

ADJECTIVE + NOUN COLLOCATIONS WITH THE ADJECTIVE “CRIMINAL” IN ENGLISH AND THEIR TRANSLATIONAL EQUIVALENTS IN MACEDONIAN

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Abstract: The paper deals with the analysis of English adjective + noun collocations and their corresponding equivalents in Macedonian. More specifically, it focuses on the English adjective “criminal” and several nouns it collocates with in an authentic formal text. The analyzed corpus is extracted from an official document in English issued by the European Commission and its Macedonian translation. The aim of the paper is to determine the equivalence level between the original English collocations and their Macedonian translational equivalents with reference to their form as well as the meaning they convey.

Keywords: criminal, collocation, translation, Macedonian, English

INTRODUCTION

The ability to combine lexical units in a meaningful way is an important aspect of the acquisition of lexical knowledge in any language. This equally applies to “ordinary” speakers of the language as well as to translators of texts containing terminology that pertains to a specific field, where accurate transfer of the semantic notion behind a certain lexical unit or combination of two or more lexical units from the source language into the target language, by choosing the corresponding translational equivalents, is crucial for producing a correctly translated text. Let us take, for instance, the very basic English noun *law* which occurs in combination with various parts of speech conveying different meanings. If a person does something illegal, we would say that s/he *breaks the law*, *violates the law*, *flouts the law*, etc. Conversely, if a person behaves in compliance with the law, we would say that s/he *abides by the law*, *obeys the law*, *observes the law*, etc. If, for instance, we talk about the duty of police

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officers, we may say that they *enforce the laws, uphold the laws*, etc. If we are interested in the specific divisions of law, we may talk about *Administrative Law, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law*, etc. If some act was carried out contrary to what the law permits, we would say that it was done *against the law*, if we talk about pieces of legislation addressing specific issues, we would say, for instance, *Law on Criminal Procedure, Law on Abortion, Law on Police*, etc. These examples show that for expressing certain actions related to laws in English, specific verbs are used that usually co-occur in combination with the noun *law*. When translating these combinations into another language, they should be adapted to the target language and replaced by adequate word combinations that would sound natural to the target language speakers. Thus, for instance, the adequate word combination for *Constitutional Law* in Macedonian would be *Управно право (Upravno pravo)*, *enforce the law* would be translated as *спроведува закон (sproveduva zakon)*, *Law on Police* would become *Закон за полиција (Zakon za policija)*, etc. All these word combinations can accurately be translated only if the translators possess high level of lexical knowledge of both languages, which includes the lexical combinations within the respective lexical corpora.

The examples presented above are all examples of collocations. The term *collocation* was introduced by J. R. Firth. His notion of collocation focuses on “lexical cooccurrence” (Heid, 2011:284) and is associated with his statement that “you shall know a word by the company it keeps” (Firth, 1957:11 quoted in Heid, 2011:284) referring to the meaning of words inferred from the lexical combinations they form. In the *Longman Dictionary of Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics*, the term *collocation* refers to “the way in which words are used together regularly” (Richards & Schmidt, 2010:95). More specifically, it “refers to the restrictions on how words can be used together, for example which prepositions are used with particular verbs, or which verbs and nouns are used together” (ibid). Depending on the parts of speech that constitute this type of lexical combinations, in *The BBI Combinatory Dictionary of English* a distinction is made between lexical collocations, on the one hand, and grammatical collocations, on the other. According to this classification, “typical lexical collocations consist of nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs” (Benson et al. 2010: xxxi), as opposed to grammatical collocations which are comprised of “a dominant word (noun, adjective, verb) and a preposition or grammatical structure such as an infinitive or clause.” (ibid: xix).

