

LEGAL TRANSLATIONS: COULD THE PROBLEMS AND STRATEGIES BE RECLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO CLIENT/MARKET REQUIREMENTS AND TRANSLATORS' COMPETENCES?

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***Abstract:** Investigating the translatability of legal texts starts from the correct identification and understanding of legal systems and, implicitly comparative law, continuing with specific text typologies and translation principles, and arriving at particular problems, strategies and competences. All these elements, which influence the acceptance or refusal of a translation task, can be subsequently transposed into a list of instructions a translator needs to determine effective strategies consisting of decisions to be taken and their applicability during the translation activity so that in the end the implementation and validation of these strategies can demonstrate the competences achieved and the ability to manage a particular translation project. To determine these effective strategies, by transferring the theoretical approaches into practical ones and by demonstrating their validity in practice, our paper is focused on the investigation and validation of the translatability of legal texts from English into Romanian. Our study aims to reach a common conclusion about a legal translation activity via the establishment of some contextual aspects (intratextual and extratextual elements) and the identification and reclassification of specific problems and strategies for particular situations (translating for national and international public institutions; translating for police and domestic courts; translating for international criminal courts; translating for law firms and multinational corporations). Through this investigation, we can demonstrate the reciprocity that exists between theory and practice, academics and professionals, Translation Studies and other disciplines within interdisciplinarity because it represents the basis of a practical approach necessary to analyse and demonstrate the translatability of legal texts.*

***Keywords:** legal translation, problems, strategies, competences, client/market requirements*

1. Theoretical and practical experience in the legal translation field. Introduction

The legal translation field can be considered an intersection of linguistics, law and intercultural communication, encompassing the translation of juridical content across languages and legal systems. The most important demands which characterize the legal translation field are accuracy, precision, and consistency, as the translation of legal documents must preserve all the principles of translation – equivalence, conventionality and functionality within different linguistic and cultural frameworks¹. In this particular context, the legal translation field becomes a complex

¹ Andreea-Maria Sărmașiu, *Investigating the Translatability of Legal Texts: Designing Effective Transfer Strategies for Legal Translations*, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2024, pp. 46-53.

and demanding field, requiring deep thinking about how to combine legal knowledge with linguistic and cultural rules (THINK); an effective plan to support the applicability of those three main principles mentioned above (PLAN); management of this multidisciplinary approach (MANAGE); and strategies that can lead to the delivery of translation (STRATEGY). These four keywords: THINK-PLAN-MANAGE-STRATEGY nuance the specialized nature of legal language, highlighting that legal translation requires a profound understanding of source and target text to ensure that translated documents are appropriately aligned with local (national) and international (European) contexts. Firstly, THINK involves critically analysing the source text to understand its main features: purpose, legal implications, structure, terminology, syntax etc. In translation literature, this analysis is known as T.O.S.T.A.²³. Secondly, PLAN designs the systematic approach to the legal translation process, including the organization of different phases, but also the correct identification of specialized legal terminology and conceptual differences that may require adaptation or clarification. Thirdly, MANAGE comprises collaborative workflows and rigorous quality control to ensure the legal documents' uniformity. Finally, STRATEGY includes approaches which are implemented to handle challenges arising from the interplay of linguistic, cultural, and legal factors.

As a first conclusion, we can affirm that legal translation requires a transfer of critical thinking, systematic plans, effective management and strategies from theory to practice and from practice to theory. Therefore, translators should be not only the possessors of specific legal, linguistic and cultural knowledge but also of theoretical and practical experience in the legal translation field. **HOW to achieve more and more theoretical and practical experience in the legal translation field?**

On one hand, the legal translator should be in continuous professional development. In a PhD THESIS QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY, conducted between 2019-2021, part of the author's PhD Research in Legal Translation Studies⁴ to determine perceptions about continuous professional development for translators (lifelong learning approaches), we observed that translators adopt different strategies: (1) conferences or workshops organised by other professional bodies, in the area of specialisation; (2) on-line tutorials, webinars and e-learning (MOOCs); (3) reading specialist publications, learned journals and other literature in the specialist subject(s); (4) listening to radio, podcasts, watching TV/films in the source language; (5) in-house training for translators; (6) preparing and delivering lectures, presentations, seminars or workshops; (7) mentoring; (8) visits to specialist libraries, technical installations or client premises; (9) writing articles or website reviews⁵.

