Citespace Based Legal English Translation Strategies Scientometric Analysis

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Abstract

Based on China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI) and other periodical databases, this paper, with the help of CiteSpace visual analysis technology and corpus analysis method, summarizes the development of domestic legal English translation strategies and research hotspots, and the trend of diachronic development. The analysis shows that legal English research is interdisciplinary and closely related to the background of The Times. Domestic literature on legal English translation strategies emerged after 2005, but domestic scholars and institutions are not closely connected. "Chinese-English Translation " is the strongest emergent word, while" legalese "is the new emergent word, reflecting Chinese scholars' emphasis on the professionalism and real-time nature of legal English translation. In view of the urgent need for the cultivation of foreign-related legal talents in China, it is suggested to establish legal+English legal talents training classes to cultivate international compound legal English talents.

Keywords

Legal English; Translation strategy; Citespace.

1. Introduction

Legal English refers to the idiomatic and professional language used by lawyers, judges, law students in common law countries. As an instrumental language, legal English is an industrial variant of English language, belonging to "One of the branches of English for special Purposes", and the crystallization of the interdisciplinary research of legal science and English language. The research on the characteristics of legal English has been preliminarily discussed in the mid-19th century. In the 1960s, due to the progress of science and technology and the development of business, English continuously penetrated into all levels of social and economic development thus became an international language for technical and business communication. On November 16, 2020, the CPC Central Committee held the first work conference on comprehensively governing the rule of law in its history and Xi Jinping thought on the rule of law was clearly defined as the guiding ideology for comprehensively governing the rule of law. Xi Jinping, general Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC), stressed that "the rule of law at home and abroad should be promoted in a coordinated way". In the construction of foreign-related rule of law, legal English translation strategy, as an important research method, has attracted more and more attention. For clear the present situation and development trend of legal English translation strategies research, this paper uses the visualization analysis means to study legal English translation strategy research development status which focus on the literature, and put forward the prospect of law college English subject, for cultivating talents, and respond to the strategy of rule of law concerning foreign affairs work layout.

2. Data Sources and Research Methods

This paper uses CiteSpace [3] to analyze the development trend of domestic legal English translation strategy research. CiteSpace examines trends in a discipline and produces a graph called a "science knowledge map". The domestic literature data came from SCI source journals, CSSCI and core journals, and were downloaded to CNKI database. The subject was set as "Legal English", the core word was set as "translation strategy", and the literature type was set as "literature", and 203 pieces of data were obtained. After screening invalid data such as catalogues, conferences and practice reports, 138 literatures from 2005 to 2021 were obtained, and the last update date was December 1, 2021. The literature distribution is shown in Figure 1.
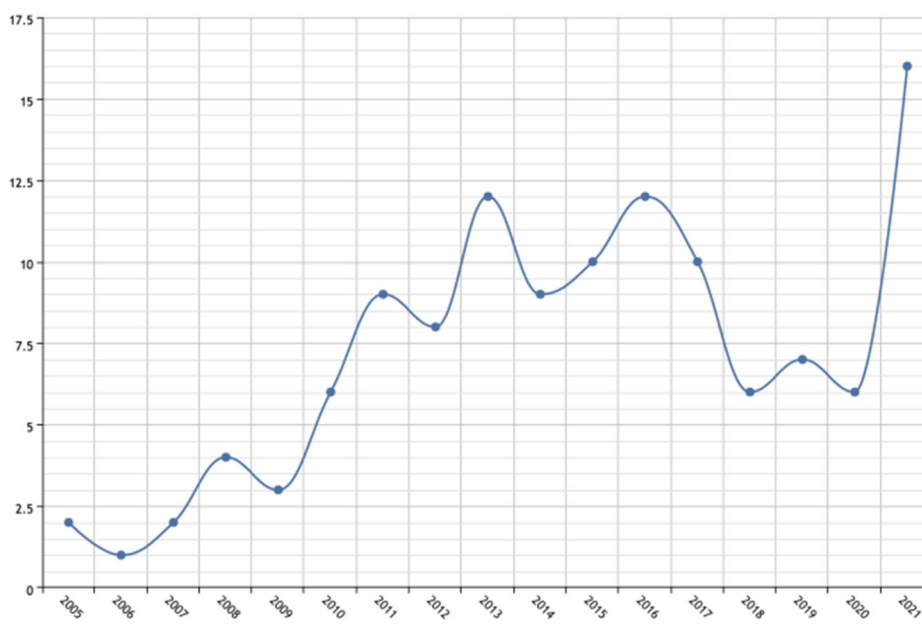

