

**TRANSLATION OF LEGAL TERMS: A CASE OF THE MULUKI
AIN (GENERAL CODE)**

**A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education
In Partial Fulfillment for the Master of Education in English**

Submitted by

Jeevan Kalakheti

Faculty of Education

Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur

Kathmandu, Nepal

2012

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2012

TU Reg. No: 9-2-278-958-2005

Second Year Examination

Roll No. 280483/ 067

Date of Approval of the

Thesis Proposal: 27-11-2011

Date of Submission: 27-03-2012

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This is to certify that **Jeevan Kalakheti** has prepared this thesis entitled **Translation of Legal Terms: A Case of the Muluki Ain (General Code)** under my guidance and supervision.

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DEDICATION

Dedicated

to

My reverent grandfather and especially to my respected, affectionate, and inspiring Daddy and Mummy who have devoted a greater span of their entire lives in forming me what I am today.

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge this thesis is original; no part of it was earlier submitted for the candidature of research degree to any university.

Date: 25-03-2012

Jeevan Kalakheti

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, I would like to acknowledge a great debt to my thesis guide **Mr. Resham Acharya**, Teaching Assistant, Department of English Education, Faculty of Education, TU, Kirtipur for his constant encouragement and guidance in selecting, planning, preparing, editing, and finalizing the thesis. His academic instructions, suggestions have largely motivated me to write the thesis very smoothly. Without supports, advices given by him for writing, this thesis would not be possible in this form.

I am highly indebted to **Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra**, Professor and Head, Department of English Education, TU, Kirtipur for his affectionate behavior with invaluable suggestions and instructions.

I am extremely grateful to **Dr. Bal Mukunda Bhandari**, Reader, Department of English Education, Faculty of Education, TU, Kirtipur for his invaluable suggestions and instructions.

Similarly, I would like to acknowledge to **Mr. Khem Raj Joshi**, Teaching Assistant, Department of English Education, TU, Kirtipur for his support in reading and correction the thesis.

I would like to extend a deep sense of indebtedness to all the **Professors, Lecturers and Teachers** who taught me in different levels in different time periods.

I am indebted to the authors whose ideas play a momentous role in preparing this thesis, and those ideas are cited and adapted in it. I am grateful to **A. Riccardi J.C. Catford, P. Newmark, G.R. Bhattarai, P.B. Phyak,**

I would like to thank my beloved brother **Mr. Mani Raj Kalakheti** and my brother-in-law **Mrs. Rajita Chimariya (Kalakheti)** for their continuous supports and encouragements in my study and writing this thesis.

Last but not least, I would like to thank **Mr. Indra Prasad Upadhyaya & Sanjay Acchami** for their encouragement to write this thesis and proof reading.

Furthermore, my brother **Suman Karki** also deserves thank for his technical supports and **Resunga Computer Center Kirtipur** for finalizing this thesis.

Jeevan Kalakheti

ABSTRACT

This study is entitled **Translation of Legal Terms: A Case of the Muluki Ain (General Code)**. It incorporates the ambiguities, techniques and problems of translated legal terms. In order to carry out this study, one hundred legal terms were selected from the Nepali version of 'Muluki Ain' (General Code) which is published by Law Books Management Board, Government of Nepal and corresponding words from English version of the same book. This study shows hundred different ambiguous legal terms and techniques: literal translation, paraphrasing, borrowing, transliteration, transliteration plus explanation. Among them, literal translation was the most frequently employed technique which covered 73 per cent and hybrid formation was the least frequent translation technique which covered 1 per cent among the total legal terms. The problems in translating legal terms existed because of lack of lexicalization of the legal terms, problems of equivalence, problems of cultural equivalence, and translingual, lexical ambiguity.

