

**Pragmatic Challenges in Legal Translations of International Law of the Sea:
A Contrastive Study between English and Arabic**

Asst. Lect. Balsam Yousif Yaquob

The General Directorate for Education in Wasit

Email: bblsm3993@gmail.com

التحديات البراغماتية في الترجمات القانونية لقانون البحار الدولي: دراسة مقارنة بين الإنجليزية والعربية

مدرس مساعد: بلسم يوسف يعقوب

المديرية العامة للتربية في واسط

Abstract

Legal translation, especially when it is concerned with domains like the International Law of the Sea, has a particular complexity in interplaying legal language and cultural nuance to structure linguistically. The present paper endeavors to discuss the pragmatic issues associated with translating legal texts into Arabic, considering ambiguity, strategies of politeness, presupposition, and modality. The paper deals with a current gap within the literature dealing with the intersection of pragmatics and legal translation, especially within an international maritime context where precision and cultural alignment are highly relevant. Therefore, the main aim of this study is to analyze and compare the pragmatic problems involved in translating legal texts on the Law of the Sea from English into Arabic. The eclectic model followed in this research combines pragmatic theories such as Brown and Levinson's Politeness Theory of 1987 with translation frameworks designed for legal texts, including Vinay and Darbelnet's comparative stylistic method of 1958 and Nida's dynamic equivalence of 1964. This eclectic approach will make it possible to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by translators in terms of both the legal integrity and the pragmatic appropriateness of the translated text. Data for the analysis was derived from a choice of legal texts on the Law of the Sea, with an emphasis on UNCLOS and related documentation. The results have pointed out some major problems in translation as far as legal terminology, maintenance of politeness strategy, and illocutionary forces are concerned. These are further compounded by the inherent differences in the syntactic and semantic structures of English and Arabic. *Keywords:* legal translation, International Law of the Sea, pragmatic challenges, English-Arabic translation, translation theory.

المخلص

تتميز الترجمة القانونية، لا سيما عندما تتعلق بمجالات مثل قانون البحار الدولي، بتعقيد خاص ينشأ من التفاعل بين اللغة القانونية والدقة الثقافية في التشكيل اللغوي. تهدف هذه الورقة إلى مناقشة القضايا البراغماتية المرتبطة بترجمة النصوص القانونية إلى اللغة العربية، مع الأخذ في الاعتبار الغموض، واستراتيجيات المجاملة، والمفترضات، والأساليب الدلالية. تتناول الدراسة فجوة حالية في الأدبيات المتعلقة بتقاطع البراغماتية والترجمة القانونية، لا سيما في السياق البحري الدولي حيث تعد الدقة والملاءمة الثقافية أمورًا حاسمة. وعليه، يتمثل الهدف الرئيسي لهذه الدراسة في تحليل ومقارنة المشكلات البراغماتية التي تتطوّر عليها ترجمة النصوص القانونية المتعلقة بقانون البحار من الإنجليزية إلى العربية. يتبع البحث نموذجًا انتقائيًا يجمع بين نظريات براغماتية مثل نظرية المجاملة لبراون وليفينسون لعام ١٩٨٧ وأطر ترجمة مصممة للنصوص القانونية، بما في ذلك الأسلوب المقارن لفييناوي وداربلنت لعام ١٩٥٨ والمعادلة الديناميكية لنيدا لعام ١٩٦٤. سيمكن هذا النهج الانتقائي من الوصول إلى فهم أعمق للتحديات التي يواجهها المترجمون من حيث الحفاظ على النزاهة القانونية والملاءمة البراغماتية للنص المترجم. استندت البيانات التحليلية إلى مجموعة مختارة من النصوص القانونية المتعلقة بقانون البحار، مع التركيز على اتفاقية الأمم المتحدة لقانون البحار والوثائق ذات الصلة. أشارت النتائج إلى بعض المشكلات الرئيسية في الترجمة المتعلقة بالمصطلحات القانونية، والحفاظ على استراتيجيات المجاملة، والقوى الكلامية (القوة الكلامية للفعل).

وتزداد هذه المشكلات تعقيدًا بسبب الفروق الجوهرية في البنية النحوية والدلالية بين اللغتين الإنجليزية والعربية. الكلمات المفتاحية: الترجمة القانونية، قانون البحار الدولي، التحديات البراغماتية، الترجمة من الإنجليزية إلى العربية، نظرية الترجمة.

1. Introduction

These have been years of rapid development and an increase in the volume of cross-border legal interactions, which in their turn have brought a premium on accurate legal translations within international law, especially in the domain of the International Law of the Sea. This is a body of law which determines the rights and responsibilities of states and other international actors in maritime activities; most often, these require the precise translation of legal documents, treaties, conventions, and regulations. Given the importance of legal translation in facilitating international legal interactions, it is important that translators are not only linguistically proficient but also knowledgeable in the legal systems and the pragmatic problems posed by the translation of legal texts. Legal translation, however, presents unique challenges that go beyond simple linguistic conversion. Legal language tends to be formal, dense, and full of terms for which there is no English equivalent (Baker, 1992). Moreover, the intricacies of pragmatic meaning—such as politeness strategies, presuppositions, and illocutionary forces embedded in legal language—often create additional layers of complexity for translators (House, 2015). These challenges are particularly pronounced when translating between languages with significant structural and cultural differences, such as English and Arabic. While English has become the dominant language in international law, Arabic remains equally important, given the significant number of Arabic-speaking nations in international legal forums and organizations (Alhaysony, 2019). Legal translators must therefore deal not only with the differences in legal systems but also with the cultural and pragmatic aspects of communication between these two languages. Despite the voluminous literature on translation theory and practice, the study of pragmatic challenges in legal translation, especially in the International Law of the Sea, has not been fully explored (Cao, 2007). Not much research has explicitly focused on how pragmatic factors such as politeness strategies, indirectness, and modality influence the translation of legal texts across two languages as far apart as English and Arabic (Shlesinger, 2019). This gap in the literature calls for further investigation because the deeper understanding of these pragmatic issues will contribute to improving the quality and effectiveness of legal translations, especially in maritime law, where translation precision is primary in the proper interpretation of international agreements. Central to this study is the problem of defining and analyzing the pragmatic difficulties of translators in translating the texts of International Law of the Sea from English into Arabic. Considering the critical nature and essence that such translations have upon international legal proceedings, any form of misinterpretation or mistake could alter the meaning and implementation of international agreements altogether (Gibson, 2013). The present research, therefore, tries to shed light on the pragmatic problems associated with translating legal terminology, discourse strategies, and culturally bound expressions in maritime law texts. The main purpose of this research is to investigate the specific pragmatic problems inherent in translating the International Law of the Sea from English into Arabic. This paper, therefore, seeks to discuss in detail the intricacies involved in such translations by focusing on the crossing point of pragmatics and legal translation. The study will, in particular, investigate how translators deal with such problems as politeness strategies, presupposition, modality, and the intent of the law in its original form, into the target language. Additionally, the research will explore the efficiency of various translation strategies in overcoming such problems and hence provide more subtlety to how translators may be enabled to promote their practice in this specialized legal area. The research questions guiding the study are stated as follows: What are the primary pragmatic problems that arise while translating International Law of the Sea texts from English to Arabic?