On the other hand, future legal translators should be in permanent professional development. In this particular context, the question that arises is: *how can students*

² Christiane Nord, *Text Analysis in Translation: Theory, Methodology and Didactic Application of a Model for Translation-Oriented Text Analysis*, Amsterdam, Rodopi Publisher House, 1991.

³ Andreea-Maria Sârmaşiu, *Investigating the Translatability of Legal Texts: Designing Effective Transfer Strategies for Legal Translations*, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2024, p. 78.

⁴ Idem, pp. 181-182.

⁵ Idem, p. 130.

in Translation Studies as future (legal) translators achieve this theoretical and practical experience?

2. Legal, linguistic and terminological distinctiveness

First of all, theoretical aspects are presented, analysed and explained during translation courses. A student in Translation Studies and, in fact, a future (legal) translator has to work with strategies. The strategy can be characterized as a *decision taken by a translator in the pre-translation phase before engaging in the translation phase*⁶. In general, in a (legal) translation process, two main translation strategies can be identified: ‘foreignization’ (in the current terminology) or source-text oriented/word-for-word/direct/literal translation strategy and ‘domestication’ (in the current terminology): target text-oriented/message for message/oblique/free translation strategy⁷. During the diverse translation phases, these strategies are operationalised and take the form of different techniques, procedures and methods⁸.

In translation literature, Vinay and Darbelnet⁹ present two main strategies: a direct translation strategy and an oblique translation strategy. The direct translation strategy “resembles word-by-word quotation of the original message in the target language and where the translator has the opportunity to accurately reproduce the linguistic elements from the source language”¹⁰¹¹. This strategy is operationalised through three methods: borrowing, calque and literal translation¹². The oblique translation strategy allows the translator to morphologically, syntactically or stylistically readjust the target text, focusing on the understanding and transmission of the message¹³. The four methods used are transposition, modulation, equivalence, and adaptation¹⁴.

Furthermore, Nida¹⁵ describes one of the operationalised forms of translation strategies, namely the technical and organizational procedures¹⁶. Technical procedures include the analysis of source and target language, and also the semantic and syntactic analysis of different elements, while the organizational procedures cover the constant re-evaluation of the work, the identification and analysis of parallel texts, the evaluation of the text’s communicative effectiveness¹⁷.

⁶ Idem, pp. 59-64.

⁷ Idem, p. 59.

⁸ Idem, pp. 59-64.

⁹ Jean-Paul Vinay, Jean Darbelnet, *Stylistique Comparée du Français et de l’Anglais : Méthode de Traduction*, Paris, Didier, 1958.

¹⁰ *Ibidem*

¹¹ Andreea-Maria Sărmaşiu, *Investigating the Translatability of Legal Texts: Designing Effective Transfer Strategies for Legal Translations*, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2024, p. 59.

¹² *Ibidem*.

¹³ *Ibidem*.

¹⁴ *Ibidem*.

¹⁵ Eugene Nida, *Towards a Science of Translating: With Special Reference to Principles and Procedures Involved in Bible Translating*, Leiden, Brill Publishing House, 1964.

¹⁶ Andreea-Maria Sărmaşiu, *Investigating the Translatability of Legal Texts: Designing Effective Transfer Strategies for Legal Translations*, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2024, p. 60.

¹⁷ Idem.