This thesis contains four chapters. **The first chapter** introduces the study in terms of general background along with importance of translation, types of translation, tools and procedures of translating technical terms, problems of translation, and legal translation in Nepal, review of related literature, objectives of the study and significance of the study. **The second chapter** discusses the methodology adopted to carry out the research along with sources of data, sampling procedure, tools for data collection, process of data collection, and limitations of the study. **The third chapter** deals with the analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data. The data were tabulated and analyzed using simple statistical tools. **The last or the fourth chapter** comprises the findings and recommendations of the study. In the final part of this thesis, references and appendices are included.

TABLE OF CONTENT

	Page No
<i>Declaration</i>	<i>i</i>
<i>Recommendation for Acceptance</i>	<i>ii</i>
<i>Recommendation for Evaluation</i>	<i>iii</i>
<i>Evaluation and Approval</i>	<i>iv</i>
<i>Dedication</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>vi</i>
<i>Abstract</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>Table of Contents</i>	<i>viii</i>
<i>List of Tables</i>	<i>xi</i>
<i>List of Symbols and Abbreviations</i>	<i>xii</i>
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1-27
1.1 General Background	1
1.1.1. Importance of Translation	4
1.1.2. Types of Translation	7
1.1.2.1 Text Based Translation	7
1.1.2.2. Academic Translation	8
1.1.2.3. Language Based Classification	11
1.1.2.4. Mode Based Translation	12

1.1.2.5. Agent Based Translation	13
1.1.3. Tools and Procedures of Translation	14
1.1.3.1. Monolingual Dictionary	15
1.1.3.2. Bilingual/Multilingual Dictionary	15
1.1.3.3. Thesaurus	15
1.1.3.4. Glossary of Technical Terms	15
1.1.3.5. Term Bank	16
1.1.3.6. Computer	16
1.1.4. Problems/Difficulties of Translation	21
1.1.5. Legal Translation in Nepal	22
1.2. Review of Related Literature	24
1.3. Objectives of the Study	27
1.4. Significance of the Study	27
CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY	28-30
2.1 Sources of Data	28
2.1.1. Primary Sources of Data	28
2.1.2. Secondary Sources of Data	28
2.2 Sampling Procedures	29
2.3 Tools for Data Collection	29
2.4 Process of Data Collection	29
2.5 Limitations of the Study	30
CHAPTER THREE: ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION OF DATA	31-43
3.1 Transliteration of Legal Terms and their Ambiguous Terms	31

3.2	Transliteration of Legal Terms, their Equivalences in English and Identification of Techniques of Translation	35
3.2.1	Techniques Used in Translation of Legal Terms	39
3.3	Problems in Translating Legal Terms	40
3.3.1	Lack of Lexicalization of the Legal Concepts: Lexical Gap	41
3.3.2	Problems of Equivalence: Conceptual Gap	42
3.3.3	Problems of Cultural Equivalence: Cultural Gap	42
3.3.4	Translingual, Lexical Ambiguity	43
	CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	44-45
4.1	Findings	44
4.2	Recommendations	45
	References	

LIST OF TABLES

	Page No.
Table No. 1: Legal Terms with their Ambiguous Term	31
Table No.2: Legal Terms with their Transliterated, Equivalences in English and Techniques of Translation	35
Table No.3: Techniques Used in Translation of Legal Terms	40

LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

B.C	–	Before Christ
B.S	–	Bikram Sambat
Dr.	–	Doctor
e.g.	–	For example (Latin: <i>example gratia</i>)
etc.	–	<i>et cetera</i>
HF	–	Hybrid Formation
ibid.	–	in the book just mentioned (Latin: <i>ibidem</i>)
i.e.	–	Explaining what you mean
LS	–	Loan Shift
LT	–	Literal Translation
M.Ed	–	Master of Education
No.	–	Number
p.	–	Page
Pr.	–	Paraphrasing
Regd. No.	–	Registration Number
S.N.	–	Serial Number
SL	–	Source Language
SLT	–	Source Language Text
ST	–	Source Text
TU	–	Tribhuvan University
TL	–	Target Language
Tr. plus Exp.	–	Transliteration plus Explanation
TLT	–	Target Language Text
TT	–	Target Text
UNESCO	–	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization