

УДК 81'37:343,1]:[811,161.2+811.111  
DOI <https://doi.org/10.24919/2663-6042.23.2025.18>

## LEXICAL AND SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF LEGAL TERMS OF CRIMINAL/CRIMINAL PROCEDURE LAW (BASED ON THE MATERIAL OF UKRAINIAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES)

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*This study substantiates the importance of comparative study of criminal and criminal procedure law terms in Ukrainian and English as elements of the general legal terminology system, analyzes the views of linguists on the nature of a term and concept, and the formulation of a term definition; the authors determine that the leading principle of comparative research is the semantic one, since it provides the most objective results of studying the units of the compared languages, in particular, the lexical and semantic features of legal terms in Ukrainian and English. The semantic principle includes a number of stages, including determining the scope of lexical semantics of terms, determining the means of expression of a semantic category, comparing functional and semantic fields in both languages in order to identify isomorphic and allomorphic features, establishing interlingual correlations in order to identify interlingual gaps and ways to compensate for them. The focus of comparative and typological studies on the basis of semantics is quite natural, since it has been proven that content takes precedence over form. In this paper, the authors propose, based on the semantic principle, a methodology for comparative analysis of legal terms of criminal law and criminal procedure law in Ukrainian compared to English, which consists of five stages. On the basis of the proposed methodology, the authors analyze the above-mentioned linguistic units (five pairs of criminal/criminal procedure law terms) and reveal their legal and socio-cultural features in both languages. The specificity of the terms, which arose in the compared languages under the influence of social and professional factors, is determined. An important stage of the analysis is the contextual use of a legal term, which provides a deeper interlingual and intercultural understanding of legal terminology in the field of criminal/criminal procedure law.*

**Key words:** legal term, terminology system, concept, definition, comparative analysis, semantic principle, isomorphism and allomorphism.

**Пономаренко С. С., Агієва-Каркашадзе В. О. Лексико-семантичний аналіз юридичних термінів кримінального / кримінально-процесуального права (на матеріалі української та англійської мов).** У цій студії обґрунтовано важливість зіставного вивчення термінів кримінального і кримінально-процесуального права в українській та англійській мовах як елементів загальної юридичної терміносистеми, проаналізовано погляди лінгвістів на природу терміна і поняття, формулювання дефініції терміна; визначено, що провідним принципом зіставних досліджень є семантичний, оскільки він дає найбільш об'єктивні результати вивчення одиниць порівнюваних мов, зокрема лексико-семантичних особливостей юридичних термінів в українській та англійській мовах. Семантичний принцип включає низку етапів, з-поміж яких визначення обсягу лексичної семантики термінів, визначення засобів вираження семантичної категорії, зіставлення функційно-семантичних полів в обох мовах з метою виявлення ізоморфних і аломорфних ознак, установлення міжмовних кореляцій з метою виявлення міжмовних лакун і шляхів їхньої компенсації. Орієнтація зіставно-типологічних досліджень на основі семантики є цілком закономірною, оскільки доведено, що зміст має перевагу над формою. У цій праці нами запропоновано з опорою на семантичний принцип методику зіставного аналізу юридичних термінів кримінального і кримінально-процесуального права в українській мові порівняно з англійською, що складається з п'яти етапів. На підставі запропонованої методики виконано аналіз згаданих мовних одиниць (п'ять пар термінів кримінального/кримінально-процесуального права), виявлено їхні власне юридичні та соціокультурні особливості в обох мовах. Визначено специфіку термінів, що виникла в зіставляваних мовах під впливом соціальних і професійних чинників. Важливим етапом аналізу є контекстуальне вживання юридичного терміна, що забезпечує більш глибоке міжмовне і міжкультурне розуміння юридичної термінології в галузі кримінального / кримінально-процесуального права.

**Ключові слова:** юридичний термін, терміносистема, поняття, дефініція, зіставний аналіз, семантичний принцип, ізоморфізм і аломорфізм.

**Statement of the problem and justification of the relevance of its analysis.** Globalization processes require modern states to adapt their legislation to international norms, and this is why there is a need for a comparative study of legal terminology in different languages. This helps to avoid mistakes in translation and ensures the

correct interpretation of legal norms, improving legal communication. Comparison of terms at the level of lexical semantics reveals socio-cultural and legal differences, which is extremely important for lawyers working internationally. In addition, there is an urgent need for translated lexicographical works representing legal terminology (in particular, in the

field of criminal/criminal procedure law) that are dynamically developing along with society.

