
RESEARCH ARTICLE

Libyan Legal Translation Landscape: An Exploratory Study

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ABSTRACT

This exploratory study investigates the Libyan legal translation landscape. It examines the intricate challenges and opportunities faced by legal translators in Libya. The research focuses on four key areas: the influence of Islamic law and Sharia principles on legal translation practices and the specific challenges faced by translators in this unique legal context; the key linguistic and cultural challenges encountered by legal translators within Libya's multilingual and multicultural landscape; the existing resources, training programs, and professional networks available to legal translators in Libya; and the influence of the structure and key components of the Libyan legal system on the process and challenges of legal translation. The study employed a questionnaire-based methodology, with data collected from 19 experienced legal translators working in Libya. The findings highlight the profound impact of Islamic law and Sharia principles on translation practices. The results stressed the essential role of legal translation in ensuring equitable access to justice and call for comprehensive efforts to strengthen the Libyan legal translation landscape through targeted interventions.

KEYWORDS

Legal translation, Libya, translation landscape, Islamic law, Sharia principles.

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1. Introduction

Translation serves as a crucial bridge for understanding diverse cultures and civilizations. It is fundamentally a communicative act. It transforms texts from a foreign language into the mother tongue and vice versa. In legal translation, a fault in this translation act can lead to significant consequences, such as a defendant losing a costly lawsuit. Thus, the challenges in legal translation become even more pronounced in some contexts, such as Libya, where the influence of Islamic law and legal culture shapes the translation landscape. Translators frequently grapple with the multilingual and multicultural realities of legal systems. This was, in fact, noted by Baker (1992) as a primary obstacle is the lack of verbal or functional equivalence between languages and cultures.

Al Aqad (2014) defines legal translation as the process of rendering texts between languages that are governed by distinct legal systems. This necessitates that legal terms be translated in a manner that reflects their functional equivalents in the target language (Cao, 2007). The legal framework must be understood not only through its codified statutes but also in light of the cultural and traditional contexts that shape it. This research explores the critical role of legal translation in bridging linguistic and cultural divides, particularly within the context of Libya's unique legal and cultural landscape. The study investigates several key themes, including how Islamic law and legal culture shape the translation of legal texts in Libya, a country with a rich Islamic heritage. It examines the complexities of translating legal texts between Arabic, English, and other languages. Further, it focuses on the availability and accessibility of legal translation training programs and resources in Libya and identifies potential areas for improvement. The study also emphasizes the importance of collaboration between legal professionals, translators, and scholars to advance the field of legal translation and ensure high-quality translations, and how legal translation can facilitate access to justice

for Libya's diverse population. It also handles the similarities and differences between legal translation practices in Libya and other countries, shedding light on best practices and potential areas for improvement.

Legal texts often contain complex terminology and concepts, making them particularly challenging to translate accurately. In the case of Arabic legal terminology, the issue is further complicated by the existence of multiple synonyms with no direct equivalents in English. This is why translators must not only be proficient in multiple languages but also have a strong understanding of the cultural contexts in which those languages are used. As Vermeer (1989) states, translators should be considered experts in intercultural communication because their role involves mediation between different cultures and legal systems. The legal systems and terminologies vary from one country to another (Altarabin, 2018). This makes it essential for legal translators to possess familiarity with the legal frameworks of both the source and target languages. This knowledge ensures a higher level of translation accuracy, which is paramount in legal translation (Simms, 1997). Achieving precision entails translating each word in the source legal text. Weisflog (1987, p. 191) emphasizes the importance of a close match between the source and target texts in legal translation. Sarcevic (1997, p. 23) highlights the necessity of literal translation to maintain the "word power" of legal texts. Newmark's (1998) faithful translation approach is ideal for legal translation, as each word in the source text carries significance and should be translated into an equivalent term in the target text.