Figure 1. Number of literatures published on domestic legal English translation strategies

As shown in Figure 1, although there were studies on legal English in domestic academic circles before 2005, the overall number of publications was small, and the number of published literatures showed a trend of rising volatility since 2005. However, the number of published legal English literatures fell back from 2017. And reached the peak in 2021, the fluctuation of the number of articles has a lot to do with the domestic environment.

3. Research on Translation Strategies of Legal English at Home

3.1. Main Researchers and Affiliated Institutions

Citation Counts	References	DOI	Cluster ID
8	School of Law, Guizhou University, 2021, SO, 0, 0		
6	College of Foreign Languages, Southwest University of Political Science and Law, 2009, SO, 0, 0		
2	Mudanjiang Normal University, 2013, SO, 0, 0		
2	School of Foreign Languages Hefei University of Technology Hefei, 2011, SO, 0,0		
2	Nanyang Normal University Law School, 2014, SO, 0,0		
2	Shenyang Normal University, 2017, SO, 0, 0		
1	School of Foreign Languages Chongqing University of Science and Technology Chongqing university of science and technology College of foreign languages, 2012, SO, 0,0		
1	China University of Political Science and Law, 2020, SO, 0, 0		
1	College of Humanities, Gansu University of Political Science and Law, 2015, SO, 0, 0		
1	Lu'an Vocational and Technical College, 2017, SO, 0, 0		

Figure 2. Main authors and affiliated institutions

Citespace can generate charts showing the literature publication and cooperation among institutions in the field of legal English translation strategy research in China. By analyzing the main authors and their affiliated institutions, we can find out the layout of research forces in this field.

It can be seen from Figure 2 that Chen Jianping and Law School of Guizhou University published the most papers on the topic of legal English translation strategies. In general, the number of papers published in China is insufficient and there is a lack of cooperation among organizations.

3.2.   Research Hotspot and Frontier Analysis

Keywords can accurately extract and highly summarize the literature, so that they can represent research hotspots to a certain extent. This paper analyzes the main keywords of legal English translation strategies from the perspectives of keyword co-occurrence, time zone and highlighting, and finally summarizes the research hotspots in China.

3.2.1.   Keywords Co-occurrence Analysis

Figure 3. Keywords co-occurrence map

Other Settings remain unchanged in CiteSpace, and Keyword is selected in NodeTypes column to obtain the co-occurrence atlas of keywords in legal English translation strategy research, as shown in Figure 3. The larger the node, the more times the keywords appear, the thicker the line between the nodes, and the higher the correlation between the two keywords. By comparing the co-occurrence atlas of keywords, it is found that there are few nodes and the connection degree of each branch line is weak, indicating that the corresponding research on legal English translation strategies in China should be strengthened in terms of research scope, tightness and depth.