Thus, the relevance of our study is determined not only by interdisciplinary scientific needs, but also by the social, cultural, and legal needs of modern society, especially those working in the field of international criminal law and procedure, legal translology, practicing translators, and linguists and lexicographers.

#### **Analysis of the latest research and publications.**

Modern scholarship on terminology, their analysis, and translation has the following views.

M. Vakulenko notes: "A term is a unit of lexical level (word or phrase) that denotes a certain concept in the relevant field of human activity, forms a functional and thematic class of sectoral vocabulary and is an organic (systemic or non-systemic) element of the terminological fund [1, 74]. This understanding of the term generalizes previous ideas about it and is more consistent with its nature.

The Dictionary of Linguistic Terms defines a term as "a word or phrase that expresses a clearly defined concept of a certain field of science, technology, art, social and political life, etc." [3, 306].

The Polish terminologist W. Lejczyk formulated the definition of a term as a lexical unit of a certain language for special needs, which means a general (concrete or abstract) concept of a scientific theory of a certain field of knowledge or activity [8]. This definition emphasizes that a term is a specific word or expression that is used exclusively for special purposes or in certain fields of activity.

The process of creating terms is key to the organization of human knowledge. As L. Pshenychna notes, "a term is an element of thinking with an indefinite content and scope. Only within a particular field of knowledge or activity does a term acquire a clear meaning and a certain scope" [7, 49].

Any scientific or technical concept must be fixed in a verbal form, because without this, the concept will remain only the personal experience of an individual or a group of people and will disappear with them. The process of giving a concept a verbal expression takes place in the process of creating a term and its definition.

The definitions formed in the course of scientific research are temporary, as they may change due to the development of scientific knowledge and progress in science and technology.

A definition is understood as a detailed definition of a concept using a certain way of constructing a sentence. A term is the name of a concept [2, 75].

According to A. Dudka, "a legal term is a word or phrase that correlates with the concept and subject matter of the legal professional sphere and, on the basis of this correlation, is included in the legal terminology system as its integral element" [4, 13].

Translation of legal terms into other languages is a complex task that often causes certain difficulties. L. Logvinova and M. Osadcha note that these difficulties are caused, firstly, by the specific characteristics of legal terms; secondly, by the differences between the legal systems of different countries and the differences in the cognitive information conveyed by analogous terms; and, thirdly, by the presence of unique terms in one

legal system for which there are no direct equivalents in another system [5, 76].

One of the leading principles of comparative linguistics is the semantic principle based on the semantic basis of the phenomena being compared. According to M. Kochergan, the hypothesis that semantics is the most productive basis for comparing languages has recently become quite popular. Such approaches are advocated by O. Bondarko, F. Grucha, S. Syatkovsky, V. Yartseva, and others. If the component analysis of the structural method is based on the semantic principle, i.e., semantic categories, then two languages will be analyzed using the same approach and the research results will be much more objective and complete [6, 88].

The semantic principle of analyzing linguistic elements includes the following stages:

1. Determining the scope of lexical semantics that will be used for comparison, which allows to clearly structure the comparison of terms, identifying their common features and differences. For example, Ukr. *злочин* and its equivalent in Engl. *crime* – both terms are criminal offenses and entail legal consequences in the form of restriction of liberty (imprisonment) or large fines; another equivalent *offence* means a minor offense and can be either a criminal or administrative offense and entail legal consequences in the form of administrative sanctions (fines, warnings, etc.).

2. Determining the means of expression of the analyzed semantic category within the functional and semantic field in the compared languages involves the analysis of linguistic units that realize certain meanings in a particular context and provide a deeper understanding of the terms and their differences. For example, Ukr. *злочинність*, *злочинець* are derived from *злочинний* and *злочин* accordingly, describing crime-related phenomena, and the English equivalent *criminal* (offender) and *criminality* (criminal activity) – are derived from *crime*; Ukr. *Він скоїв злочин* and Engl. *He committed a crime* – are equivalents, *He committed an offence* – emphasizes less seriousness and can be translated into Ukrainian as *Він скоїв правопорушення*; *злочин* and *crime* are used in the context of criminal proceedings, while *offence* can be used in administrative proceedings;

3. When comparing the functional and semantic fields in Ukrainian and English to identify isomorphic (common) and allomorphic (different) features, it allows us to better understand how different languages express the same meanings. This emphasizes the importance of the context and specifics of each language, which can have an impact on legal practice. For example, the following is an isomorphic feature: both languages have terms for serious offences (*злочин* – *crime*), which indicates a common concept of the seriousness of offences; allomorphic is the feature *offence* in the English language covers a wide range of offences (criminal and administrative), while *злочин* in Ukrainian is usually used in a more limited, criminal context.

