



Research Article

ENGLISH TRANSLATION STRATEGIES FOR VIETNAMESE MODAL VERBS IN LEGISLATIVE TEXTS: A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The article examines how Vietnamese modal verbs are translated into English in legislative discourse, using the Law on Enterprises 2020 as a case study. It builds a parallel corpus of the Vietnamese statute (71,085 words) and its official English translation (48,513 words), then applies descriptive and contrastive analyses to map modal functions and their English realizations. Results show “phải” (387 occurrences) primarily marks binding obligation and is translated mostly as “shall” (336; 86.8%). “Có thể” (82 occurrences) signals permission/possibility and is rendered mainly with English modals, especially “may” (47). Although “cần” occurs 45 times, only one instance is truly modal, translated as “have to.” “Muốn” is lexical (desire) and translated as to want/to wish. “Sẽ” becomes “will” twice. Findings are indicative due to the single-text scope.

Keywords: legal discourse; modality; modal verb translation; translation strategy

1. Introduction

Legal translation has drawn attention since the twentieth century but remains relatively underdeveloped in Vietnam. As economic and social integration intensifies, translating legal texts is essential for helping foreign stakeholders access and navigate Vietnam’s legal and business environment. Legal discourse has distinctive linguistic and rhetorical features, so translators need strong competence in both legal knowledge and language (Al-Tarawneh et al., 2024). Beyond terminology and syntax, modality—especially modal verbs—is crucial in legal translation (Lian & Jiang, 2014). Because Vietnamese and English modal systems differ in form and function, poor choices can alter a provision’s deontic force, raising risks of misinterpretation and legal consequences. Therefore, studying strategies for translating Vietnamese modal verbs into English is both scholarly and practical, using the 2020 Law on Enterprises as the case.

The study addresses the following research questions:

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1. What are the frequencies and distributions of modal verbs in the 2020 Law on Enterprises and its English translation?
2. What translation strategies are used to render Vietnamese modal verbs in the English version of the 2020 Law on Enterprises?
3. To what extent do these strategies effectively preserve semantic equivalence and the intended modality in the target text?

2. Literature and Methods

2.1. Previous studies

Research on modality translation has grown, but legal-focused scholarship remains uneven in scope and analytical depth. In the Chinese context, many studies map Chinese modal verbs onto English equivalents using parallel-text frequency counts and broad epistemic/deontic categories (Lian & Jiang, 2014). This corpus-driven contrastive approach identifies recurring correspondences, yet it can reduce modality to lexical “matches” and overlook how clause type, speech-act function, institutional genre, and drafting conventions determine legal force in translation. Work on other language pairs (Greek, Arabic, Croatian) also shows sustained interest (Kozobolis, 2020), but the field remains fragmented, with limited cross-linguistic synthesis and no widely shared framework explaining recurrent modal choices across legal systems and text types.

Vietnamese scholarship offers a strong theoretical grounding in modality within general linguistics (Bui, 2004). Legal-oriented studies have begun examining modality in judicial documents (Nguyen & Tran, 2019), modal predicates and constructions in contracts (Tran, 2015), and modality across enterprise laws (Nguyen, 2024). However, direct research on modality translation in Vietnamese legal texts is still limited, and existing work rarely links Vietnamese modal resources to English legal drafting practices and their implications for normativity, interpretation, and enforceability. A near comparator addresses *can* in non-legal translations (Huynh, 2022), limiting relevance to statutes. Further progress requires analyses beyond frequency and binary labels to include legal function, institutional constraints, and interpretive effects.

2.2. Modality in English and Vietnamese

Modality is a key linguistic category for encoding stance, attitude, and commitment toward propositions, expressing possibility, necessity, and obligation (Palmer, 2001). It is commonly divided into epistemic modality (speaker certainty/truth commitment) and deontic modality (obligation/permission grounded in social or legal norms), and in English is realized via modal auxiliaries plus lexical and adverbial markers (Downing & Locke, 2002). Vietnamese research likewise treats modality as subjective evaluation: it reflects belief and judgment (Nguyen, 2002) and, in legal discourse, links the speaker, propositional content, and extralinguistic reality (Nguyen & Tran, 2019). Modality is also framed as expressing stance, volition, and degree of imposition relative to morally legitimate

or socially sanctioned norms (Nguyen & Phan, 2014). Across accounts, modality is typically categorized into epistemic, deontic, and dynamic types. In legal texts, epistemic markers include *căn cứ vào* and *theo đó* (Nguyen & Tran, 2019); deontic markers include *phải, được, không được*; and dynamic modality covers ability/volition via *muốn, biết, có thể* (Nguyen, 2002; Palmer, 1990).

