

ENGLISH WORD FORMATION PATTERNS AND TRANSLATION THEREOF IN THE INSTITUTIONAL REGISTER

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Translation of institutional texts is a challenge for translators due to the importance of conveying the meaning of the context as accurately as possible. The production of a good translation of official documents such as regulations that reflect the institutional register requires consideration of differences in the source and target languages in terms of syntax and lexis. As often as not, this results in transformations in sentence structure and word formation. The theoretical part of this paper discusses the main word formation types for the English and the Lithuanian languages. The second, empirical part, deals with the analysis of word formation types in the English language, their transformations in the Lithuanian language and most common transformation patterns. For the purpose, data from original bilingual documents of the European Union representing the institutional register were collected from EUR-Lex database.

The overview of theoretical material on word formation patterns in English and Lithuanian provided the base for a relevant classification of word formation transformations. The classification chosen incorporated the main English word formation types and their Lithuanian counterparts. The study of occurrence of word formation types in SL and TL in the sample showed that suffixation was the most frequent word formation type in SL comprising more than a half of all the examples (54%). A detailed analysis of the main patterns in English word formation and their transformations in TL in institutional texts of the chosen sample revealed two sets of transformations in word formation: maintaining and non-maintaining word formation transformations. The majority of the cases in which word formation was maintained accounted for 72% of the examples maintaining suffixes in TL.

Actual word formation transformations (from one SL formation into a different TL formation) in the groups of SL suffixation and compounding outnumbered all the other word transformation types. Examples of suffixation in SL reveal three major groups of transformations in TL: prefixation plus suffixation, prefixation plus paradigmization and cases of non-formation. Due to the idiosyncrasies of TL structure, four more types of word formation were distinguished in TL: non-formation, phrasing, prefixation plus paradigmization, and paradigmization.