4. Establishing cross-linguistic correlations (interlinguistic gaps and ways to compensate for them) emphasizes the importance of context and adaptation of terms to ensure accuracy and comprehensibility in interlingual communication. For example, Engl.

*offence* – a gap due to the fact that the Ukrainian language lacks a term that would accurately reflect all nuances of meaning, including light administrative violations (instead of *offence* the term *легке правопорушення* is used).

**The goal of this study** is to identify, through a comparative analysis, the isomorphic and allomorphic features of legal terminology in the field of criminal law and criminal procedure law at the level of lexical semantics and derivation in Ukrainian and English.

**Statement regarding the basic research material.**

A comparative analysis of the scope of lexical meanings of legal terms in Ukrainian and English is a tool for studying the terminology system and reveals the specifics of their meanings. The terminology of any scientific field is a dynamic system, and the proposed analysis allows us to determine how terms are adapted under the influence of different cultural and professional contexts. This is important for translators, terminologists, and legal practitioners.

The methodology of comparative lexical and semantic analysis of legal terms is manifested in the identification of the specifics of their lexical meaning in both languages and the use of criminal and criminal procedure law terms in different contexts.

The main stages of this methodology include:

1) providing definitions of Ukrainian and English legal terms certified by dictionaries and the criminal and criminal procedure codes;

2) determining the scope of hyper-hyponymic relations of criminal and criminal procedure law terms in Ukrainian and English (if any are observed);

3) defining synonymous and antonymous relations of the terms of criminal law and criminal procedure law in Ukrainian and English;

4) performing a contextual analysis of criminal/criminal procedure law terms in Ukrainian and English;

5) identification of isomorphic and allomorphic features in the compared pairs of legal terms in both languages.

Ukrainian term *вина* (SPC CCU, 79; CCU, 13; DUL I, 438) and its English equivalent *blame* (MUELD, 79).

According to the definitions in dictionaries and codes, Ukr. *вина* – is ‘the mental attitude of a person to the action or inaction provided for in the CCU and its consequences, expressed in the form of intent or negligence’ (CCU, 13); ‘negative an act or crime; involvement in them or in something unpleasant that happened’ (DUL I, 438), and Engl. *blame* – *responsibility for something wrong or unsatisfactory* // *accountability for something incorrect or inappropriate* (NWD, 17).

In the Ukrainian language lexeme *вина* is in synonymous relations with the words: *провина* (SDSUL, 35), *проступок*, *злочин*, *гріх*, *прогріх* (SDSUL, 152), and in the English language *blame*: *censure*, *rebukey* (condemnation, criticism), *reproof* (reproach, remark), *culpability* (blameworthiness), *responsibility*, *liability* (accountability), *condemnation* (conviction), *accusation* (indictment), *charge* (prosecution) (CALDT, URL: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/uk/thesaurus/blame>).

In the Ukrainian language lexeme *вина* is in an antonymous relationship with the words: *невинність* (CDAUL, 226), and in the English language *blame*: *vindication*,

*exoneration* (justification), *absolution* (remission of sins), *alibi* (allegiance) (CALDT, URL: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/uk/thesaurus/blame>).

In the legal context *вина* can refer to specific actions of a person that lead to punishment, for example: in the sense of a negative act, something unpleasant: *В козовицю вони застрягли в калабані, звісно, з вини Давида* (DUL I, 438); *Забувся, що це ти підпалював стоги? Не забувся, але поміркую, хто підказав мені, коли побачив сірники? Значить, вина падає на тебе* (DUL I, 438); *blame* is used in a more general context, often without legal consequences but with moral responsibility, e.g., wrongdoing and responsibility for it: *The government cannot escape blame for the state of the economy* // *Уряд, не зможе уникнути відповідальності за стан економіки* (LDCE, 124).

In terms of definitions, the pair *вина* – *blame* coincide in that all terms are related to the concept of responsibility for actions that led to negative consequences and are used to assess the moral or legal state of a person, and the differences are that:

– term *вина* has a specific legal meaning, while *blame* is more general and is used in both legal and moral contexts;

– term *вина* focuses mainly on the legal and moral aspects related to the commission of specific actions, and Engl. *blame* is more indicative of responsibility for doing something wrong and has a social context.