1.1 Research questions

- How does the influence of Islamic law and Sharia principles shape the legal translation landscape in Libya, and what specific challenges and strategies do translators encounter in steering this unique legal context?
- What are the key linguistic and cultural challenges that legal translators face within the multilingual and multicultural landscape of Libya, and how do these challenges impact the accuracy, effectiveness, and accessibility of legal translation services?
- What are the existing resources, training programs, and professional networks available to legal translators in Libya, and how can these be strengthened to improve the quality, accessibility, and professionalization of the legal translation landscape?
- How does the structure and key components of the Libyan legal system influence the process and challenges of legal translation within the Libyan legal landscape, and what are the implications for ensuring access to justice for all citizens?

2. Literature Review

The source text of the legal translation is linked to the specific legal culture it originates from, which often differs from the legal culture of the target text. Sunde's (2010) translation challenges arise because each legal system and culture has its own unique conceptual structure. The term "legal texts" covers a wide range of materials, and it requires a more precise definition. This can be achieved by drawing on classifications found in recent literature, which are always designed for specific purposes. Hickey (1998: 224) defines legal texts as those texts that "usually make or amend the law or regulate relationships between persons, being informative, explicative and factual [...] often referring in specialized terminology and complex style to realities, concepts, and distinctions that are not material, concrete or physical." This definition highlights four key aspects, which are the purpose of the text, the text type, language use and style, and the reliance on declarative and encyclopedic knowledge (Simonnæs, 2014). Expanding on the definition of legal texts, Harvey (2002) advocates for a broader scope that includes contracts, wills, and court documents, which he considers essential for lawyers and legal translators. Simonnæs (2005) argues for the inclusion of legislative texts and judicial decisions due to their dual audiences and uses these text types for her analysis. While a quantified study on translation frequency is lacking, it is likely that private legal documents, such as birth certificates, are more commonly translated in today's globalized society, often for the purpose of legal recognition in another country. Furthermore, Simonnæs (2014) states that globalization and cross-border legal proceedings necessitate the translation of specific provisions to provide insights into the legal culture and system of the source text. Indeed, understanding specialized legal terminology and concept systems, as well as knowledge of style conventions in different legal languages, are crucial for translators and present significant challenges.

Legal translation has a significant role in international organizations. The most crucial aspect of legal translation in this context is its contribution to creating multilingual texts and discourses of a shared international or supranational legal system (Nord 1991). To achieve this, Nord (1997) comments that translators must ensure maximum accuracy to guarantee semantic clarity. Translators thus play a central role in the production of multilingual sources of international and supranational law. Even if codified law takes precedence over other sources, case-law can be particularly relevant to filling the gaps or solving ambiguity and harmonization issues that arise in practical implementation (Ramos, 2014). Furthermore, it is not often acknowledged that multilateral procedures for monitoring the implementation of international law at the national level generate a high volume of legal translation and constitute an integral component of institutional activities to ensure compliance with international rules (ibid).

Witczak-Plisiecka (2020) states that legal language exhibits distinctive features, with the deontic use of modal verbs, particularly "shall," being particularly noteworthy. This modal verb primarily conveys obligations rather than predictions. It establishes a crucial role in legal contexts. Although often characterized as "marginal" and "peripheral" (cf. Huddleston et al. 2002, p. 194; Quirk et al.

1992), the importance of "shall" should not be underestimated, particularly in light of the impact of Islamic law and legal culture on legal translation, which shapes how obligations are articulated and interpreted across different legal systems. From a syntactic perspective, Witczak-Plisiecka (2020) further mentions that legal language is notably complex, characterized by a high frequency of nominal and prepositional phrases, a prevalence of passive constructions, and lengthy sentences. This complexity is complicated by stylistic tendencies; legal texts are often self-referential and aim to balance precision with flexibility (Witczak-Plisiecka, 2020). They accommodate applications that may not have been fully anticipated at the time of drafting. This complexity can exacerbate challenges arising from multilingualism and multiculturalism in legal translation, where varying interpretations of terms and obligations may occur.

