challenges of the codification) by using the diachronic approach to analyse certain terms of economic law. My aim is to present a possible model of analytical methodology, with which I can also contribute to create a theoretical framework of analytical methodology. I also set out to (3) apply the above in order to prove the relevance of diachronic linguistic research in the study of professional terminology and (4) use my research findings to increase the effectiveness of specialised translator training and technical translation. I wish to contribute to enhancing the efficiency of specialised translator training by also applying

the conclusions of my dissertation to this area and make proposals for the development of training. I wish to support the work of specialised translators by contributing the research material, *Annexed* to my dissertation, as well as my research findings to the development of (economic) law and historical-etymological dictionaries and specialised translator aids.

3. Research relevance

The acceleration of social processes, as well as scientific and technical developments during the second half of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century, and the resulting changes in professional terminology are similar in many respects to the 19th century processes, presented in my dissertation. Furthermore, the current disputes and questions, regarding the development of professional terminology or generally our language as such, can also be compared to the aspirations and problems of (specialised) language reform of the 19th century. Today's globalisation processes and events (e.g. Hungary's EU accession) resulted in specialised legal translator – and terminology development – activities to a degree, similar to the codification work of the 19th century, which mainly followed foreign (German, Austrian and French) examples and in many cases even focussed on the translation of foreign statutes. On the other hand, neologist and codifier activities are similar to the specialised translator activities in many respects, especially in term creation and term selection; and competencies, required for codification and specialised translation, also have many similarities.

Apart from the above, the relevance of my research is also supported by the fact that such complex and empirical diachronic research with both qualitative and quantitative characteristics has not been conducted so far in the area of Hungarian economic law vocabulary. My research findings can help to clarify practical and theoretical questions. Furthermore, the compiled annexed material and my research findings can serve as a basis for further (applied) linguistic research in the areas of translation studies, lexicology and terminology.

4. Thesis structure

Following the *introduction (Chapter 1)* of my thesis, *Chapter 2* details the *theoretical framework* and *scientific background of my research*. I discuss the possible definitions of terms, used in my thesis, and present the characteristics of legal terminology and the specific features of professional terminology. Apart from the

classification issues and various segments of professional terminology, I also analyse the distinguishing features between professional terminology and standard language, with a special emphasis to monosemy. The problems of vocabulary changes in professional terminology are closely related to this, therefore the following chapter examines the characteristics of term creation, meaning variance and the disappearance of terms.

In *Chapter 3* the subject of my research is placed in the *context of translation studies*. In this section I examine technical translation as an activity, with a special emphasis on interlinguistic communication through professional terminology. When discussing the characteristics of legal translation, I also mention the special role of legal translators and discuss the problems of the translatability of language and culture-specific legal terms. This chapter focuses on my own analysis: during my descriptive, qualitative empirical research I explore the possible strategies of translating legal terms, specific to the culture of the source language, by analysing the comments of two legal translators. I conclude this chapter by discussing the directives and codifier competencies related to terminology issues during the preparation of legal regulations.

Chapter 4 of my thesis examines the 19th century neology and codification efforts. These two factors jointly influenced the development of economic law vocabulary. By outlining the legal history background, I primarily focus on events and processes that shaped the development of professional terminology, then present in detail the 19th century reform of professional terminology and its debated issues.

My *diachronic research* is included in *Chapter 5*. Following the explanation of my research methodology I present the applied method and examine the sources used and the chosen terms of my research. This is followed by the presentation of my research by selecting three (four) semantic groups from the annexed material.

Chapter 6 includes my summary and conclusions, as well as my proposals for any future research. The last part of my dissertation comprises of the list of *references*, *bibliography* and *figures*, as well as the *Annex*.

Volume 2 of my dissertation is the *Annex*, which presents the various researched terms by sources in a table format. The paper-bound versions of my dissertation include the full version of the *Annex* in the attached CD.

5. Research questions and hypotheses

5.1. Research questions

1. Can term creation, meaning variance and the disappearance of elements within legal terminology be regarded as special, compared with the vocabulary of standard language?
2. What are the determining factors in the emergence, survival or disappearance of terms in professional terminology(ies) in general? Can legal terminology be regarded as special in this respect?
3. Are there any detectable features in the use of language and terms within the various segments of professional legal terminology, based on the segmentation of law?
4. Can we make a distinction between the professional terminologies of general and specialised areas of law (e.g. economic law) as regards the role of technical translation and the development of professional vocabulary? If yes, what is the reason for this?
5. What similarities and differences can be detected in the development of economic law vocabulary during the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries? What are the reasons?