Translation is a complex process that requires high proficiency level of both the source language and the target language. What adds to the complexity of translating legal vocabulary is the fact that translators often translate not only between languages, but between legal systems as well. This is specifically true for languages – “parties” to a translation process that lexically shape concepts derived from different legal traditions, where the legal terminology based on the different legal systems, inter alia, affect the lexical relationships within the specific languages in question. This is the case with the process of translating from English into Macedonian and vice versa, representing concepts from the Anglo-Saxon and the Continental legal tradition, respectively.

Bearing this in mind, in the sections that follow, we will discuss the challenges faced by translators when translating collocations consisting of the adjective *criminal* as a collocate of a limited number of nouns, as found in an authentic text composed in English and then translated into Macedonian. The subject of our analysis will be lexical collocations of the *adjective + noun* type consisting of the fixed adjective *criminal* in collocation with different nouns. Taking into account the wide collocational range of this adjective, it will be interesting to draw conclusions on how it “behaves” when translators attempt to translate the lexical combinations it enters into during the process of their translation from English into Macedonian.



ETYMOLOGY AND MEANING OF CRIMINAL

According to the *Online Etymology Dictionary* the existence of the word *criminal* in English could be traced back to the 14th century, when it was used to refer to the quality of being “sinful, wicked”². In mid-15th century its meaning covered “of or pertaining to a legally punishable offense, of the nature of a crime”, while in late 15th century it was used to denote “guilty of crime”. It is rooted in the Old French word *criminal* meaning “criminal, despicable, wicked” from the 11th century and directly taken from Late Latin *criminalis* meaning “pertaining to crime”, derived from the Latin word *crimen* (genitive *criminis*).³

In general English language dictionaries, the word *criminal* is usually found in two forms – nominal and adjectival. To illustrate this, we will refer to the online edition of the *Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries*. The word *criminal* is defined as a noun denoting “a person who commits a crime”⁴. It is also listed as an adjective with three meanings. The first meaning of *criminal* is rather formal and refers to something that is “connected with or involving crime”. Its second meaning refers to something that is “connected to the laws that deal with crime”. The third meaning is referred to the quality of being “morally wrong”⁵.

In Macedonian, the nominal variant of *criminal* is translated as *криминалец* (*kriminalец*) and covers the same notion of its English counterpart. As far as the adjectival variant is concerned, *criminal* is usually translated as *криминален/-на/-но/-ни* (*kriminalen/-na/-no/-ni*), with the Macedonian root noun *криминал* (*criminal*) – the equivalent of the English noun *crime*. The *Interpretative Dictionary of the Macedonian Language* defines the adjective *криминален/-на/-но/-ни* (*kriminalen/-na/-no/-ni*) as something “that is related to, or has a characteristic of a crime”⁶. Colloquially, *криминален/-на/-но/-ни* (*kriminalen/-na/-no/-ni*) is also used to refer to something a) “that has criminalistic content; criminalistic”⁷, or b) “that has no quality, very bad”⁸. On the other hand, *criminal* can also be translated as *кривичен/-на/-но/-ни* (*krivičen/-na/-no/-ni*), derived from the adjective *крив* (*kriv*) meaning *guilty*, and the noun *кривица* (*krivica*) meaning *guilt*⁹. In the Dictionary quoted before, *кривичен/-на/-но/-ни* (*krivičen/-na/-no/-ni*) is defined as something “that is related to acts committed against persons and property”¹⁰. More specifically, in a legal context, the adjective *кривичен/-на/-но/-ни* (*krivičen/-na/-no/-ni*) is used to modify nouns when denoting concepts within the context of criminal law.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research was carried out with the goal to evaluate the equivalence level between “*criminal* + noun” collocations in an authentic formal text in English and in its translated Macedonian version. To

2 <https://www.etymonline.com/search?q=criminal>

3 *ibid*

4 [Oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/criminal_1?q=criminal](https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/criminal_1?q=criminal)

