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## UKRAINIAN-ENGLISH NOTARIZED TRANSLATION: CHALLENGES AND BEST PRACTICES

**Summary.** This paper explores both the theoretical and practical challenges involved in notarized Ukrainian-English translation, with a particular emphasis on translating personal documents. The research provides a comprehensive analysis of the translation of elements that must follow specific rules, such as names, dates, official titles, and standardized phrases. These elements are critical in maintaining the legal validity and cultural relevance of the translated documents. The study underscores the intricacies and challenges involved in translating various types of personal documents, highlighting the need for a meticulous approach to ensure precision, consistency, and adherence to established standards. In examining the translation of apostilles, the paper emphasizes the crucial importance of preserving the original document's format and official terminology to maintain its authenticity and legal standing. Additionally, it delves into the translation of passports, birth certificates, and death certificates, discussing the complexities associated with translating key personal identification documents. These include the correct interpretation and translation of legal terms, as well as the accurate representation of personal information such as names, dates, and places of birth. The study also addresses the translation of marriage and divorce certificates, focusing on the specific nuances required when handling documents related to marital status. This includes the precise translation of legal terms and the preservation of the document's original structure. Moreover, the paper covers the challenges associated with translating academic credentials, ensuring that the translated documents accurately reflect the individual's educational achievements while adhering to the terminological and formatting standards of the target language. Finally, the study explores the translation of criminal record certificates, stressing the importance of maintaining confidentiality, accuracy, and the correct interpretation of legal terminology throughout the translation process. Overall, the paper provides insights into the complexities and best practices of notarized translation, offering guidelines for ensuring that translations are not only accurate but also legally valid and culturally appropriate in a notarized context.

**Key words:** notarized translation, legal terminology, transliteration, adaptation, equivalent, transposition.

**Introduction.** In a globalized world where communication transcends borders, the demand for accurate and legally compliant translations is growing rapidly. Whether dealing with legal documents, contracts, academic transcripts, or immigration papers, ensuring the precision and authenticity of translated materials is of utmost importance. This is where notarized translation becomes essential. Notarized translation, often referred to as certified translation, involves the translation of a document accompanied by a signed statement from the translator or translation agency attesting to the translation's accuracy and completeness. Furthermore, the translator's signature is notarized, thereby granting the translated document legal validity. Given that notarized translation ensures the legal validity of documents in international contexts and plays a crucial role in global legal relations, the study of the challenges and nuances of notarized translation from Ukrainian to English is particularly relevant. However, the field of notarized translation from Ukrainian to English remains under-researched. Despite the increasing demand for professional translators capable of guaranteeing the accuracy and legal integrity of notarized documents, the available literature on this topic is notably scarce. The accessibility of relevant information and methodologies necessary to enhance the quality of translation services remains limited. This highlights an urgent need for further research and the development of training materials aimed at elevating the professional standards of translators and ensuring the accuracy of notarized translations from Ukrainian into English.

**The analysis of recent research and publications.** The academic literature dedicated specifically to notarized translation is relatively limited compared to the more extensive studies in translation studies or jurisprudence. Nonetheless, scholars in these fields have addressed the concept of notarized translation within their broader research.

Renowned translation scholar M. Baker has extensively explored various facets of translation, including the intricate field of legal translation. While her research does not specifically center on notarized translation, Baker frequently addresses the challenges inherent in translating legal documents, emphasizing the critical importance of accuracy and fidelity in this domain [1]. Her work has

significantly contributed to our comprehension of the complexities involved in translating legal texts and navigating legal discourse across different linguistic and cultural landscapes.

Similarly, S. Šarčević has made notable contributions to the field of legal translation, particularly in relation to the language of law [2]. Her research delves into the translation of legal texts across diverse legal systems and languages, including considerations of notarized translation within the context of legal documentation. Šarčević's work has deepened our understanding of the challenges associated with achieving equivalence and accuracy in legal translation, further illuminating the intricacies of this specialized field.

C. Way's research is at the intersection of language, law, and translation, with a particular focus on legal translation [3]. She is recognized for her significant contributions to translation studies, especially in the areas of legal terminology, translation techniques, and the role of translation in legal communication and access to justice. Way's work explores the challenges and complexities of translating legal texts across different legal systems and languages, including issues related to the certification and authentication of translated documents.