Moreover, Newmark¹⁸ explains the difference between translation methods and translation procedures: “translation methods relate to whole texts, translation procedures are used for sentences and the smaller units of language”¹⁹. Regarding the methods of translation²⁰, the scholar included in the list: *word-for-word translation* (keeping the original word order of the source language and translating each word individually); *literal translation* (replacing the grammar structures of the source language with their closest equivalents in the target language and translating each word individually); *faithful translation* (conveying the exact meaning of the original text while adhering to the grammatical rules of the target language); *semantic translation* (highlighting the aesthetic value of the original text); *adaptation* (having the flexibility to adapt the source language into the target language in terms of vocabulary, grammar, cultural elements, or even text structure); *free translation* (creating the target text independently of the source text's style and structure); *idiomatic translation* (conveying the source text's 'message' by favouring informal expressions and idioms); *communicative translation* (expressing the exact contextual meaning of the source text so that both the content and language are appropriate and understandable for the audience). Concerning the translation procedures²¹, their classification comprises: *transference* (conveying a source language word into the target text); *naturalization* (adjusting the source language word for the pronunciation and then for the morphology of the target language); *cultural equivalent* (substituting a cultural word from the source language with an equivalent from the target language); *functional equivalent* (employing a culture-neutral term); *descriptive equivalent* (replicating culture-specific terms); *componential analysis* (analysing a source language word in relation to a target language word); *synonymy* (utilizing a near equivalent in the target language); *through-translation* (word-for-word translation of standard collocations, organizational names, and elements of compounds - calque or loan translation); *shifts or transpositions* (encompassing a transformation in grammatical structures from the source language to the target language); *modulation* (rendering the message of the original text in accordance with the conventions of the target language); *recognized translation* (utilizing the official or widely accepted translation of any institutional term); *compensation* (compensating for the semantic implications of the words employed in the given text); *paraphrase* (clarifying the meanings of culture-specific terms in the target text); *couplets* (combining two different procedures); *notes* (additional information).

Baker²² mentions and explains eight translation strategies: *translation by a more general word* (substituting a specific term in the source language with a broader, more general term in the target language); *translation by a more neutral/ less expressive word* (replacing an emotionally charged or vivid term in the source language with a more neutral or less expressive equivalent in the target language); *translation by cultural substitution* (replacing a culture-specific element in the source language with a

¹⁸ Peter Newmark, *A Textbook of Translation*, New York and London, Prentice Hall, 1988.

¹⁹ Idem, p. 81.

²⁰ Andreea-Maria Sărmaşiu, *Investigating the Translatability of Legal Texts: Designing Effective Transfer Strategies for Legal Translations*, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2024, pp. 60-61

²¹ Idem, p. 62.

²² Mona Baker, *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation*, London/New York, Routledge, 1992.

corresponding element in the target culture); *translation using a loan word or loan word plus explanation* (borrowing a word from the source language into the target language, sometimes accompanied by an explanatory note); *translation by paraphrase using a related word* (rephrasing the original term using synonymous or related words that convey a similar meaning); *translation by paraphrase using unrelated words* (rewording the original concept using entirely different terms that may not be directly related but collectively convey the intended meaning); *translation by omission* (excluding certain elements from the source text during translation when they are deemed redundant, irrelevant, or untranslatable); *translation by illustration* (examples or descriptive explanations to clarify the meaning of terms or concepts in the source language).

Another scholar who discusses translation strategies is Chesterman²³, his classification comprises *syntactic strategies* - changing the grammatical structures of the target text with the source text; *semantic strategies* - changing the lexical structures of the target text with the source text; and *pragmatic strategies*. The methods which correspond to syntactic strategies²⁴ are literal translation (source text form); loan translation (borrowing); transposition (word class); unit shift; paraphrase structure change; clause structure change; sentence structure change; cohesion change (intra-textual cohesion); level shift; scheme change. The methods related to semantic strategies²⁵ are synonymy; antonymy; hyponymy; converses; trope change; abstraction change; distribution change (expansion and/or compression); emphasis change; and paraphrase strategy. The methods which are correlated with pragmatic strategies²⁶ are cultural filtering; explicitness change; information change; interpersonal change; speech act; visibility change; coherence change; partial translation; and trans-editing.