5 https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/criminal_2

6 <https://makedonski.gov.mk/corpus/l/kriminalen-brid>

7 *ibid*

8 *ibid*

9 Although the term *кривичен/-на/-но/-ни* (*krivičen/-na/-no/-ni*) is most frequently used by most authors, and is officially accepted in Macedonian legal texts, such as *Кривичен законик/ Krivičen zakonik* (*Criminal Code*), *Закон за кривична постапка/ Zakon za krivična postapka* (*The Law on Criminal Procedure*) etc., some legal experts favor the use of the adjective *казнен/-а/-о/-и* (*kaznen/-a/-o/-i*) used individually or in various collocations. See Камбовски, В. (2004). *Казнено право (општ дел)*. Скопје: Култура, сс. 6-8

10 <https://makedonski.gov.mk/corpus/l/krivichen-brid>



achieve this goal, we chose the *European Commission's North Macedonia 2020 Report*¹¹ and its translation in Macedonian available at the website of the Sector for European Affairs of the Macedonian Government¹². These texts were chosen because, inter alia, they cover terminology in the fields of law and security, including lexical combinations that contain the adjective *criminal* followed by various nouns. These lexical combinations were extracted from the English text and their Macedonian lexical equivalents in the translated text and with the help of the method of content analysis they were analyzed both in terms of their form and meaning.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The analysis of the original English text of the North Macedonia 2020 Report issued by the European Commission revealed that the word *criminal* in its adjectival form occurred 40 times, in combination with a total of 18 different nouns. In its nominal form, it was encountered only once, in the collocation *cyber criminal*, translated into Macedonian as *сајбер-криминалец* (*sajber-kriminalac*).

The table below illustrates the distribution of *criminal* + noun collocations¹³ extracted from the original text of the Report in English:

Table 1: *Distribution of criminal + noun collocations*

Collocation	Number of occurrences
criminal act	2
criminal area	1
criminal asset	5
criminal case	4
criminal charge	4
criminal code	3
criminal court	3
criminal group	2
criminal infiltration	1
criminal investigation	3
criminal law	1
criminal liability	1
criminal matter	1
criminal network	2
criminal offence	4
criminal police	1
criminal procedure	1
criminal responsibility	1

11 The original English text of the European Commission's Report can be accessed on the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/default/files/north_macedonia_report_2020.pdf

12 The Macedonian translation of the Report can be accessed on the following link: <https://www.sep.gov.mk/page/?id=1117#.YTbF550zbIU>

13 The collocations extracted from the text were used both in singular and plural forms, but for the purpose of the paper we presented all collocations in their singular form. In some cases, in the discussion of their translation when quoting the excerpts in which they occurred, we used their plural form. Postpositive definite article was also omitted.

STRUCTURAL EQUIVALENCE OF THE TRANSLATED COLLOCATIONS

The research results showed that in most cases the English form of the collocation *adjective + noun* was replicated in the translated Macedonian text.

However, in one case we noticed a translational equivalent where the source *adjective + noun* collocation was translated with a noun followed by a prepositional phrase (*noun + prepositional phrase*). In that particular instance, the collocation *criminal assets* (used in the plural form) was translated as *средства од криминални дејства* (*sredstva od kriminalni dejstva*). Although the original English form was not replicated in the Macedonian translation, we can agree that the form of the Macedonian equivalent does not sound strange to Macedonian speakers and can be used as a translational alternative of *adjective + noun* English collocations. The back translation into English would be *assets from criminal activities*.

The same collocation also occurred in a translational equivalent consisting of an adverb followed by an adjective and a noun (*adverb + adjective + noun*). Thus, in one place in the text, *criminal assets* was translated as *криминално стекнат имот* (*kriminalno steknat imot*). In this case, the back translation of the collocation into English would be *criminally obtained property*, and we can draw the same conclusion that this choice and order of the parts of speech within the translated collocation in Macedonian can be considered acceptable.