H. Footitt's research spans various aspects of translation and interpreting, with a particular emphasis on legal translation and its role in legal processes [4]. While she does not delve deeply into notarized translation, her examination of legal translation practices and the interplay between translation and law offers valuable insights into the broader context of certified and authenticated translations.

Ch. Goddard's research also centres on legal translation, exploring the interactions between language, law, and society [5]. His work addresses issues related to the certification and authentication of translated legal documents, including notarized translation, further contributing to the understanding of this specialized field.

Thus, while notarized translation is a crucial aspect of translation practice, it has not been the focus of extensive theoretical analysis in academic research. Often regarded as a routine administrative task, the notarization of translations is typically addressed within broader discussions of legal translation, translation ethics, or translation practice, particularly in contexts where the certification and authenticity of translated documents are paramount. Despite its limited exploration in scholarly work, the practical significance of notarized translation is substantial. It plays a vital role in ensuring the accuracy, validity, and acceptability of translated documents in legal, administrative, and official settings, thereby facilitating intercultural communication, legal compliance, and trust in the reliability of translated content.

**The aim of this study** is to identify and analyse the primary challenges associated with notarized translation from Ukrainian to English and to develop recommendations for effectively addressing these issues. To achieve this objective, the following **tasks** will be undertaken: analysing the translation of personal documents from English into Ukrainian; describing the specific challenges and nuances of notarized translation; systematizing recommendations for notarized translation from Ukrainian into English.

**Results and discussions.** Notarized translation encompasses various types of documents, each serving distinct purposes and requiring meticulous attention to detail. Common examples include legal documents (contracts, certificates, deeds, and court orders); personal documents (birth certificates, marriage certificates, academic transcripts, and diplomas); business documents

(financial statements, contracts, licenses, and patents); medical documents (medical records, insurance claims, and clinical trial reports); and government documents (passports, visas, residence permits, and customs declarations) [6]. The study's **material** comprises a selection of legal documents translated from Ukrainian into English, including apostilles, passports, birth, death, marriage, and divorce certificates, as well as school certificates, diplomas, and criminal record documents.

Notarized translation is a specialized area of translation that demands a high degree of accuracy and strict adherence to established rules and regulations. Translators working with notarial documents must consider not only the linguistic aspects but also the legal, cultural, and formal requirements that these legally recognized documents entail. A significant challenge in this field is the translation of elements that must be rendered according to specific guidelines to ensure their alignment with the legal norms and standards of both the source and target languages.

Transliteration is a vital component of notarized translation, particularly in the accurate transfer of names, surnames, geographical names, institution names, and other proper nouns from Ukrainian into English. Proper application of transliteration rules is essential for the accurate identification of individuals and entities in international documents, which is crucial for maintaining the legal validity of the translation. Therefore, understanding and adhering to the basic rules of transliteration is essential in notarized translations. In Ukraine, the official system for transliterating names, surnames, and other proper nouns from Ukrainian into the Latin alphabet is established by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, dated January 27, 2010 [7]. This system is employed in the issuance of passports and notarized translations to ensure consistency and accuracy in transliteration.

In transliteration, certain nuances can lead to discrepancies. For example, the soft sign (ь) is not represented separately, meaning that surnames differing only by this sign may appear identical in translation, such as Ukrainian surnames «Лесько» and «Леско» can only be rendered as "Lesko". Additionally, the transliteration of specific letters requires careful attention due to the lack of direct Latin equivalents, especially at the beginning versus the middle of words. For instance, Ukrainian «Е» is rendered as "Ye" at the beginning of a word and "ie" in the middle; Ukrainian «Ї» becomes "Yi" at the beginning and "i" in the middle; «Ю» is "Yu" at the beginning and "iu" in the middle; «Я» is "Ya" at the beginning and "ia" in the middle. The letter «Щ» is transliterated as combination "Shch", as in «Терещенко» to "Tereshchenko".

It is important to consider the variants that already exist in an individual's official documents. If an English version of the surname and name is already present in previous documents, the translator is obligated to use that version. According to the transliteration rules, the Ukrainian name «Верхоляк Марія» should have been rendered as "Verholiak Mariia". However, the translator adhered to the existing version, "Verkholyak Maria", as it had already been established in earlier documents.

Translating the names of organizations and institutions demands particular care to ensure their legal identity is maintained. Typically, these names are either translated with the original name provided in brackets or transliterated when aligned with international standards.

