



# Legal and Socio-Political Term Translation in Medieval Old Uzbek Texts

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**Abstract:** This article examines the translation challenges of medieval works, focusing on historical terms within Old Uzbek documents. It explores the linguistic attributes of the era, noting shifts in lexical layers and stylistic nuances of historical texts. The study emphasizes the intricacies of accurately translating these works, highlighting the necessity of a comprehensive understanding of the period's language, including phonetics, vocabulary, grammar, and dialects. It underscores the critical role of precise quotations of historical figures, toponyms, and dates, while acknowledging the impact of translation errors on other scholarly studies. By addressing these translation challenges and advocating for meticulous linguistic analysis, the article aims to enhance the accurate representation of history and improve the understanding of historical texts within the scientific community.


## 1 INTRODUCTION


In the intricate tapestry of language, words stand as the cornerstone, pivotal in our comprehension of texts across diverse genres. They serve as the elemental building blocks, shaping the essence and structure of any piece of writing. Word stylistics, a field of study delving into the nuanced functions of specific lexical units within texts, occupies a central position in linguistic inquiry. At its core, this discipline scrutinizes the contextual deployment of words within speech situations, aiming to unravel the intricate web of meanings woven by language. Through meticulous analysis, word stylistics elucidates the subtle nuances of word usage across different communication styles, offering invaluable insights into the artistry and mechanics of language.

At the forefront of word stylistics lies the amalgamation of traditional linguistic frameworks with the advancements of modern semasiology. This interdisciplinary approach sheds light on the systematic relationships among various words within a language, unraveling the intricate threads that bind lexical units together. A significant aspect of this endeavour involves the study of specialised

terminology, encompassing domains ranging from socio-political discourse to legal jargon. By deciphering the prescribed rules governing the employment of lexical tools in different communicative contexts, word stylistics seeks to enhance the clarity and efficacy of communication, particularly in official and formal texts. Through its rigorous analysis and synthesis of linguistic data, word stylistics contributes not only to our understanding of language but also to the refinement of communication practices across diverse spheres of human interaction.

This study by Omonov, Bakhronova, and Anorboyeva offers a comprehensive analysis of medieval Old Uzbek texts, focusing on the challenges inherent in translating historical terms within these documents. This examination extracts the linguistic attributes of the Middle Ages, emphasizing shifts in lexical layers and stylistic nuances present in formal texts. In this exploration of semantic evolution, the authors cite examples such as "al" and "yazuq," demonstrating how these everyday terms acquired nuanced idiomatic senses in official documents, indicative of the dynamic nature of language. This observation underscores the importance of

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meticulous attention to detail in translation, particularly concerning historical terminology.

The literature review incorporates seminal works in Turkology, including J. Deny's investigation of a Timurid document and A. Grigorev's insights into Mongol diplomatic practices (Deny, 1957; Grigorev, 1978). By drawing from interdisciplinary fields like translation studies and Turkic linguistics, the authors highlight the interdisciplinary nature of scholarly engagement with medieval works and advocate for rigorous linguistic analysis to foster cross-cultural understanding and communication within the global academic community. Moreover, the study underscores the potential for misinterpretations in contemporary translations due to the imposition of modern interpretations onto archaic terminology. This gap between historical texts and modern translations emphasizes the necessity of preserving the integrity of original texts to enhance historical accuracy and scholarly understanding.

## 2 OBJECTIVE

- Analyze semantic shifts in Old Uzbek historical terms.
- Explore challenges in translating medieval texts accurately.
- Advocate for meticulous linguistic analysis in historical translations.

## 3 ANALYSIS

Stylistic precision in word choice presents a significant challenge, one that demands a careful selection of vocabulary to effectively articulate ideas. The author's choice of words not only reflects the quality of their style but also serves to enhance the transmission of information, thereby amplifying the impact of the text's content. This aspect has historically been held in high regard, particularly evident in formal texts where meticulous attention is paid to word selection.