Building on these studies and Bui (2004), Table 1 summarizes the modal verbs examined in this study.

Table 1. Summary of Epistemic and Deontic Modal Verbs in Vietnamese

Type of Modality	Modal Meaning	Expressions
Epistemic Modality	Tất yếu (Epistemic necessity)	phải
	Khả năng (Epistemic possibility)	có thể
Deontic Modality	Tất yếu (Deontic necessity)	phải, cần, nên
	Khả năng (Deontic possibility)	được, có thể

Source: Bui (2004)

English modality expresses necessity, probability, obligation, volition, permission, and broader notions like uncertainty and desire (Downing & Locke, 2002). It is typically classified into epistemic and deontic modality, while some scholars add dynamic modality to cover ability and volition (Palmer, 2001). Bukarica (2019) argues that modal verbs are mainly linked to epistemic meanings, with deontic modality focused on obligation and permission. Based on these distinctions, the study compiles an inventory of English modal expressions (Table 2).

Table 2. Classification of English Modal Verbs by Modality Types

Modal verbs	Epistemic Modality		Deontic Modality	
	Necessity	Possibility	Obligation	Permission
	must	may, might, will, would	shall, must, have to, need, ought to, should,	can, could, may, might, shall

Source: Palmer (2001)

2.3. Methods and Corpus

The study uses a descriptive approach to document how Vietnamese modal verbs (e.g., *phải, được, có thể*) function in the 2020 Law on Enterprises and how they are rendered in English (e.g., *shall, may, must*). A contrastive method then aligns the Vietnamese source with the official English translation to identify correspondences, divergences, and translation shifts, showing where obligation, permission, and possibility are maintained, weakened, or strengthened. For corpus construction, a bilingual parallel corpus is compiled from *Thư viện Pháp luật* (<https://thuvienphapluat.vn>), consisting of the full Vietnamese text (71,085 words, 115 pages) and its official English version (48,513 words, 136 pages). The texts are cleaned, standardized, and segmented at the article and clause levels to ensure alignment. Each

Vietnamese unit is manually paired with its English equivalent to support fine-grained comparison of modal usage.

3. Findings and discussion

3.1. Frequency of modal verbs in Vietnamese and English corpora

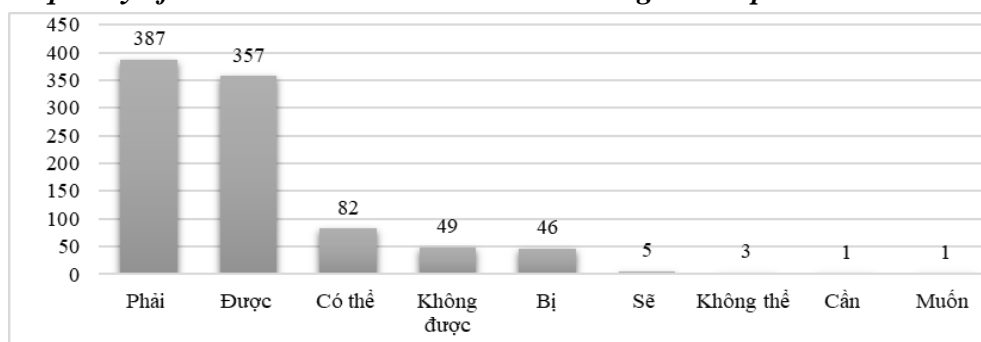
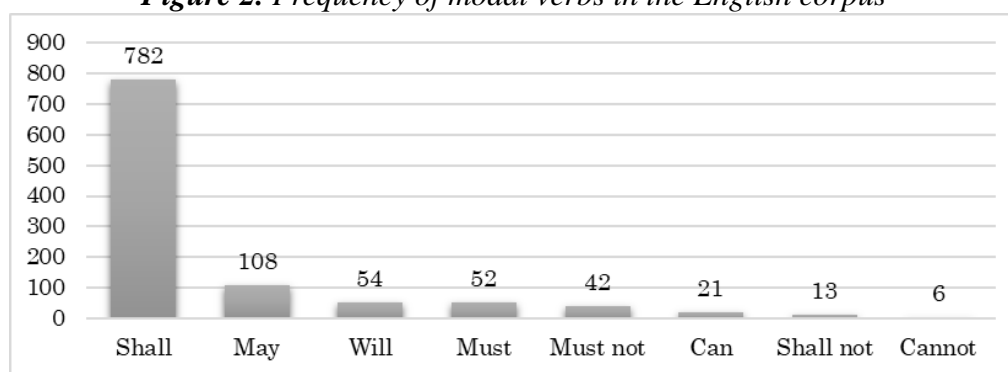


