

Problems in Translating Legal English Text into Indonesian

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Abstract

Unlike general English text, legal English text is much more difficult to translate because legal English translation is not only about transferring the meaning but it also deals with finding the appropriate legal expressions in target language (Indonesian). This article discusses some problems encountered by Indonesian students in translating legal English text. A translation test was given to 30 Binus University students, in which they were assigned to translate a legal text consisting of 200 words into Indonesian. They were only allowed to use printed English-Indonesian dictionary. For the analysis, the translations of 10 legal English phrases were chosen. The results showed that the students not only failed to convey the original text message but also could not construct appropriate/ accepted Indonesian expressions in the translation.

Keywords: Legal English, legal expressions, translation

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