Ukrainian term *покарання* (SPCCCU, 145; CCU, 27; DUL VIII, 16) and its English equivalent *punishment* (MUELD, 404).

According to the definitions in dictionaries and codes, Ukr. *покарання* – ‘coercion applied on behalf of the state by a court verdict to a person found guilty of a criminal offense, and consists in the restriction of the rights and freedoms of the convicted person provided for by law’ (CCU, 27); ‘a means of influencing someone who has committed a crime, is guilty of a crime, etc.’ (DUL VIII, 16), and Engl. *punishment* – ‘a penalty imposed on a defendant duly convicted of a crime by an authorized court’ // ‘покарання, призначене підсудному, засудженому в установленому порядку уповноваженим судом за вчинення злочину’ (ODL, 397).

In the Ukrainian language lexeme *покарання* is a hyponym, and the following words are hyponyms: *арешт*, *ув'язнення*, *штраф*, *смертна кара*; in the English language hypernym *punishment* can be represented by the following hyponyms: *arrest* (арешт) (MUELD, 33), *confinement* (ув'язнення, позбавлення волі) (MUELD, 573), *fine* (штраф) (MUELD, 612), *capital punishment* (смертна кара) (MUELD, 522).

In the Ukrainian language lexeme *покарання* is synonymous with the words: *покара*, *кара* (SDSUL, 87, 142), and in the English language *punishment*: *punition*, *penalization*, *chastisement* (покарання), *retribution* (відплата), *reparation*, *redress* (відшкодування), *castigation* (покарання, осуд) (CALDT, URL: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/uk/thesaurus/punishment>).

In the Ukrainian language lexeme *покарання* is in an antonymous relationship with the word *помилування* (CDAUL, с. 165), and in the English language *punishment* – *reward* (винагорода) (CALDT, URL: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/uk/thesaurus/punishment>).

In the legal context, the term *покарання* may refer to the imposition of sanctions for some crime, some fault, etc., for example: retribution for some reckless acts, actions, etc.: *Він розумів, що деякі його дії й учинки не могли зостатися без покарання* (DUL VIII, 16); *Колись судили його за підпал колгоспної стайні, відбув він строк покарання, і перед війною пустили його додому* (DUL VIII, 16); *punishment* as a way of punishing someone for an offense, for example: *I sent Alex to bed early as a punishment for breaking the window* // Я відправив Алекса спати рано як покарання за те, що він розбив вікно (LDCE, 1146); *Punishment was a fine* // Покаранням був штраф (NWD, 810).

In the aspect of definitions the pair *покарання* – *punishment* are similar because both terms refer to negative consequences for the perpetrator of an offense. They indicate measures taken as a result of violating norms (legal or ethical) and can be used to describe situations where a person is responsible for his or her actions and their impact on the rule of law, while the differences are that *покарання* in the Ukrainian legal field is defined as coercion applied on behalf of the state by a court order and includes specific restrictions on the rights and freedoms of the convicted person, and *punishment* is used in a general sense to indicate an action or method of punishment, without reference to specific legal norms or procedures.

Ukrainian term *підозрюваний* (CPCU, 38; DUL VI, 477) and its English equivalent *suspect* (MUELDT, 383).

According to the definitions in dictionaries and codes, Ukr. *підозрюваний* – ‘a person who, in the manner prescribed by Articles 276-279 CPCU, is detained on suspicion of committing a criminal offense, or a person in respect of whom a notice of suspicion has been drawn up, but not served on him/her due to failure to establish the person's whereabouts, but measures have been taken to serve it in the manner prescribed by CPCU to deliver notifications’ (CPCU, 38); *Людина, яку підозрюють у чомусь* (DUL VI, 477), and Engl. *suspect* – a person who is suspected of committing a crime or doing something wrong, or having an idea that someone is guilty of something without having any evidence (OLD, URL: <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/suspect> 1?q=suspect); *To believe (someone) guilty of something to his discredit without conclusive proof* // Вважати (когось) винним у причетності до чогось без належних доказів (NWD, 997); *To form a notion of (someone) not necessarily based on fact* // Сформувати уявлення про (когось) не обов'язково на підставі фактів (NWD, 997).

In the Ukrainian language lexeme *підозрюваний* is synonymous with the words: *підозрілий, сумнівний, непевний* (SDSUL, 116, 136), and in the English language *suspect*: *suspicious* (підозрілий), *dubious* (сумнівний), *untrustworthy* (незаслужовує довіри) (CALDT, URL: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/uk/thesaurus/suspect>).

