



## Overcoming Legal Language Barriers: Translation and Legal Education in Multilingual Communities

Epos Sister Selan Krismon Dakhi<sup>1</sup>  
Universitas Warmadewa  
eposdakhi@gmail.com

### ABSTRACT

The discussed issue is the difficulties faced by non-official language-speaking communities in understanding legal information conveyed in the official language. This language barrier can lead to injustice, unequal access to the justice system, and vulnerability to violations of their rights. Therefore, an effective solution is needed to address this problem. The proposed solution is through legal translation and education within multi-language communities. Translating the law becomes a crucial strategy to ensure legal information can be accessed in a language understood by non-official language-speaking communities. The objective of this research is to enhance the understanding and access of communities to legal information, thus promoting more equitable justice and better fulfillment of individual rights. The research implementation method involves collaboration between legal experts, translators, and members of multi-language communities. Activities include translating relevant legal documents, creating legal education materials, and conducting education sessions within multi-language communities. Technology is also utilized as a tool for translation and disseminating legal information. The results of this research demonstrate an improvement in legal understanding and legal awareness among non-official language-speaking communities. Through legal translation and education within multi-language communities, it is hoped that individuals can gain better access to legal information and protect their rights more effectively.

**Keywords:** Multilingual, Legal Language, Legal Translation, Legal Understanding

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Today's society is increasingly connected globally, with information exchange becoming faster and easier. However, in a legal context, language differences can be a significant barrier to understanding and accessing legal information for multilingual communities. Legal language has its own complexities, with terminology and concepts that may be difficult for individuals without a legal background to understand. Therefore, legal language needs to be translated well so as not to change the literal meaning of the law. Text translation is basically a form of activity carried out to translate or translate from one language text to another language text (Rachmawati, 2020). Community service aimed at overcoming legal language barriers is very important. This research focuses on efforts to overcome legal language barriers through translation and legal counseling in multilingual communities. Through a community service approach, this research aims to increase public understanding and access to legal information, especially for those who speak non-official languages or do not have adequate legal background (Chiu & Maybin, 2015).

In the context of globalization, migration and cultural diversity, multilingual communities are increasingly developing and diversifying (Simon, 2018). People with different language backgrounds often face difficulties in understanding the legal system of the country they have just lived in. Complex legal language and technical terms used in legal documents can be a barrier to understanding their rights and obligations.

In this research, the main focus is legal translation. Legal translation is important in ensuring accurate and equal understanding of legal information for non-official speaking communities (De Groote, 2017). Legal translation is not only about transferring word for word, but also paying attention to the cultural context, legal norms, and communicative purpose of the legal document (Sarcevic, 2007). Complex legal language can create a gap between individuals with a legal background and those without knowledge of legal terminology and concepts. People without a legal background may feel intimidated or confused by the language used in legal documents, making it difficult for them to understand their rights and obligations. This can lead to situations

where individuals are unaware of their rights or unable to defend themselves effectively within the legal system. In the context of community service, legal translation is carried out to ensure fair and equal access to legal information for all individuals, regardless of the language they speak. Apart from that, legal counseling is also an important component in overcoming legal language barriers. Legal education aims to provide a clear and practical understanding of the legal system to the public. In the context of a multilingual community, legal education must be delivered in a language understood by the community. This allows people to have adequate knowledge about their rights and obligations, as well as how to deal with legal situations they may encounter. In overcoming legal language barriers, it is also important to pay attention to cultural and social aspects in legal translation and counseling (Katan, 2014). Effective communication and an accurate understanding of a society's cultural context are key factors in dealing with language differences and ensuring that the legal information conveyed can be well received by a multilingual society (Mason, 2019).

Through community service, this research will involve collaboration with multilingual communities as partners in the translation and legal education process. This collaboration process will enable researchers to understand the needs and perspectives of the community in facing legal language barriers. Apart from that, this research will also involve legal practitioners and linguistic experts to ensure the accuracy and quality of the translation and counseling delivered. It is hoped that the results of this research can make a real contribution in overcoming legal language barriers in multilingual communities. By increasing public understanding and access to legal information, it is hoped that more equitable justice will be created and better fulfillment of individual rights. Apart from that, it is also hoped that this community service can provide a better understanding of the importance of translation and legal counseling in a multilingual context, as well as encouraging policies and practices that support the rights of non-official language communities in accessing legal information.

In the context of increasing globalization and migration, multilingual societies are becoming increasingly complex and diverse. The language differences that exist in a multilingual society can be an obstacle in understanding and accessing legal information. Legal language has its own complexities, with terminology and concepts that are difficult for individuals without a legal background to understand. This can lead to unequal access to legal information and reduce people's ability to understand their rights and obligations.

