

This thesis paper attempts to discover the processes used to set up and negotiate translation norms in legal environments. It is based on the existing theoretical knowledge of legal translation and on the theoretical works on translation norms, especially the works by Gideon Toury, Theo Hermans, Andrew Chesterman and other authors. The aim of this thesis paper is to confront these theories with the every-day experiences of translating in legal environments.

The research method used for this purpose is qualitative sociological research - a combination of the analytical procedures of grounded theory first drafted by Strauss and Glaser and data collection procedures based on "problem-centered interviews" and on the investigation of documents. The total of 10 respondents - translators who work or have worked in law firms - have participated in the survey.

Legal translation is very specific in terms of the processes whereby translation norms are set up and negotiated. The key issue is the issue of liability. Translators employed in law firms are not liable for the final wording of the translation - it is the lawyer who is held liable for the translation that forms a part of his or her legal service or advice. This influences the mutual relations between the translator and the lawyer who plays the role of the author of the original and of the translation's commissioner.

Under these circumstances, the translator is unable to set up and implement his own norms, as he cannot control the entire translation procedure and influence the final wording of the translation. In all aspects of his work, the translator is dependent on the lawyer, which leaves him frustrated and sometimes even unable to adopt a proactive approach to setting up his own norms.