Table 2: The structure of the English *criminal + noun* collocations and their Macedonian equivalents

Structure of the English collocation (<i>criminal + noun</i>)	Number of occurrences	Structure of the translated collocation in Macedonian	Number of occurrences
<i>adjective + noun</i>	40	<i>adjective + noun</i>	38
		<i>noun + prepositional phrase</i>	1
		<i>adverb + adjective + noun</i>	1

SEMANTIC EQUIVALENCE OF THE TRANSLATED COLLOCATIONS

As we have previously noted, the English adjective *criminal* is mainly translated into Macedonian either as *криминален/-на/-но/-ни* (*kriminalen/-na/-no/-ni*) or *кривичен/-на/-но/-ни* (*krivičen/-na/-no/-ni*).

The following table illustrates the distribution of *криминален/-на/-но/-ни* (*kriminalen/-na/-no/-ni*) as a Macedonian translational equivalent of the adjective *criminal* within the *criminal + noun* lexical combination¹⁴:

¹⁴ The labels “acceptable, partially acceptable and unacceptable translational equivalent” in the second column in Table 3 refer to the translation of the English adjective *criminal* as an adjective within the *adjective + noun* Macedonian translational equivalent. In the third column they refer to the translation of the English adjective *criminal* as a prepositional phrase within the *noun + prepositional phrase* Macedonian translational equivalent. The same labels in the fourth column refer to the translation of the English adjective *criminal* in the



Table 3: Distribution of the Macedonian translational equivalents of the English adjective in *criminal* + noun collocations

English: CRIMINAL (adj.)	Macedonian: КРИМИНАЛЕН/-НА/ НО/-НИ (KRIMINAL- LEN/-NA/-NO/-NI) (adj.)	Macedonian: PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE	Macedonian: ADVERB + ADJEC- TIVE
a)	Acceptable translational equivalent	Acceptable translational equivalent	Acceptable translational equivalent
<i>criminal asset</i>	криминално средство	средство од криминално дејство	криминално стекнат имот
<i>criminal asset</i>	криминален имот	-	-
<i>criminal group</i>	криминална група (x 2)	-	-
<i>criminal infiltration</i>	криминална инфилтрација	-	-
<i>criminal network</i>	криминална мрежа (x 2)	-	-
b)	Partially acceptable translational equivalent	Partially acceptable translational equivalent	Partially acceptable translational equivalent
-	-	-	-
c)	Unacceptable translational equivalent	Unacceptable translational equivalent	Unacceptable translational equivalent
<i>criminal police</i>	криминална полиција	-	-

According to the data in Table 3, a conclusion can be drawn that *criminal* is adequately translated in the adjectival form *криминален/-на/-но/-ни* (*kriminalen/-na/-no/-ni*) in 8 out of the 9 detected occurrences. This includes the example where *криминален/-на/-но/-ни* (*kriminalen/-na/-no/-ni*) was used as an adjective within the prepositional phrase that was the equivalent of the English noun *criminal*, presented in the third column.

However, in one instance *criminal* was not translated with a corresponding Macedonian counterpart. This remark refers to the collocation *criminal police*, which was translated as *криминална полиција* (*kriminalna policija*).

In the original English paragraph, the collocation *criminal police* was used as follows:

“In the coming year, the country should, in particular:

→ ensure that institutional reforms of the security sector (*criminal police, financial units, intelligence services, National Coordination Centre for the Fight against Organised Crime*) are translated into a proactive policy of implementing the strategic documents and achieving further tangible results;” (European Commission, 2020:36).

adverb + adjective form within the *adverb + adjective + noun* Macedonian translational equivalent.



