

# The classification of linguistic research and its practical significance

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**Abstract:** This article discusses the formation of the field of linguistic expertise in the Uzbek language, its types, and the relevance of linguistic expertise of document texts.

**Keywords:** Linguistic expertise, document, document text, normative legal document, local normative document, management documents, formal linguistic expertise studies, substantive linguistic expertise studies.

**Introduction:** Any analysis, correction, study or interpretation conducted on spoken or written texts can generally be considered a linguistic examination in terms of its content and essence. However, it is not accurate to classify all analyses of texts as linguistic expertise. For instance, reviewing the written work of school students, summarizing the content of a poem or literary piece or correcting errors in a document or other text are minor practical activities related to textual analysis. Therefore, it is essential to distinguish linguistic expertise from other types of practical text-related studies. The term expertise (derived from the Latin *expertus*, meaning “to know through experience”) is a legal concept referring to research conducted by an authorized individual on behalf of interested parties to address questions requiring specialized knowledge. Linguistic expertise, in particular, is often aimed at determining the legal implications arising from a text. This field represents a new interdisciplinary direction at the intersection of linguistics and law. Only qualified specialists in applied linguistics are authorized to conduct linguistic expertise and provide conclusions.

## METHODS

Linguistic expertise is conducted by a specialist or expert when necessary, based on an official body’s formal request in accordance with the relevant procedure. In legislation, a distinction is observed between the concepts of a specialist and an expert. The Criminal Procedural Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan states that individuals possessing specialized

knowledge in fields such as science, technology, art or crafts may serve as experts to provide conclusions (CPC, Article 67) [15]. It also notes that professionals engaged to assist investigators, prosecutors and courts in discovering and substantiating evidence during investigations and judicial proceedings are recognized as specialists (CPC, Article 69) [15]. In other words, an expert is an individual with specialized knowledge in science, technology, art or crafts who conducts practical research on specific issues (or materials) and presents their well-founded opinions in an expert report. Meanwhile, a specialist is a professional or qualified individual in a particular field who aids investigators, prosecutors and courts in examining specific issues (or materials) within their area of expertise.

Numerous studies have been conducted in the field of linguistic expertise abroad, particularly in Russian linguistics. In Russian linguistics, works by scholars such as A.N. Baranov, K.I. Brinev and E.I. Galyashina [8;9;10] have been published, while internationally, researchers such as M. Coulthard, L.M. Solan and H. Huylmans [2;3;6] have made significant contributions.

A.N. Baranov writes the following about linguistic expertise:

“Linguistic expertise is the process of studying speech activity products aimed at identifying important facts and answering the questions posed to the specialist. Linguistic expertise allows determining the accuracy (or inaccuracy) or the possibility (or impossibility) of statements describing the object. Linguistic expertise is

based on linguistic theories and methods developed for the study of linguistic objects in applied linguistics” [8:5].

Indeed, as a result of linguistic expertise, the level of precision and clarity in conveying information through a text increases and many controversial issues related to oral and written texts find resolution [14].

In Uzbek linguistics, some normative-legal documents addressing this issue have been adopted; however, scientific-theoretical and practical studies remain scarce. Only in recent years have a few scientific and methodological works been published and dissertations defended. Among the initial studies in this field are: Professor Shuhrat Kuchimov’s manual titled “Linguistic Expertise of Draft Normative-Legal Documents” [11], The methodological guide “Linguistic Expertise in the Uzbek Language” co-authored by I. Azimov, Z. Ruziyev, and F. Bobojonov [1], J.N. Orozov’s monograph “Linguocriminology of the Uzbek Language” [5], Z. Suvanov’s monograph “Theoretical and Methodological Foundations of Linguistic Expertise of Uzbek Literary Texts” [7] and K. Musulmonova’s Doctor of Philosophy dissertation “The Process, Stages, and Methods of Linguistic Expertise of Written Texts in the Uzbek Language” [4].

Linguistic expertise is divided into several components depending on its purpose, the form and content of the material presented, the nature of the issue at hand, and other factors. In K.Kh. Musulmonova’s research, it is proposed to classify linguistic expertise of Uzbek written texts into the following components:

- Linguistic expertise of defamatory content texts;
- Linguistic expertise of texts with an unknown author;
- Linguistic expertise for detecting plagiarism;
- Linguistic expertise of advertising texts;
- Linguistic expertise of normative legal documents;
- Linguistic expertise of trademarks, domain names, company names, and other products of speech activity;
- Linguistic expertise of extremist materials [4:11].

J.N. Orozov, who conducted research in the field of linguocriminology, emphasizes: “Linguocriminalistic expertise, forensic linguistic expertise, are components of linguistic expertise” [5:12].

As a result of linguistic expertise of document drafts, the level of precision and clarity in information transfer within the text increases and many controversial issues

find resolution.

