



## Formation of criminal law terms in English, Lithuanian and Norwegian

Violeta Janulevičienė<sup>a</sup>, Sigita Rackevičienė<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Mykolas Romeris University  
Vilnius, Lithuania  
[vjanul@mruni.eu](mailto:vjanul@mruni.eu)

<sup>b</sup> Mykolas Romeris University  
Vilnius, Lithuania  
[sigita.rackeviciene@mruni.eu](mailto:sigita.rackeviciene@mruni.eu)

**Keywords:** *comparative legal terminology, criminal law terms, formal structure of terms.*

### Abstract

The paper deals with a detailed analysis of 20 legal terms commonly used in different categories of criminal law in English and their equivalents in Lithuanian and Norwegian languages. The legal terms were selected from the Acts of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, the Penal Code of the Republic of Lithuania and the Criminal Law Acts of the Kingdom of Norway. In addition to those sources, several monolingual and bilingual dictionaries of legal terms were used. The investigated terms differ in two important aspects – they are formed in three different Indo-European languages (a West Germanic, a Baltic and a North Germanic) and they are used in three different legal systems with different law traditions. The research focuses on term formation models and seeks to reveal general tendencies and peculiarities of term formation in each of the investigated languages. The findings of the research are believed to be useful for formation of the new terms and correction/development of currently used ones, the latter being important for term formation in Lithuanian. Teaching/learning/translating legal Lithuanian, English and Norwegian are also the fields of practical application of the research findings.

### 1 Introduction

**1.1 Relevance of the issue and its coverage.** Terminologists constantly face the issue of what should be the most important aspect when a new term is being coined or formed – either its precision, accuracy and unambiguity or brevity and user-friendliness? The latter aspect of any term is defined as „easy to use, operate, understand“, and, what is no less important according to the latest tendencies in legal languages across Europe, it corresponds with a strive towards a jargon-free legal language which would make legal documents more approachable to the general public (Gadbin-George, 2010; Lemmens, 2011).

Comparative studies of term formation in several different European languages provide important insights on prevailing term formation traditions in different European countries and on the formation criteria preferred by term developers across Europe. The results of the



comparative studies enable to assess anew objectively already existing native language terms and ways to improve the status quo in problematic areas of terminology.

Legal terminology gets particular attention both from terminologists and general public as legal norms regulate national and international public and business communication and a lot of people of different professions and business fields have exposure to legal terms every day in various fields of life. Legal terms denote abstract concepts that can be expressed only by linguistic means. Therefore, it is important to choose appropriate linguistic means – enable a term to carry out its function to denote a particular concept and, at the same time, make it transparable and user-friendly.

So far, comparative legal terminology studies mainly tackle issues of the term semantics and translation strategies. The research carried out is a wealth of information for compilers of legal terms data bases, lexicographers, terminographers and translators (Sandrini, 1996, 1999; Šarčević, 1997; Harvey, 2002; Groot & Laer, 2007; Biel, 2008; Kocbek 2008; articles on issues of legal terminology at *TranslationDirectory.com*, in *Translation Journal*; *SKASE Journal of Translation and Interpretation*). In Lithuania, the comparative research on semantics of legal terms is currently getting its impetus (Kontutytė 2008; Rackevičienė, 2008; Janulevičienė, Rackevičienė, 2009; 2011).

However, comparative research on the formal structure of legal terms is scarce. More thorough research and findings could be found in the recently published works by Janulevičienė, Rackevičienė, 2009; 2010; Pogožilskaja, 2012 which deal with legal term formation models and their peculiarities in several languages. However, the research is usually limited to two languages compared. This paper is an attempt to contribute to the comparative research on the formal structure of legal terms and broaden its scope through the analysis of the three European languages from different Indo-European language groups.

**1.2 The aim and theoretical principles of the research.** The aim of the research is to systematize the ways of formation of legal terms, that denote criminal activities commonly occurring nowadays, in English, Lithuanian and Norwegian languages.

The terms under investigation are considered to present special interest to the research as they possess different characteristics of several aspects. Firstly, these legal terms represent different in origin and structure three distinct Indo-European language groups: Baltic (Lithuanian), West Germanic (English) and North Germanic (Norwegian). Secondly, these terms are used in countries with different legal systems and are closely related to the culture, values and law traditions of three different nations, as a legal language is „very much a system-bound language, i.e. a language related to a specific legal system“(Groot & Laer, 2007:173).

The research focused on the legal terms of Lithuanian, Norwegian and English-Welsh legal systems. The language of the latter system is just one variety of the many “legal Englishes” used in legal systems of England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Ireland, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and other Commonwealth countries. However, the English-Welsh legal terms were chosen as they represent the primary original Anglo-Saxon legal system.

The intake of the research were the terms of the four most common groups of offences: (1) offences against humanity, state and public security, (2) offences against person (3) offences against property, (4) offences against established economic and financial system, civil service and management procedures.

English legal terms denoting these offences were primarily sourced from the Acts of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, Lithuanian terms – from The Penal Code of the Republic of Lithuania, the Norwegian ones – from the Criminal Law Acts of the Kingdom of Norway. In addition, several dictionaries of legal terms were used – A Dictionary of Law, Aiškinamasis anglų-lietuvių kalbų teisės ir verslo žodynas and Norsk-engelsk juridisk ordbok. The full list of sources (with the descriptions and internet references) is provided in the References section of the paper.

The research is performed using the descriptive-comparative linguistic method which enables to unveil and present the peculiarities of term formation in different languages.