In the example, «Комунарський відділ державної реєстрації актів цивільного стану у місті Запоріжжя Південного міжрегіонального управління міністерства юстиції

(м. Одеса)» – "Komunarskyi District Department of State Civil Registry Office of Zaporizhzhia city of the Southern Interregional Office of the Ministry of Justice (Odesa city)", the term "office" appears twice in the translation: first as an addition in the phrase "State Civil Registry Office", and then as a functional equivalent for «управління».

In the context of translating from Ukrainian to English, the terms «район» і «область» have multiple translation options depending on the context. "District" is the most commonly used term, typically referring to an administrative-territorial unit. For instance, «Шевченківський район» is translated as "Shevchenkivskyi District". The term "area" is used when referring to a specific geographical area or part of a city, but not in an administrative sense, such as in the translation "residential area".

"Region" is the standard term used to refer to an administrative unit equivalent to the Ukrainian "oblast". For example, «Львівська область» is translated as "Lviv Region". Although "province" is occasionally used, particularly in historical or international contexts, it is less common in reference to modern Ukraine. The choice between "region" and "province" can vary depending on the specific context and the country in question.

In the documents analysed in this study, the correct translations are «район» – "district", «область» – "region". Additionally, when transliterating place names in these word combinations, transposition at the morphological level is often employed altering parts of speech to enhance clarity for the target audience. For example, «Миколаївський» is rendered as "Mykolaiv", and «Львівський» as "Lviv".

When translating abbreviations in official documents such as passports, apostilles, and certificates, it is crucial to ensure accuracy and alignment with the official names of the corresponding organizations, institutions, or documents. For example, «Паспорт громадянина України» is translated as "ID Card" or "Passport of a Citizen of Ukraine" (depending on the document type), «Ідентифікаційний код» (ІПН) is rendered as "Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)", and «Міністерство закордонних справ» (МЗС) becomes "Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)". Similarly, «Відділ реєстрації актів цивільного стану» (РАЦС) is translated as "Civil Status Registration Office (CSRO)" or "Vital Records Office" (depending on the terminology used in the specific country).

When translating abbreviations, it is also important to consider that some countries may require officially approved equivalents of these abbreviations, depending on their specific regulations. In our study, abbreviations are provided in full, such as «РВ УМВС» – "District Office of the Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs".

Date and number formats vary between countries and should be adapted to the conventions of the target language. In English-speaking countries, the month-day-year format is typically used. For example, the date "01.08.2024" (day.month.year) would be translated as "August 1, 2024".

Signatures and seals are legally significant elements that must be accurately preserved in translation, with explanations provided if necessary. Their placement and format should conform to the standards of the target country. For instance, «Підпис: \_\_\_\_\_» is translated as "Signature: \_\_\_\_\_", with all graphic elements either preserved or appropriately interpreted.

In translating an apostille, expressions like «поставлено електронно-цифровий підпис (печатку)» are often translated

with adjustments for clarity and accuracy, such as "electronically and digitally signed (stamped)". The stamp's information and graphic details should be clearly explained, as in: "Round digital stamp with the Ukrainian coat of arms and the following text: Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, for Apostille, No. XXXXX".

In Ukraine, passports include specific sections such as the place of registration (residence), which indicates an individual's official place of residence. However, passports in the US and UK do not include information about place of registration or domicile. When translating a Ukrainian passport into English, the concept of residence or place of registration can be challenging to convey, as there is no direct equivalent in the legal systems of the US or UK. This discrepancy may lead to confusion or require additional explanation or documentation to ensure proper understanding.

In Ukraine, a secondary school certificate includes grades for all subjects as well as an overall average grade, calculated according to a specific grading system. In contrast, secondary school certificates in the USA and UK may differ significantly, often using letter grades or lacking a single comprehensive document for all subjects. As a result, translating a Ukrainian certificate into English may require adaptation or explanation to account for the differences in grading systems. For instance, a grade of '12' in Ukraine does not directly correspond to an 'A+' in the United States, which may necessitate additional documentation or a comparative analysis to clarify the equivalency.

Confidentiality is a critical aspect of the notarized translation process, particularly when translating documents from Ukrainian into English. Throughout this process, the translator, notary, and all other involved parties must uphold stringent standards of data protection and confidentiality. This is essential because the documents often contain sensitive information, including personal identification details, financial records, and legal agreements. Ensuring the security of this information is paramount to maintaining the integrity of the translation process.