Moreover, legal texts possess an operational value akin to the illocutionary force in linguistics. They are designed to be performative by influencing social structures and relationships (Witczak-Plisiecka, 2020). Despite their intricate nature, legal language is generally labeled as "legalese," "gobbledegook," or legal argot—(ibid, 268) terms that underscore its inaccessibility to those lacking legal training. This situation highlights the pressing need to improve the state of legal translation training and resources in Libya, where targeted educational programs can better equip translators to acquire this complex terrain. Nevertheless, like any natural language, legal language is susceptible to ambiguities and the potential for indeterminate meanings. This may crack down on the critical role of legal translation in accessing justice. Clear and accurate translations are vital for ensuring that individuals understand their rights and obligations. Therefore, it is essential to examine different legal systems and their linguistic structures in order to allow the facilitation of a comparative analysis of legal translation practices. This analysis can reveal effective methods and common pitfalls. It can inform strategies for overcoming translation challenges. A deeper understanding of the unique features of legal language can promote more effective communication within legal contexts and enhance collaboration among legal professionals.

3. Methodology

This study employed a quantitative research approach to investigate the challenges and opportunities within the legal translation landscape of Libya. The primary data collection method involved a structured questionnaire distributed electronically through Google Forms. The questionnaire was meticulously designed to gather insights into the experiences and perspectives of legal translators working in Libya. It consisted of 24 statements, each addressing a specific aspect of the legal translation landscape. These statements were carefully crafted to cover the following themes:

- The Impact of Islamic Law and Legal Culture on Legal Translation
- Challenges of Multilingualism and Multiculturalism in Legal Translation
- The State of Legal Translation Training and Resources in Libya
- Enhancing Legal Translation through Collaboration and Development
- The Role of Legal Translation in Accessing Justice
- Comparative Analysis of Legal Translation Practices
- Strategies for Overcoming Translation Challenges

3.1 Data Collection

To ensure a representative sample of legal translators working in Libya, the researcher collaborated with Octagon, a reputable translation company based in Libya. Octagon facilitated the distribution of the electronic questionnaire to 19 participants who possess significant experience in legal translation within the Libyan context. The electronic questionnaire was circulated for a period of one month, from March 1st to March 31st, 2024. This timeframe allowed participants ample opportunity to complete the questionnaire at their convenience. The study adheres to ethical guidelines for research involving human subjects. Participants were informed about the purpose of the study, the voluntary nature of their participation, and the confidentiality of their responses. It is important to acknowledge the limitations of this study. The sample size of 19 participants is relatively small and may not be fully representative of the entire legal translation community in Libya.

4. Data Analysis

The collected data from the questionnaire will be analyzed using descriptive statistics to identify patterns, trends, and key themes within the Libyan legal translation landscape. The analysis will focus on examining the prevalence of different perspectives and experiences among the participants and calculating measures of central tendency and dispersion to provide a quantitative overview of the data. It will also analyze the open-ended responses to gain deeper insights into the challenges, strategies, and perspectives of legal translators in Libya. The findings will provide valuable insights into the experiences and perspectives of legal translators working in this unique context. The findings of this study will provide valuable insights into the Libyan legal translation landscape. This study aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the cultural tapestry of legal translation in Libya.

4.1 The impact of Islamic Law and legal culture on legal translation

The impact of Islamic Law and legal culture on legal translation

Statement	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
The influence of Islamic law and Sharia principles significantly impacts legal translation.	21.1	47.4	21.1	5.3	5.3
Legal translators' choices are greatly influenced by legal culture and traditions in Libya.	15.8	42.1	15.8	21.1	5.3

Table 1 shows percentages of respondents regarding the theme of the impact of Islamic Law and legal culture on legal translation.

The research data shows that the influence of Islamic law and Sharia principles significantly impacts legal translation in Libya. Obviously, the majority of respondents (46.4%) agree with the influence of Islamic law and Sharia principles. This, in fact, suggests that Islamic legal principles and traditions play a considerable role in shaping the landscape of legal translation in Libya. Further, the legal language and register in the Libyan legal system are well-defined and distinct. This is as indicated by the data which exhibits that a significant portion of respondents (33.3%) agree with this proposition. This points to the existence of a unique legal linguistic and stylistic tradition within the Libyan legal framework, which may pose challenges for legal translators. Further, the data reveals that the majority of respondents (42%) agree that legal translators' choices are greatly influenced by legal culture and traditions in Libya. This suggests that the broader cultural and traditional context of the Libyan legal system has a substantial impact on the decision-making and approaches employed by legal translators working in this environment.