In choosing the Lithuanian and Norwegian equivalents to the English legal terms, P. Sandrini's comparative legal terminology principles are taken into account (Sandrini, 1996, 1999). These principles are based on the presumption that in different legal systems different legal concepts are used and the absolute equivalence between terms of different legal systems is non-existent. Only international law terms in different languages might denote the same concept, but national law terms would always present semantic differences. Thus, when choosing Lithuanian and Norwegian equivalents to the English terms, only the basic semantic features were taken into consideration by the authors.

The analysis of the formal structure of the terms is based on the works by K. Gaivenis, S. Keinys, E. Jakaitienė which discuss the formation principles of terms, their typology, sources and particular features (Gaivenis, 2002; Keinys, 2005; Jakaitienė, 2009). One-word word terms analysis is carried out along the general word formation analysis principles, whereas multi-word terms are analysed according to the principles of collocation analysis.

**1.3 The material of the study.** The following terms were selected for the detailed analysis presented in this paper:

1) legal terms denoting offences against humanity, state and public security:

*genocide* – LT *genocidas*; NO *folkemord*  
*treason* – LT *išdavystė*; NO *landssvik*  
*terrorism* – LT *teroro aktas*; NO *terrorhandling*  
*hijacking* – LT *orlaivio užgrobimas*; NO *kapring av luftfartøy eller skip*  
*hostage-taking* – LT *žmogaus pagrobimas įkaitu*; NO *gisseltaking i terrorøyemed*

2) legal terms, denoting criminal offences against person:

*murder* – LT *nužudymas*; NO *drap*  
*manslaughter* – LT *neatsargus gyvybės atėmimas*; NO *uaktsom forvoldelse av død*  
*rape* – LT *išžaginimas*; NO *voldtekt*  
*false imprisonment* – LT *neteisėtas laisvės atėmimas*; NO *frihetsberøvelse*  
*defamation* – LT *šmeižimas*; NO *ærekrenkelse*

3) legal terms denoting offences against property:

*theft – LT vagystė; NO tyveri*

*fraud – LT sukčiavimas; NO bedrageri*

*blackmail – LT turto prievartavimas; NO utpressing*

*criminal damage – LT turto sunaikinimas arba sugadinimas; NO skadeverk*

*handling stolen goods – LT nusikalstamu būdu gauto turto įgijimas arba realizavimas, NO heleri*

4) legal terms denoting offences against established economic and financial system, civil service and management procedures:

*corruption – LT kyšininkavimas; NO korrupsjon*

*misconduct in public office – LT piktnaudžiavimas; NO misbruk av offentlig myndighet*

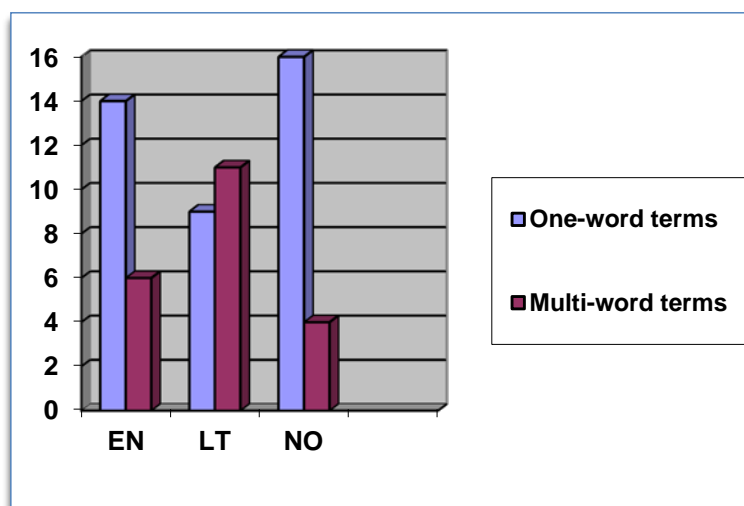
*money laundering – LT nusikalstamu būdu įgytų pinigų ar turto legalizavimas; NO hvitvasking*

*forgery – LT dokumento suklastojimas ar suklastoto dokumento panaudojimas arba realizavimas; NO dokumentfalsk*

*counterfeiting – LT netikrų pinigų ar vertybinių popierių pagaminimas, laikymas arba realizavimas; NO pengefalsk*

## 2 Analysis of the terminology and its results

In the languages investigated, criminal activities are denoted by one-word and multi-word terms. In the Lithuanian Penal Code, most criminal activities are denoted by multi-word terms, while in the English-Welsh and the Norwegian legal documents one-word terms of criminal activities prevail. The tendency to denote criminal activities by one-word terms is especially evident in the Norwegian legal documents (Figure1).

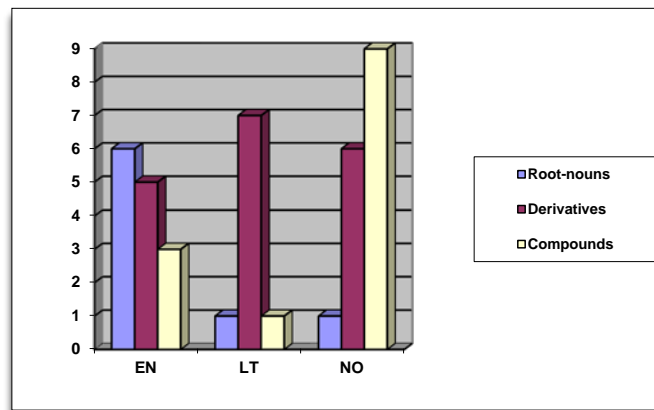


**Figure 1.** One-word and multi-word legal terms in the 3 languages

### 2.1 One-word terms

The investigated one-word terms are of three formal types: root-nouns, derivatives and compounds. In the given analysis, all one-word terms having more than one root (including derivatives made of compounds) are considered compounds.

