

French Terms in Diplomacy at the International Level and Their Translations

Original Study

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Abstract: This study is devoted to the analysis and comparison of the use of French diplomatic terms at the international level, and in the context of Kyrgyz diplomacy. The research was carried out to identify the features of the use of these terms and their impact on the development and implementation of the country's foreign policy course. The study examined the concept of "diplomacy", key French diplomatic terms: "*ambassade*" (embassy), "*ambassadeur*" (ambassador), "*négociation*" (negotiations), "*accord bilatéral*" (bilateral agreement), "*mission diplomatique*" (diplomatic mission). A detailed analysis of their meanings and contexts of application at the international level, and their use in diplomatic documents and negotiations of Kyrgyzstan was carried out. In addition, the history of the use of the French language in diplomacy and its impact on international relations, and the history of the appearance of common French terms in diplomacy, was briefly described. Special attention was paid to how French terms have become part of Kyrgyzstan's diplomatic practice. The main results of the study showed that the use of French diplomatic terms significantly affects the effectiveness of international negotiations and the promotion of Kyrgyzstan's national interests. It was revealed that the terminology used in the country has both common and specific features in comparison with international practice. The study expanded the current understanding of the use and role of French diplomatic terms in international diplomacy, including in Kyrgyzstan. The practical significance of the results obtained lay in the possibility of using this knowledge to improve the training of specialists in the field of international relations and diplomacy in Kyrgyzstan, and to develop recommendations on the use of French terms in diplomatic practice.

Keywords: Political Discourse; Vocabulary; Borrowed Words; Political Speeches; Language of Negotiations

1. INTRODUCTION

Recent studies in diplomatic linguistics and translation have highlighted the growing importance of diplomatic terminology in international communication. Researchers

note that the use and interpretation of diplomatic terms significantly influence the effectiveness of diplomatic discourse and intercultural interaction between states (Yan 2024; Nguyen 2024; Musayev 2025). These studies

emphasize that accurate translation and contextual understanding of diplomatic terminology are essential for maintaining clarity and mutual understanding in international relations.

In the context of globalisation, the importance of international communication and the improvement of social forms of interaction between countries is increasing (Bazaluk 2017; Doszhan 2023). In parallel, there is a process of strengthening and improving the learning of foreign languages, which contributes to an increased interest in their development. French terms have long occupied an important place in international diplomacy. For centuries, France has played a leading role in international relations, which has led to the widespread use of the French language in diplomatic practice. French terms are also used in official documents and negotiations between countries, which highlights the importance of the French language in international diplomacy. However, modern diplomacy is faced with the problem of translating and interpreting these terms. In the context of globalisation and the increasing number of participants in international relations (where French is not the mother tongue), difficulties arise in understanding and correctly interpreting French diplomatic terms. An erroneous translation can lead to misunderstandings and diplomatic conflicts (Chukhanov, Kairbekov 2024; Bazaluk, Nezhyva 2016). Thus, the study of this topic becomes extremely relevant.

French terms in Kyrgyz politics play an important role in the establishment and maintenance of international relations, promoting cultural and linguistic exchange between the countries. France and Kyrgyzstan actively cooperate in various fields, such as economy, culture, and security. The interaction between the two countries is based on the use of French in diplomatic practice, which promotes deep understanding and cooperation. This cooperation provides an opportunity to strengthen political and economic ties between France and Kyrgyzstan, and improve the skills of diplomats and translators in both countries.

According to Dolatabadi (2022), French remains one of the key languages of international diplomacy due to its precision and its long-established role in diplomatic negotiations. In the field of diplomatic discourse and international communication, several important studies have examined how language functions within diplomatic institutions and political interaction (Li et al. 2021; Huang, Hardy 2021; Rachman et al. 2024; Schmidt 2024). These studies demonstrate that diplomatic language plays a significant role in shaping communication strategies and ensuring effective international negotiations. In particular, Schmidt (2024) analysed theoretical aspects of diplomatic discourse and translation challenges, emphasising that the accurate interpretation of diplomatic terminology is crucial for achieving successful international agreements.