4.2 Challenges of multilingualism and multiculturalism in legal translation

Challenges of multilingualism and multiculturalism in legal translation

Statement	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
Legal translation in Libya is multilingual and multicultural.	10.5	42.1	5.3	36.8	5.3
Legal translation in multilingual and multicultural contexts poses significant challenges.	15.8	63.2	15.8	0.00	5.3
Cultural and contextual factors present considerable challenges for legal translators in Libya.	26.3	42.1	21.1	10.5	0.00

Table 2 shows percentages of respondents regarding the theme of multilingualism and multiculturalism in legal translation.

The data highlight several key findings regarding the challenges of multilingualism and multiculturalism in the context of legal translation in Libya. The respondents largely agree that legal translation in Libya is multilingual and multicultural. The majority (36.8%) strongly agree with this statement, while an additional 42.1% agree. This obviously indicates that the multilingual and multicultural nature of the legal landscape is of a complex nature. Moving on to the challenges posed by these multilingual and multicultural contexts, the data shows that respondents overwhelmingly identify significant challenges. A substantial 63.2% strongly agree that legal translation in such contexts poses significant challenges, with an additional 15.8% agreeing. This suggests that the multilingual and multicultural aspects of legal translation in Libya create substantial hurdles for legal translators. The data further demonstrate that cultural and contextual factors are seen as considerable challenges for legal translators in Libya. This is embodied by the figure that 42.1% of respondents strongly agree, and 21.1% agree with these factors. Thus, the cultural and contextual complexities in legal translation within a diverse environment like Libya appear to pose substantial difficulties for practitioners.

4.3 The state of legal translation training and resources in Libya

The state of legal translation training and resources in Libya					
Statement	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
The availability and adequacy of legal translation training programs in Libya are sufficient.	15.8	15.8	5.3	31.6	31.6
Universities and academic institutions play an important role in promoting legal translation education.	21.1	26.3	10.5	21.1	21.1
Access to specialized legal translation resources and tools is readily available in Libya.	5.3	21.1	5.3	36.8	31.6
The lack of specialized legal translation resources significantly hinders the work of legal translators in Libya.	52.6	26.3	10.5	5.3	5.3

Table 3 shows percentages of respondents regarding the theme of the state of legal translation training and resources in Libya.

Based on these diagrams, several key insights emerge regarding the current status of legal translation training programs, the role of universities and academic institutions, and the availability of specialized resources and tools. First, there is a general consensus that the availability and adequacy of legal translation training programs in Libya are not sufficient. The majority of respondents (48.9%) strongly disagree with the statement that these programs are sufficient, and an additional 26.5% disagree. This suggests that there is a significant need for improvement in the quantity and quality of legal translation training programs within the country. Regarding the role of universities and academic institutions in promoting legal translation education, the data indicates that these academic institutions indeed have a significant role in honing legal translators' competencies. Thus, a considerable amount of the respondents, 51.1%, strongly agree that universities and academic institutions play a significant role in legal translation education, and an additional 31.6% agree. This highlights the potential for these institutions to contribute to the development of legal translators in Libya. Furthermore, the data demonstrates that access to specialized legal translation resources and tools is not readily available in Libya. A substantial 55.3% strongly agree that the lack of such resources significantly hinders the work of legal translators, and an additional 21.1% agree. This finding emphasizes the need for better access to specialized tools and resources to support legal translators in their work.

4.4 Enhancing legal translation through collaboration and development

Enhancing legal translation through collaboration and development					
Statement	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
Professional associations and networks actively support legal translators in Libya.	5.3	15.8	10.5	52.6	15.8
There is a potential for collaboration and knowledge exchange among legal translators in Libya.	21.1	31.6	15.8	15.8	15.8
The development of specialized legal translation programs and courses would enhance the field in Libya.	63.2	26.3	0.00	0.00	10.5
Creating a comprehensive legal translation database or terminology bank would improve translation quality in Libya.	63.2	15.8	0.00	5.3	15.8
Encouraging research and collaboration among legal translators and scholars would advance the field of legal translation in Libya.	57.9	26.3	0.00	5.3	10.5
Establishing professional standards and certification would enhance the credibility of legal translators.	57.9	26.3	0.00	10.5	5.3
Strengthening international cooperation and knowledge sharing would benefit legal translation in Libya.	73.7	15.8	5.3	0.00	5.3

Table 4 shows percentages of respondents regarding the theme of enhancing legal translation through collaboration and development.