5.2. Hypotheses

1. As for term creation, no major differences will be detected between the term creation processes in standard language and legal terminology. There are similar meaning variances within standard language vocabulary and legal terminology. Based on these two aspects, legal terminology will probably differ from the standard language only in the ratio of certain preferred, frequented or less used types of term-creation in one or the other. The reasons for these phenomena, however, may be significantly different from those in the standard language.
2. The emergence and transformation of a specialised vocabulary is influenced by linguistic and extralinguistic factors alike. Language plays a significant role within law and this probably has an impact on the development of legal terminology. In the case of legal terminology, it is also important that the number of users is much larger, compared with other professional terminologies. This probably leads to differences in

the development of legal terminology. Furthermore, legal terminology may be heavily segmented, which also differentiates it from other professional terminologies.

3. Due to the segmentation of law, we may detect different features in the use of language and terms within the various segments of professional legal terminology. Due to the different nature of socio-economic and political changes, patterns and impacts, leading to the emergence of professional terminology, the economic law terminology will probably be different from other areas of legal terminology in this respect.
4. In accordance with the above hypotheses, qualitative and quantitative differences can be detected between the various areas of legal terminology with regard to the role of technical translation and foreign patterns. This is basically due to the specific codification characteristics. For example, German-Hungarian technical translation played a primary role in the wording of statutes in Hungarian commercial law, while the Latin influence was probably much stronger than the German during the development of public administration or criminal law terminology. Accordingly, in the case of economic law terminology for example, significantly more terms of German origin are expected to be found, compared with those of Latin origin.
5. By limiting the research to the economic law vocabulary, due to the varying degree of the development of professional terminology, we expect to find differences in the term use of the various eras, which can be quantitative and also qualitative, therefore we will probably find different semantic patterns and a different amount of foreign terms during our research. However, certain regularities and similarities can be detected in the area of vocabulary changes (for example the preference for monosemy).

6. Research results

Tukma/tokma (idegen váltó); idegen váltó, intézvény/intézmény/intézet, rendelvény/rendelmény/rendelet/rendelés

Although the term *idegen váltó* is used clearly and consistently in the 1840 statutes and this term is also applied later in time, including the current effective legislation, the parallel existence of synonym terms has been characteristic even in the 20th century. The term *idegen váltó* was also referred to in the 19th century by the previously used *tukma ~ tokma*, meaning 'szerződés, egyezség', as well as by the word *tukvány* from the mid-19th century, continuously gaining popularity by the last third of the century. Our new law of exchange, however, consistently uses the term *idegen váltó* as the equivalent of „Tratte”. This act includes the terms *rendelvényes (intézvényes)*, *kibocsátó (intézvényező)* and *intézvényezett*, which clearly shows the parallel use of synonyms. The verb *tukmál* is a case of determinologisation.

The meaning of 'rendelet' was only expressed by the word *rendelés* previously, but the term *rendelvény* was also used in this sense during the mid-19th century. The term *rendelvény*, however, had other meanings, one of them being 'intézvény', which was used in the law of exchange. The term *intézvény* was already in use at this time, although apart from 'idegen váltó', it also had the meaning of 'intézkedés' and 'intézet' (since *intézet* was first used to denote 'cél, szándék', and later 'rendelet, rendelkezés'), similarly to the term *intézmény*, which also meant 'idegen váltó'. The meaning of *idegen váltó* was also expressed at the time by the synonym *rendelmény*, which was also used as 'megrendelés', together with *rendelés* in the last third of the century, and with this we come full circle. The problem remained unsolved in the 19th century.

The section about the law of exchange in the 1907 edition of MJL only lists *idegen váltó* and *intézvény*, similarly to other dictionaries of law in my research, published at the same time, where the equivalents of „Remittent” included not only *intézvényes*, but also *rendelvényes*, in spite of the fact that the MJL - with a clear distinction in definition - uses only *kibocsátó* ('Aussteller, Trassant'), *intézvényezett* ('Bezogener, Trassat'), *rendelvényes* ('Remittent')

The ÉrtSz only uses *idegen váltó* as a law of exchange term, listing *intézvény* as a synonym, while *intézet*, *intézmény* and *rendelvény* are not listed with a meaning related to

economic law, the word *rendelmény* is not listed at all and the previous existence of *tukma* is only proven by the standard language version of *tukmál*.