An intriguing phenomenon observable in historical documents penned in the old Uzbek language during the Middle Ages is the evolution of certain lexical units and combinations. Words originally used in everyday discourse underwent a semantic shift upon incorporation into official texts, acquiring specific connotations that diverged from their original meanings. This semantic transformation underscores the dynamic nature of language and its

responsiveness to contextual demands. For instance, commonplace terms like "al" and "yazuq" assumed nuanced idiomatic senses in official documents, denoting legal concepts such as "extortion" and "crime," respectively, distinct from their colloquial usage.

The semantic evolution of words in historical texts extends beyond legal terminology to encompass socio-political and military domains. Within the context of the Khanate, terms related to military engineering acquire layered meanings reflective of strategic considerations and martial prowess. The term "Ordu," traditionally denoting the Khan's residence, takes on the additional connotations of a fortified military camp, emphasizing the dual roles of protection and governance inherent in the Khan's domain. Similarly, the term "Kurgan" evokes imagery of defensive structures strategically positioned to safeguard against enemy incursions, epitomizing the fusion of military strategy with territorial defense.

However, despite the nuanced meanings embedded within historical texts, contemporary translations often fail to capture the subtleties of lexical evolution, leading to misinterpretations and erroneous assumptions. This oversight is particularly pronounced in translations into languages such as Uzbek, Turkish, Russian, and German, where translators may inadvertently impose modern interpretations onto archaic terminology, thereby obscuring the historical context and significance of the text. Consequently, there exists a pressing need for translators to exercise caution and sensitivity towards the semantic nuances inherent in historical documents, thereby preserving the integrity of the original text.

A case in point is the opening of the "suyurgol" document, issued in 1422 on behalf of Shahrukh Mirza in Herat, a prominent center of the Timurid dynasty. The document, which delineates the administrative apparatus responsible for revenue management and tax collection, introduces the concept of "Divānlarğa" as the governing bodies tasked with overseeing these functions. Notably, the French interpretation of this term, as elucidated by the orientalist J. Deny, underscores the interdisciplinary nature of scholarly engagement with historical texts, highlighting the collaborative effort required to unravel their complexities. In essence, the exploration of historical documents serves as a gateway to understanding the intricacies of past societies, offering valuable insights into the evolution of language, governance, and socio-political dynamics.

Below is an excerpt from J. Deny's article, featuring a transcription of the texts:

1. Šāhruh bahadur sözüüm.
2. devānlarğa. Cečäktöbädä Tarnaq arıği.
3. da Talxan ataniñ mujāvurigä bir.
4. qoşluq altmış kivi yer suyuğal berildi. Luy yildin başlap.
5. ne kim hāsiliñi Ut böri xanaqāğa xarj qılsun. Kim ersä.
6. mal tilämäsün, yasağ alpağ salmasun, küç uğa tegürmäsün, tep.
7. beg niş(ā)n bermiş erdük. Burunğı niş(ā)n yosunı bilä ud yildin.
8. başlap Ut böri, altmış kivi yerni suyuğal yosunı.
9. birlä alıp xanaqāğa xarj qılsun-kim, kim ersä.
10. mal tilämäsün, yasağ alpağ salmasun, küç uğa tegürmäsün. Basa.
11. İsmāyil mujāvurniñ ewi bariniñ tartıp tonup almasun.
12. tep niş(ā)n berildi. Tarix sekiz yüz y(i)g(i)rmi beşidä ud yıl muharram
13. ayniñ y(i)g(i)rmi ikisidä Bağı şaharda bitildi.

The unearthing and initial perusal of a certain document by J. Deny marked a watershed moment in the field of Turkology, heralding significant progress. Yet, as with any historical discovery, this document is not devoid of flaws, revealing errors in both its readability and content. Deny's translation and interpretation of the document's opening address, misconstruing "divānlarğa" as "toyunlarğa," stirred confusion among scholars, notably historian A. Grigorev, who opined that Shahrukh Mirza's missive was directed towards Buddhist monks. However, a closer examination of the original text reveals that "divānlarğa" pertains to the addressee, Shahrukh Mirza, rather than Buddhist monks. This linguistic nuance significantly alters our comprehension of the document's intent.