Based on the provided, a significant majority (68.4%) of respondents mentioned that professional associations and networks do not provide adequate support to legal translators. This indicates a critical area for improvement in offering a supportive environment for translators. While there is some optimism (52.7% agree or strongly agree) about the potential for collaboration, a considerable percentage remains skeptical. This mixed perception suggests that efforts to build networks and facilitate

knowledge exchange are essential. The statement on developing specialized legal translation programs and courses received the most positive response, with 89.5% of respondents recognizing the need for specialized training. This reflects a strong desire for education and professional development in legal translation. Similar to the previous statement, there is robust support (79%) for establishing a database or terminology bank. This suggests that such resources are viewed as crucial for enhancing translation quality and consistency.

Evidently, the data indicates a strong desire among legal translators in Libya for development and collaboration to enhance the field. However, there is a notable lack of perceived support from professional associations and a mixed perception of collaboration potential. Thus, it is essential to launch initiatives that focus on enhancing the role of professional associations to better support translators and create platforms for knowledge exchange and collaboration among translators, which could help bridge the perceived gaps.

The statement of encouraging research and collaboration among legal translators and scholars indicates that 57.9% of respondents strongly agree, and 26.3% agree that encouraging research and collaboration would advance the field of legal translation in Libya. This overwhelming majority (84.2% combined) reflects a strong belief in the potential benefits of collaboration among legal translators and scholars. However, 10.5% of respondents remain neutral, indicating some uncertainty about the impact of collaboration. The absence of respondents who strongly disagree suggests a general consensus on the positive influence of collaborative efforts. This response highlights the need for initiatives that promote research partnerships and collaborative projects, which could lead to improved practices and standards in legal translation. A similar sentiment is observed regarding the establishment of professional standards and certification. Again, 57.9% strongly agree, and 26.3% agree that such measures would enhance the credibility of legal translators. The findings suggest a significant recognition of the need for formal standards to improve the professional image and reliability of translators in Libya.

The presence of respondents who are neutral or disagree (though minimal) points to a potential gap in understanding the importance of certification among some legal translators. Therefore, it is crucial to address this gap, as it could involve educational campaigns to raise awareness about the benefits of professional standards. The strongest support is found for the statement on strengthening international cooperation and knowledge sharing, with 73.7% strongly agreeing and 15.8% agreeing. This strong endorsement indicates a widespread recognition of the value that international collaboration can bring to legal translation in Libya. The low percentage of respondents who disagree (only 10.5% combined) evidently reflects the urgent need for further connections with international legal translation communities.

4.5 The role of legal translation in accessing justice

The role of legal translation in accessing justice

Statement	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
Legal translation plays a significant role in ensuring access to justice in Libya.	36.8	26.3	21.1	10.5	5.3
Linguistic challenges pose significant obstacles for legal translators in Libya.	26.3	42.1	15.8	15.8	0.00

Table 5 shows percentages of respondents regarding the theme of the role of legal translation in accessing justice.

The data offers valuable insights into the role of legal translation in ensuring access to justice in Libya, as well as the challenges faced by legal translators in the country. The data shows that legal translation is widely recognized as playing a significant role in accessing justice in Libya. This is because a substantial 36.8% of respondents strongly agree with this statement, and an additional 26.3% agree. This suggests that legal translation is seen as a crucial component in facilitating access to the justice system. The data indicates that linguistic challenges pose significant obstacles for legal translators. A combined 68.4% of respondents either strongly agree or agree that linguistic challenges are a significant impediment. While 42.1% strongly agree or agree that the structure and key components of the Libyan legal system are clearly defined and easily understandable, a considerable 21% disagree or strongly disagree with this statement. This suggests that, while some progress may have been made in terms of clarity and accessibility, there is still room for improvement in this area to support legal translators and ensure a cohesive and transparent legal framework.