In English, most one-word terms are derivatives or root-nouns, in Lithuanian – derivatives, while in Norwegian, one-word terms are mostly compounds (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** Formal types of one-word terms

In the English material, there are 14 one-word terms. Table 1 presents the ways of their formation.

Formal type	Examples
<b>6 root-nouns</b>	<i>treason, murder, rape, theft, fraud</i>  <i>genocide</i> (historically it is a compound made of 2 words of different origin: the Greek <i>genos</i> (EN “family, kin”) and the Latin <i>caedere</i> (EN “to murder”) (q.v. OED dictionary entry “genocide”).
<b>5 derivatives made by suffixation</b>	<b><u>3 verbal derivatives:</u></b> <i>defamation</i> ← <i>defame</i> + <i>-ation</i> <i>forgery</i> ← <i>forge</i> + <i>-ery</i> <i>counterfeiting</i> ← <i>counterfeit</i> + <i>-ing</i>  <b><u>2 nominal derivatives:</u></b> <i>terrorism</i> ← <i>terror</i> + <i>-ism</i> <i>corruption</i> ← <i>corrupt</i> + <i>-ion</i>
<b>3 compounds</b>	<b><u>n + n</u></b> <i>manslaughter</i> ← <i>man</i> + <i>slaughter</i>  <b><u>adj + n</u></b> <i>blackmail</i> ← <i>black</i> + <i>mail</i>  <b><u>verbal derivative made of a compound verb</u></b> <i>hijacking</i> ← <i>hijack</i> ← <i>hi</i> + <i>Jack</i>

**Table 1.** Formation of the English one-word terms



In the Lithuanian material, there are 9 one-word terms. The ways of their formation are shown in Table 2.

Formal type	Examples
<b>1 root-noun</b>	<i>genocidas</i> “genocide”
<b>7 derivatives made by suffixation</b>	<p><b><u>6 verbal derivatives:</u></b>  <i>išdavystė</i> “treason” ← <i>išduoti</i> “to betray” (<i>išdavė</i> “betrayed”) + <i>-ystė</i>  <i>nužudymas</i> “murder” ← <i>nužudyti</i> “to murder” + <i>-ymas</i>  <i>išžaginimas</i> “rape” ← <i>išžaginti</i> “to rape” + <i>-imas</i>  <i>šmeižimas</i> “defamation” ← <i>šmeižti</i> “to defame” + <i>-imas</i>  <i>sukčiavimas</i> “fraud” ← <i>sukčiauti</i> “to defraud” + <i>-imas</i>  <i>kyšininkavimas</i> “corruption” ← <i>kyšininkauti</i> “to take bribes” (<i>kyšininkavo</i> “took bribes”) + <i>-imas</i></p> <p><b><u>1 nominal derivative:</u></b>  <i>vagystė</i> “theft” ← <i>vagis</i> “thief” + <i>-ystė</i></p>
<b>1 compound</b>	<p><b><u>verbal derivative made of a compound verb</u></b>  <i>piktnaudžiavimas</i> “misconduct in public office” ←  <i>piktnaudžiauti</i> “to abuse” ← <i>piktnauda</i> “abuse” ←  <i>piktas</i> “angry” + <i>nauda</i> “benefit”</p>

**Table 2.** Formation of the Lithuanian one-word terms

In the Norwegian material, there are 16 one-word terms. Their formation mode is presented in Table 3.

Formal type	Examples
<b>1 root-noun</b>	<i>drap</i> “murder”
<b>6 derivatives made by suffixation</b>	<p><b><u>3 verbal derivatives:</u></b>  <i>bedrageri</i> “fraud” ← <i>å bedra</i> “to defraud” + <i>-eri</i>  <i>heleri</i> “handling stolen goods” ← <i>å hele</i> “handle stolen goods” + <i>-eri</i>  <i>utpressing</i> “blackmail” ← <i>å utpresse</i> “to blackmail” + <i>-ing</i></p> <p><b><u>3 nominal derivatives:</u></b>  <i>tyveri</i> “theft” ← <i>tyv</i> “thief” + <i>-eri</i>  <i>korrupsjon</i> “corruption” ← <i>korrupt</i> “corrupt” + <i>-sjon</i>  <i>voldtekt</i> “rape” ← <i>vold</i> “violence” + <i>-tekt</i></p>
<b>9 compounds</b>	<b><u>n + n</u></b>

<p><i>folkemord</i> “genocide” ← <i>folk</i> “people” + <i>mord</i> “murder”</p> <p><i>landssvik</i> “treason” ← <i>land</i> “country” + <i>svik</i> “treason”</p> <p><i>terrorhandling</i> “terrorism” ← <i>terror</i> “terror” + <i>handling</i> “act”</p> <p><i>frihetsberøvelse</i> “false imprisonment” ← <i>frihet</i> “freedom” + <i>berøvelse</i> “deprivation”</p> <p><i>ærekrenkelse</i> “defamation” ← <i>ære</i> “honour” + <i>krenkelse</i> “insult”</p> <p><i>skadeverk</i> “criminal damage” ← <i>skade</i> “damage” + <i>verk</i> “act”</p> <p><i>dokumentfalsk</i> “forgery” ← <i>dokument</i> “document” + <i>falsk</i> “falsification”</p> <p><i>pengefalsk</i> “counterfeiting” ← <i>penge</i> “money” + <i>falsk</i> “falsification”</p> <p><b><u>adj + n</u></b></p> <p><i>hvitvasking</i> “money laundering” ← <i>hvit</i> “white” + <i>vasking</i> “washing”</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Table 3.** Formation of the Norwegian one-word terms

The analysis allows to conclude that the authors of the English terminology prefer root-nouns and derivatives for formation of one-word terms; the authors of the Lithuanian terminology – derivatives, while the authors of the Norwegian terminology give preference to compounds.