The linguistic landscape of official texts from the early and medieval periods possesses a distinctive character, characterized by a unique composition of words and lexical choices. This particular document employs units from the broader Turkish vocabulary, imbued not only with their everyday meanings but also with idiomatic nuances typical of official correspondence. Consequently, modern translations and interpretations of such texts serve as pivotal tools in unraveling the content and context of medieval Turkish documents. Understanding the intricate interplay between language and intent is paramount in deciphering historical texts accurately.

The translation of socio-political and legal concepts entails a complex process of transposing

cognitive phenomena and societal realities. It involves navigating the intricacies of national-cultural values and stereotypes, while grappling with the underlying patterns governing the formation of figurative-associative complexes. Despite advancements in translation studies, much remains to be elucidated regarding the evaluative-expressive translation of socio-political and legal units. The opacity surrounding these underlying patterns underscores the ongoing quest for a deeper understanding of linguistic and cultural nuances embedded within historical texts.

## 4 DISCUSSION

To deepen our comprehension of the translation process, there is a pressing need for additional research aimed at unveiling the regularities and principles that dictate the formation of the figurative-associative complex. Through an exploration of these underlying patterns, we stand to gain valuable insights into the nuanced translation of socio-political and legal entities, accounting for their evaluative and expressive nuances. By shining a light on these opaque dimensions, we can aspire to elevate the quality and precision of translations within the socio-political and legal spheres. This endeavour holds promise in refining both the theoretical frameworks and practical methodologies underpinning translation activities in these specialised domains, thereby fostering enhanced cross-cultural understanding and facilitating more effective communication.

Central to this pursuit is the imperative for rigorous, in-depth studies that delve into the intricacies of the figurative-associative complex and its pivotal role in the translation of socio-political and legal units. Such investigations promise to yield invaluable insights into the mechanisms underpinning successful translations, offering fertile ground for further scholarly exploration. By meticulously unpacking the complexities inherent in this process, we can pave the way for advancements in translation theory and practice, ultimately fostering a more nuanced and accurate rendition of socio-political and legal discourse across linguistic and cultural boundaries. In essence, the culmination of these efforts holds the potential to enrich our understanding of translation dynamics while simultaneously facilitating more robust and meaningful exchanges within the global socio-political and legal landscape.

## 5 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the discovery and subsequent analysis of the document have markedly propelled the field of Turkology forward, casting a new light on the historical and cultural tapestry of the Middle Ages. It is evident that rectifying the inaccuracies in translation and interpretation, particularly concerning nuanced terminologies, is imperative for achieving a more precise comprehension of the document's essence and significance. The idiosyncratic features inherent in official texts from the early and middle ages, encompassing specific lexical compositions and idiomatic nuances, demand meticulous attention during the translation and interpretation process. To this end, a nuanced understanding of the figurative-associative complex and its nuanced impact on the evaluative and expressive dimensions of socio-political and legal units emerges as a fertile ground for further scholarly inquiry. By delving deeper into these intricacies, we stand to refine our translation methodologies, contribute substantively to the evolution of translation theories and practices, and foster enhanced cross-cultural understanding and communication.

Moreover, continued exploration of the figurative-associative complex promises to unveil invaluable insights, thereby advancing our comprehension of historical Turkish documents to unprecedented levels. This ongoing endeavour not only holds the potential to enrich our scholarly understanding but also serves as a catalyst for promoting cultural exchange and appreciation. Through a steadfast commitment to unraveling the complexities embedded within these texts, we are poised to not only enhance the precision and efficacy of translations in domains of historical significance but also to cultivate a deeper appreciation for the rich cultural heritage they encapsulate. In essence, by embracing the challenges posed by the figurative-associative complex, we embark on a journey towards a more nuanced and enriched understanding of historical Turkish documents, thus fostering a more interconnected and culturally enlightened global community.

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