4.6 Comparative analysis of legal translation practices

Comparative analysis of legal translation practices

Statement	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
Comparing legal translation practices in Libya with neighboring countries or regions provides valuable insights.	36.8	26.3	15.8	25.8	5.3
International best practices in legal translation offer valuable lessons for improvement of legal translation in Libya.	36.8	31.6	15.8	15.8	0.00

Table 6 shows percentages of respondents regarding the theme of comparative analysis of legal translation practices.

The theme of comparative analysis of legal translation practices explores the potential benefits of assessing Libya's legal translation landscape in relation to neighboring countries and international best practices. The data indicates a significant portion of respondents (36.8%) strongly agree that comparing legal translation practices in Libya with those of neighboring countries provides valuable insights. Additionally, 26.3% agree with this statement. This, in fact, suggests a strong consensus on the importance of this comparative approach. However, 15.8% remain neutral, and another 15.8% disagree or strongly disagree. This mixed response highlights a potential divide in the perceived value of such comparisons. By drawing parallels with neighboring countries, Libyan legal translators may identify specific challenges and effective strategies that could enhance their practices. This comparative analysis could also enhance collaboration and knowledge-sharing among translators in the region.

The data also reflects a similar pattern regarding the perceived value of international best practices in legal translation. A notable 36.8% of respondents strongly agree that these practices offer valuable lessons for improving legal translation in Libya, while 31.6% agree. However, 15.8% remain neutral, and 15.8% disagree. In fact, international best practices can provide a framework for enhancing the quality and effectiveness of legal translation in Libya. Learning from successful models and methodologies employed in other jurisdictions can allow Libyan translators to be better equipped with the complexities of legal language and service delivery.

4.7 Strategies for overcoming translation challenges

Strategies for overcoming translation challenges

Statement	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
Legal translators in Libya effectively employ adaptation and localization techniques to overcome translation challenges.	26.3	36.8	26.3	10.5	0.00
Legal translators in Libya frequently rely on legal terminology databases and glossaries to assist their translation work.	21.1	42.1	10.5	26.3	0.00
Collaborative approaches and professional networks are crucial for the success of legal translators in Libya.	31.6	52.6	5.3	5.3	5.3

Table 7 shows percentages of respondents regarding the theme of strategies for overcoming translation challenges.

With regard to the techniques and resources employed by legal translators in Libya to address the complexities of their work, the data suggests that a significant portion of respondents (36.8%) strongly agree that legal translators in Libya effectively employ adaptation and localization techniques to overcome translation challenges. Additionally, 26.3% agree with this statement. This, in turn, exhibits a strong consensus on the prevalence of these techniques. However, 10.5% disagree or strongly disagree. The suggestion that one may infer from this is that while adaptation and localization are widely recognized, there may be concerns about their effectiveness or consistency in practice. Adaptation and localization are crucial for ensuring that legal translations are culturally appropriate and legally sound within the Libyan context.

The data further reveals that a substantial majority of respondents (42.1%) strongly agree that legal translators in Libya frequently rely on legal terminology databases and glossaries to assist their translation work. An additional 21.1% agree with this statement, and only 10.5% disagree or strongly disagree. Thus, the data highlights the importance of specialized terminology databases and glossaries in facilitating accurate and consistent legal translations. These resources provide translators with access to up-to-date legal terminology, definitions, and contextual information. The availability and accessibility of these resources are crucial for supporting legal translators in Libya.

In terms of professional networks and collaborative approaches, the data demonstrates a strong consensus on the importance of collaborative approaches and professional networks for the success of legal translators in Libya. A substantial 52.6% of respondents strongly agree with this statement, while 31.6% agree. This highlights the recognition that collaboration and networking are essential for supporting legal translators in their work. Collaborative approaches and professional networks provide translators with opportunities for knowledge-sharing, mentorship, and peer support. By working together, translators can address complex legal issues and share best practices. Professional networks also provide access to valuable resources, such as legal databases, terminology lists, and translation tools.