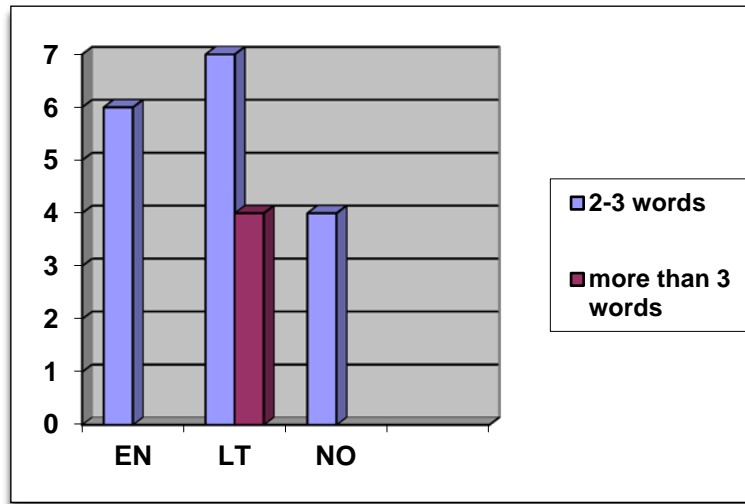
The derivatives are made of verbs or nouns using suffixation. In the English and Norwegian material, the number of verbal and nominal derivatives is almost the same, while in the Lithuanian material, verbal derivatives clearly prevail.

The compounds are of several formal models: 1) compound ‘noun+noun’, 2) compound ‘adjective+noun’ and 3) verbal derivative made of a compound verb. In the English material, 3 compounds are found, representing 3 different formal types: 1) ‘noun+noun’ *manslaughter*; 2) ‘adjective+noun’ *blackmail*; 3) ‘verbal derivative made of a compound verb’ *hijacking*. The only LT compound is a verbal derivative made of a compound verb (*piktnaudžiavimas*). Almost all NO compounds represent the formal model ‘noun+noun’ excluding one NO compound which is made according to the formal model ‘adjective+noun’ (*hvitvasking*). Most of the NO compounds are made especially for denotation of criminal activities and are not used in the everyday language. The authors of the NO terms do not avoid loan translations (linguistic calques) which are made according to the lexis formation models of other languages, e.g. *folkemord* is made according to the model of the EN noun *genocide* (q.v. BOB dictionary entry “folkemord”), *hvitvasking* – according to the model of the EN noun *whitewash* (q.v. BOB dictionary entry “whitewash”).

## 2.2 Multi-word terms

The investigated multi-word terms differ in their length and complexity. They may be divided into two groups – multi-word terms composed of 2-3 words (excluding prepositions and

conjunctions) and multi-word terms composed of more than 3 words. The latter terms are usually of complex syntactic structure with several syntactic government levels. Figure 3 shows which formal types of multi-word terms are predominant in the material of each of the investigated languages.



**Figure 3.** Formal types of multi-word terms

In the English material, there are 6 multi-word terms. None of them consists of more than 3 words excluding prepositions. 4 formation models are found in the investigated material. All of them are presented in Table 4.

Formal type	Formation models and examples
6 multi-word terms composed of 2-3 words	<b><u>n + n</u></b> <i>hostage-taking</i> <i>money laundering</i>
	<b><u>adj + n</u></b> <i>false imprisonment</i> <i>criminal damage</i>
	<b><u>n + nominal phrase (adj + n)</u></b> <i>handling stolen goods</i>
	<b><u>n + prepositional phrase (prep. in + (adj + n))</u></b> <i>misconduct in public office</i>

**Table 4.** Formation of the English multi-word terms



In the Lithuanian material, there are 11 multi-word terms. 7 of them consist of 2-3 words excluding conjunctions and 4 of them consist of more than 3 words. Table 5 presents their formation models.