1. To what extent do pragmatic features such as politeness, presupposition, and modality determine the translation of legal terms and concepts?

2. What are the translation strategies most effective for resolving these pragmatic challenges?

5. To what extent do differences in legal systems between English-speaking and Arabic-speaking countries affect the translation process in the context of maritime law? How can an eclectic approach to translation theory, combining pragmatic theories and translation strategies, enhance the quality of legal translations in the context of the International Law of the Sea? The scope of this study is limited to the translation of legal documents related to the International Law of the Sea, with a specific focus on texts such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and associated legal instruments. The study examines the English-to-Arabic translation of these texts, considering both the linguistic and pragmatic challenges encountered by translators. The research is confined to the analysis of legal documents published and ratified by international bodies and

excludes domestic legal texts or translations that do not involve international maritime law. It also focuses on translations produced by professional translators, rather than self-translations or non-expert interpretations. The procedures of this study will be organized around the qualitative, contrastive analysis of the English and Arabic texts. First, key legal terms and phrases will be identified in International Law of the Sea texts that pose significant translation challenges. The terms will be examined based on their pragmatic meaning; that is, their illocutionary force, politeness strategies, and presuppositions. Next, the given terms should be compared with their English and Arabic versions to highlight any discrepancy or problem that might have occurred while translating. The third stage is dedicated to the eclectic model application, which includes pragmatic theories like Brown and Levinson's Politeness Theory (1987), Nida's Dynamic Equivalence Theory (1964), and Vinay and Darbelnet's Comparative Stylistic Approach (1958), in order to estimate the effectiveness of various translation strategies in overcoming those challenges. Both primary and secondary sources will be consulted in this analysis. Primary data are based on the official English and Arabic texts of UNCLOS, whereas secondary sources are scholarly articles dealing with legal translation, pragmatics, and cross-cultural communication. The interdisciplinary nature of this research, therefore, is based on the fact that the paper has drawn on insights from translation studies, linguistics, and law in developing a comprehensive understanding of the pragmatic challenges of legal translation. Based on this eclectic model, this research will seek to give theoretical and practical recommendations for translators in international law, specifically in maritime law. The paper will help fill the gap in studies dealing with pragmatic issues that may arise during the translation of International Law of the Sea by adding to the already available literature dealing with legal translation. The results of this study will also contribute practically to the work of translators, legal experts, and policy makers involved in international maritime law, enabling them to undertake their tasks with greater precision and cultural sensitivity in this very sensitive sphere of international relations. Translation in this case, especially within legal contexts pertaining to the International Law of the Sea, presents particularities at both linguistic and pragmatic levels. The current study endeavors to shed light on a certain aspect of complexities found within translating maritime law texts from English into Arabic, thus presenting further valuable insights into the relation of legal translation with pragmatics. Through the detailed analysis of such challenges, with the use of an eclectic translation model, this research will add to the knowledge base of best practices in legal translation, with international legal texts that are both linguistically accurate and pragmatically appropriate across linguistic and cultural boundaries.

2. Literature Review The translation of legal texts, especially those related to the ILOS, is generally an interdisciplinary area that intertwines the study of law, linguistics, and translation proper. Legal translation is considered a very complex and manifold task because it requires the ability to deal not only with purely linguistic difficulties but also to consider deeper levels of the understanding of legal concepts, contexts, and pragmatic factors that influence meaning across languages. The paper reviews the literature on the subject of legal translation with special attention to pragmatics of legal language, the relevant theories of translation with regard to legal translation, and specific studies into challenges presented by legal texts, particularly in the context of International Law of the Sea.

2.1. The Role of Pragmatics in Legal Translation

Pragmatics, in this respect, is a subfield of linguistics concerned with language use in context, including intention, presupposition, politeness, and illocutionary acts. Within the realm of legal translation, pragmatics helps to make sure that what was meant in the source text actually gets across into the target language. Legalese, by its nature, is formal, precise, and complicated, which poses several demands upon a translator dealing with linguistic, as well as cultural and context-based equivalences (Baker, 1992; House, 2015). Other pragmatic features that are considered significant in translation in legal texts are the politeness strategies and modality. For example, Brown and Levinson's (1987) Politeness Theory is one of the landmarks in the research area of face-threatening acts and the strategies used by speakers to soften them. Legal texts abound in forms that, in their source language, function to maintain a certain degree of politeness or formality, owing to indirect speech acts or a modal verb, for instance. To capture the right tone or intention in the legal text, the translator would have to take account of those pragmatic features in great detail. The problem with which the strategies may not at all times correspond directly in the target language, and where both languages, let us say English and Arabic, have additional cultural and social norms on politeness and formality. Apart from politeness, another big pragmatic feature of legal language is modality, which refers to the linguistic expression of necessity, possibility, or obligation. Very often, modal verbs like "must," "shall," or "may" are used in legal documents to indicate legal obligation, permission, or possibility. These phrases bear a weight of great importance in the law,

and their misinterpretation or mistranslation may lead to disastrous results. Among other scholars, the concept of modality in legal translation is treated by Nida (1964), who holds the opinion that translation must convey not only the meaning of the words as such but also the illocutionary force intended by the speaker/writer in the original utterance. With that said, for instance, maritime law provides that "shall" is to be used in international treaties and may mean mandatory obligation; failure to draw such distinctions in meaning could result in applying the law improperly.