Translating an apostille from Ukrainian into English presents specific challenges that can impact the legal validity and accuracy of the document. A key challenge lies in the precise translation of legal terms, which is crucial for maintaining the document's integrity. For instance, an apostille includes details such as the «Уповноважений орган, Місце складання, Дата», all of which must be translated accurately and in accordance with international standards. For example, the Ukrainian term «Уповноважений орган» should be translated as "Competent Authority", while an incorrect translation, such as "Authorized Body", could lead to confusion or doubts about the document's legitimacy.

Additionally, names and surnames within the apostille must be translated or transliterated following international conventions. The document may also reference specific legislation or legal articles, which must be translated accurately to preserve the intended legal meaning. For example, the phrase «Цей апостиль підтверджує справжність підпису» could be translated as "This apostille certifies the authenticity of the signature", but varying legal phrasings in different countries may influence the document's interpretation. An apostille has a standardized structure that must be maintained in the translation, including designated spaces for the signature, seal, and date. Any alteration in the order of information during translation could raise doubts about the document's authenticity and potentially lead to its rejection.

Certain legal terms, such as «громадянство», can have varying meanings across different legal systems, leading to poten-

tial misunderstandings. It is essential to select the most accurate equivalent and provide further explanation if necessary. For example, the Ukrainian birth certificate includes a field labelled «*громадянство*», which might be translated as either "*nationality*" or "*citizenship*" in the UK. These terms can have distinct legal definitions in different countries, and an incorrect choice could result in confusion, particularly in immigration or consular contexts.

Another example is the term «*місце проживання*» on a birth certificate, which could be translated as either "*place of residence*" or "*place of domicile*". In English, these terms carry different legal implications: "*residence*" refers to where a person actually lives, while "*domicile*" may refer to a permanent residence or legal address. Misinterpreting these terms can lead to legal consequences or misunderstandings.

Additionally, some legal terms related to births and deaths may not have direct equivalents in English or within another country's legal system. For instance, in a Ukrainian death certificate, the phrase «*Причина смерті: природна*» should be translated as "*Cause of death: natural causes*" to meet the accepted standard in English. A literal translation like "*natural death*" could raise doubts about the document's authenticity and lead to potential legal complications.

Certain legal terms found in Ukrainian certificates may lack direct equivalents in English or may carry different meanings in various legal systems. For instance, in a Ukrainian divorce certificate, the term for ending a marriage could be translated as "*dissolution of marriage*", "*termination of marriage*", or "*divorce*". Selecting the wrong term could lead to confusion regarding the legal status of the divorce in another country.

Ukrainian certificates frequently specify the place of marriage or divorce registration, which can pose challenges for accurate translation due to differences in administrative divisions. For example, a Ukrainian certificate might state: «*Зареєстровано в РАЦСі Печерського району м. Києва*», which could be translated into English as: "*Registered at the Civil Registry Office of Pecherskyi District, Kyiv City*".

Translating certificates and diplomas from Ukrainian into English presents several challenges, particularly due to discrepancies between educational systems. Educational structures vary significantly across countries, complicating the translation of degree titles, qualifications, and subjects. For example, the Ukrainian «*атестат про повну загальну середню освіту*» might be translated as "*Certificate of Complete General Secondary Education*". However, this term does not always align precisely with English-language equivalents like "*High School Diploma*", potentially leading to misunderstandings in host institutions regarding the educational level attained.

Another challenge in translating Ukrainian academic degrees into English is the lack of direct equivalents in English-speaking education systems. For instance, while a Ukrainian «*Бакалавр*» can be translated as "*Bachelor's Degree*", the structure and requirements of bachelor's programs differ between Ukraine and countries like the United States or the United Kingdom, potentially leading to confusion. Additionally, Ukraine's higher education system includes the notion «*Спеціаліст*», which has no direct counterpart in many English-speaking countries. This can complicate the translation process, as some countries do not recognize the term "*Specialist Degree*". In such cases, additional explanation or adaptation of the term may be necessary. Comparing Ukrainian academic titles with their English equivalents can be particularly challenging due

to significant differences in structure and terminology. For example, «*Диплом спеціаліста*» might be translated as "*Specialist Diploma*" but may be equivalent to either a Bachelor's or Master's degree, depending on the context and the destination country.

The term «*Магістр з правазнавства*» may be translated as "*Master of Law*", but this translation can lead to confusion with an LLM degree, which differs significantly in both requirements and structure within English-speaking countries. The LLM, or Master of Laws, is a postgraduate degree in law typically pursued after obtaining a first degree in law, such as a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) or Juris Doctor (JD). LLM programs are designed for lawyers seeking to deepen their expertise in specialized legal fields, including international law, commercial law, tax law, and human rights, among others.