Formal type	Formation models and examples
<p><b>7 multi-word terms composed of 2-3 words</b></p>	<p><b><u>n GEN + n NOM</u></b></p> <p><i>teroro aktas</i> “terror act” (EN equivalent <i>terrorism</i>) ← <i>teroro</i> “terror GEN” + <i>aktas</i> “act NOM”</p> <p><i>orlaivio užgrobimas</i> “hijacking of an aircraft” (EN equivalent <i>hijacking</i>) ← <i>orlaivio</i> “aircraft GEN” + <i>užgrobimas</i> “hijacking NOM”</p> <p><i>turto prievartavimas</i> “extortion of property” (EN equivalent <i>blackmail</i>) ← <i>turto</i> “property GEN” + <i>prievartavimas</i> “extortion NOM”</p> <p><i>turto sunaikinimas arba sugadinimas</i> “destruction or damage of property” (EN equivalent <i>criminal damage</i>) ← <i>turto</i> “property GEN” + <i>sunaikinimas</i> “destruction NOM” <i>arba</i> “or” <i>sugadinimas</i> “damage NOM”</p> <p><b><u>adj NOM + n GEN + n NOM</u></b></p> <p><i>neatsargus gyvybės atėmimas</i> “negligent deprivation of life” (EN equivalent <i>manslaughter</i>) ← <i>neatsargus</i> “negligent NOM” + <i>gyvybės</i> “life GEN” + <i>atėmimas</i> “deprivation NOM”</p> <p><i>neteisėtas laivės atėmimas</i> “illegal deprivation of freedom” (EN equivalent <i>false imprisonment</i>) ← <i>neteisėtas</i> “illegal NOM” + <i>laisvės</i> “freedom GEN” + <i>atėmimas</i> “deprivation NOM”</p> <p><b><u>n GEN + n NOM + n INST</u></b></p> <p><i>žmogaus paėmimas įkaitu</i> “hostage-taking of a human being” (EN equivalent <i>hostage-taking</i>) ← <i>žmogaus</i> “human being GEN” + <i>paėmimas</i> “taking NOM” + <i>įkaitu</i> “hostage INST”</p>
<p><b>4 multi-word terms composed of more than 3 words</b></p>	<p><b><u>(adj INST + n INST) + (adj GEN + n GEN) + (n NOM)</u></b> 2 variants of this model are found:</p> <p><b>1) (adj INST + n INST) + (adj GEN + n GEN) + (n NOM) x 2</b> <i>nusikalstamu būdu gauto turto įgijimas arba realizavimas</i> “acquisition or handling of the property obtained by criminal means” (EN equivalent <i>handling stolen goods</i>) ← (<i>nusikalstamu būdu</i> “criminal means INST+INST”) + (<i>gauto turto</i> “obtained property GEN+GEN”) + (<i>įgijimas</i> “acquisition NOM” <i>arba</i> “or” <i>realizavimas</i> “handling NOM”)</p> <p><b>2) (adj INST + n INST) + (adj GEN + n GEN) x2 + (n NOM)</b> <i>nusikalstamu būdu įgytų pinigų ar turto legalizavimas</i> “legalization of the money or</p>

<p>property obtained by criminal means” (EN equivalent <i>money laundering</i>) ← (<i>nusikalstamu būdu</i> “criminal means INST+INST”) + (<i>įgytų pinigų ar turto</i> “obtained money or property GEN+GEN”) + (<i>legalizavimas</i> “legalization NOM”)</p>
<p><b><u>(n GEN + n NOM) + (adj GEN + n GEN + n NOM x2)</u></b></p> <p><i>dokumento suklastojimas ar suklastoto dokumento panaudojimas arba realizavimas</i> “forgery of a document or use/handling of a forged document” (EN equivalent <i>forgery</i>) ← (<i>dokumento</i> “document GEN” + <i>suklastojimas</i> “forgery NOM”) ar “or” (<i>suklastoto</i> “forged ppGEN” + <i>dokumento</i> “document GEN” + <i>panaudojimas</i> “use NOM” arba “or” <i>realizavimas</i> “handling NOM”)</p>
<p><b><u>(adj GEN + n GEN) x 2 + (n NOM) x 3</u></b></p> <p><i>netikrų pinigų ar vertybinių popierių pagaminimas, laikymas arba realizavimas</i> “production, storage or handling of false money or securities” (EN equivalent <i>counterfeiting</i>) ← (<i>netikrų pinigų</i> “false money GEN+GEN” ar “or” <i>vertybinių popierių</i> “securities GEN+GEN”) + (<i>pagaminimas</i> “production NOM” + <i>laikymas</i> “storage NOM” arba “or” <i>realizavimas</i> “handling NOM”).</p>

**Table 5.** Formation of the Lithuanian multi-word terms

In the Norwegian material, there are 4 multi-word terms. None of them consist of more than 3 words excluding prepositions and conjunctions. Their formation is shown in Table 6.

Formal type	Formation models and examples
4 multi-word terms composed of 2-3 words	<p><b><u>n + prepositional phrase (prep. av + n)</u></b> 3 terms of this model are found each representing a different variant of the model:</p> <p><b><u>1) n + prepositional phrase (prep. av + n x 2)</u></b> <i>kapring av luftfartøy eller skip</i> “hijacking of an aircraft or a ship” (EN equivalent <i>hijacking</i>) ← <i>kapring</i> “hijacking” + prepositional phrase (<i>av</i> + <i>luftfartøy</i> “aircraft” <i>eller</i> “or” <i>skip</i> “ship”)</p> <p><b><u>2) (adj + n) + prepositional phrase (prep. av + n)</u></b> <i>uaktsom forvoldelse av død</i> “negligent causing of death” (EN equivalent <i>manslaughter</i>) ← (<i>uaktsom</i> “negligent” + <i>forvoldelse</i> “causing”) + prepositional phrase (<i>av</i> + <i>død</i> “death”)</p> <p><b><u>3) n + prepositional phrase (prep. av + (adj + n))</u></b> <i>misbruk av offentlig myndighet</i> “abuse of public authority” (EN equivalent</p>

<p><i>misconduct in public office</i>) ← <i>misbruk</i> “abuse” + prepositional phrase (<i>av</i> + <i>offentlig</i> “public” <i>myndighet</i> “authority”)</p>
<p><b><u>n + prepositional phrase (prep. i + n)</u></b> 1 term of this model is found: <i>gisseltaking i terrorøyemed</i> “hostage-taking in the terrorist aim” (EN equivalent <i>hostage-taking</i>) ← <i>gisseltaking</i> “hostage-taking” + prepositional phrase (<i>i</i> + <i>terrorøyemed</i> “terrorist aim”)</p>