The following terms in my research are results of professional terminology reform: *váltó* (1812); *intézkedés* (1833), *intézkedéses* (1840), *intézkéztetett* (1840); *intézmény* (1845, but with the meaning of 'intézkedés' as early as 1836); *rendelet* (1834); *rendelmény* (1840); *rendelményes* (1840); *rendelményez* (1840); *rendelvény* (1786). Terms that existed previously and were revived by neologists: *tukma* ('szerződés, egyezés, alku' (this meaning was later represented by the form *tokma*) > 'idegen váltó'); *tukvány* ('idegen váltó'); *tukmál* ('szerződést, egyezséget, alkut köt' > 'valakire ráerőszakol valamit'); *intézet* ('cél, szándék' > 'intézmény'; *intéz* 'küld, juttat, irányít'; 'céloz' > 'valamit végez, rendszeresen foglalkozik vele'); *rendel* ('elrendel' > 'megrendel'); *rendelés* ('rendelet, utasítás' > 'megrendelés').

Tukma/tokma ('szerződés'); alku; egyesség/egyezség; kötés, szerződés

The forms *tukma/tokma*, *alku* and *egyesség/egyezség* did not appear in the 1840 statutes. The meaning of 'szerződés' was expressed by *szerződés* in most places and *kötés* in some. The 1844 amendment of the old law of exchange also uses the terms *kötés* and *szerződés*; the synonym of *árúszerzési kötés* is listed as *adásvevési szerződés*. Those in charge of the drafting of our new 1876 law of exchange also used the term 'szerződés' for the meaning of *szerződés*. In the 1854 edition of the UMSzT, however, all the forms are included: *alku/alkalom*: 'Handel, Akkord'; de *alkura lép*: einen Handel schließen; *alkudozik*: unterhandeln; (ra) handeln; *alkudtat*: einen Vertrag stiften; *alkulevél*: der Kaufbrief, Contract. Therefore the term *alku* was used in the mid-19th century to express negotiations on exchange. The above form and its compounds clearly show that this word only denoted the act itself, but did not mean the result of 'írott szerződés' on its own. The terms *egyezés/egyesség* also had the meaning of 'szerződés', just like the forms *tokma/tukma/tukvány*. Apart from *szerződés*, this meaning was also expressed by the form *szerződmény*.

There is even clearer evidence for the use of the above terms in the CzF. According to this, in the second half of the 19th century *alku* generally meant the act of negotiation,

more specifically, negotiation about an exchange on the one hand and negotiation between parties to a dispute on the other. The term *alkalom* in the meaning of 'alku, egyezség, szerződés' was already considered archaic or part of a dialect. The CzF entry of *egyesség* does not include the meaning of 'alku; szerződés', but the verb *egyezkedik* is listed as the synonym of *alkudozik*. The influence of this verb form is also evident in the fact that the dictionary suggests *egyezség* instead of *egyesség* for the meaning of 'alkudozás'. According to the CzF, *kötés* also meant 'szerződés' and these compounds already show the narrowing of meaning of the term. According to the dictionary, the term *szerződés* was rarely used in the meaning of 'írott szerződés'.

The forms *tukma/tukvány/tokma* and *egyesség* cannot be found in the dictionaries of law, published at the beginning of the 20th century. The term *egyezség* was more likely to be used in the meaning of 'egyeztetés', 'megegyezés' and this meaning is still in use today. *Szerződés* was used in the general sense of the term, while *alku* was more likely to be used as 'adásvételi szerződés'. *Áruszerzési kötés* is only listed in the JMSZ, meaning 'der Warenschaffungsschluß', while its equivalent in the UMSzT ('der Lieferungsvertrag') is listed as *szállítási szerződés*. The previously used term of *bérkötés* became more prevalent in the form of *bérleti szerződés*. By now, *kötés* was not used on its own in the meaning of 'szerződés'.

This meaning of *kötés* is already considered archaic by the mid-20th century and as a legal term, *egyezség* denotes the agreement between the parties, while its other form of *egyesség* has become obsolete. The forms of *tukma/tokma/tukvány* are not listed in the ÉrtSz. The previous meaning of *alku* survives in the 20th century, while the form *alkalom* loses its meaning of 'alkudozás, szerződés'.

