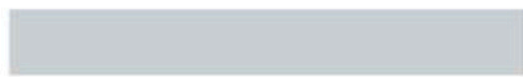
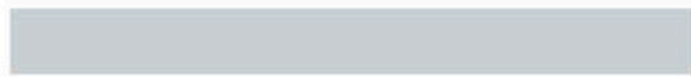


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THE ROLE OF LEGAL INTERPRETATION IN THE PROPER APPLICATION OF NORMATIVE-LEGAL ACTS

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Abstract: This study explores the critical role of legal interpretation in ensuring the effective application of normative-legal acts within Uzbekistan's legal framework. It highlights the complexities of legal texts, which often pose challenges for both ordinary citizens and state authorities due to their intricate language and technical shortcomings. Legal interpretation is identified as a vital tool for clarifying the intent and meaning of normative-legal acts, addressing inconsistencies, and resolving ambiguities that arise during their implementation. The study examines the necessity of interpretation in bridging gaps between the form and substance of legal norms, emphasizing its role in aligning legal practice with legislative intent. Drawing on recent constitutional reforms in Uzbekistan, particularly the 2023 Presidential Decree (PF-67), the article underscores the need for accessible and systematic interpretive methods to enhance legal clarity and public understanding. It advocates for improved juridical techniques and interpretive practices to strengthen the rule of law.

Keywords: legal interpretation, normative-legal acts, juridical technique, constitutional reform, legal application, Uzbekistan, rule of law.

Introduction

The interpretation and enforcement of legal norms are among the most pressing issues in contemporary legal scholarship. Normative-legal acts, as specialized legal instruments, require interpretation to align their application with specific real-world circumstances (Tofer, 2005). Effective implementation of these acts in practice necessitates clear explication to ensure that the regulated social relations align with the norms' intended meaning (Abdusalomov et al., 2007). In Uzbekistan, the complexity of normative-legal acts often creates comprehension challenges not only for citizens but also for the authorities drafting and applying them. This complexity stems from a focus on drafting laws primarily for state institutions rather than for broader public accessibility (Okulov, 2000).

The Necessity of Legal Interpretation

The need for interpreting normative-legal acts arises from discrepancies between their form and content. While these acts embody the essence of legal norms, they do not always fully reflect the legislature's intent due to deficiencies in juridical technique, such as technical errors, inconsistencies, or ambiguities (Abdusalomov et al., 2007). These shortcomings create gaps and contradictions that distort the intended meaning of the law, making interpretation a crucial tool for uncovering the original intent of legal provisions (Uzbekistan Civil Code, 1995).

Moreover, the improper application of juridical techniques or the failure to formalize legal norms according to established standards further necessitates interpretation. The development of juridical techniques is thus a contemporary imperative to enhance the clarity and applicability of legal texts (Okulov, 2000). Legal scholars debate whether all legal norms or only ambiguous ones require interpretation. Some argue that interpretation involves defining a norm's

content, while others view it as explaining its meaning (Tofer, 2005). According to Tofer (2005), interpretation becomes necessary when a norm's meaning is unclear or contested, particularly during its application, prompting the need for clarification.

Challenges in Normative-Legal Acts

Normative-legal acts often lack complete alignment between the content of legal norms and their expression, leading to disputes that are typically resolved through interpretation (Abdusalomov et al., 2007). The effectiveness of applying these acts depends on the legal consciousness, professional expertise, and cultural competence of those interpreting them. However, interpreters, including state officials and legal practitioners, may hold differing political, ethical, or ideological perspectives, which can negatively influence the interpretation process and exacerbate tensions between legal norms and social realities (Okulov, 2000).

The process of norm creation, legal systems, and juridical techniques has been studied to some extent in Uzbekistan, but the interpretation of normative-legal acts in practice remains underexplored in national legal scholarship (Abdusalomov et al., 2007). Proper interpretation is essential for ensuring the accurate application of legal norms and addressing issues such as legal nihilism and legislative gaps.

Key Aspects of Legal Interpretation

Legal interpretation encompasses three critical components:

1. Identifying the interpreting entity (e.g., state bodies, officials).
2. Selecting appropriate interpretive methods (e.g., logical, grammatical, historical, systemic).

3. Determining the scope and legal force of the norm being interpreted (Tooper, 2005).

The success of interpretation hinges on correctly addressing these components to achieve the intended purpose of the norm. Misinterpretation can lead to severe consequences, such as wrongful convictions, the acquittal of offenders, or breaches of contractual obligations (Abdusalomov et al., 2007). Interpretation is integral to the judicial process, norm creation, and legal application, with its various stages governed by legal norms. Ongoing reforms in Uzbekistan, particularly following the adoption of the revised Constitution, have heightened the need for refined interpretive practices (Presidential Decree PF-67, 2023).

Recent Developments in Uzbekistan

The adoption of Uzbekistan's revised Constitution and the Presidential Decree PF-67 (2023) have catalyzed efforts to enhance legal interpretation. The decree mandates the preparation of a comprehensive, article-by-article scientific-practical commentary on the Constitution, emphasizing its role in uniting Uzbekistan's multi-ethnic population and enshrining principles of sovereignty, democracy, and human rights protection. It stresses that the commentary must be accessible, written in simple language for the public, particularly youth, to foster broader understanding (Presidential Decree PF-67, 2023).

Interpretation also plays a pivotal role in eliminating legal ambiguities, identifying legislative gaps, and combating legal nihilism. While methods such as philological, logical, historical, and systemic interpretation are widely recognized, a unified classification remains elusive, underscoring the need for further research (Tooper, 2005).

Conclusion

Legal interpretation is a cornerstone of the effective application of normative-legal acts, enabling practitioners to navigate the complexities of legal texts and align their application with legislative intent. By considering the interrelations among legal norms, interpretation facilitates the accurate selection and prioritization of applicable norms, enhancing clarity and consistency (Abdusalomov et al., 2007). In Uzbekistan, where normative-legal acts are often complex, interpretation is essential for ensuring their proper implementation by legal subjects. Recent constitutional reforms underscore the importance of accessible and systematic interpretation to strengthen the rule of law and public trust in legal institutions. Advancing juridical techniques and interpretive methodologies remains critical for addressing contemporary legal challenges.

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