As our country becomes more democratic with the expansion of freedom of speech and mass media and the increasing application of language in practical activities, the demand and need for practical work related to linguistic expertise of texts are also growing [5:3]. Indeed, in a legal-democratic society, every issue and every controversial matter must find a just solution. Particularly today, linguistic expertise of document texts holds a significant role in the development of the state language.

## **DISCUSSION**

Thus, linguistic expertise is the process of studying, editing and explaining speech activity products—texts—aimed at identifying important facts and answering the questions posed to the specialist. In Russian linguistics, linguistic expertise is primarily considered a type of forensic expertise. “Linguistic expertise is an independent type of forensic expertise, an effective (and therefore highly responsible) procedural activity involving the linguistic examination of speech data (recorded on any material medium) that has evidentiary value” [12:8]. In our view, this type of activity can be applied not only in judicial processes but also in other areas. For example, texts of normative-legal documents, speeches of political figures, textbooks and social media communications can be researched for various purposes. Therefore, it is more accurate to consider linguistic expertise as a scientific-practical research method within applied linguistics.

Ukrainian linguist L.V. Ajnyuk identifies two main types of linguistic expertise that require special knowledge: first, as a means of legal regulation from the linguistic perspective, applied to media materials, programs, oral presentations, advertising texts, information and services provided to consumers in goods, company names and others; second, as a linguocriminalistic research method that regulates social relations [13:6]. Indeed, when evaluating the linguistic expertise process and determining its relevance to a particular field, there is no unanimous agreement among scholars. Considering that linguists are engaged in this field, its research methods are primarily conducted from a linguistic perspective and that linguistic expertise is applied in areas beyond judicial expertise and law, it is more accurate to assess it as a branch of applied linguistics.

Linguistic expertise is divided into several components depending on the purpose, the form and content of the presented material, the essence of the issue at hand and other factors. Opinions on the components of linguistic expertise have been expressed in the research of K.X. Musulmonova [4] and J.N. Orozov [5].

In our view, it is appropriate to categorize the components of linguistic expertise into specific groups. These groups combine types of linguistic expertise that are similar either in form or content. The components of linguistic expertise can be divided into three groups:

1. Linguistic expertise of normative-legal documents.
2. Forensic linguistic expertise.
3. Domain-specific linguistic expertise.

These groups encompass several types of expertise. Each group combines types of expertise that are similar in terms of topics, research methods and the specialist's field of expertise.

**Linguistic expertise of normative-legal documents.** This group can include three types of expertise:

1. Linguistic expertise of draft normative-legal documents;
2. Linguistic expertise of existing normative-legal document texts;
3. Linguistic expertise of local normative documents.

**Forensic linguistic expertise.** In practice, the most commonly applied and officially conducted linguistic expertise based on expert requirements are forensic linguistic expertises. In English, all types of linguistic expertise are referred to as "forensic linguistics," which is considered one of the fields of practical linguistics that analyzes spoken and written language in the context of legal proceedings and criminology.

Forensic linguistic expertises can be divided into several types:

1. Criminolinguistic expertises;
2. Linguistic expertises to determine the presence of defamatory speech;
3. Linguistic expertises aimed at identifying the author of a text.

**Specialized linguistic expertises** include the linguistic expertise of official texts, the linguistic expertise of literary texts, the linguistic expertise of social media texts, the linguistic expertise of political speeches and others.

In formal style, particularly in ensuring full compliance with literary language norms in document texts, as well as in resolving disputes related to texts in other styles and spoken communication, linguistic expertise plays an important role in providing impartial evaluations. For this reason, the need for linguistic expertise research is increasing day by day. Based on linguistic expertise conclusions, clarifications are made regarding the text owner and the meaning conveyed through the

text.

## RESULTS

In linguistic expertise, it is advisable for the expert to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the speech product (spoken or written text) in order to provide an impartial and accurate conclusion. If necessary, additional materials may be provided to the expert. Extracted fragments from a text or spoken speech do not allow for an impartial and accurate conclusion. Short texts or excerpts from a complete text are highly likely to lead to incorrect interpretations. In some exceptional cases, depending on the purpose of the expertise, it may be possible to work based on a single sentence or fragment of a text to explain the meaning of a specific lexical unit in the text, upon the client's request.

The object of linguistic expertise is quite broad, including normative-legal documents, regulatory documents, contract texts, office papers, various types of texts, published literary or scientific works, official and informal communications on social media and controversial communications and correspondence between citizens that can be subjected to linguistic expertise.

## CONCLUSION

To preserve the purity of the language and prevent widespread illiteracy, it is advisable to subject street and storefront signs, as well as information and data published on official websites and channels of the media and social networks, to linguistic expertise. Additionally, it is a timely requirement to implement such a demand for textbooks and manuals in all types of educational institutions.

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