Figure 1. Frequency of modal verbs in the Vietnamese corpus

Figure 1 shows that *phải* is the most frequent modal verb in the Law on Enterprises (2020) with 387 tokens, highlighting its key role in expressing legal obligation. *Được* follows with 357 tokens, typically marking permission or entitlement. Together, these two items make up about 84.4% of all Vietnamese modal-verb tokens, indicating the dominance of deontic modality in legislative drafting. Other modals occur much less often, including *có thể* (82) and *bị* (46). Negative forms are relatively rare: *không được* (49) and *không thể* (3), suggesting a preference for affirmative wording to improve clarity and reduce ambiguity.

Figure 2 indicates that the English corpus contains 1,078 modal-verb tokens, slightly more than the Vietnamese corpus. *Shall* dominates with 782 occurrences (nearly 75%). Other modals are far less frequent: *may* (108), *will* (56), and *must* (52). Overall, modal verbs make up under 3% of total corpus tokens, so they represent a small share of the dataset.

Figure 2. Frequency of modal verbs in the English corpus



3.2. Translation Strategies for Rendering Vietnamese Modal Verbs in the Vietnamese Law on Enterprises

During the frequency analysis, we found that the translator did not apply a single, uniform strategy when rendering Vietnamese modal verbs into English. Rather, the choice

of English modal was contingent on the semantic and legal-pragmatic context of each occurrence, with the translator selecting the option judged most appropriate to achieve functional equivalence in the target text. Functional equivalence refers to the degree to which a translation reproduces the same legal function or effect as the source text, even if the wording or grammatical form is different. The translation results are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3. Strategies Used in Translating Vietnamese Modal Verbs into English

Vietnamese modal verbs	English renderings (n, %)
ĐƯỢC	Shall 165 (46.2%); May 27 (7.6%); Will 10 (2.8%); Must 35 (9.8%); Can 1 (0.3%); Non-modal 82 (23.0%)
BỊ	Shall 13 (28.3%); May 1 (2.2%); Will 2 (4.3%); Can 1 (2.2%); Non-modal 29 (63.0%)
PHẢI	Shall 336 (86.8%); Will 1 (0.3%); Must 5 (1.3%); Semi-modal (Has to) 3 (0.8%); Non-modal 42 (10.9%)
CÓ THỂ	Shall 3 (3.7%); May 47 (57.3%); Will 1 (1.2%); Can 14 (17.1%); Non-modal 17 (20.7%)
CẦN	Semi-modal (Have to) 1 (100.0%)
SẼ	Shall 2 (40.0%); Will 3 (60.0%)
KHÔNG THỂ	Cannot 1 (33.3%); Non-modal 2 (66.7%)

3.2.1. The modal verb *PHẢI* and translation strategies in the corpus

The modal verb *phải* is widely recognized in Vietnamese legal discourse as a marker of obligation, requirement, and command, imposing a legally binding duty on the subject. Of its 387 occurrences, *phải* is rendered as *shall* in 336 cases (86.8%). This predominant mapping accords with traditional English legislative drafting, in which *shall* conventionally signals legal obligation and compulsion. In the corpus, it is especially common in passive constructions and in general provisions expressed in an impersonal, declarative style.

