

Russian Legal Terminology

Legal terminology is the most important information source in the field of law. During the period of development of a legal system, terminology demonstrates a high degree of instability. For lack of up-to-date lexicographical sources, lexicography, technical translation and other fields of terminological analysis depend highly on the evaluation of text sources. What is needed is an empirically-based method of terminological description, considering the structure and methodology of the special field as well as the functions of its texts.

The proposed model of semantic description incorporates semasiological and onomasiological description of the relation between terminological expression (name) and legal concept, in particular the description of synonymy, polysemy and of incongruent usage of the terminology. It considers quantitative aspects of term application, and includes two perspectives of description: concept system and usage situation. This allows the building of so-called *denomination-concept-fields*, thus providing information pertinent to the use of denomination and verbalising of concepts in question.

The model of terminology description has been based on the analysis of Russian legal terminology of intellectual property, dating from 1992 to 2003. The corpus includes most important Russian acts legislating intellectual property, texts of legal doctrine and law (approx. 874000 words), over 230 legal decisions (approx. 591000 words) and a terminological glossary including more than 440 commented entries.

References:

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