As we can see from the excerpt, *criminal police* was used within the context of institutional reforms of the security sector, i.e. at the level of an institution within the security sector, besides the other institutions/services mentioned in the paragraph. This means that the translation should match the name of the corresponding institution within the Macedonian Ministry of Interior. If we look at the structure of the Ministry of Interior, we can see that the corresponding sector is named *Сектор за криминалистичка полиција*¹⁵ (*Sektor za kriminalistička policija*), within the Public Security Bureau. Consequently, the adequate translation of *criminal police* in this case would be *криминалистичка полиција* (*kriminalistička policija*). The collocation *criminal police* can also be found in the full name of INTERPOL, originally named “*The International Criminal Police Organization – INTERPOL*”¹⁶ which is officially translated into Macedonian as “*Меѓународна организација за криминалистичка полиција – ИНТЕРПОЛ*” (*Meѓunarodna organizacija za kriminalistička policija – INTERPOL*)¹⁷.

Another interesting example is the collocation *criminal asset*, which was used in the original English text in the plural form, i.e. *criminal assets*. In this collocation, the adjective *criminal* was correctly translated as *криминален* (*kriminalen*), but we came across two different translational equivalents for the noun *asset* it collocated with. *Criminal assets* was translated as *криминални средства* (*kriminalni sredstva*) and *криминален имот* (*kriminalen imot*). However, not both are accurate translations of the original English term. *Криминални средства* (*kriminalni sredstva*) is the literal translation of *criminal assets*, while the equivalent of *криминален имот* (*kriminalen imot*) is *criminal property*. The analysis of the use of *asset* in its plural form, i.e. *assets* in the entire English text that is the subject of our paper shows that *asset* is used as a hypernym of the noun *property*. This can be illustrated with the following sentence:

“*In addition to the positive trend of adopting temporary measures for freezing bank accounts and property, the seizure and confiscation of criminal assets need to be increased.*” (European Commission, 2020:23)

In another section, the following sentence was found:

“*The strategy for strengthening capacities to conduct financial investigations and to confiscate property for asset recovery is being implemented including through institutional and operational reforms within the Ministry of the Interior.*” (ibid:37).

Although in both examples *property* is used without the adjective *criminal*, the context makes it clear that the authors referred to criminal property. In both cases *property* was used with relation to *assets* as one of its components, i.e. the actions of freezing and confiscating property are considered as part of the wider actions of seizure and confiscation of criminal assets, and asset recovery, respectively. Bearing in mind the specific contexts in which these two words were used throughout the text, as well as the existence of two separate translational equivalents in Macedonian, it can be concluded that *криминални средства* (*kriminalni sredstva*) would be a more adequate and accurate counterpart of the English collocation *criminal assets*, wherever it is encountered in the original English text. This also applies to *средства од криминални дејства* (*sredstva od kriminalni dejstva*) as a more accurate equivalent of *criminal assets* compared to *криминално стекнат имот* (*kriminalno steknat imot*), which is a more specific term and does not fully correspond to the original notion in English.

As far as the choice of *кривичен/-на/-но/-ни* (*krivičen/-na/-no/-ni*) as the Macedonian equivalent of *criminal* is concerned, our analysis revealed the results presented in the table below:

15 <https://mvr.gov.mk/page/ biro-za-javna-bezbednost>

16 <https://www.interpol.int/en/Who-we-are/Legal-framework/Name-and-logo>

17 <https://mvr.gov.mk/page/interpol>



Table 4: Distribution of the Macedonian collocations with the adjective *кривичен/-на/-но/-ни* (*krivičen/-na/-no/-ni*) as the translational equivalent of the English adjective in **criminal** + noun collocations