Excerpt 1

VN: Khoản 5 Điều 150 “Biên bản họp Đại hội đồng cổ đông **phải** được gửi đến tất cả cổ đông trong thời hạn 15 ngày kể từ ngày kết thúc cuộc họp; việc gửi biên bản kiểm phiếu có thể thay thế bằng việc đăng tải lên trang thông tin điện tử của công ti.”

EN: Clause 5 Article 150 “The minutes of the GMS **shall** be sent to all shareholders within 15 days from the ending date of the meeting; the vote counting record may be uploaded to the company’s website.”

The phrase *shall be sent* in Excerpt 1 encodes a strongly binding obligation, whereas *may* in the second clause signals discretion. This contrast illustrates the translator’s strategic deployment of modality to distinguish mandatory requirements from permissible actions. By comparison, *must* occurs only *five* times (1.3%), suggesting that it was used sparingly and reserved for obligations construed as non-negotiable or particularly urgent.

Excerpt 2

VN: Điểm d Khoản 1 Điều 109 "Báo cáo và tóm tắt báo cáo tài chính giữa năm đã được kiểm toán bởi tổ chức kiểm toán độc lập; thời hạn công bố **phải** trước ngày 31 tháng 7 hằng năm; bao gồm cả báo cáo tài chính của công ti mẹ và báo cáo tài chính hợp nhất (nếu có);"

EN: Point d Clause 1 Article 109 "The mid-year financial statement audited by an independent audit organization and its summary (including the financial statement of the parent company and the consolidated financial statement (if any); these documents **must** be disclosed before July 31;"

In Excerpt 2, *must* highlights a statutory deadline that allows no discretion. Disclosing mid-year financial statements by a specified date is a strictly enforceable obligation, and non-compliance may trigger legal consequences. Choosing *must* rather than *shall* therefore strengthens the mandatory, time-sensitive force of the provision, which is especially appropriate for clauses on financial transparency and corporate accountability. It also suggests a preference for a more immediate expression of legal compulsion than *shall* typically conveys.

Although *shall* dominates the translation of *phải* in the Law on Enterprises (2020), renderings vary. Corpus data show 42 cases (10.9%) where *phải* is translated without an English modal, often via passives or declaratives with bare infinitives (e.g., *contain, submit, include*), avoiding redundancy while relying on legal context to convey obligation. The high rate of *shall* (86.8%) aligns with Anglo-American drafting practice, where it marks a binding duty (Cooper, 2011). *Must* appears only five times (1.3%) but signals non-negotiable obligations, typically in deadlines, preconditions, mandatory procedures, or disclosure requirements.

Excerpt 3

VN: Khoản 3 Điều 128: "Công ti cổ phần không phải là công ti đại chúng chào bán trái phiếu riêng lẻ **phải** đáp ứng các điều kiện sau đây:"

EN: Clause 3 Article 128: "A joint stock company that is not a public company **must** satisfy the following conditions to make private placement of bonds:"

In Excerpt 3, *must* sets mandatory legal thresholds a company must meet to issue private bonds, signalling strong coercive force where non-compliance may invalidate the act. Its selective use shows sensitivity to varying coercion across provisions, especially conditional rules on financial procedures, internal approvals, or disclosure. Alternating *shall, must,* and non-modal structures reflect an adaptive strategy balancing precision, variation, and appropriate coercive force.

3.2.2. The modal verb CÓ THỂ/ KHÔNG THỂ and translation strategies in the corpus

Drawing on the referenced literature, the Vietnamese modal expression *có thể* can be seen to have a dual function, operating as both an epistemic and a deontic modal. Bui (2004) likewise notes that *có thể* may express *possibility* (epistemic) as well

as *permission* (deontic). In the *Law on Enterprises* (2020), *có thể* occurs 82 times. The survey indicates that the translator predominantly renders *có thể* using English modal verbs, most often *may*, which appears 47 times in the English version.