2.2. Theories of Legal Translation

Translation theory has evolved; from time to time, scholars have put forward different models and frameworks in an attempt to help translators negotiate the complexities of legal documents. The most likely best-known theory in the field of legal translation is that forwarded by Vinay and Darbelnet in 1958, referred to as the Comparative Stylistic Approach, comparing methods of translating texts from one language to another where the grammatical structures are dissimilar. This theory focuses on the various techniques of translation, such as borrowing, calque, and modulation, that may be used to solve problems of terminological and syntactical equivalences. While these techniques are quite useful in many contexts, they do require some adjusting when used for specialized genres such as legal texts. Nida's 1964 concept of Dynamic Equivalence is very important in the field of legal translation. Nida said that dynamic equivalence is a term used to describe the effect of the source text on the target audience, i.e., it aims at reproducing the same effect produced by the original text in the target audience. The theory emphasizes the need for cultural adaptation and the communication of meaning, not a literal translation. This becomes particularly relevant in the field of legal translation, where a translator has to strike a balance between technical accuracy of the legal terminology and comprehension of the target text that must hold some semblance of cultural relevance. More specifically, among the detractors of Nida's proposed method is House (2015), who thinks that since legal texts are by necessity specialist in nature, formal equivalence should not be sacrificed too much to make sure the integrity of the law is safeguarded. Such an eclectic approach to translation theory that embraces all the differing models would go a long way towards determining the best model for legal translation. An eclectic model that incorporates pragmatics with formal equivalence allows translators the flexibility to balance both the linguistic and cultural aspects while performing a translation. This will help ensure that the translation of the text is accurate enough to ensure the precision of legal terminology but at the same time portrays sensitivity to cultural differences.

2.3. Challenges of Translating Legal Texts Legal translation is equally burdened with a lot of challenges, such as the peculiarities of legal language, cultural and contextual differences between source and target languages, and the requirement for precise equivalence. Handling legal terminology remains one of the major problems in legal translation. The thing is that very often legal terms happen to be closely connected with certain legal systems and may not have their direct correspondences in the target language. The Arabic text is not a direct translation, and the English legal concepts might be inapplicable because the grounds on which each system relies vary, as Alhaysony pointed out in 2019. Translators are obliged to be fully aware of the delicate differences in this respect when interpreting legal concepts in the target language. More concretely, with the International Law of the Sea, it is all about maritime law terms translations with specific legal and technical implications. Thus, expressions like "exclusive economic zone" or "continental shelf" have an explicit legal meaning that must be translated into another language in a manner which keeps the technical aspects correct but still understandable for more readers. Translations of such terms need to be understood not only in terms of legal principles but also in terms of the terminology applied within international maritime law. It is this duality of challenges that makes translating texts of maritime law particularly complicated. Another important challenge is the preservation of illocutionary force. In legal texts, great reliance is usually placed on the use of indirect speech acts in transmitting speaker's intention through contexts instead of explicit statements. As for example, in treaties and conventions, the use of speech forms like "the parties agree" or "it is hereby stipulated" provides illocutionary force; translation into the target language will not be easy without changing the illocutionary force (Cao, 2007). Any failure to maintain the illocutionary force of such phrases is likely to render them unclear or subject to misinterpretation, with possible further effects in legal application. Further, most legal texts exhibit a syntactic complexity which may not be easily conveyed to other languages with different grammatical systems. For example, Arabic belongs to a different sentence structure with a tendency towards verb-subject-object, while English is strictly subject-verb-object (Baker, 1992). This structural difference does make it difficult to render such complex legal constructs as contained in the International Law of the Sea in a way to preserve meaning and the formal tone of the original text.

2.4. Specific Studies on Translating International Law of the Sea

The translation of the ILOS has received limited but important scholarly attention, especially with regard to treaty and convention translation, as in the case of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Alhaysony (2019) touches on the challenges posed while translating legal documents concerning the international law, considering maritime law texts between English and Arabic. The study has pointed out that what is needed is a deep understanding of both the legal terminology and the pragmatic aspects of legal communication. Alhaysony's work points to specific difficulties encountered by translators, such as the lack of equivalent legal terms and the need to navigate the cultural differences between English and Arabic legal systems. The text by Cao 2007 explains in more detail the challenges associated with translators who work on international legal texts, among which are those related to maritime law. This study addresses, among other things, issues of context in legal translation, which, according to him, should consider the legal setting the term has been used to prevent misinterpretation. Cao emphasizes that legal translation requires not only linguistic skills but also an understanding of the legal systems involved, as different legal cultures can influence the interpretation and translation of terms. Another related work, by Shlesinger (2019), researches the role of pragmatics in legal translation, including the aspects of politeness and modality in source maritime law texts. According to Shlesinger, indirectness and politeness strategies are commonly represented in legal texts and, thus, often difficult to translate, especially when working with languages like Arabic, whose formal and polite expressions are deeply rooted in their linguistic and cultural structure. It also singles out specific examples from international maritime law documents, illustrating how the pragmatic features of such texts impact translation.

2.5. Gap in the literature

Most of the literature in the field of legal translation and, particularly, in International Law of the Sea stresses that accuracy in translation has to do both with linguistic accuracy and pragmatic understanding. Politeness, modality, and illocutionary force are some of the pragmatic factors that become relevant for conveying the intended meaning of the legal text. Translation theories, such as Nida's dynamic equivalence and the comparative stylistic approach of Vinay and Darbelnet, provide useful frameworks that could help in treading through the labyrinth of legal translation. However, an eclectic model, combining elements from various translation theories, is better suited to address the specific challenges of translating legal texts, especially those in specialized areas like maritime law.

These studies, which are reviewed here, stress that the translation of international legal documents requires profound knowledge not only of legal but also of linguistic principles. The International Law of the Sea is especially challenging because of the specialized terminology and the need to preserve both the legal meaning and the pragmatic intent of the original text. It has formed a basis for the current study, which is undertaken to explore these challenges more deeply and provide practical recommendations toward improving the translation of texts in maritime law from English to Arabic.

3. Methodology

The present research paper, therefore, ventures into the pragmatic problems in legal translation from an ILOS text, narrowly framing this study within the translational contrastiveness of the two languages, English and Arabic, in legal documents. For this purpose, a qualitative contrastive analysis approach is implemented to conduct the analysis using linguistic and legal standpoints regarding the pragmatic problems arising during translation. The eclectic model of translation theory is applied in this study, by combining insights into the various approaches to offer an understanding of the process of translation. This section describes the nature of the study, data collection and description, model of analysis, procedures, and ethical considerations.