Finally, Venuti²⁷ proposes two main translation strategies: *foreignization* (literal, direct translation, source-text-oriented translation) – close adherence to the source text structure and syntax²⁸ and *domestication* (free, oblique, target-text-oriented translation) – entails translating in a transparent, fluent, invisible style to minimize the foreignness of the target text²⁹.

At the end of this theoretical presentation, we can affirm that all these translation strategies described by different scholars play an important role in the formation of students in Translation Studies, as they provide a framework for understanding the complexities of the translation process. By engaging with these strategies, students develop critical thinking skills through understanding various strategies, addressing challenges arising from linguistic and cultural differences in source and target texts, making informed decisions during the translation process, and guiding them in meeting the expectations of the client/audience. Therefore, theoretical translation strategies

²³ Andrew Chesterman, *Memes of Translation: The Spread of Ideas in Translation Theory*, Amsterdam, John Benjamins, 1997.

²⁴ Andreea-Maria Sărmașiu, *Investigating the Translatability of Legal Texts: Designing Effective Transfer Strategies for Legal Translations*, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2024, p. 63.

²⁵ Idem.

²⁶ Idem.

²⁷ Lawrence Venuti, *Strategies of Translation*. In M. Baker (Ed.). *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*. pp. 240-244, London, Routledge, 1998.

²⁸ Andreea-Maria Sărmașiu, *Investigating the Translatability of Legal Texts: Designing Effective Transfer Strategies for Legal Translations*, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2024, p. 63.

prepare students for professional practice, allowing them to navigate the complexities of real-world translation tasks. By understanding and applying these strategies, students not only improve their technical skills but also cultivate a deeper appreciation for the science of translation, making theoretical translation strategies an indispensable component of Translation Studies education.

3. Interdisciplinary approach – academics and professionals co-working (Practice I)

Secondly, an interdisciplinary approach that is characterized by academics and professionals co-working. During a virtual legal translation workshop via Zoom (January – February 2021), with 40 participants, we could have observed the challenges encountered by MA, BA and PhD students in Translation Studies, but also by translators (specialist, legal, authorised), in translating legal texts as a direct result of investigating specific problems and strategies^{29,30}. The main goal of the workshop was to find the answers to some specific questions related to the legal translation process. First of all, *what elements influence the Pre-translation phase, namely the acceptance or refusal of a translation project?* Among the most frequent responses were field of a text, client's instructions, specific problems, translation strategies, deadline, price and client's attitude³¹. Secondly, *what indications does a translator expect from a potential client to be able to make the transition from the Pre-translation phase to the Translation phase?* In this category, the respondents included target language and culture, translation purpose, text format, guidance for specific terminology, specific information (additional procedures), deadline and price³². Thirdly, *what percentage of applicability would you give to each principle (equivalence, conventionality, functionality)?* The first principle chosen was *equivalence* (40%) - to render terminological elements from the source language through other terminological elements in the target language that correspond to the same reality; the second one was *functionality* (37%) - to connect the purpose of the target text and the fidelity to the source text; and the third one was *conventionality* (23%) - to render normative or even conservative elements, specific to a culture or a communicative situation³³. Moreover, *which specific problems do you encounter during a (legal) translation process?* Starting from the theoretical classification proposed by Nord – pragmatic, translator-dependant, text-specific, technical difficulties vs. pragmatic, linguistic, cultural text-specific problems³⁴, the participants proposed reclassification of problems/difficulties: fully-pragmatic problems (titles, acronyms,

²⁹ Andreea-Maria Sărmaşiu, Challenges of Legal Translation: Specific Problems and Strategies Identified Through a Virtual Workshop, In *Professional communication and translation studies*, 14/2021, Timișoara, Politehnica Timișoara Publishing House, 2021, URL: <https://sc.upt.ro/ro/publicatii/pcts/issues-pcts/586-14-2021.%20pp.%20158-167> (Last accessed: November 2024).

³⁰ Andreea-Maria Sărmaşiu, *Investigating the Translatability of Legal Texts: Designing Effective Transfer Strategies for Legal Translations*, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2024.