Excerpt 4

VN: Khoản 3 Điều 95 “Ngoài trường hợp quy định tại Điều 94 của Luật này, Chủ tịch Hội đồng thành viên **có thể** bị miễn nhiệm, cách chức nếu không thực hiện quyền và nghĩa vụ quy định tại khoản 2 Điều này.”

EN: Clause 3 Article 95 “In addition to the cases specified in Article 94 of this Law, the President of the Board of Members **may** be dismissed or discharged if he/she fails to perform the rights and obligations specified in Clause 2 of this Article.”

In the clause cited in Excerpt 4, the phrase *có thể bị miễn nhiệm* is translated as *may be dismissed*, retaining the modal meaning of the source text. Here, *có thể bị miễn nhiệm* expresses the possibility of dismissal in the event of violations, and the use of *may* appropriately preserves the intended function of the provision.

Can is the second most frequent English modal used to render *có thể*, occurring 14 times after *may*. As To (2018) observes, “The English modal verb *can* is translated into Vietnamese in several different ways, and *có thể* is one of these ways...”

Excerpt 5

VN: Khoản 1 Điều 24 “Công ty cổ phần **có thể** chuyển đổi thành công ty trách nhiệm hữu hạn hai thành viên trở lên theo phương thức sau đây:”

EN: Clause 1 Article 24 “A joint stock company **can** be converted into a multiple-member limited liability:”

In Excerpt 5, the phrase *có thể chuyển đổi* is translated as *can be converted*, preserving the modal meaning of the source text. Here, *can* expresses not only possibility but also permission or legal entitlement; accordingly, the translation reflects the intent of the provision by presenting conversion as a lawful option available to the enterprise.

The survey also identified the modal expression *không thể* in the *Law on Enterprises* (2020). This modal signals an evaluation of ability and/or permission. It occurs *three* times in the statute, including one instance in which it was rendered by the modal verb *will* in English.

Excerpt 6

VN: Khoản 5 Điều 114 “Cổ phần phổ thông không thể chuyển đổi thành cổ phần ưu đãi. Cổ phần ưu đãi **có thể** chuyển đổi thành cổ phần phổ thông theo nghị quyết của Đại hội đồng cổ đông.”

EN: Clause 5, Article 114 “Ordinary shares cannot be converted into preference shares. preference shares **may** be converted into ordinary shares under a resolution of the GMS.”

In Clause 5, Article 114 of the 2020 *Law on Enterprises* (Excerpt 6), *không thể* conveys the impermissibility of converting ordinary shares into preference shares. Given the normative force of the provision, the use of *cannot* effectively communicates that the

action is not permitted.

The verb *có thể* (*can/may*) can express both deontic and epistemic modality. More specifically, Bui (2014) notes that *có thể* may indicate permission (deontic) and may also convey an epistemic meaning when it signals the likelihood of an event. Because of this dual function, *có thể* is frequently used in legal writing and shows relatively flexible usage.

Excerpt 7

VN: Khoản 4 Điều 57 “Thông báo mời họp Hội đồng thành viên **có thể gửi** bằng giấy mời, điện thoại, fax, phương tiện điện tử hoặc phương thức khác do Điều lệ công ti quy định và được gửi trực tiếp đến từng thành viên Hội đồng thành viên. [...]”

EN: Clause 4 Article 57 “Invitations to a meeting of the Board of Members **can** be sent physically, by phone, fax, electronically or by other methods prescribed by the company's charter to each member of the Board of Members. [...]”

The English equivalent of *có thể gửi* in Excerpt 7 is *can be sent*. As Thomson & Martinet (2015) state, *can* expresses ability or potential in addition to permission. Therefore, translating *có thể* as *can* is justified, maintaining both semantic equivalence and grammatical accuracy. Moreover, the passive voice in the English version preserves the appropriate clause structure because the grammatical subject is inanimate.

Excerpt 8

VN: Khoản 1 Điều 56 “Hội đồng thành viên bầu một thành viên làm Chủ tịch. Chủ tịch Hội đồng thành viên **có thể** kiêm Giám đốc hoặc Tổng giám đốc công ti.”