In the legal context, the term *підозрюваний* mostly refers to a person who is suspected of something, for example: *Щось дошкульне засмоктало Юру коло серця. Його, здається, підозрювали у зраді* (DUL VI, 476); *Проводять [дезінфекцію] в тваринницьких приміщеннях, де утримуються підозрювані на*

*зараження тварини* (DUL VI, 477); *Suspect* – is someone who is considered guilty of a crime, for example: *Two suspects were arrested today connection with the robbery* // Сьогодні було затримано двох підозрюваних у причетності до пограбування (LDCE, 1453).

In the aspect of definition the pair *підозрюваний* – *suspect* is similar because both terms refer to a person who is distrusted or suspected of committing an offense; they are used in a legal or criminal context where a person may be considered a potential offender, and the differences are that the Ukrainian legal term *підозрюваний* has a clearly defined legal status, which means that a person is officially notified of suspicion in accordance with the CPC of Ukraine; the process and conditions for determining a suspect are regulated by law; provides for a certain basis for suspicion, which can be formalized in the form of documentation; the English legal term *suspect* is a more general term that does not always have a legal basis; it can be used in everyday communication to describe a situation where a person is suspected without a formal process; it can refer to a person who is suspected without the need to go through formal procedures; it is based on intuition or subjective opinions without evidence.

Thus, although both terms are related to the idea of suspicion, *підозрюваний* has a more formalized legal context, while *suspect* is used in a broader perspective.

The Ukrainian term *свідок* (CPCU, 58; DUL IX, 76) and its English equivalent *witness* (MUELDT, 509).

According to the definitions in dictionaries and codes, Ukr. *свідок* – a physical person who knows or may be aware of the circumstances to be proved in criminal proceedings and who is summoned to testify (CPCU, 58). A person who was present at an event or incident and personally saw something (DUL IX, 76), and Engl. *witness* – a person who gives evidence // *особа, яка дає свідчення* (ODL, 538). It means a person who saw something happen and is able to describe it to other people (*Person who has observed a certain event or the unwilling witness of a quarrel* // *Особа, яка спостерігала за певною подією або мимовільний свідок сварки* (NWD, 1129).

In the Ukrainian language lexeme *свідок* is synonymous with words such as: *очевидець, понятій* (SDSUL, 168), and in the English language – *witness*: *testifier* (свідок), *eyewitness* (очевидець), *observer* (спостерігач), *deponent* (особа, яка дає свідчення під присягою) (CALDT, URL: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/uk/thesaurus/witness>).

In the legal aspect the term *свідок* mostly refers to a person who has seen something with their own eyes and can be used in a legal context, for example: *Після того як весняна повідь затопила хату Бондаря Тихона, в печі знайшли живого сома. Бицик був свідком цієї події* (DUL IX, 76). *У нас є свідки, що ти коней віддав злодіям! Та Бога ви побійтеся! Я вам десять свідків покажу, що в ту ніч, як у старшини коней покрадено, я був аж у Висці, на весіллі* (DUL IX, 76). The English legal term *witness* is mostly used in legal contexts, but can also be used in more general contexts, including informal testimony or persons who are not subpoenaed to appear in court: for example, a person who saw a crime or accident and can describe

what happened: *Police have appealed for witnesses to come forward* // Поліція попросила з'явитися свідків (LDCE, 1645); a person in court who tells what they saw or know about a crime: *One witness claimed to have seen the gun* // Один свідок заявив, що бачив рушницю (LDCE, 1646);

In the aspect of definitions the pair *свідок* – *witness* are similar because both terms describe a person who has knowledge of an event or situation and can testify about it. They are used in a legal or judicial context to describe a person who can testify in court or during an investigation, and the differences are that the term *свідок* has a clearly defined legal status in the criminal process, as defined by law (e.g., the CPC of Ukraine). A witness is often called to testify and has a formal status in the court process. They can only testify about circumstances that are subject to proof in accordance with legal norms; the English term *witness* is also used in a legal context, the term can be more general and is not always subject to specific legal rules. The term can be used in a broader sense, including informal testimony or persons who are not subpoenaed to appear in court; it can be used to describe a person who observes events, regardless of their legal significance.

Thus, although both terms refer to a person with information about an event, *свідок* has a more specific legal meaning, while *witness* can be used in a more general context.

The Ukrainian term *вбивство* (SPC CCU, 287; DUL X, 352–353) and its English equivalent *murder* (MUEL, 59).