³¹ Idem.

³² Idem.

³³ Idem.

³⁴ Christiane Nord, *Text Analysis in Translation: Theory, Methodology and Didactic Application of a Model for Translation-Oriented Text Analysis*, Amsterdam, Rodopi Publisher House, 1991.

denominations); fully-cultural problems (legality elements, acceptability, document format); fully-linguistic problems (sentence structure, synonyms, specific terminology), but also pragmatic-linguistic problems (target language conventions); pragmatic-cultural problems (different legal systems, macro-cultural factors); cultural-linguistic problems (macro-cultural factors, different legal systems); cultural – text-specific problems (macro-cultural factors, target language conventions)³⁵. Furthermore, *which specific strategies do you apply during a (legal) translation process?* Based on the theoretical classifications proposed by Nida³⁶ – technical vs. organizational procedures and Venuti³⁷ – foreignization vs. domestication, the academics and professionals proposed a new classification of translation strategies: consulting parallel corpora, consulting monolingual and bilingual dictionaries, vocabularies, glossaries, databases, consulting third-language support, consulting official sources, consulting a specialist, extra-revision³⁸. Finally, *which of the competences do you think are used the most during a (legal) translation process?* The answers offered illustrated research competence (information acquisition), thematic competence, transcultural competence, technical competence, sociolinguistic competence (linguistic and textual competence) and communicative competence³⁹.

At the end of the presentation of this first practical exercise, we can underline that an interdisciplinary approach that encourages collaboration between academics and professionals is very important for students in Translation Studies, as it enhances their learning experience and bridges the gap between theory and practice. By engaging with industry experts, students gain insights into real-world applications of translation theories, enriching their understanding of the field. This collaboration allows students to explore diverse perspectives from related disciplines, such as linguistics, cultural studies, and law, fostering a more realistic view of translation practices. This cooperative framework not only enhances students' academic development but also prepares them for the dynamic and evolving landscape of the translation industry, ensuring they are well-equipped for their future careers.

4. Interdisciplinary approach – Students' reflections on the legal translation field (Practice II)

Thirdly, an interdisciplinary approach that is based on students' reflections on the legal translation field. Focusing on what they had learned about translation strategies during their *Introduction to Translation Techniques* classes and the findings presented after the virtual workshop, 1st-year students LMA developed various legal translation processes based on the analysis of specific elements (Translation Brief, TOSTA) and the classification of particular problems and strategies.

³⁵ Andreea-Maria Sărmașiu, *Investigating the Translatability of Legal Texts: Designing Effective Transfer Strategies for Legal Translations*, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2024.

³⁶ Eugene Nida, *Towards a Science of Translating: With Special Reference to Principles and Procedures Involved in Bible Translating*, Leiden, Brill Publishing House, 1964.

³⁷ Lawrence Venuti, *Strategies of Translation*. In M. Baker (Ed.). *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*. pp. 240-244, London, Routledge, 1998.

³⁸ Andreea-Maria Sărmașiu, *Investigating the Translatability of Legal Texts: Designing Effective Transfer Strategies for Legal Translations*, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2024.

³⁹ Idem.

A. *Translating for International Criminal Courts*

The first team received the task of analysing a source text corresponding to international criminal courts. First of all, the students involved in the project prepared the specific Translation Brief (or client's instructions), including pieces of information about language (English – source language; Romanian – target language); field (legal domain); target audience (legal professionals, judges, lawyers, law student, academics etc.); functions of the target text (*to ensure equal access to justice for non-native speakers within a country's justice and legal system itself; to enable non-native speakers to participate in their defence or prosecution without any linguistic barriers hindering their ability to present their case effectively; to bridge the communication gap and ensure a fair and just legal process; to ensure that all parties involved can fully understand the facts and the legal actions*); deadline; price.