One of the problems that arises is the lack of adequate legal translations for multilingual communities. Poor or inaccurate legal translations can lead to misinterpretation or misinterpretation of legal information. This can have an impact on injustice in the legal system and hinder people from understanding their rights and obligations. In addition, the lack of legal education delivered in languages understood by multilingual communities is also a problem. Legal education that is only available in official languages or does not take into account linguistic diversity in society can make legal information difficult to access and understand for multilingual communities. This can reduce legal awareness and people's ability to protect their rights.

To overcome legal language barriers in multilingual communities, it is necessary to provide community service by developing solutions that focus on translation and adequate legal education. Some solutions that can be implemented are as follows:

1. **Development of a Legal Translation Team:** Form a translation team consisting of legal experts and linguists who can translate legal documents into languages understood by multilingual communities. This translation team must have a deep understanding of legal language and the cultural context of society.
2. **Collaboration with Multilingual Communities:** Involving multilingual communities as partners in the legal translation and counseling process. This collaboration allows researchers to understand community needs and perspectives in facing legal language barriers. Multilingual communities can also help in validating translations and conveying legal information to the public effectively.
3. **Developing Multilingual Legal Counseling Materials:** Developing legal counseling materials that are delivered in various languages that are understood by multilingual communities. Extension materials must be prepared in language that is easy to understand and content that is relevant to community needs. Applying a clear and practical communication approach in delivering material will help people understand their rights and obligations.
4. **Training for Translators and Legal Counselors:** Provide training to translators and legal counselors on correct translation techniques, cultural context, and effective delivery of information. This training will improve the quality of translation and legal counseling delivered to multilingual communities.
5. **Utilization of Technology in Translation and Legal Counseling:** Utilizing the latest technology, such as translation applications and digital platforms, to facilitate access and delivery of legal information in

various languages. This technology can speed up the translation process and improve the quality of translations delivered to multilingual communities.

By implementing these solutions, it is hoped that legal language barriers can be overcome in multilingual communities. This research aims to increase public understanding and access to legal information, thereby creating more equitable justice and better fulfillment of individual rights.

## **2. RESEARCH METHOD**

Research Article Implementation Method: Overcoming Legal Language Barriers - Legal Translation and Counseling in Multilingual Communities

### **1. Identify the Multilingual Community Under Study:**

The first step in this research implementation method is to identify the multilingual community that is the focus of the research. These communities can be geographically based, such as immigrant communities or ethnic groups with non-official languages, or based on social groups such as migrant worker communities or ethnic communities.

### **2. Analysis of Legal Language Needs:**

After identifying the multilingual community under study, the next step is to analyze the legal language needs in that community. This analysis involved research into relevant legal documents, as well as interviews and discussions with community members to understand the language barriers faced in accessing legal information.

### **3. Formation of Translator and Extension Team:**

Furthermore, the formation of a team of translators and legal counselors consisting of legal experts, linguists and community practitioners. This team will be responsible for translating legal documents into languages understood by multilingual communities, as well as compiling relevant outreach materials.

### **4. Translation of Legal Documents:**

The translation team will translate legal documents that have been identified as priorities in the analysis of legal language needs. Translation is carried out by taking into account the accuracy and clarity of the translation as well as the cultural context of the intended multilingual community. The translation results will be validated through discussion with the multilingual community.

### **5. Development of Legal Education Materials:**

The legal extension team will develop counseling materials tailored to the needs of the multilingual community. Extension materials will be prepared in language that is easy to understand and delivered using a clear and practical communication approach. Extension materials will also be enriched with case examples that are relevant to the context of the lives of multilingual communities.

### **6. Implementation of Legal Counseling Sessions:**

Legal counseling sessions will be conducted in person in the intended multilingual community. Counseling is carried out using material that has been previously developed. Outreach sessions can involve interactive discussions, questions and answers, and case studies to strengthen the public's understanding of legal information.

### **7. Evaluation and Feedback:**

After the counseling session, an evaluation of the effectiveness and success of legal counseling was carried out. Evaluation can be done through surveys, interviews, or observation of counseling participants. Feedback from the multilingual community will be a valuable input for further improvement and development.

### **8. Dissemination and Dissemination of Information:**

The results of the translation of legal documents and outreach materials will be widely distributed to the multilingual community through various media, such as websites, digital platforms, or community communication channels. This information dissemination aims to ensure equitable and broad access to legal information for people who speak non-official languages.

### **9. Final Evaluation:**

Finally, a final evaluation of the entire community service research is carried out. This evaluation involves assessing the impact achieved in increasing access and understanding of multilingual communities to legal information. The results of the evaluation will become the basis for recommendations for further community service activities.

By implementing a structured implementation method and involving the active participation of multilingual communities, it is hoped that the use of technology in legal translation and counseling can provide an effective solution in overcoming legal language barriers and increasing access to legal information for non-official speaking communities.