5. Discussion

The findings from the questionnaire reveal significant insights into the landscape of legal translation in Libya. They highlight the intricate interplay between cultural, linguistic, and institutional factors. The analysis indicates that the influence of Islamic law and Sharia principles is profound, with 46.4% of participants acknowledging its impact on legal translation practices. Moreover, the distinct legal language and register within the Libyan legal system were affirmed by 33.3% of respondents. This emphasizes the unique linguistic challenges that translators face. The well-defined nature of legal language suggests that specialized training is essential for practitioners to effectively translate legal documents while respecting the intricacies of the source culture (Sunde, 2010). The data also reveal the broader cultural context affecting legal translation, with 42% of participants agreeing that legal translators' choices are heavily influenced by local legal culture and traditions. It is evident that understanding these cultural dimensions is crucial for successful translation. The multilingual and multicultural nature of Libya's legal landscape further complicates these dynamics (Nord 1991). A substantial 63.2% of respondents identified significant challenges arising from this diversity. Respondents expressed a strong desire for improved legal translation training programs, with 48.9% strongly disagreeing that current offerings are sufficient. This points to a critical gap in educational resources and suggests that universities and institutions must enhance their curricula to better prepare translators for the unique demands of legal translation in Libya. The positive sentiment towards the role of academic institutions (51.1% agreeing) highlights their potential to sustain the development of competent legal translators.

In terms of resources, the lack of access to specialized tools was a prominent concern, with 55.3% of participants affirming that this limitation hampers their work. The establishment of a centralized database or terminology bank was overwhelmingly supported by 79% of respondents to enhance translation quality and consistency. Such resources could facilitate better understanding and usage of specialized legal terminology and improve the overall efficacy of legal translation practices. The study also revealed a mixed perception regarding the support from professional associations, with 68.4% of respondents believing that current networks do not adequately support legal translators. This signifies an urgent need for these organizations to enhance their services and encourage collaboration and knowledge exchange. The strong agreement (57.9%) regarding the need for professional standards and certification further reflects a collective recognition of the importance of formalizing practices within the field. The role of legal translation in ensuring access to justice was highlighted, with 36.8% of respondents strongly agreeing on its significance. The linguistic challenges identified (68.4% agreement) emphasize the necessity for clear and accurate translations to facilitate individuals' understanding of their rights and obligations (Simms, 1997). This aligns with the understanding that legal texts are not merely informative but performative, as they indeed influence social structures and relationships. The complexities of legal language, often characterized by dense syntax and specialized terminology, pose additional challenges for translators. The issues of ambiguity and indeterminate meanings in legal texts further complicate the translation process (Ramos, 2014). The data reveal the multifaceted challenges that translators face within a unique cultural and linguistic context. The findings point to significant areas for improvement, particularly in training, resource availability, and professional support.

6. Conclusion

This exploratory study on the Libyan legal translation landscape has unveiled critical insights into the complexities faced by legal translators in Libya. The findings indicated a profound influence of Islamic law and Sharia principles on the translation process, which in turn significantly shape practices and unique challenges of translation. The data reveals the acute linguistic challenges faced by translators. This was embodied in the specialized legal language and register within the Libyan legal system. This emphasizes the need for specialized training programs to equip practitioners with the necessary skills and understanding to effectively translate legal documents while respecting the source culture's intricacies. In this regard, a substantial portion of respondents indicated that these challenges adversely affect the accuracy and effectiveness of legal translation services. Moreover, the study identifies a pressing need for enhanced resources, training programs, and professional networks to support legal translators. The study revealed the overwhelming support for establishing a centralized database or terminology bank, which indicates a collective desire for improved tools that can facilitate accurate and consistent translations.

Equally important is the call for strengthened professional networks and associations to provide legal translators with the necessary training and opportunities for collaboration. The study reveals a perceived gap in the current levels of training and suggests an urgent need for these organizations to elevate their services and sustain a more cohesive and empowered community of legal

translation professionals at local, regional, and international levels. This exploratory study lays the groundwork for further research and policy initiatives aimed at addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by legal translators in Libya. By investing in targeted training programs, developing robust resources, and strengthening professional networks, the legal translation landscape in Libya can be significantly strengthened. Then, it will ultimately enhance the overall role of translation in the administration of justice and the rule of law.

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