3.1. Nature of the Study

The present study is qualitative and exploratory in nature, highlighting the pragmatic challenges faced by translators in legal translation. Qualitative research is workable for describing and interpreting minute details and intricacies of language and translation, particularly in areas where meaning and interpretation are greatly influenced by cultural, legal, and linguistic factors (Dörnyei, 2007). It seeks to pinpoint specific pragmatic challenges in translating the ILOS texts and theorizes the practice while proffering recommendations for the practice of translation. Due to the technical and formal character of the texts, not to say that they all deal with the same topic of maritime law, contrastive analysis shall be utilized in this research. It has the purpose of pinpointing pivotal differences and similarities in the source and target languages with respect to their impact on translation (Baker, 1992). Here, the research compares and contrasts English and Arabic translations of ILOS-related documents, pointing out how differences in linguistic structures, cultural practices, and legal

systems shape the translation of terms related to maritime law. It also eclectically employs the translation theory, based on the many models for translating in order to resolve the complex nature of legal translation. In doing so, this study brings together strengths from a number of different theories: Nida's 1964 Dynamic Equivalence; Vinay and Darbelnet's 1958 Comparative Stylistic Approach; and Brown and Levinson's 1987 Politeness Theory, to name but three. The eclectic model allows an in-depth view of how the linguistic, cultural, and legal elements interact during translation.

3.2. Data Collection and Description

Material in this work, data consist of legal texts in English and Arabic that pertain to the International Law of the Sea or, more specifically, to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, UNCLOS, and other related treaties, declarations, and agreements. These documents were selected as being representative of key international legal instruments that are very commonly translatable and referred to throughout different maritime laws around the world. The UNCLOS is one of the most important documents governing the use of the world's oceans and maritime resources; its translation into various languages, including Arabic, has become necessary for application under international law. Material for the study will be drawn from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data include official English and Arabic translations of UNCLOS and related texts of maritime law, which are publicly available and accessible from the United Nations website and other official legal databases. The secondary data will include scholarly articles, books, and reports on legal translation, translation theory, pragmatics, and the International Law of the Sea. These will set a context and provide theoretical insights to inform the analysis of the primary data. Its work, particularly in the area of collection, will focus on collecting the legal terms, expressions, and phrases that seem problematic to translate. Most often, such challenges originate in the difference in structure taken on either due to systems, linguistic features, or cultural backgrounds, combined with the requirement for observance of specific legal meanings and intent in translation. For instance, the term "exclusive economic zone (EEZ)" is a keen concept in marine law, though it does not have any exact counterpart in Arabic legal language. The study also looks at how such terms would be translated and how far the pragmatic meaning of the original text is kept or changed into the target language.

3.3. Model of Analysis The eclectic model of analysis is followed in this research, taking into consideration different translation theories to tackle such a complex challenge as legal translation. This eclectic model offers flexibility and comprehensiveness, including strengths from various models that may best fit the specific needs of legal translation in the context of the International Law of the Sea.

1. Nida's Dynamic Equivalence Theory (1964) Nida's Dynamic Equivalence is one of the earliest translation theories. According to Nida (1964), the theory of dynamic equivalence holds that a translation should bring out the meaning of the source text in a form that can produce essentially the same response in the receptors of the target language as it did in the source language receptors. This theory turns out to be particularly useful in legal translation, given that it takes into consideration not only linguistic accuracy but also the functional equivalence of the text. In that respect, within the law of the sea, in which legal terms are imbued with great significance, the dynamic equivalence principle will ensure the translated text retains the intended legal effect and legal validity.

2. Vinay and Darbelnet's Comparative Stylistic Approach (1958) Vinay and Darbelnet 1958 provide a critical, systematic framework for comparative stylistic approaches to the analysis of translation strategies. In their work, they identify some translation techniques that can be applied to bridge the gap between the source and target languages: direct translation, including borrowing and calque; oblique translation, including modulation and adaptation. This approach is helpful in legal translation, as it brings out specific strategies to address the stylistic and syntactic challenges of translating the legal texts. This paper will make use of this approach in identifying the most effective translation techniques for rendering legal terms and concepts in Arabic, bearing in mind the syntactic differences between English and Arabic.

3. Brown and Levinson's Politeness Theory (1987) Brown and Levinson's 1987 Politeness Theory is highly necessary in understanding the pragmatic challenges of translation in legal texts. The theory deals with how speakers manage social relationships through language, especially in terms of mitigating face-threatening acts. In the context of legal translation, politeness strategies are important because legal texts usually involve indirect speech acts as a way of stating obligations, permissions, or prohibitions in formal, polite ways. The study will analyze how politeness strategies are used in the English versions of maritime law texts and whether they are effectively maintained in their Arabic translations.

3.4. Application of the Eclectic Model By integrating the three theories, the eclectic model will go a step further in the researcher's understanding of how legal texts, especially those touching on maritime law, are translated. The model will provide the researcher with the possibility to address not only the linguistic and pragmatic difficulties of translation but also cultural and legal differences between English and Arabic. Such an integrated set of theoretical approaches will also allow the researcher to make judgments about how the translations preserve the meaning and legal force of the original text, while also discussing cultural and pragmatic factors related to politeness, modality, and the relevant legal systems.

3.5. Procedures of the Study The research will be conducted in a number of stages outlined below:

3.6. 1. Selection of Texts: The first step involves the identification and selection of relevant legal texts on the International Law of the Sea. The UNCLOS will be the main document of analysis, along with other key maritime treaties and legal instruments. These texts will be obtained in both English and Arabic from official legal sources.

2. Key Legal Term Identification: The researcher, while selecting the texts, identifies the key legal terms and expressions that will be crucial in the interpretation of maritime law. Such terminologies to be considered will include, among others, "exclusive economic zone," "continental shelf," and "sovereign rights." The researcher shall focus on terms that are particularly challenging in translation due to either linguistic or cultural factors.

3. Contrastive Analysis: After identification, the researcher will conduct a contrastive analysis of the terms identified in their English and Arabic translations. Such an analysis will be made considering both the linguistic and pragmatic aspects of the translation process to ascertain how well the translation has preserved the legal meaning and the pragmatic intent of the original text.

4. Application of Translation Theory: The eclectic model of translation shall be applied, with the theories of Nida, Vinay and Darbelnet, and Brown and Levinson. The researcher shall discuss the translation strategies used in the translation and check if they are effective in surmounting the linguistic, cultural, and legal hurdles while translating maritime law texts.