The detailed analysis of the above semantic group showed that 1) the emergence of (economic) law terms was primarily influenced by the German pattern (see dictionary listings); 2) revival (e.g. *tukma*) or recreation (*alkalom*) of old terms, occasionally with a new meaning, as well as creating new words (*egyezség, szerződmény*) played an equally important role in term creation; 3) our 19th century (economic) law vocabulary was equally influenced by the phenomena of polysemy and synonymy, but the subsequent development of professional terminology and the disappearance or the meaning variance of most synonyms is an evidence of monosemy.

Alkusz/alkár, berész, kalmár, kupec, pecér/peszér, csiszár, kufár, kofa, áros/árus, dugáros/dugárus, csempész, bellér, bizományos, üzér, tőzsér, szatócs, házaló, zsibárus, tarattyús, kereskedő

My research has shown that *kereskelem* (as an activity), and *kereskedő* (as a professional carrying out said activity) and the terms with equivalent meaning (*üzlet, üzérlet/ üzérkedés, tőzsérkedés, tőzs*; or *üzér tőzsér, kalmár*) had been added to the Hungarian economic vocabulary during the 19th century language reform, as a result of German-Hungarian technical translation. Although there is no evidence of them in 19th century statutes, they are listed in the *Törvénytudományi Műszótár (TTMSz)*, which is proof of their existence at the time.

The use of synonyms has cleared by the 20th century. Subsequently, the terms *kereskelem, kereskedés* and *kereskedő* are used even today in a neutral meaning. The terms *tőzs, tőzsérkedés* and *tőzsér* have disappeared from the Hungarian vocabulary and the only surviving member of this group is *tőzsde*. The words *kalmár* and *üzér*, as well as *üzérkedés* show narrowing of meaning. Today *kalmár* is considered archaic, but *kalmárszellem* still carries the changed, disapproving meaning. *Üzér* and *üzérkedés* are still used today in the pejorative sense. *Üzér* is not, but the term *üzérkedés* is used in the effective Criminal Code (*befolyással üzérkedés*). The term *üzlet* mostly survives in the neutral sense, but it also has a pejorative meaning ('anyagi haszon érdekében végzett tevékenység, ill. az ezzel szerzett anyagi előny, nyereség. *A nősilés csak ~ volt neki.*').

The analysis of the emergence and survival of economic or economic law terms shows that the dual (positive and negative) nature of economic activity, denoted by a given term, as well as the way it is viewed by observers/recipients, influence the use of professional terminology by modifying the original meaning of the term and separating the meaning of former synonyms. The above example shows the way language is influenced by the negative examples of trader activities. Language use separated the "becsületes" *kereskedő* and the „csaló, haszonleső üzér”, which originally were created as synonym terms with a neutral meaning (as Hungarian equivalents of *Händler, Geschäftsmann, Kaufmann*).

Csődület, csőd, csődeljárás, felszámolás, bukás, tenk/ tönk

Terms in this semantic group were created during the language reform from the German term *Konkurs* by using existing elements of the Hungarian vocabulary, and for a while they survived in professional terminology as synonyms. The original meaning of *csődület* gradually disappeared: it was replaced by *csőd* and the derivative *csődeljárás* in legal terminology and by *pályázat* in other areas. However it survived in standard language in one meaning and interestingly this carries most of the original meaning: 'tódul' (embertömeg); 'tömegesen gyülekezik'. The terms *bukás* and *tenk/ tönk* (the latter two only in phrases) disappeared from professional terminology, but survived in standard language.

The analysis of the emergence and survival of the terms *bukás, csőd, tönk* is not only proof of synonymy in professional terminology, but also shows the relationship between professional terminology and standard language, as well as the influence of professional terminology on standard language. The research of professional terminology in standard language dictionaries also points out that there is great responsibility in adding professional terms to standard language dictionaries (see the entry *csődeljárás* in the ÉrtSz), which must be used with great care and competencies. It is especially true when it comes to preparations for further editions of dictionaries, when the possible changes in the meaning of terms must be examined in every case. All of the above shows that although the creation of new terms, due to socio-economic and political changes, cannot be avoided, great care must be taken when adding new semantic contents to a previously existing term and in the case of legal terms, it is best not to apply this form of term creation. This can be achieved if the person, creating the new term, in certain cases a specialised translator, is equipped with adequate knowledge about the "past life" of a particular term. Such knowledge can be provided by publications about the findings of diachronic studies in professional terminology, specialised historical-etymological dictionaries and encyclopedias of the history of professional terminology, and as I suggested, a course in "diachronic terminology research".