### 3. THE RESULT OF IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of community service research on overcoming legal language barriers in multilingual communities through translation and legal counseling has had a significant impact on increasing public access and understanding of legal information (May & Dabbousy, 2016). In this research, a series of activities were carried out with the aim of overcoming the language barriers faced by non-official speaking communities. The following are the results of the implementation of this community service research article.

#### 1. Identification of Legal Language Barriers:

Through an analysis of legal language needs, several obstacles were found by multilingual communities in accessing legal information (Hale, 2014). These obstacles include the inability to read or understand the official language used in legal documents, difficulties in finding accurate and reliable translations, and limited access to legal counseling delivered in a language one understands.

#### 2. Translation of Legal Documents:

A team of translators consisting of legal experts and linguists work together in translating legal documents into languages understood by multilingual communities. The translation process is carried out by paying attention to accuracy, clarity, and suitability with the cultural context of the intended society. The translation results are then validated through discussion and consultation with members of the multilingual community (Baker, 2011).

#### 3. Development of Legal Counseling Materials:

The legal extension team develops counseling materials according to the needs and characteristics of multilingual communities. The counseling materials are prepared in easy-to-understand language, avoiding the use of complicated legal terminology, and accompanied by relevant case examples. Extension materials are also enriched with visual approaches, such as pictures and diagrams, to reinforce community understanding.

#### 4. Legal Counseling Session:

Legal counseling sessions are conducted in person in the intended multilingual community. In the counseling sessions, the extension team used materials that had been previously developed to convey legal information interactively. In addition to delivering material, the community is also given the opportunity to discuss, ask questions, and share experiences related to the laws they face.

#### 5. Evaluation and Feedback:

After counseling, an evaluation of the effectiveness and success of legal counseling is carried out. This evaluation involves surveys, interviews, or observations of extension participants. Feedback from the multilingual community is a valuable input for improvement and further development in future extension activities.

#### 6. Use of Technology as Support:

In conducting this research, technology is also used as a supporting tool in facilitating access to legal information for multilingual communities. The use of translation applications, digital platforms, or social media can expand the reach of legal information and provide easy access for people with non-official languages.

#### 7. Information Dissemination:

Translated legal documents and extension materials are widely disseminated to multilingual communities through various media, such as websites, digital platforms, or community communication channels. This information dissemination aims to ensure equitable and broad access to legal information for people who speak non-official languages.

By implementing a structured implementation method involving the active participation of multilingual communities, this research was successful in overcoming legal language barriers and increasing public access and understanding of legal information. The use of technology and a community approach in translation and legal counseling is an effective solution in overcoming language barriers faced by non-official speaking communities. Through this effort, it is hoped that multilingual communities will have better access to important legal information in their daily lives.

### 4. CONCLUSION

In this community service research, a series of activities have been carried out aimed at overcoming legal language barriers faced by multilingual communities. In this context, translation and legal education are the two main strategies used to facilitate access to legal information for non-official speaking communities. Based on the results of this research, the following important conclusions were obtained:

1. Legal translation is an important step in facilitating access to legal information for non-official speaking communities. Through the translation of legal documents, people can understand their rights and

obligations in a language they understand. Translations must be carried out carefully and accurately, taking into account the cultural and legal context of the target society.

2. Legal education in languages understood by multilingual communities is also important to increase legal understanding and legal awareness among these communities. Effective legal counseling must be structured in clear, easy to understand language and avoid the use of complicated legal terminology. An interactive and participatory approach to legal education can also provide significant benefits.
3. Active community participation in the entire translation and legal education process is a key factor in the success of this program. Involving the community in determining language needs, providing feedback, and participating in outreach sessions, can strengthen understanding and acceptance of the legal information presented.
4. The use of technology, such as translation applications or digital platforms, can be an effective means of facilitating access to legal information for multilingual communities. Technology can expand the reach of legal information and provide easy access in languages understood by the public.
5. Dissemination of legal information through various media and community communication channels is an important step to ensure equitable and broad access to legal information for non-official speaking communities. Through websites, digital platforms or community communication channels, legal information can be spread effectively and reach a wider audience.

Through the community service carried out in this research, it has been seen that there has been an increase in legal awareness and better access to legal information for non-official speaking communities. Efforts to overcome legal language barriers through translation and legal counseling in multilingual communities have a positive impact in empowering the community legally. Apart from that, involving technology as a supporter in this program also opens up new opportunities to increase effectiveness and efficiency in facilitating access to legal information.

This conclusion confirms that legal translation and counseling in multilingual communities is an effective strategy in overcoming legal language barriers. In order to achieve justice and equal access to legal information, it is important for the government, legal institutions and society to work together to develop programs that focus on translation and legal education in languages that can be understood by multilingual communities. In this way, a society can be created that is more legally aware, empowered, and has the ability to protect their rights well in a heterogeneous, multilingual context.

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