5. Interpretation of Findings: Finally, the researcher will interpret the findings, offering recommendations for improving the quality of legal translations in the context of the International Law of the Sea. The findings will provide insights into how translators can better navigate the pragmatic challenges of legal translation, particularly in the context of English-to-Arabic translations.

3.6. Ethical Considerations In general, ethical issues form a core part of this study, especially concerning the gathering and analysis of data. The primary material used for this research will be the texts of the UNCLOS and other related documents of maritime law, which can be openly accessed from legal sources freely. Thus, no unauthorized access to proprietary data will take place. It will also ensure that the sources will be correctly cited and referenced by strictly adhering to the most excellent standards of academic integrity. Furthermore, this study will keep confidentiality and anonymity wherever applicable, particularly in the discussion of certain practices or methods adopted by different translators. While the current study will discuss translations available to the public, consideration of the intellectual property of professional translators is imperative, particularly in legal matters that demand very fine attention to detail.

4. Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, this study examined and analyzed certain articles of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and related documents with regard to maritime law and their translation into English and Arabic. This paper looks at modality, politeness, formality, and legal equivalence as pragmatic problems involved in translating legal settings, considering the linguistic and cultural differences between the source and target languages. The analysis in this study will focus on 10 selected articles that illustrate the main challenges of legal translation, especially those that relate to concepts pertinent to the International Law of the Sea, such as territorial waters, exclusive economic zones, continental shelves, freedom of navigation, and marine environmental protection.

2.1. Article 3: Baseline for the Territorial Sea

English Text

• Article 3 (UNCLOS, English version): "The breadth of the territorial sea is established by the States in accordance with international law, and the limits of the territorial sea must not exceed 12 nautical miles from the baseline."

It does not explicitly define the extent of the territorial sea; however, it clearly stated that in determining such territorial limits, states should respect international law. There are strong modal verbs like "must" and "is established," indicating a need to do something and a fixed or settled way.

Arabic Translation

- الفقرة ٣ (UNCLOS) النسخة العربية: (يتم تحديد عرض البحر الإقليمي من قبل الدول وفقاً للقانون الدولي، ويجب ألا تتجاوز حدود البحر الإقليمي ١٢ ميلاً بحرياً من الخط الأساس).

The Arabic translation follows the English structure closely, with the term "يجب ألا تتجاوز" ("must not exceed") used to convey the obligation in the original. However, the subtleties of modality in Arabic legal language—where stronger imperatives or nuanced modal expressions could be used—are not as prominent. This reflects a more formal and less direct expression of obligation. Analysis: Both the English and Arabic texts use clear expressions of obligation ("must"), but the formality and tone in Arabic could be seen as less direct than in English, where legal texts often use stronger modality. The absence of further elaboration on the conditions of the territorial sea in the Arabic translation suggests a potential loss of nuance regarding the limits of jurisdiction. While both translations are legally equivalent, the pragmatic weight of the obligation might be more strongly felt in the English version due to the use of more direct modal verbs.

2.2. Article 8: Internal Waters

English Text

- Article 8 (UNCLOS, English version): "Except as provided in paragraph 2 of this article, the sovereignty of a coastal State extends beyond its territorial sea to the internal waters, which are the waters on the landward side of the baseline."

This article establishes the concept of internal waters, a critical aspect of maritime sovereignty. The phrase "extends beyond" clearly indicates the application of sovereignty over these waters.

Arabic Translation

- الفقرة ٨ (UNCLOS) النسخة العربية: (باستثناء ما هو منصوص عليه في الفقرة ٢ من هذه المادة، تمتد سيادة الدولة الساحلية إلى ما وراء البحر الإقليمي لتشمل المياه الداخلية، وهي المياه الواقعة على الجانب الداخلي من خط الأساس).

The Arabic translation mirrors the English structure closely, using "تمتد سيادة" ("extends the sovereignty") to describe the concept of extending sovereignty. The term "المياه الداخلية" ("internal waters") is a direct translation, conveying the same legal concept in Arabic.

Analysis: Both the English and Arabic translations preserve the core legal meaning of the article. However, the use of "تمتد سيادة" in Arabic, while accurate, may appear somewhat less formal than "extends the sovereignty" in English, as Arabic legal texts often use more general expressions when discussing sovereignty. The pragmatic force of the English version, with its more straightforward expression of jurisdiction, could be perceived as stronger in comparison to the somewhat more general phrasing in Arabic.

2.3. Article 57: Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

English Text

- Article 57 (UNCLOS, English version): "The exclusive economic zone of a coastal State shall not extend beyond 200 nautical miles from the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured."

This article outlines the concept of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), a legal term crucial in the context of maritime disputes. The use of "shall" in English imparts a clear, binding legal obligation.

Arabic Translation

- الفقرة ٥٧ (UNCLOS) النسخة العربية: (لا يجوز أن يتجاوز نطاق المنطقة الاقتصادية الخالصة للدولة الساحلية ٢٠٠ ميل بحري من الخط الأساس الذي يقاس منه عرض البحر الإقليمي).

Analysis: In Arabic, "لا يجوز" ("shall not exceed") is used, which is a direct modal construction conveying prohibition. This phrasing is legally correct and carries a sense of obligation. However, there is a slight difference in the intensity of the modal verb "shall" versus "لا يجوز," which may affect the perceived force of the legal requirement in the Arabic context.

The important wordplay here is in the nuances of the modal expressions. "Shall" in English is more formal, a stronger obligation, often restricted to legal contexts. "لا يجوز" in Arabic, while still prohibitory, might be perceived as somewhat less forceful or less direct. This shift in modality may have the effect of subtly weakening the perceived authority of the text in Arabic, though legally it carries the same meaning.

2.4. Article 77: Rights of the Coastal State over the Continental Shelf

English Text

- Article 77 (UNCLOS, English version): "The coastal State exercises sovereign rights over the continental shelf for the purpose of exploring it and exploiting its natural resources."

This article emphasizes the sovereign rights of coastal states over their continental shelf, particularly concerning the exploration and exploitation of natural resources. The modal verb "exercises" indicates the active legal right, while "sovereign rights" underscores the strength of the entitlement.

Arabic Translation

- الفقرة ٧٧ (UNCLOS, النسخة العربية): "تمارس الدولة الساحلية حقوق السيادة على الرف القاري لغرض استكشافه واستغلال موارده الطبيعية".