EN: Clause 1 Article 56 “The Board of Members shall elect a member as the President, who **may** concurrently hold the position of Director/General Director of the company.”

Excerpt 8 shows *có thể* expressing deontic permission for the Members' Council Chairman to concurrently hold another position (*có thể kiêm*). The translator renders this as *may* rather than *can*, aligning with Williams (2007) that *may* (and *shall*) is common for granting permission in affirmative legal contexts. The analysis emphasizes that *có thể* shifts meaning by context: it may signal possibility/potential or legal authorization. Alternating *can* and *may* helps English readers distinguish these functions while preserving the law's normative force. By contrast, *không thể* is translated as *cannot* to convey deontic impossibility/inability, as in Clause 5, Article 114, where conversion is legally not viable. Following Famina and Osminkin (2022), *cannot* negates possibility and signals inability, preserving legislative intent.

3.2.3. The modal verb *CẦN* and translation strategies in the corpus

In Vietnamese modal verbs, *cần* signals an assessment of *necessity*. Nguyen (2003) argues that this item conveys both *objective cognitive modality* and a *limited sense of responsibility*. In the *Law on Enterprises* (2020) and its English translation, *cần* occurs 45 times; however, only *one* instance functions as a modal verb and is translated as *have to* in the English version.

Excerpt 9

VN: Khoản 28 Điều 4 “Sản phẩm, dịch vụ công ích là sản phẩm, dịch vụ thiết yếu đối với đời sống kinh tế - xã hội của đất nước, địa phương hoặc cộng đồng dân cư mà Nhà nước **cần** bảo đảm vì lợi ích chung”

EN: Clause 28 Article 4 “Public products and services” are essential products and services of a country, area or community, thus **have to** be maintained by the State for assurance of common interests or defense and security, and the costs of provision of which under market mechanism are hardly recoverable.”

In Clause 28, Article 4 of the Law on Enterprises (2020) (Excerpt 9), *cần* co-occurs with *bảo đảm* to stress the State’s necessity and responsibility to guarantee public products and services for the common good. In this context, *cần* encodes strong moral, deontic obligation—something must be done to protect public interests. The translator renders *cần* as the semi-modal *have to*, which appropriately conveys this force in English. Drawing on Šolienė (2016), *have to* is largely used in deontic environments, and semi-modals can co-occur with central modals. Thus, *have to* preserves the provision’s intended legal meaning.

3.2.4. The modal verb MUỐN and translation strategies in the corpus

In Vietnamese grammar, the modal verb *muốn* belongs to the group of verbs expressing longing or desire, and it is commonly translated as *to want/to wish* in English. A review of the *Law on Enterprises (2020)* and its English translation identified three occurrences of *muốn*, with one instance functioning as a modal verb in the Vietnamese source text.

Excerpt 10

VN: Điểm a Khoản 4 Điều 53 “Người thừa kế **không muốn** trở thành thành viên”

EN: Point a Clause 4 Article 53 “The member’s heir **does not wish** to become a member”

In Point a, Clause 4, Article 53 of the *Law on Enterprises (2020)* (Excerpt 10), *muốn* is used as a modal verb preceded by the negator *không*, expressing the heir’s unwillingness. Reflecting this meaning, the translator chose the verb phrase *does not wish* to convey the intended sense.

3.2.5. The modal verb SẼ and translation strategies in the corpus

In Vietnamese linguistics, *sẽ* is viewed as a modal marker of future occurrence and, in some contexts, expected likelihood. In the corpus, *sẽ* appears 10 times: 5 instances are translated directly with English modal verbs, 3 are treated as unique cases, and 2 are rendered as the English modal *will*.

Excerpt 11

VN: Khoản 5 Điều 127 “Cổ đông có quyền tặng cho một phần hoặc toàn bộ cổ phần của mình tại công ti cho cá nhân, tổ chức khác; sử dụng cổ phần để trả nợ. Cá nhân, tổ chức được tặng cho hoặc nhận trả nợ bằng cổ phần sẽ trở thành cổ đông của công ti.”