Recent research in diplomatic linguistics and cross-cultural communication has increasingly focused on how diplomatic terminology functions across different

linguistic and cultural contexts. For example, Ndashimye et al. (2025) explored intercultural mediation discourse and analysed pragmatic strategies used in diplomatic and political communication. Their findings highlight the importance of linguistic accuracy and contextual interpretation in international negotiations. Similarly, Firmonasari et al. (2020) examined the practical foundations of French diplomatic communication, while Bowker (2020) analysed the development and usage of French terminology in international treaty documentation.

Historical and linguistic studies have also examined the role of the French language in shaping diplomatic vocabulary and international political discourse. Purevdorj (2020) investigated the contribution of the French diplomatic tradition to the development of modern diplomacy, confirming the historical influence of France on diplomatic institutions and practices. Soum-Paris (2021) analysed the formation of French diplomatic terminology and demonstrated how historical and cultural contexts influenced the development of vocabulary used in international relations.

At the same time, several studies have addressed translation challenges in diplomatic and political discourse. Sargsyan (2023) analysed the translation of French political terms in electoral speeches and showed that transferring rhetorical and semantic nuances between languages remains a complex task that often requires explanatory adaptation.

Despite the growing body of research on diplomatic language, translation, and political discourse, relatively limited attention has been given to the adaptation and functioning of French diplomatic terminology in specific national diplomatic contexts. In particular, the role of French diplomatic terms in the diplomatic practice of Kyrgyzstan has not been sufficiently examined in previous studies. Therefore, analysing how French diplomatic terminology is used, interpreted, and integrated into Kyrgyz diplomatic discourse contributes to the existing literature on diplomatic linguistics and intercultural communication.

The purpose of this study was to analyse French diplomatic terms and their translations. The purpose defined the following tasks: to review the main French diplomatic terms used in international relations; to identify the most commonly used terms, their contextual features and discrepancies in translations; to interpret French diplomatic terms in Kyrgyzstan. Based on the analysis, recommendations were proposed to improve the accuracy and understanding of translations of French diplomatic terms.

The study of diplomatic language is crucial for both language learners and anyone who want to be good at diplomatic communication. Knowing how to use French diplomatic terminology effectively can affect how well meetings go, how clear international treaties are, and how well foreign policy choices are carried out. This strategy helps diplomats communicate more effectively and facilitates collaboration on foreign relations policy by analyzing their language.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

In writing the research paper, relevant sources were identified, including international treaties, agreements, official speeches, diplomatic correspondence, and other documents using French terms: Agreement on Mutual Understanding, Friendship and Cooperation between the Kyrgyz Republic and the French Republic (Paris, June 3, 1994) (1994); agreement on mutual assistance and cooperation (Bilateral relations 2021); agreement on cooperation between the Department of Cinematography under the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic and the National Centre of Cinematography and Animation of France (The department of cinematography... 2024); agreement on investment protection and avoidance of double taxation (Kyrgyzstan has proposed... 2024). An analysis of historical documents was also carried out to clarify the evolution and meaning of French terms in diplomacy, how their meaning and usage changed over time and depending on the political situation (Guaad, Azenoud 2025). A systematic study of the content of diplomatic texts and documents revealed the frequency of use and contextual features of French terms (a classification of terms by categories and types was presented).

The selection of sources was based on their relevance to diplomatic linguistics and the use of French diplomatic terminology in international relations. The analysis included diplomatic documents, academic publications, and official materials related to diplomatic communication. A qualitative linguistic analysis was used to examine the meanings, contextual usage, and functional roles of French diplomatic terms in international and Kyrgyz diplomatic practice.

The analysis of the problems of translation and interpretation of diplomatic terms in various contexts and their comparison with their equivalents in English and Russian revealed the influence of cultural differences on the perception and interpretation of French terms in Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, Algeria, African countries (Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco) and Kyrgyzstan. The strategies and methods of translation used by the translator were considered. In addition, some political and diplomatic statements were mentioned to form a general idea of the translation process. At the end of the study, recommendations were developed for translators and diplomats on the correct and effective translation of French terms.