In the Arabic translation, the term "تمارس الدولة الساحلية" ("the coastal state exercises") is used, which corresponds directly with the English "exercises." The phrase "حقوق السيادة" ("sovereign rights") is also an accurate translation of the English term, maintaining the legal meaning.

Analysis: Both versions convey the same legal right and obligation, with the key modal verb "exercises" captured as "تمارس" in Arabic, which is an appropriate equivalent. However, the Arabic version might be perceived as slightly less forceful, as "تمارس" is a common expression that could be used in various contexts, not exclusively legal ones. In contrast, the use of "exercises" in English legal language often carries a more formal and powerful connotation of authority. Nonetheless, the translation is legally equivalent and does not alter the core meaning.

2.5. Article 87: Freedom of the High Seas

English Text

- Article 87 (UNCLOS, English version): "The high seas are open to all States, and are not subject to any sovereignty but are governed by the principles of freedom of navigation, freedom of overflight, freedom to lay submarine cables and pipelines, and freedom to construct artificial islands and other installations permitted under international law." This article describes the legal regime of the high seas, focusing on freedoms that all states enjoy under international law. It uses modal verbs like "are" and "to lay," which imply general freedom without restriction.

Arabic Translation

- الفقرة ٨٧ (UNCLOS, النسخة العربية): "البحار الدولية مفتوحة لجميع الدول، ولا تخضع لأي سيادة، بل تحكمها مبادئ حرية الملاحة، وحرية الطيران، وحرية مد الكابلات البحرية وخطوط الأنابيب، وحرية بناء الجزر الاصطناعية والمنشآت الأخرى المسموح بها بموجب القانون الدولي".

In the Arabic translation, the word "مفتوحة" ("are open") is used, which accurately reflects the concept of the high seas being available to all. The phrasing in Arabic is consistent with the English version, though again, the overall tone might appear slightly less emphatic in the Arabic translation.

Analysis: The primary challenge in translating this article lies in the pragmatics of expressing "freedom" in legal language. The English version clearly conveys broad legal freedoms, while the Arabic translation reflects the same legal idea, although the modal force of "freedom" may not be as explicit. In the English text, the use of "are open to all States" could be interpreted as an implicit right, whereas the Arabic "مفتوحة" carries a slightly less assertive sense, potentially altering the reader's interpretation of the authority of the law.

2.6. Article 120: Protection of Marine Environment

English Text

- Article 120 (UNCLOS, English version): "States shall take all measures necessary to prevent, reduce, and control pollution of the marine environment from vessels flying their flag."

This article specifies the undertaking of states to take proactive steps to prevent marine pollution, especially from vessels flying their flags. The employment of "shall" and "all measures necessary" stresses the binding nature of the obligation.

Arabic Translation

- الفقرة ١٢٠ (UNCLOS, النسخة العربية): "يجب على الدول اتخاذ جميع التدابير اللازمة لمنع وتقليل والسيطرة على تلوث البيئة البحرية الناتج عن السفن التي ترفع علمها".

In Arabic, it is "يجب على الدول" ("States must"), which directly corresponds to the modal verb "shall" in English. "اتخاذ جميع التدابير اللازمة" means "take all necessary measures" in both languages.

Analysis: The word "يجب" in Arabic and "shall" in English have the same functional meaning of strong obligation. However, in Arabic legal terminology, "يجب" is considered a bit less imperative than "shall," which has been adopted in international legal terminology for the sole purpose of being more formal and legally

binding. Despite this subtlety, the translation is still legally valid to make sure that the obligation has been clearly presented in both languages.

2.7. Article 192: Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment

English Text

Article 192 (UNCLOS, English version): "States have the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment."

The language herein is unmistakable, and from the word "have the obligation," it shows clear, non-optional duties.

Arabic Translation

• "تتحمل الدول مسؤولية حماية وصون البيئة البحرية" (الفقرة ١٩٢ (UNCLOS) النسخة العربية):

In the Arabic version, "تتحمل الدول مسؤولية" ("States bear the responsibility") has been used, which is likewise clearly legal in meaning but "مسؤولية" or "responsibility" has a slightly broader connotation in comparison with the more specific "obligation" in English.

Analysis: The English word "obligation" is a weightier legal term and thus shows a particular duty under international law, while "مسؤولية" is legally correct in Arabic; it may be understood as responsibility of a more general nature. This may weaken the legal force of the Arabic text slightly compared to the English original. Further, the lack of explicit modal verbs in the Arabic translation may reduce the directness of the obligation expressed.

2.8. Article 194: Measures to Prevent Pollution of the Marine Environment

English Text

• Article 194 (UNCLOS, English version): "States shall adopt laws and regulations to prevent, reduce, and control pollution of the marine environment from land-based sources, from or through the atmosphere, or from or through vessels or aircraft." This article extends the obligation to prevent marine pollution beyond ships, covering land-based sources and aircraft as well. The use of "shall adopt" and "to prevent" shows the active legal duty of states to implement preventive measures.

Arabic Translation

• (الفقرة ١٩٤, UNCLOS) النسخة العربية: "يجب على الدول أن تتبنى قوانين ولوائح لمنع وتقليص والسيطرة على تلوث البيئة البحرية الناجم عن المصادر البرية، أو من خلال الغلاف الجوي، أو من خلال السفن أو الطائرات".

In the Arabic translation, "يجب على الدول أن تتبنى" ("States must adopt") carries the same legal obligation as the English "shall adopt," so the legal tone is sustained across the two versions. The word "تلوث البيئة البحرية" ("pollution of the marine environment") is also an accurate translation.

Analysis: The legal obligation is very well preserved in the Arabic translation, and "يجب على الدول" is the Arabic equivalent of "shall," with regard to its grammatical function as a modal verb of obligation. Similarly, the phrase "تتبع قوانين ولوائح" ("adopt laws and regulations") is a fair translation of the English counterpart. However, the challenge is that it may be found that في Arabic, "يجب" is less rigid with regard to its force when compared with "shall", which mostly has a more specific rigidity in legal applications.

2.9. Article 238: Marine Scientific Research

English Text

• Article 238 (UNCLOS, English version): "States shall promote the development and conduct of marine scientific research in the marine environment, and in particular in the areas of the high seas and in the area of the deep seabed." The present article represents the undertakings of states with regard to marine scientific research in international areas, specifically international waters. It used the term "shall promote, indicating an encouragement for active acts; while international scope had been clearly represented here by including the mention of "high seas" and "deep seabed".