Secondly, the team made a complex analysis of the source text (T.O.S.T.A): author's intention (*to record the events of the case*), format of the text (written), functions of the source text (*to provide valuable insights into legal cases, decisions, and trends; to gain a deeper understanding of legal issues and make informed decisions*), topic, legal terminology, content, structure of the text. Thirdly, according to Nord's classification⁴⁰, the students categorized the problems and the difficulties of the legal text received. As problems, they identified terminological problems related to the legal domain (e.g. *Registry Report, pursuant to, Trial Chamber, Presiding Judge, Rules of Procedure and Evidence, Former Child Soldiers Victims, Victims of the Other Crimes*). As difficulties, they mentioned the lack of experience, the misunderstanding of the source text, or the ignorance of the law (legal systems). Regarding the strategies applied, they proposed two of the reclassified strategies during the virtual workshop: consulting dictionaries, vocabularies, glossaries, terminological databases and consulting parallel texts.

B. *Translating for Domestic Courts*

The second team received the task of analysing a source text corresponding to domestic courts. Firstly, the students explained the role of Translation Brief (refers to the language, the domain of the text, the target audience, the purpose of the text: personal or professional and the deadline) and presented the main elements: language (English-Romanian), domain (legal), purpose (professional), target audience (private/public institutions, academic, wider audience) and deadline. Then, the team continued with T.O.S.T.A, analysing the source text through the author's intention (*to inform about the case which concerns the alleged failure of the authorities to protect the applicant from domestic violence and to support in maintaining contact with the children*), the function of the text and the format/the structure of the text. Moreover, the students analysed the language register used in the source text, using the passive voice, different linking words, Latinate verb forms, formulaic language, nominators and modal verbs. Furthermore, the team presented their classification of problems, and, for each problem, they proposed a strategy to be applied: (1) two different systems of laws: the common law and the civil law/the STRATEGY proposed: to study the Romanian law and to determine the similarities/the differences; (2) a lot of specialized terms/the STRATEGY applied: documentation sources for specialized terms; (3) long sentences, with many details and

⁴⁰ Christiane Nord, *Text Analysis in Translation: Theory, Methodology and Didactic Application of a Model for Translation-Oriented Text Analysis*, Amsterdam, Rodopi Publisher House, 1991.

in-depth ideas/the STRATEGY mentioned: the use of constructions that are no longer used in common English, but are still present in legal English; (4) the lack of resources/the STRATEGY proposed: get in contact with specialists.

C. Translating for Multinational Corporations

The third team received the task of analysing a source text corresponding to multinational corporations. The students started from the same Translation Brief, emphasizing the source and the target languages (English-Romanian), the purpose of the text (*to outline the bylaws for the multinational corporation, including rules for shareholder meetings, director elections, corporate governance*), the target audience (Shareholders, Board of Directors, Corporate Officers, Potential Investors, Employees) and the domain (legal). To this sample of the Translation Brief, the team added a list of particular questions: *What is the main purpose of translating this document? Are there specific sections of the bylaws that require special attention or emphasis during translation? Who is the primary audience for the translated document? Are there any sections of the document that can be summarized or omitted to avoid redundancy and simplify the content for the target audience? Should legal terms be translated directly into the target language, or should they be kept in the original language with accompanying explanations? Are there any local legal requirements or regulations that need to be considered and reflected in the translation? Are there any specific formatting requirements that the translated document should adhere to? Is there an existing glossary of terms or style guide that the translation should adhere to?* Then, the students analysed the source text through a T.O.S.T.A analysis: sender, receiver, intention, the channel through which the text is communicated, format and structure of the text, domain, text function, and language (legal terminology). Moreover, they proposed four specific problems: legal terminology, formality of the text, acronyms and other text-specific terms, and cultural and legal systems differences. Regarding the strategies, the list presented contained 3rd language support, consulting official sources and localization.