Research on domestic legal English translation strategies mainly focuses on translation, legal terms, legal language and legal English. This network has three nodes of high intermediary centrality, namely "legal English", "legal translation" and "translation strategies", which are the Bridges connecting various hotspots of domestic legal English research.
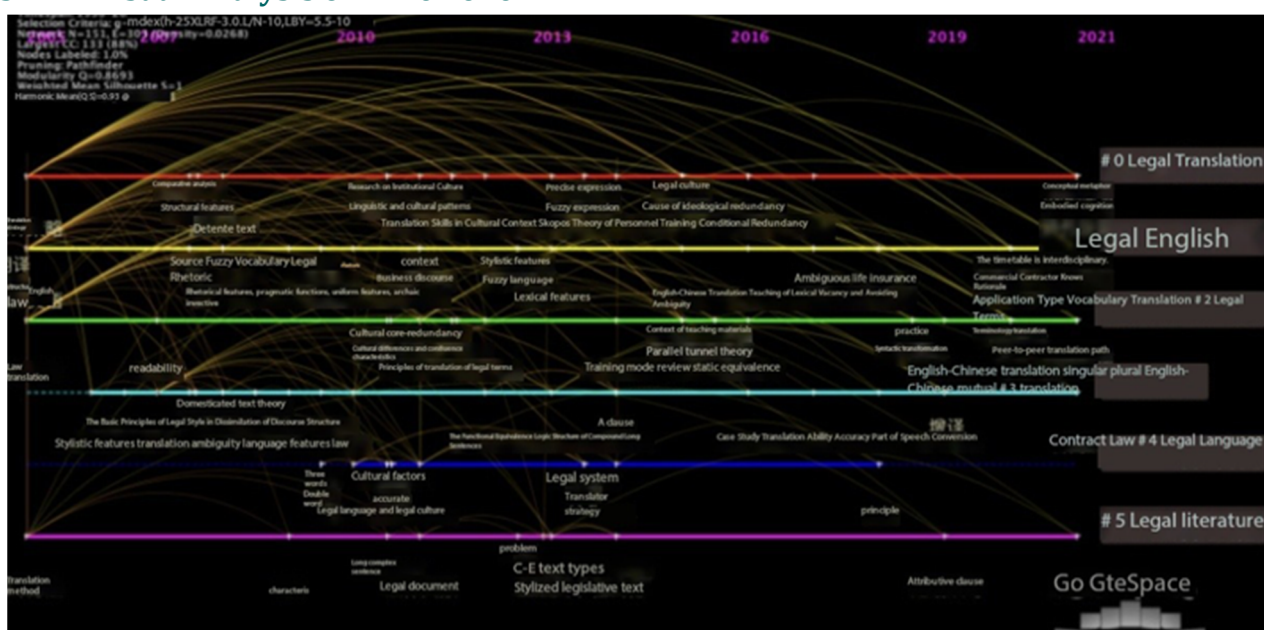
3.2.2. Visual Analysis of Time Zone

**Figure 4.** Keywords common current area map

In order to see the development trend of cross-border innovation from the time dimension, this paper uses the time zone view in CiteSpace to conduct relevant analysis, as shown in Figure 4. The time zone view can clearly represent the update of documents and the relationship between documents in two dimensions according to time sequence. In the time zone diagram, the node size represents the frequency of occurrence of the keyword: the year in which the node is located represents the time when the keyword first appears, and the line between nodes represents the inheritance relationship of different keywords in the same article at different times. As can be seen from Figure 4, the development and evolution of domestic legal English translation strategy research can be roughly divided into three stages.

The first stage is the embryonic stage from 2005 to 2007, which focuses on the characteristics of legal language, legal translation and legal terminology. It preliminarily introduces the differences between legal English semantics and common semantics, and discusses the stylistic characteristics of legal English patterns mainly focusing on the translation of laws and regulations and the translation of legal terminology.

The second stage is the breakout period from 2007 to 2016, in which legal translation is linked with various theories in translation strategies such as alienation, and the research field is deepened to the cultural level and combined with legal culture, noticing the great impact of cultural differences on legal English translation at the same time.

The third stage is the development period from 2016 to now. At this time, specific teaching strategies for interdisciplinary teaching were proposed and the term "rule of law concerning foreign affairs" emerged, responding to the trend and needs of The Times.