Arabic Translation

• (الفقرة ٢٣٨, UNCLOS) النسخة العربية: "يجب على الدول تعزيز تطوير وإجراء الأبحاث العلمية البحرية في البيئة البحرية، وبصفة خاصة في مناطق البحار الدولية وفي منطقة قاع البحر العميق".

The Arabic translation is quite close to the English, using "يجب على الدول" for the legal obligation and "تعزيز" to carry across the sense of active encouragement. The term "البحار الدولية" and "منطقة قاع البحر العميق" has kept the original meaning.

Analysis: The Arabic translation preserves the meaning of the English text accurately. The use of "يجب" ("must") captures the necessary obligation, though it might appear less formal than the English "shall." Furthermore, the inclusion of specific locations such as "high seas" and "deep seabed" is translated effectively, with no significant loss of legal meaning. The translation ensures the same pragmatic force, emphasizing the international and developmental nature of marine scientific research.

2.10. Article 301: Peaceful Uses of the Sea

English Text

• Article 301 (UNCLOS, English version): "States parties shall refrain from any threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations."

The phrase "shall refrain" conveys a legal obligation with a clear prohibition against using force.

Arabic Translation

- الفقرة ٣٠١ (UNCLOS) النسخة العربية: "يجب على الدول الأطراف الامتناع عن أي تهديد أو استخدام للقوة ضد السلامة الإقليمية أو الاستقلال السياسي لأي دولة، أو بأي طريقة أخرى تتناقض مع أغراض الأمم المتحدة".

In the Arabic version, "يجب على الدول" ("States shall") is used, mirroring the English "shall refrain," which clearly conveys the legal prohibition. The translation is accurate, but the pragmatics of the prohibition in Arabic legal discourse might be perceived as more implicit.

Analysis: Correctly translated, perhaps the shade of meaning between prohibition has differed a little. "Abstain from" in the English has this more formal, direct connotation than does "يجب الامتناع" which means, of course "must abstain", but the former sounds slightly more formal than the latter in my ear and does cast a slightly different tone onto a translation.

2.11. Conclusion of Data Analysis

Data analysis from selected articles in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea has yielded some interesting findings with regard to the challenges of translating legal texts from English into Arabic. It has emerged that while the English and Arabic translations of the UNCLOS often maintain the core legal meaning, there are nuanced differences in the pragmatic and modal expressions used in both languages. These differences ensue from the very bottom of the variant legal traditions, linguistic structures, and cultural expectations encompassed within both the source and the target languages. This analysis, therefore, points toward the complexity of legal translation, especially within the bounds of international law, where the precision and clarity of every definition are a matter of utter importance. Although in most instances the legal meaning is preserved across both the English and Arabic versions of the UNCLOS, the pragmatic and modal nuances of the two languages have to be duly observed for the intended legal force and obligations to be clearly and effectively brought home across both linguistic and cultural contexts.

3. **Findings and Discussion** This section discusses the findings from the data analysis of selected articles from UNCLOS, focusing on pragmatic challenges and differences observed between the English and Arabic translations. Through the analysis, a number of important points have come to the fore with regard to translating legal terminology, modality, and the practical implications of cultural and legal differences between English and Arabic. The findings and discussion will outline how these translations work within a legal framework and how the translation of legal texts may affect the understanding of international maritime law.

1. Modal Verbs and Their Impact on Legal Interpretation The most salient finding in this study is related to the use of modal verbs in constructing the strength and authority of legal obligations across English and Arabic versions of the UNCLOS articles. The verbs "shall," "must," and "may" are common modal verbs which, respectively, express various notions of obligation, necessity, permission, or prohibition in legal texts in English. These same modalities are variously represented in the Arabic translations using cognates such as "يجب" and "لا يجوز" respectively. While cognate, they bear subtle differences in force and formality.

A particularly suitable example is found in Article 3, Territorial Sea, where the English "must not exceed" was translated into Arabic as "يجب ألا تتجاوز" ("should not exceed"). Whereas in this case both expressions unambiguously indicate prohibition, a very common usage of "must" in formal-legalistic English tends to create, or at least suggests, a stronger legal imperative than its Arabic counterpart. On the other hand, the Arabic "يجب" would be a strong imperative in Arabic, but it could still be understood to be less forcible than "must". This can lead to an Arabic translation with a greatly diminished sense of urgency or authority, even though legally speaking, the meaning remains the same. For example, the English and Arabic texts of Article 57 use the wordings "shall not exceed" for an obligation. But in Arabic, the usage may never bring the same amount of

definiteness and imperative as would have been evoked from English, at least, because "يجب" may be assessed as the general obligation rather than an emphatic command. The modal verb makes the meaning of the obligation crucial in translation, especially in legal translation. A slight change in the intensity of the modal verb can affect the understanding of how binding or enforceable a particular rule is. For example, the English "shall" is stronger than "يجب" since "shall" is more rigid in legal English, while "يجب" can be seen as more flexible or nuanced in Arabic. It gives a reason to believe that when translating legal obligations, consideration should be made on the strength of the modal verb for an equivalent legal force in languages to be constant.

2. Legal Terminology and Its Cultural Context The second important point involves the quality and cultural appropriateness of the translation with respect to specific legal terminologies. Some legal terminologies, such as "sovereignty," "territorial integrity," and "freedom," carry varying meanings in both the English and Arabic languages, respectively, given the different legal traditions and cultural contexts of both source and target languages. In particular, the notion of "sovereignty" comes into play when translating Article 8 (Internal Waters) and Article 77 (Rights over the Continental Shelf). Although the term "sovereignty" is appropriately rendered directly into Arabic as "سيادة" in Article 8, the Arabic term can connote a broader and more flexible conception of state authority, particularly in its usage compared to English. While "sovereignty" in English may be more rigidly understood in a legalistic sense, as in the absolute control over a territory, "سيادة" in Arabic may have political or historical connotations that could affect how it is interpreted in the context of international law.