Translating a police clearance certificate from Ukrainian to English presents several challenges that must be addressed to ensure the document's accuracy and clarity. Police clearance certificates contain specific legal terms that may not have direct equivalents in English. For instance, the term «*несудимість*» might be translated as "*no criminal record*" or "*certificate of good conduct*", but the legal nuances in both languages must be carefully considered to accurately convey the intended meaning.

One example is the translation of the status of criminal liability. The original wording, «*на території України станом на 14.03.2024 до кримінальної відповідальності не притягується, незнятої чи непогашеної судимості не має та в розшуку не перебуває*», needs precise translation to maintain its legal integrity. This could be rendered as: "*As of March 14, 2024, on the territory of Ukraine, the individual has not been criminally prosecuted, has no outstanding or unexpunged criminal convictions, and is not wanted*". This translation ensures that all legal aspects are clearly and accurately communicated.

**Conclusions.** To summarize, the analysis of translating personal documents from Ukrainian into English, including apostilles, passports, birth and death certificates, marriage and divorce certificates, diplomas, and police clearance certificates, has highlighted several key aspects. Terminological accuracy is essential to avoid legal misunderstandings, while the preservation of original formatting – such as signatures, seals, and text fields – is crucial. Legal details must be accurately conveyed, and cultural differences, such as variations in date formats and the names of administrative entities, must be carefully considered. Successful translation, therefore, demands not only linguistic expertise but also an understanding of cultural and legal nuances, along with adherence to international standards.

Looking forward, the prospects for research in notarized translation are promising, particularly in the areas of legal, financial, medical, and corporate documents. Additionally, studies on the adaptation of Ukrainian terms and the challenges of machine translation are highly relevant. These avenues offer significant potential for advancing our understanding of translation practices and refining approaches across various fields.

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**Запольських С., Погонєць В., Гребеннікова О.**  
**Нотаріальний переклад з української мови англійською мовою: виклики та оптимальні рішення**

**Анотація.** У статті досліджуються теоретичні та практичні проблеми, пов'язані з нотаріально засвідченим українсько-англійським перекладом, з особливим акцентом на перекладі особистих документів. Дослідження містить комплексний аналіз перекладу елементів, які повинні відповідати певним правилам, таких як імена, дати, офіційні звання та стандартизовані фрази. Ці елементи є критично важливими для збереження юридичної сили та культурної релевантності перекладених документів. Дослідження підкреслює складнощі та виклики, пов'язані з перекладом різних типів особистих документів, наголошуючи на необхідності ретельного підходу для забезпечення точності, узгодженості та дотримання встановлених стандартів. Розглядаючи переклад апостилів, у статті підкреслюється надзвичайна важливість збереження формату та офіційної термінології оригінального документа для збере-

ження його автентичності та юридичної сили. Крім того, у статті розглядається переклад паспортів, свідоцтв про народження та свідоцтв про смерть, обговорюються складнощі, пов'язані з перекладом основних документів, що посвідчують особу. Сюди входить правильне тлумачення та переклад юридичних термінів, а також точна передача особистої інформації, наприклад, імен, дат і місць народження. У дослідженні також розглядається переклад свідоцтв про шлюб і розлучення з акцентом на специфічних нюансах, необхідних при роботі з документами, пов'язаними з сімейним станом. Сюди входить точний переклад юридичних термінів і збереження оригінальної структури документа. Крім того, у статті розглядаються проблеми, пов'язані з перекладом документів про освіту, з тим, щоб перекладені документи точно відображали освітні досягнення особи, дотримуючись при цьому термінологічних стандартів і стандартів оформлення цільової мови. Нарешті, в дослідженні розглядається переклад довідок про несудимість, підкреслюється важливість дотримання конфіденційності, точності та правильної інтерпретації юридичної термінології протягом усього процесу перекладу. Загалом, робота надає розуміння складнощів та найкращих практик нотаріального перекладу, пропонуючи рекомендації для забезпечення того, щоб переклад був не лише точним, але й юридично обґрунтованим та культурно доречним у нотаріальному контексті.

**Ключові слова:** нотаріальний переклад, юридична термінологія, транслітерація, адаптація, еквівалент, транспозиція.