7. Conclusion, outlook

7.1. Answers to the research questions

1. First of all we have to emphasise that as for the legal terminology, we cannot speak of the disappearance, but only the archaisation of terms. This is of extraordinary importance in the creation of new terms also, because in legal terminology a previously used and forgotten term cannot be revived and applied for a new phenomenon. Specialised translators must be aware of this. Furthermore, legal terminology or more specifically, the terminology of economic law, manifests proportional differences in term creation methods, compared with standard language, because most economic law terms were created during the neologist era and certain forms were preferred during the 19th century neologism, as opposed to widely used methods of today's term creation. Consequently, many elements of the economic law vocabulary were created by using suffixes that are hardly or not used today, and a great deal of terms in economic law were created by back-formation for example, which is a less frequented term creation method today (see Argument 5 below).
2. The emergence and transformation of economic law vocabulary is influenced by linguistic and extralinguistic factors, but we must stress that in the case of law, language plays such a special role that in certain cases the concept of "extralinguistic factors" must be reconsidered, because law is realised within the language itself. Language plays a significant role within law and this has an impact on the development of legal terminology. We must also emphasise that the unique segmentation of legal terminology differentiates it from other professional terminologies in the development of its vocabulary also. This affects the aforementioned problem of archaisation of terms on the one hand, but also becomes significant in the definition of monosemy, polysemy and synonymy within the professional terminology, because it is revealed that we cannot speak of monosemy even within one particular segment of law, but the preference for monosemy is apparent within the legal areas, which clearly determines the vocabulary transformation – creation, evolution and disappearance of terms – within a particular area of law. The relationship between professional terminology and standard language is influenced by the extensive range of legal terminology users, which is manifested in such ongoing and unique phenomena as terminologisation and determinologisation.

3. Differences, due to the segmentation of legal terminology, are proven to be stronger than expected by the research. There are differences in language and terminology use not only within the different areas of legal terminology, but apart from the topic, language use and terminology development are also significantly determined by the type of discourse (written, oral, mixed), the linguistic and professional competencies and background knowledge of users (writers and readers of texts) and the particular legal frameworks. My research focussed on the area of economic law terminology in this respect, proving that the factors, influencing the development of economic law frameworks in Hungary, were significantly different from those in the legal terminology of other languages and other areas of Hungarian legal terminology. Therefore Hungarian economic law terminology is different from other areas of legal terminology in this respect. My research and the *Annexed* material prove that the majority of terms in the terminology of Hungarian economic law was created during the translation of legal texts from German into Hungarian, therefore a large proportion of them is the result of loan translation.
4. Consequently, with regard to technical translation and the role of foreign patterns, qualitative and quantitative differences can be detected between the various areas of legal terminology. The examination of 19th century codification efforts and the materials of dictionaries and encyclopedias of the time has proven my hypothesis, that in the case of economic law terminology, significantly more terms of German origin are expected to be found, compared with those of Latin origin. It also provided new information about the preferred term creation methods (see end of Argument 4).
5. The study did reveal differences in the usage of economic law terminology of different periods. Quantitative differences are not only manifested in the different amount of foreign terms, but for example in the proportion of terms, appearing as a result of different term creation methods (see Argument 1). However, the preference for monosemy early on, during the mid-19th century, was not detectable. Although the detected large amount of individual solutions, characteristic of the neologist movement, was expected even before the research, but in the light of previous standardisation efforts (e.g. Pápay 1807) and the consequently used and proposed Hungarian terms in the 1840 statutes, it was surprising to find so many examples for synonymy and polysemy in the professional terminology of the TTMSz (1847)

material. The emergence of monosemy was not helped by entries with sets of synonyms and terms without explanations – on the contrary. By the early 20th century, however, this tendency decreased and the chaos in the usage of terms started to ease. This process is also detectable in the 21st century, as well as determinologisation, the process of standard language being influenced by professional terminology. The majority of words in our professional terminologies seems to be taking hold in standard language, which was clearly proven by the study of standard language texts and phraseologies.