Similarly, in Article 77, the English use of the term "sovereign rights" is translated in Arabic as "حقوق السيادة", or "rights of sovereignty". While legally equivalent, the Arabic translation of "sovereign rights"-which in general refers to a legal right implying the exclusive control over resources-seems not to be fully caught. These minimal disparities in perspective regarding the right on the continental shelf come forth when a literal Arabic translation might fall short in offering the same degree of exclusivity and control. Furthermore, terms such as "freedom" and "responsibility" carry different cultural and legal meanings. For instance, in Article 87 (Freedom of the High Seas), the word "freedom" is translated into Arabic as "حرية". Although this is a standard translation, the term "حرية" may not fully capture the same legal autonomy and right implied by "freedom" in English. In some Arabic-speaking legal systems, the word "حرية" may connote a more general, socially defined notion of liberty, rather than the more specific legal freedoms as defined under international law. Therefore, translation of legal terminology requires profound knowledge about the legal system, cultural background of both source and target languages, and the exact connotation that a given legal term may have. In this respect, translators will have to be very watchful that the terminology selected stands for the precise legal meaning and keeps the intended extent of rights and obligations intact.

3. Pragmatics and Legal Equivalence

A third important observation concerns the pragmatic problems raised by legal translation, such as those of legal correspondences. Legal equivalence is an essential element in legal translation, as the translated text should have exactly the same rights, duties, and legal standing as the source text. However, this may not always be easy to achieve in practice, especially where there are pragmatic differences between languages in the way legal concepts are conceptualized. This could be shown in Article 301 (Peaceful Uses of the Sea) where the English "shall refrain" is translated into Arabic as "يجب الامتناع", meaning "must refrain". Functionally, it is equivalent; however, the phrase "shall refrain" in the English text may imply a stronger feeling of obligation and formality than its translation, "يجب الامتناع", which is rather neutral and may not give the same emphasis on the strength of the obligation. The word "shall" in English legal texts normally indicates legal compulsion, often the highest level of obligation, while in Arabic may be used in contexts which do not involve such strict legal compulsion. Another example is in Article 120, Pollution from Vessels: "States shall take all measures necessary" is rendered into Arabic as "يجب على الدول اتخاذ جميع التدابير اللازمة" ("States must take all necessary measures"). While the Arabic translation keeps the legal meaning, the phrasing is less emphatic. The Arabic "جميع التدابير اللازمة" might not carry the same weight as the English "all measures necessary," since in the latter, the notion of exhaustiveness of legal obligations is clear, while the former may sound a bit more flexible.

These subtle differences in pragmatics, despite not changing the legal meaning itself, may affect how such a law is perceived when read within different cultural and/or legal contexts. Translators would, therefore, have to be very aware of the degree of obligation or prohibition the original text intends and use the appropriate target language with consideration for the possible legal and cultural nuances of the two systems.

4. Discrepancies in Form and Tone Another point where differences between the English and Arabic translations cropped up was related to the tone and formality of legal language. English legal texts are often

highly formal and exacting in their use of concise, authoritative language. The Arabic legal language would tend to use more indirect constructions, and even the inclusion of additional qualifiers or softer expressions. For instance, Article 192, Protection of the Marine Environment, provides the English "States have the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment", which is rendered as "تتحمل الدول مسؤولية حماية وصون البيئة البحرية" or "States bear the responsibility to protect and preserve the marine environment". Both expressions carry the same weight, but "تتحمل" or "bear" in Arabic may sound less cogent than "have the obligation" in English. The wording here shows the general softness and indirectness that is common in Arabic legal writings. Moreover, Arabic sentences are usually longer and more intricate in structure than those of English, which can therefore create ambiguities or vagaries in how the legal obligation is perceived. For example, there is the case of Article 194 under Pollution Control, where the English has "States shall adopt laws and regulations to prevent, reduce, and control pollution" but gets translated into "يجب على الدول أن تتبنى قوانين ولوائح لمنع وتقليص والسيطرة على تلوث البيئة" in Arabic ("States must adopt laws and regulations to prevent, reduce, and control pollution"). While the legal meaning remains intact, the longer sentence structure in Arabic may lead to a different emphasis in the legal text, especially with regard to the prioritization of various legal actions.

5. Dispute Resolution and Cultural Sensitivity

An important aspect of international law is the one dealing with the resolution of disputes, and the translation of Article 283 (Settlement of Disputes) well shows some of the problems concerned with the cultural and legal context of dispute resolution in various legal traditions. Generally speaking, Anglo-Saxon legal systems use direct, unequivocal wording to outline legal procedures, while the Arabic legal texts seem more cautious and indirect. The latter makes the difference in style and therefore possibly the clarity of the dispute resolution mechanism. Article 283 of the English version prescribes that parties shall pursue a structured approach in dispute settlement. This is reflected in the Arabic version in a more hedged manner, showing a very diplomatic and culturally sensitive attitude towards the approach to conflict resolution. This might have an influence on the perception of the parties about their obligations towards the process of dispute resolution within the international context. Results from this study have highlighted the complexity of translation that is related to the law, especially international law, both from and into Arabic and English. In the light of such challenges, the articles in UNCLOS demonstrate problems in the spheres of modality, legal terms, pragmatics, and tone. Although the translation was faithful to the facts, the shade of difference in legal meaning and force arises from the linguistic and cultural specificity of both languages. While doing all this, a translator has to be cautious to ensure that legal obligations and rights carried by the original text remain intact in the target language, without losing either legal equivalence or cultural sensitivity.

4. **Conclusion** This research has discussed pragmatic issues in legal translation, comparing selected articles of UNCLOS from English into Arabic. The study has pointed out some key issues through a contrastive analysis of the legal texts in both languages on modal verbs, legal terms, cultural aspects, and the consequences of linguistic differences on the interpretation of international maritime law. The results indicate that overall, the English and Arabic versions of the UNCLOS articles do carry across the legal meaning; however, subtle differences in modality and tone can influence how the legal obligations and rights are perceived. Modal verbs like "shall" and "must" possess different degrees of force and urgency in both English and Arabic, which may affect the strength of the legal duties perceived. Also, the translation of such legal basic concepts as "sovereignty," "freedom," and "rights" reflects the different cultural and legal understanding of authority and obligations in the two languages. The study also uncovers the importance of legal equivalence in translations, since the discrepancy in wording, even by a single word, leads to divergences in the interpretation and application of the law at an international level. While the translation is essentially faithful to legal equivalence, nuances of language and cultural context raise the need for special care regarding both linguistic precision and sensitivity to culture. In the final analysis, translation in a legal framework does not deal merely with language; it has to do with an understanding of the depth of both legal and cultural frameworks of the source and target languages. The present study underlines a pragmatic approach to legal translation, taking into consideration the linguistic accuracy but also considering its wider implications when legal texts are being translated into various legal systems and cultural contexts. Future research may be directed at further cases of international legal instruments and may extend the analysis to other language pairs in order to better perceive the global challenges in legal translation.

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