**Table 6.** Formation of the Norwegian multi-word terms

The results show that the authors of the EN and NO terms tend to use shorter terms consisting of 2-3 words, while the authors of the LT terms do not avoid long and complicated terms composed of 6 and more words with complicated syntactic government structure. The analysis allows to draw some more important conclusions:

- The place of the noun-dependants in the phrases

The head of the multi-word terms is a noun (usually a verbal derivative) which attaches one or more dependents (nouns and/or adjectives). In English and Norwegian, the noun-dependents take place after the head of the phrase, while, in Lithuanian, the noun dependents used in Genitive case take place before the head of the phrase. One LT example with the noun-dependants in Genitive and Instrumental cases before and after the head of the phrase is found (see below):

*EN*  
*handling stolen goods*

*NO*  
*uaktsom forvoldelse av død*  
negligent causing of death

*LT*  
*turto prievartavimas*  
n GEN n NOM  
property extortion

*žmogaus paėmimas įkaitu*  
n GEN n NOM n INS  
'human being' 'taking' 'hostage'.

- The ways of attaching the noun-dependants

In Lithuanian, the noun-dependents are usually attached directly, while, in English and Norwegian, they are often attached with the help of prepositions:



*LT*

***orlaivio užgrobimas***

aircraft hijacking

***teroro aktas***

terror act

*EN*

***misconduct in public office***

*NO*

***kapring av luftfartøy eller skip***

hijacking of an aircraft or ship

***misbruk av offentlig myndighet***

abuse of public authority

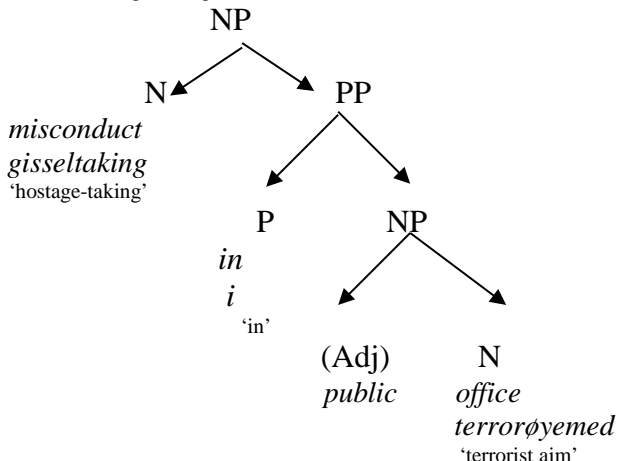
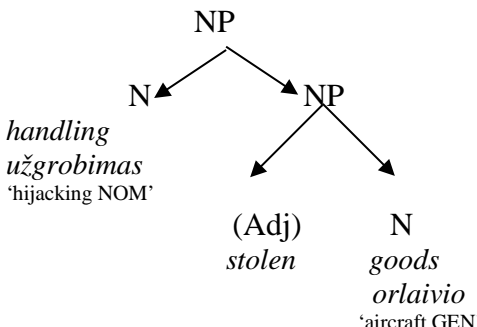
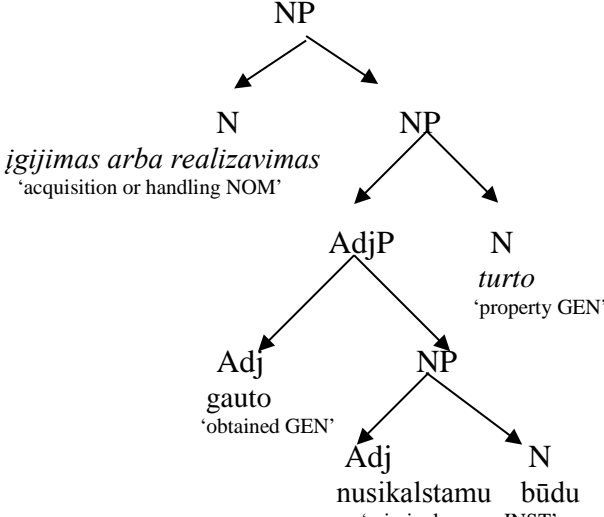
A separate group of the EN terms are multi-word terms in which prepositional phrases are substituted by noun + noun phrases. In the English word formation theory, they are called compounds as their structure is very close to that one of compound nouns:

*hostage-taking* (← *taking of hostages*)

*money laundering* (← *laundering of money*)

- The phrase government structure

The investigated EN and NO multi-word terms, with the exception of some EN examples, have a syntactic government structure where the head of the phrase governs a prepositional phrase. Meanwhile, in the investigated LT multi-word terms, the head of phrase always governs a nominal phrase. Usually a governed nominal phrase consists of a noun or an adjective and a noun, but there are several LT terms with more complicated structure where a nominal phrase contains an embedded participle phrase which functions as an adjective phrase (Table 7).