3.2.3. Dash Forward Show Analysis
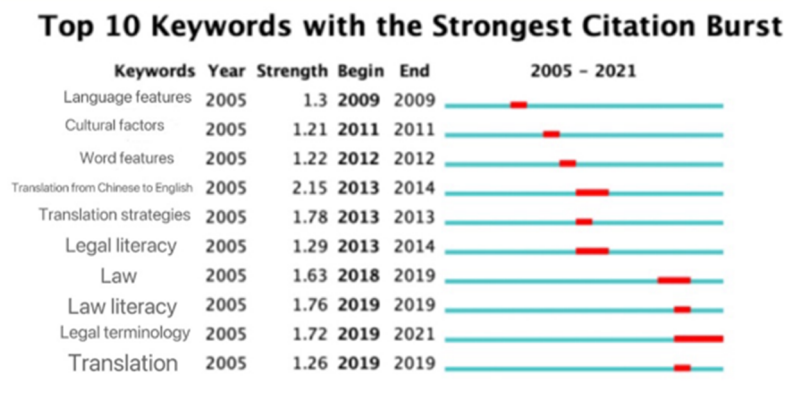
Figure 5. Keywords in domestic legal English translation strategies

CiteSpace can perform Frequency burst detection on network nodes to track the change of keyword Frequency, reflecting the dynamic change of research in this field and the research frontier of this discipline [3]. In this paper, 10 breakout keywords were obtained (Figure 5), which reflects the phased change of relevant research trends.

3.2.3.1 The strongest emergent words: Chinese-English translation

As the strongest emergent words, the Chinese-English translation conforms to the trend of going out, which perfectly fits the background of the country's need for legal talents. As the first step to go abroad, Chinese-English translation strategy is particularly important, and the domestic research in this field also reflects the attention of the academic circle.

3.2.3.2 New Emergent Word: Legal Terminology

With the deepening of the Belt and Road Initiative and the degree of opening up to the outside world, the pace of going abroad of law is also accelerated. As a highly professional discipline, the status of legal terms in translation has been emphasized and studied.

By analyzing the key words of legal English translation strategies, the development trend and frontier analysis of this discipline can be obtained. The research focus of legal English translation strategies in China has gradually transferred from the professional analysis of language statements to the integration of legal operation mechanism, reflecting the development prospect of interdisciplinary. At the same time, the translation of legal English has always been closely combined with foreign strategies, reflecting the country's consistent adherence to the opening-up policy and its determination to intensify opening-up.

4. Conclusion and Prospect

Through CiteSpace visualization method, this paper discusses the current status and hotspots of domestic legal English translation strategies, and summarizes the frontier hotspots and development prospects of domestic legal English translation strategies. Research on legal English translation strategies in China focuses on legal English, legal English terminology, legal English translation strategies and other aspects, which are comprehensive but systematic. From the perspective of the research path of legal English translation strategies, language is the entry point of legal English research, which not only focuses on the ontological characteristics of legal English, but also actively draws on the theoretical framework and research methods of linguistics to solve legal problems. It is not difficult to see that innovation in a research field is not a static and self-closed system, but a dynamic system that keeps innovating over time. Realistic demands and technological innovation will constantly promote the innovation and development of the discipline system.

The research on legal English translation strategies is an interdisciplinary research field that meets the real needs: On the one hand, from the perspective of specialized English, legal English pays attention to the relationship between language and content, and reconstructs the features and functions of language in specific and professional language situations. On the other hand, from the perspective of the mechanism of legal operation, language is not only the carrier of content and the tool of communication, but also represents the process of legal operation and plays a role in the identification of evidence.

With the deepening of China's opening up to the outside world, China's relations and interactions with other countries are getting closer and closer, and the field of foreign affairs is constantly expanding, which puts forward new and higher requirements for legal English translation. Legal education plays a strategic and leading role in the construction of the rule of law. Legal talents are not only an important part of legal construction, but also an important force of legal construction. Legal + English talent training is an important foundation and guarantee for the construction of foreign-related rule of law, which is of great significance for serving the Construction of "The Belt and Road", participating in global governance and the construction of foreign-related rule of law, and promoting the construction of a new liberal arts of international law.

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