19th century economic law statutes contain several terms that are Hungarian translations of German legal terms. Some of these can be found in today's economic law vocabulary (*idegen váltó, saját váltó, kibocsátó, forgatás* etc.), while others have undergone considerable changes or even disappeared from professional legal terminology (*címzet, névbeccsülés*) or survived in standard language with a different meaning (*merénylet, csődület*). Many of the terms are the results of neologist term creation. This is an eloquent testimony to the fact that a large – possibly the largest – proportion of new words, resulting from neology, originates from professional terminology. My empirical research proved that when researching the impact of neologism, the study of the emergence and development of professional vocabularies should not be overlooked.

7.2. Practical use of the research

The diachronic study of professional terminologies and my annexed material can not only help professionals to develop a research-methodology basis, but also encourage further research. During my research I discovered several sub-areas, which I was unable to explore any further, but which in my view have the potential for further useful research findings. Such area is for example the stylistic study of professional terminology materials in standard language dictionaries, which could provide further empirical data for the mutual influence of professional terminology and standard language, as well as the use of professional terminology. The thorough analysis of the ÉrtSz shows, for example, that legal terms with an additional standard language meaning are usually qualified for standard language use in the dictionary by marking them as „(vál)”*választékos* (elaborate). The study of this phenomenon can reveal data from legal terminology and the use of professional

terminology and standard language that can support or disprove previous, subjective statements, unsupported by empirical research, such as ‘the use of legal terminology is elaborate’. My future plans include a more in-depth study of this phenomenon. I plan, for example, to carry out the concordance-based study of term usage in statutes and law textbooks, analyse the collected terms and compare them with concordance-based studies of standard language – or other professional – texts. These findings can also provide a basis for exact statements about certain standard language characteristics, as well as the relationship between professional terminology and standard language (or other professional terminologies). Naturally, new findings can not only result from the study of economic law vocabulary, but also from similar diachronic studies of vocabularies in other areas of law and the above research can also help the study of vocabulary changes in other specialities.

I believe that the findings of my thesis can also be used effectively in the training of specialised translators. As for specialised translator training, my dissertation resulted in the following findings:

The success of technical translation – and also the training of specialised translators – can be significantly improved by the new approach, according to which professional (legal) terminology cannot be described as a single unit, but as a special language, which is vertically and horizontally segmented and the characteristics of which can only be explored and described by taking this segmentation into account. Different characteristics, resulting from the segmentation, should not be overlooked during the analysis of legal terminology and specialised texts. In my view, this is an important fact not only for the scientific study of legal texts, but also for the training of specialised translators. This is closely related to the fact that, since there are significant differences between the spoken and written legal terminology, in my view they should be treated separately in scientific studies and also in specialised translator training.

It is well-known that translators must have bi-cultural competencies to successfully translate culture-specific terms and these must be taught through organised training, during which special attention must also be paid to dynamically evolving phenomena, such as the norms, conventions, experiences, values and expectations of linguistic communities. In my view a “*diachronic studies*’ module within specialised translator training could successfully contribute to this.

In certain cases our legal translators and interpreters must know the previous meaning of terms and the previous status of a vocabulary in order to provide an appropriate translation. A diachronic terminology course within specialised translator training could be very useful for them, since they could learn about the special professional aids of previous periods (dictionaries, encyclopedias, other publications).

Since a lot of legal terms also have a standard language meaning, great attention must be paid during specialised translator training to stress the similarities and differences between professional terminology and standard language with the help of contrastive terminology and text linguistics studies, which can largely improve the term use competencies of specialised translators.

I think that apart from the *basic law studies* course in specialised translator training, it is very important to learn about the guidelines for drafting legal texts, as stipulated by the effective law and related to the language combination of the students, as well as the contrastive study of translation issues, rising from the above (technical and translation study analysis).

Apart from the general course on grammatical correctness, the training of legal translators should also focus on the issues, related to the use of Hungarian language/professional terminology, as well as the contrastive linguistic study of effective guidelines, according to the relevant language pairs, because in my view it is the combination of the above elements that can contribute to the success of specialised translator training and the acquisition of specialised translator competencies (linguistic analysis).

The process of term creation during technical translation, the related decisions and the produced target language text can be examined in comparison with the decision-making process of the codification and the resulting statutes. Therefore the (synchronic and diachronic) study of legal texts can help us to understand the technical translation/term creation process, the findings of the study can be used to develop specialised translator aids and these studies can also be very effective in specialised translator training, because apart from providing professional knowledge, they also improve the competencies of specialised translators.

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