According to the definitions in dictionaries and codes, Ukr. *вбивство* – is the culpable (intentional or negligent), unlawful infliction of death on another person (SPC CCU, 287); to deprive of life (by hitting with something, firearms or bladed weapons, etc.); to kill (DUL X, 352–353), and Engl. *murder* – *homicide that is neither accidental nor lawful and does not fall into the categories of manslaughter or infanticide* // *убивство, яке не є ні випадковим, ні законним і не підпадає під категорії ненавмисного вбивства або дітовбивства* (ODL, 322); *the unlawful killing of a human being with malice aforethought* // *протиправне вбивство людини, вчинене заздалегідь обдумано, зі злим умислом* (NWD, 657); *the crime of deliberately killing someone* // *злочин у вигляді навмисного вбивства* (LDCE, 936).

In the Ukrainian language lexeme *вбивство* є is a hypernym, and the hyponyms are the words: *умисне вбивство* (Articles 115–118 CCU), *вбивства через необережність* (Article 119 CCU); in English hyperonym *murder* does not have hyponyms because it has only one meaning (intentional murder with malice) and is not divided into a classification of murders.

In the Ukrainian language lexeme *вбивство* is synonymous with the words: *убивство, душоубство, смертовбивство, страта, кровопролиття* (about the mass extermination of people) (SDSUL, 190), and in the English language *murder* has synonyms *homicide, killing* (вбивство) (EUD, 649, 755), *assassination* (підступне (зрадницьке) убивство) (EUD, 113), *manslaughter* (ненавмисне вбивство) (EUD, 864) (CALDT, URL: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/uk/thesaurus/murder>).

In the legal aspect, the term *вбивство* is mostly used in the legal context, but can also be used in a more general context, for example: *Не громом праведним, святим Тебе [Герон] уб'ють. Ножем тупим Тебе заріжуть, мов собаку, Уб'ють обухом* (DUL X, 352–353); *Ахіллес тоді зовсім не знав, кого він убивав* (DUL X, 352–353); *Вбиває [бусел] гадюку одним ударом* (DUL X, 352–353). English legal term *murder* is mostly used in the legal context means the crime of intentional killing of a person (CALDT, URL: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/uk/thesaurus/murder>). For example: *He is charged with the horrific murder of two young boys* // Його звинувачують у жахливому вбивстві двох молодих хлопчиків (LDCE, 936).

In the aspect of definition the pair *вбивство* – *murder* are similar because Both terms refer to the unlawful taking of another person's life and are actively used in the legal sphere to determine criminal liability. Both Ukrainian and English terms have synonyms that vary depending on the context (e.g., Ukr. *убивство* – *душоубство*; Engl. *murder* – *manslaughter*). Both concepts have a negative assessment and are considered as criminal and immoral actions, and the differences are that the term *вбивство* is a hyperonym that includes different types of murder: intentional, negligent, etc. The English term *murder* has a narrow meaning and refers exclusively to intentional murder with malice. In Ukrainian criminal law, murder is divided into subcategories: intentional, negligent, etc. In English *murder* does not have hyponyms, as in Anglo-Saxon law (the Anglo-Saxon legal system emerged in the XII century on the basis of the activities of royal courts and legal customs) other types of murder have separate terms (e.g., *manslaughter* – *ненавмисне вбивство*). The Ukrainian language offers a richer range of synonyms: *душоубство, страта, кровопролиття*. In the English language synonyms to *murder* have clear nuances of meaning, for example: *homicide* – the general concept of murder, *assassination* – murder with a treasonous character. In the Ukrainian language *вбивство* is used not only in a legal context, but also in a figurative sense, for example: *вбивати в голову, вбивати клин* (DPUL, 53). The English term *murder* is mostly limited to the legal meaning denoting a crime.

Thus, the term *вбивство* in the Ukrainian language is broader in meaning and has a more flexible range of uses, while the English *murder* is clearly focused on an intentional crime. The difference is due to both linguistic and legal traditions.

**Conclusions.** Thus, a comparative analysis of the scope of lexical meanings of legal terms of criminal/criminal procedure law in Ukrainian and English languages is a tool for studying the respective terminology systems, which allows us to find out the semantic load of terms in different socio-cultural contexts. This method provides an understanding of how terms are adapted under the influence of social and professional factors, which is critical for practicing translators, legal terminology experts, and lawyers specializing in criminal law. The main stages of the analysis include the study of the semantics of terms, their paradigmatic relations and contextual usage, which provides a deeper cross-linguistic and cross-cultural understanding of legal terminology in the field of criminal/criminal procedure law.

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