English: CRIMINAL (adj.)	Macedonian: КРИВИЧЕН/-НА/-НО/-НИ (KRIVIČEN/-NA/-NO/-NI)
	Acceptable translational equivalent
<i>criminal act</i>	кривично дело (x 2)
<i>criminal area</i>	кривична област
<i>criminal case</i>	кривичен предмет (x 3)
<i>criminal charges</i>	кривична пријава (x 4)
<i>Criminal Code</i>	Кривичен законик (x 3)
[Basic] ¹⁸ <i>Criminal Court</i>	[Основен] Кривичен суд
[International] <i>Criminal Court</i>	[Меѓународен] Кривичен суд
[Skopje] <i>Criminal Court</i>	Кривичен суд [во Скопје]
<i>criminal investigation</i>	кривична истрага (x 3)
<i>criminal law</i>	кривично право
<i>criminal liability</i>	кривична одговорност
<i>criminal offence</i>	кривично дело (x 4)
<i>criminal procedure</i>	кривична постапка
<i>criminal responsibility</i>	кривична одговорност
	Partially acceptable translational equivalent
<i>criminal case</i>	кривичен случај
<i>criminal matter</i>	кривичен предмет
	Unacceptable translational equivalent

The semantic analysis of the source collocations and their Macedonian equivalents showed that in all 29 collocations the term *criminal* was correctly translated as *кривичен/-на/-но/-ни* (*krivičen/-na/-no/-ni*) in the Macedonian text. However, we noticed two cases in which the translators did not use the most adequate translational equivalent that would correspond to the original English collocate of *criminal* in the collocations in question.

The first example of inaccurate translation of the collocate of *criminal* into Macedonian was noticed in the collocation *criminal matter*. Originally, it was used in the plural form within the subtitle “*Judi-*

¹⁸ In the English version of the text of the Report, the collocation *Criminal Court* was encountered three times. In one example it was preceded by *Skopje* (*Skopje Criminal Court*), while in two other examples it was preceded by the adjectives *Basic* (*Basic Criminal Court*) and *International* (*International Criminal Court*). Taking into consideration that the paper specifically focused on two-part collocations consisting of the adjective *criminal* + a noun, as well as the fact that the other words preceding it did not affect the meaning of the collocation *Criminal Court*, we decided to exclude these words from our analysis, but to keep them in brackets in the text of the paper to show the entire lexical combinations *Criminal Court* was extracted from.

cial cooperation in civil and criminal matters” (European Commission, 2020:46), which was translated into Macedonian as “Судска соработка во граѓански и кривични предмети” (“*Sudska sorabotka vo graѓanski i krivični predmeti*”). However, in choosing the most appropriate translational equivalent in Macedonian, the best approach would be to refer to a Macedonian law that regulates this matter, at least partially. Namely, the international judicial cooperation in criminal matters is regulated by the *Law on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters*, with the original Macedonian title *Закон за меѓународна соработка во кривичната материја*¹⁹ (*Zakon za meѓunarodna sorabotka vo krivičnata materija*). Considering the already existing official counterpart in Macedonian in a legal text, one may agree that *criminal matters* should be translated as *кривична материја* (*krivična materija*). In Macedonian, *кривична материја* (*krivična materija*) is a wider term compared to *кривичен предмет* (*krivičen predmet*), and can also be viewed as its hypernym, and can best transfer the semantic notion behind the wider term *criminal matters* used in the original English text.

The second example of inadequately translated collocate of *criminal* in the Macedonian text leads us to the collocation *criminal case*, which was encountered in the original English text three times. In the Macedonian version, the translators used two lexical equivalents – *кривичен предмет* (*krivičen predmet*) in two instances and *кривичен случај* (*krivičen slučaj*) in one of its occurrences. In a general context, the first meaning of the English noun *case* in Macedonian is *случај* (*slučaj*) (Мургоски, 2001:183). The Macedonian noun *случај* (*slučaj*) is defined as “something that has happened, an event”²⁰, and can be used to refer to events of any kind, including ones that might have some component that is contrary to what the laws prescribe²¹. However, in the context of the Macedonian criminal law, cases that end up with official indictment by the prosecution and are dealt by the corresponding court are referred to as *criminal cases* and are officially named *кривични предмети* (*krivični predmeti*). Therefore, it is our opinion that it would be more accurate to use the narrower term *кривичен предмет* (*krivičen predmet*) in the Macedonian version of the text.