<p><b>Government of a prepositional phrase</b></p>	<p><i>EN misconduct in public office</i> <i>NO gisseltaking i terrorøyemed</i> 'hostage-taking in the terrorist aim'</p> 
<p><b>Government of a nominal phrase</b></p>	<p><i>EN handling stolen goods</i> <i>LT orlaivio užgrobimas</i> 'hijacking of an aircraft'</p> 
<p><b>Government of a nominal phrase with an embedded participle phrase which functions as an adjective phrase</b></p>	<p><i>LT nusikalstamu būdu gauto turto įgijimas arba realizavimas</i> 'legalization of the money or property obtained by criminal means'</p> 

**Table 7.** Examples of the phrase government structure of the multi-word terms



### 3 Final conclusions

The article provides a comparative analysis of criminal law terms denoting criminal activities in the English, Lithuanian and Norwegian languages and discusses the principles of term-formation used in the languages under investigation. The research findings lead to the following conclusions:

- 1) Criminal activities in the investigated languages are denoted by one-word and multi-word terms. In the English and the Norwegian legal documents one-word terms of criminal activities prevail, while in the Lithuanian legal documents most criminal activities are denoted by multi-word terms.
- 2) In the investigated material, one-word terms are of three formal types: root-nouns, derivatives and compounds (in the given analysis, all one-word terms having more than one root, including derivatives made of compounds, are considered compounds). In the English material, most one-word terms are root-nouns and derivatives; in the Lithuanian material, derivatives prevail. In the Norwegian material, on the other hand, compounds take the most prominent place.
- 3) The derivatives are made of verbs or nouns using suffixation. In the English and Norwegian material, the number of verbal and nominal derivatives is almost the same, while in the Lithuanian material, verbal derivatives clearly prevail.
- 4) The compounds are of several formal models: compounds 'noun+noun', compounds 'adjective+noun' and verbal derivatives made of compound verbs. In the English material, 3 compounds are found, representing 3 different formal types. The only Lithuanian compound is a verbal derivative made of a compound verb. Almost all the Norwegian compounds represent the formal model 'noun+noun', excluding one which represents the formal model 'adjective+noun'.
- 5) The investigated multi-word terms are of two formal types: multi-word terms composed of 2-3 words (excluding prepositions and conjunctions) and multi-word terms composed of more than 3 words. Short terms (consisting of 2-3 words) prevail in English and Norwegian, whereas in Lithuanian, alongside with the short terms, long and complicated phrases (consisting of 6 and more words) are used as names of criminal activities.
- 6) The head of the multi-word terms is a noun (usually a verbal derivative) which attaches one or more dependents (nouns and/or adjectives). In English and Norwegian, the noun-dependents take place after the head of the phrase, while, in Lithuanian, the noun dependents mostly take place before the head of the phrase.
- 7) In Lithuanian, the noun-dependents are usually attached directly, while, in English and Norwegian, they are often attached with the help of prepositions.
- 8) A separate group of the English terms are multi-word terms in which prepositional phrases are substituted by noun + noun phrases. In the English word formation theory, they are called compounds as their structure is very close to that one of compound nouns.

9) The investigated English and Norwegian multi-word terms, with the exception of some English examples, have a syntactic government structure where the head of the phrase governs a prepositional phrase. Meanwhile, in the investigated Lithuanian multi-word terms, the head of phrase always governs a nominal phrase. Usually a governed nominal phrase consists of a noun or an adjective and a noun, but there are several Lithuanian terms with more complicated structure where a nominal phrase contains an embedded participle phrase which functions as an adjective phrase.

The findings of the research reveal important differences in legal terminology in English, Lithuanian and Norwegian. Part of them could be accounted for by the different structure of these three Indo-European languages, but more substantial differences are obvious because of different traditions and current attitude towards term formation.

The research outlined that the term developers of the English-Welsh and Norwegian legal systems prefer the criteria of brevity and use-friendliness of a term to precision and unambiguity. The latter two criteria are often applied to the definition of the term, but not a term itself. The developers of the Lithuanian legal terminology, on the other hand, give priority to precision of a term and do not avoid multi-word terms of complicated structure. The analysis presented is hoped to bring more research on terms in different languages that, in its own turn, could provide ideas for emerging term formation models in Lithuanian and other languages.

#### 4 Sources

- Bitinaitė V., Snapkauskaitė D. (2013): *Aiškinamasis anglų-lietuvių kalbų teisės ir verslo žodynas*. Registrų centras: Vilnius.
- The Crown Prosecution Service Legal Guidance*. <http://www.cps.gov.uk/legal/> [accessed 29 08 2013].
- Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamasis kodeksas* (2000). Teisinės informacijos centras: Vilnius. [http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_1?p\\_id=453631](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_1?p_id=453631) [accessed 29 08 2013].
- Lind, Å. (2003): *Norsk – engelsk juridisk ordbok*. Cappelen Akademisk Forlag: Oslo.
- Lov om straff (Straffeloven)*. <http://www.lovdato.no/all/nl-20050520-028.html> [accessed 29 08 2013].
- Martin, E. A., Law, J. (2006): *A Dictionary of Law*. Oxford University Press: Oxford.
- The UK Statute Law Database*. <http://www.statutelaw.gov.uk> [accessed 29 08 2013].

#### 5 References

- BOB – Bokmålsordboka og Nynorskordboka. Universitetet i Oslo, Språkrådet. <http://www.dokpro.uio.no/ordboksoek.html> [accessed 15 05 2014].
- Biel, Ł. (2008): Legal Terminology in Translation Practice: Dictionaries, Googling or Discussion Forums? *SKASE Journal of Translation and Interpretation*, 3(1): 22-38. [http://www.pulib.sk/skase/Volumes/JTI03/pdf\\_doc/BielLucja.pdf](http://www.pulib.sk/skase/Volumes/JTI03/pdf_doc/BielLucja.pdf) [accessed 29 08 2013].
- Gaivenis, K. (2002): *Lietuvių terminologija: teorijos ir tvarkybos metmenys*. Lietuvių kalbos instituto leidykla: Vilnius.