D. Translating for Law Firms

The fourth team received the task of analysing a source text corresponding to law firms (payment agreements). The students combined the two elements, Translation Brief and T.O.S.T.A, and conducted one analysis which included pieces of information about domain (legal), sender, receiver, purpose (professional), intention (formalize and outline the terms and conditions of a financial arrangement), medium (written), text structure, topic, functions and language (Legal English/Legal Terminology). As problems, they described the terminological challenges encountered, and as solutions, they proposed consulting dictionaries, vocabularies, glossaries, terminological databases and consulting parallel texts.

E. Translating for Government Departments

The fifth team received the task of analysing a source text corresponding to government departments. The team started the project with a possible set of instructions that the customer would give to the translator. The main elements included were: language (English-Romanian); domain (legal); purpose (accessibility, comparative analysis, education, legal proceedings); target audience (non-English speaking citizens,

legal professionals and Law specialists, government officials, teachers and students, immigrants and new residents, international organizations and foreign governments); deadline; price; and the length and complexity of the document. The T.O.S.T.A was developed under two main aspects: extratextual elements (the main authors, the receiver of the target text, the author's intention, the medium, the format and the structure of the text, the field, the functions of the text) and intertextual elements (the topic and the register of the language used). The problems listed by the students were: names of institutions, the mention of other official documents; specific terminology ("due process", "habeas corpus", or "impeachment"); syntax; fixed structures; and format of the text. For the strategies category, they proposed consulting dictionaries, vocabularies, glossaries, terminological databases and consulting parallel texts.

F. Translating for National Public Institutions

The sixth team received the task of analysing a source text corresponding to national public institutions. Firstly, the students followed the same itinerary in the form of two analyses, Translation Brief and TOSTA. For the Translation Brief part, they identified the languages of source and target text, the domain, the particular purpose (*to outline the national standards and regulations for the protection of classified information in Romania, detailing the classifications, responsibilities, and procedures for handling, accessing, and securing such information following national and NATO criteria*), the target audience, the deadline and the price. Also, at the end of this first analysis, the team included some questions: *Are there any specific terms or phrases that require special attention to ensure accuracy and consistency in translation? Do you have any specific formatting or structural requirements for the translated document? Are there any specific legal or regulatory standards we need to respect in the translation? Should the translation include any particular annotations or footnotes for clarity? What type of communication do you prefer for addressing any unforeseen issues that may arise?* The T.O.S.T.A. was developed under two main aspects: extratextual elements and intertextual elements. To illustrate the problems encountered, the students used the classification proposed by Nord⁴¹: pragmatic, linguistic, cultural and text-specific problems. As strategies, they proposed consulting dictionaries, vocabularies, glossaries, terminological databases and consulting parallel texts.

G. Translating for Police and Courts

The last team received the task of analysing a source text corresponding to police and courts (affidavit). In Translation Brief and T.O.S.T.A, the team mentioned elements such as details about the source text and the target text, the sender and the recipient (client), the format and the structure of the text, the field and the topic, the intentionality and the acceptability (audience). The students paid particular attention to (legal) language implications (legal terminology, formal vocabulary, formality and precision, objective tone). As problems, the examples offered were related to linguistic and pragmatic challenges, and as strategies, the students proposed to consult official documents, extra-revision and consult specialists.

⁴¹ Christiane Nord, *Text Analysis in Translation: Theory, Methodology and Didactic Application of a Model for Translation-Oriented Text Analysis*, Amsterdam, Rodopi Publisher House, 1991.

5. Conclusions. Short-term or long-term strategies?

How can students in Translation Studies as future (legal) translators achieve theoretical and practical experience? As we have observed, they can do it through learning and applying theoretical principles regarding (legal) translation processes. In this particular context, the strategies applied are long (the process of learning) and short (the process of practising). But beyond that, they can draw inspiration from other translators and improve their process of personal and professional development by reading books and articles, exchanging ideas with other colleagues and professionals, detecting their most pressing needs, improving skills, being kept updated on the market requirements, enhancing the field of expertise, and attending conferences, workshops, webinars⁴².

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⁴² Andreea-Maria Sărmașiu, *Investigating the Translatability of Legal Texts: Designing Effective Transfer Strategies for Legal Translations*, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2024.