In the corpus included in our research we noticed an interesting example of a single Macedonian translation of two English collocations. Namely, the Macedonian equivalent *кривична одговорност* (*krivična odgovornost*) was used for the translation of the English collocations *criminal liability* and *criminal responsibility*. The analysis of the original text in which these collocations were used showed that they appeared in two identical contexts, as part of a longer stock phrase commonly used in legal language. In the English text, the phrase was encountered in two variants. The first variant was “...under moral, material and criminal liability...” (European Commission, 2020:71), while the second one was “...under moral, material and criminal responsibility...” (ibid:29). For both variants the Macedonian translators used the equivalent phrase “...под морална, материјална и кривична одговорност...” (“...pod moralna, materijalna i krivična odgovornost...”), which was the only acceptable solution in this case.

19 Source: Закон за меѓународна соработка во кривичната материја (Службен весник на РМ, бр. 124 од 20.09.2010 година)

20 <https://makedonski.gov.mk/corpus/l/slučaj-m>

21 The Macedonian term *случај* (*slučaj*) as a translational equivalent of the English term *case* is also used in legal texts in international law. Examples of this kind can be found in judgments by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, where our country is one of the parties to the cases brought in front of the mentioned Court. For illustration, see *Case of Oluri v. North Macedonia* (*Случај Олури против Република Северна Македонија*), where the noun *case* is translated as *случај* (*slučaj*) in the title and throughout the text. However, the translational equivalent *предмет* (*predmet*) is also used in the text, when referring to the legal procedure before the Macedonian courts in appropriate context. The texts of the judgments can be accessed at the website of the Macedonian Ministry of Justice, on the following link: <https://biroescp.gov.mk/>, and the text of the judgment taken as an example here can be accessed on: <http://biroescp.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Prevod-OLURI-v.-RSM-1.pdf>

The practice of using a single Macedonian equivalent was also noticed in the collocations *criminal act* and *criminal offence*. Both of them were correctly translated as *кривично дело* (*krivično delo*). What makes the collocation *criminal offence* interesting for analysis is the fact that the English noun *offence* is usually translated into Macedonian as *прекршок* (*prekršok*) or *престан* (*prestup*) (Мурџоски, 2001: 920). According to the Interpretative Dictionary of the Macedonian Language, *прекршок* (*prekršok*) denotes “act that is contrary to a given regulation, law, order etc.”²² As such, *прекршок* (*prekršok*) is not subject to criminal charges and does not result in criminal liability. It is also used as the equivalent of the English term *misdeemeanor*. The term *престан* (*prestup*), on the other hand, can be considered as a wider term, and may refer to minor wrongdoings or more serious criminal acts. Therefore, the translation of the English term *offence* would depend on the context in which it was used and the words it collocated with. In this specific example, the adjective *criminal* implies actions that are punishable under the Criminal Code, and consequently the translation of *criminal offence* as *кривично дело* (*krivično delo*) is an example of adequate and accurate Macedonian translational equivalent and transfer of the semantic notion behind the original English term.

CONCLUSION

The presentation and the analysis of the extracted examples in the sections above show that the English adjective *criminal* can form collocations with different nouns.

From the analysis of the selected collocations, a conclusion can be drawn that the collocations from the English text that was the subject of the research were, to a considerable extent, adequately translated into Macedonian. The form of the original collocations was adequately translated into Macedonian. The semantic analysis also showed high level of equivalence between the collocations in English and Macedonian in the analyzed texts.

Although the translators obviously adopted the appropriate approach for transferring the semantic notions covered by the original collocations, the examples of inadequate or inaccurate translators elaborated in the paper indicate that in some cases a deeper analysis is required before deciding on the appropriate translational equivalent. The findings of the research may help translators when translating this type of collocations and may also help learners of English in the fields of security and law when dealing with semantic specificities of the adjective *criminal* and the nouns it interacts with, in forming lexical collocations commonly found in texts addressing issues within the mentioned fields.

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