- Gadbin-George, G. (2010): The Woolf reform of civil procedure: a possible end to legalese? *LSP Journal – Language for specific purposes, professional communication, knowledge management and cognition*, 1(2): 41-49. <http://rauli.cbs.dk/index.php/lspcog/issue/view/401> [accessed 14 11 2013].
- de Groot, G.-R. and van Laer, C. J. P. (2007): The Dubious Quality of Legal Dictionaries. *Translation and Meaning*, 7: 173-187. <http://arno.unimaas.nl/show.cgi?fid=9112> [accessed 29 08 2013].
- Harvey, M. (2002): What's so Special about Legal Translation? *Meta: Translators' Journal*, 47(2). <http://www.erudit.org/revue/meta/2002/v47/n2/008007ar.pdf> [accessed 29 08 2013].
- Jakaitienė, E. (2009): *Leksikologija*. Vilniaus universiteto leidykla : Vilnius.
- Janulevičienė, V., Rackevičienė, S. (2009): Nusikalstamų veikų pavadinimai lietuvių ir anglų kalbomis. *Socialinių mokslų studijos : mokslo darbai = Social sciences studies : research papers*, 4(4): 357-381. [http://www.mruni.eu/lt/mokslo\\_darbai/sms/archyvas/?l=76500](http://www.mruni.eu/lt/mokslo_darbai/sms/archyvas/?l=76500) [accessed 29 08 2013].
- Janulevičienė, V., Rackevičienė, S. (2010): Lietuvių, anglų ir norvegų kalbų baudžiamosios teisės terminai. *Kalbų studijos*. 17: 19-28. [http://www.kalbos.lt/zurnalai/17\\_numeris/03.pdf](http://www.kalbos.lt/zurnalai/17_numeris/03.pdf) [accessed 29 08 2013].
- Janulevičienė, V.; Rackevičienė, S. (2011): Translation Strategies of English Legal Terms in the Bilingual Lithuanian and Norwegian Law Dictionaries. *Socialinių mokslų studijos : mokslo darbai = Social sciences studies : research paper*, 3(3): 1073-1093. [http://www.mruni.eu/lt/mokslo\\_darbai/sms/archyvas/?l=114417](http://www.mruni.eu/lt/mokslo_darbai/sms/archyvas/?l=114417) [accessed 29 08 2013].
- Keinys, S. (2005): *Dabartinė lietuvių terminologija*. Lietuvių kalbos instituto leidykla.
- Kocbek, A. (2008): The Cultural Embeddedness of Legal Texts. *Journal of Language & Translation*, 9 (2): 49-70. <http://www.unish.org/upload/word/923.pdf> [accessed 29 08 2013].
- Kontutytė, E. (2008): Įmonių teisinės formos: vokiškų ir lietuviškų terminų ekvivalentiškumo problemos. *Kalbotyra*, 58 (3): 69-79. [http://www.kalbotyra.flf.vu.lt/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Kalbotyra\\_58\\_69-79.pdf](http://www.kalbotyra.flf.vu.lt/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Kalbotyra_58_69-79.pdf) [accessed 29 08 2013].
- Lemmens, K. (2011): The slow dynamics of legal language: Festina lente? *Terminology*, 17 (1): 74-93.
- OED – Harper, D. Online Etymology Dictionary. <http://www.etymonline.com/> [accessed 15.05.2014].
- Pogožilskaja, L. (2011): Peculiarities of formal structure of terminology of constitutional law in Lithuanian and English. *Specialybės kalba: gramatika ir logika*. Mokslinių straipsnių rinkinys / Mykolo Romerio universitetas. [http://www.mruni.eu/mru\\_lt\\_dokumentai/humanitariniu\\_mokslu\\_institutas/Naujienos/17628\\_Specialybes%20kalba\\_tirazui\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.mruni.eu/mru_lt_dokumentai/humanitariniu_mokslu_institutas/Naujienos/17628_Specialybes%20kalba_tirazui_WEB.pdf) [accessed 29 08 2013].
- Rackevičienė, S. (2008): Nusikalstamą veiką ir jos rūšis pagal pavojingumą įvardijantys terminai lietuvių ir anglų kalbomis. *Jurisprudencija*. 5(107): 98–104. [http://www.mruni.eu/lt/mokslo\\_darbai/jurisprudencija/archyvas/dwn.php?id=257549](http://www.mruni.eu/lt/mokslo_darbai/jurisprudencija/archyvas/dwn.php?id=257549) [accessed 29 08 2013].
- Sandrini, P. (1996): Comparative Analysis of Legal Terms: Equivalence Revisited. In Ch. Galinski, K. D. Schmitz (eds.). *Terminology and Knowledge Engineering (TKE '96)*. Ergon: pp. 342-351. <http://homepage.uibk.ac.at/%7Ec61302//publik/tke96.pdf> [accessed 29 08 2013].





- Sandrini, P. (1999): Legal Terminology. Some Aspects for a New Methodology. *Hermes Journal of Linguistics*, 22: 101-112.  
<http://homepage.uibk.ac.at/%7Ec61302//publik/legal.pdf> [accessed 29 08 2013].
- Šarčević, S. (1997): *New Approach to Legal Translation*. The Hague/London/Boston: Kluwer Law International.  
*SKASE Journal of Translation and Interpretation*. <http://www.pulib.sk/skase/> [accessed 29 08 2013].
- TranslationDirectory.com*. [http://www.translationdirectory.com/legal\\_translation.htm](http://www.translationdirectory.com/legal_translation.htm) [accessed 29 08 2013].
- Translation Journal*. <http://translationjournal.net/journal/> [accessed 29 08 2013].