EN: Clause 5, Article 127 “A shareholder may donate all or part of their shares to other organizations and individuals; use the shares to pay debts. The organization or individual that receives the donation or debt payment will become a shareholder of the company.”

In Excerpt 11, *sẽ* signals an event expected to occur in the future and also conveys a predictive, epistemic sense of likelihood (e.g., someone becoming a shareholder). The translator renders *sẽ* as *will*, which captures both the temporal prospectivity and the intended modal force. Using *will* keeps the propositional meaning intact, preserves the perceived likelihood in the Vietnamese source, and maintains semantic accuracy appropriate for legal drafting.

4. Conclusion

Modal verbs are central to legal translation because they encode deontic force that structures rights, duties, permissions, and prohibitions. This study systematizes strategies for translating Vietnamese modal items in the Law on Enterprises (2020). The Vietnamese corpus contains 931 modal occurrences (e.g., *phải*, *được*, *có thể*, *không được*, *bị*, *sẽ*, *không thể*, *cần*, *muốn*), while the English corpus has 1,078 modal verbs, though modals make up under 3% of all tokens. Vietnamese modal meanings are translated either with semantically corresponding English modals or with non-modal constructions, so long as legislative intent remains clear. *Phải* (387) is mainly rendered as *shall* (336; 86.8%), signalling binding obligation. *Có thể* (82) is largely translated modally, most often as *may* (47), reflecting permission. *Cần* (45) is rarely modal; one modal instance becomes *have to*. *Muốn* is typically lexical (*want/wish*). *Sẽ* appears as *will* twice. *Không thể* occurs three times but is modal once.

Several limitations should be acknowledged. The study is restricted by corpus size and text type, focusing on a single statute and its English version; accordingly, the quantitative patterns should be interpreted as suggestive rather than generalizable to other legal instruments, translators, or institutional drafting conventions. Moreover, because modality is highly context-sensitive, frequency-based analysis cannot fully capture pragmatic and interpretive nuances underlying translation choices. Despite these constraints, the findings offer an empirical baseline and a point of departure for future, larger-scale investigations into the translation of individual Vietnamese modal verbs in legal discourse.

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**CHIẾN LƯỢC DỊCH ĐỐI VỚI ĐỘNG TỪ TÌNH THÁI TIẾNG VIỆT SANG TIẾNG ANH
TRONG VĂN BẢN PHÁP LÍ: NGHIÊN CỨU TRƯỜNG HỢP****Phan Tuấn Ly*, Nguyễn Thị Vân Anh, Lê Mỹ Duyên***Trường Đại học Luật Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh, Việt Nam***Tác giả liên hệ: Phan Tuấn Ly – Email: phantuanly@gmail.com**Ngày nhận bài: 26-01-2026; Ngày nhận bài sửa: 23-02-2026; Ngày duyệt đăng: 25-3-2026***TÓM TẮT**

Bài viết nghiên cứu chiến lược dịch các động từ tình thái tiếng Việt sang tiếng Anh trong diễn ngôn lập pháp, qua trường hợp Luật Doanh nghiệp 2020. Tác giả xây dựng ngữ liệu song song gồm văn bản tiếng Việt (71.085 từ) và bản dịch Anh chính thức (48.513 từ), sau đó sử dụng phương pháp miêu tả và đối chiếu để xác định chức năng của các từ tình thái và cách hiện thực hóa trong tiếng Anh (như shall, may, must). Kết quả cho thấy “phải” xuất hiện 387 lần, chủ yếu biểu thị nghĩa vụ ràng buộc và được dịch chủ yếu là shall (336 lần; 86,8%). “Có thể” xuất hiện 82 lần, thường được chuyển bằng động từ tình thái, phổ biến nhất là may (47 lần). “Cần” có 45 lần nhưng chỉ 1 trường hợp mang nghĩa tình thái, dịch là have to. “Muốn” mang nghĩa mong muốn, thường dịch to want/to wish. Do chỉ khảo sát một văn bản, kết quả chỉ mang tính gợi ý cho trường hợp cụ thể.

Từ khóa: chiến lược dịch thuật; chuyển dịch động từ tình thái; diễn ngôn pháp lí; tình thái