In the context of Kyrgyzstan, the use of French diplomatic terms was considered through the prism of speeches and official statements by Kyrgyz politicians to identify key concepts and agreements, to understand how French diplomatic terms were integrated into the diplomatic practice of Kyrgyzstan, contributing to effective interaction at the international level. Examples of the use of French terms in Kyrgyz diplomacy in the framework of bilateral meetings and international forums were considered: during official visits and meetings between representatives of Kyrgyzstan and France (the visit of the President of Kyrgyzstan to Paris) (The working visit...

2023); meetings with the French Ambassador in Bishkek (Abdyrazakova 2024); in joint statements and agreements signed between Kyrgyzstan and France, where the French terms "*coopération*" (cooperation) and "*accord*" (agreement) played an important role in the formulation of the terms and conditions of cooperation (declaration of intent on cooperation between the Ministries of Health (Signing of a Declaration... 2024); at international forums and conferences attended by representatives of Kyrgyzstan ("*sécurité*" (security), "*développement durable*" (sustainable development) and "*droits de l'homme*" (human rights)) (Speeches by the Minister... 2019; Speech of the Kyrgyz... 2022; France in the Kyrgyz Republic 2024).

When selecting this material, a purposive method was used, consisting in listening to oral messages in order to understand the stylistic and rhetorical techniques, and pauses used. The materials were collected according to the criterion of accessibility, that is, discourses that are freely available on the Internet were considered, especially those that corresponded to the purpose of the study. The data was obtained from written and oral presentations, for the analysis of both oral and written materials. The determination of the presence of elements of persuasion in the selected discourses, considering their rhetorical and stylistic content, and their impact on the audience, was achieved through the analysis of reliable data and subjective opinions.

During the translation of selected speeches, attention was focused on all aspects and methods of translation. The main focus was on translation related to the structure, style of speech, and storytelling capabilities. Translations of terms were accompanied by comments and substantiations, using comparative and communicative methods.

3. RESULTS

3.1. HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF FRENCH DIPLOMATIC TERMS

Diplomacy is the art and practice of managing international relations through negotiations between representatives of states. The main purpose of diplomacy is to maintain peace and stability, prevent conflicts, and achieve mutual understanding between countries. Diplomacy includes several aspects that emphasise its importance in maintaining international order and solving global problems: negotiations; diplomatic missions; diplomatic documents; protocols and etiquette; diplomatic relations. Diplomats often act as mediators and consultants in international conflicts, contributing to the settlement of disputes and the search for compromises. Diplomacy has existed since ancient times, when states sent their representatives to negotiate and form alliances. Examples of ancient diplomatic missions can be found in the civilisations of Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Greece (Abu Jaber 2024).

In the 14th-15th century, when Latin still dominated diplomatic negotiations, French gradually began to be used in diplomatic correspondence and treaties, it was a

symbol of elegance and sophistication, and its use in diplomacy emphasised high status and cultural superiority. One of the first known documents in French was a treaty between the King of Navarre Charles II and King Edward III of England, dated 1351. In the 16th century, France became a major European power, and its cultural and political influence grew. At this time, French was actively used in diplomatic circles and was finally beginning to replace Latin. In the Middle Ages, diplomats were involved in arranging marriages between royal families, creating alliances, and regulating trade relations (Bokonbayeva, Boldzhurova 2024). Diplomatic missions have become more formal, and the first permanent embassies have appeared. The Peace Treaty of Westphalia, signed in 1648, was one of the first major international documents drafted in French. This treaty ended the Thirty Years' War and consolidated the use of the French language in diplomacy. In the 17th and 18th centuries, France became a major player in the political arena of Europe, which also contributed to the spread of the French language in diplomatic circles. Since 1714, the growing prestige of France and its cultural influence have made French the main language of diplomacy, in which diplomatic documents were drawn up, international treaties were negotiated and concluded (Han 2020; Papa et al. 2025).

French remained the main language of diplomacy throughout the 19th century. Even with the growing influence of England and Germany, it continued to be used in diplomatic circles, which testified to its importance and prestige. After the First World War and the Treaty of Versailles, the French language continued to play an important role in international relations. However, in the middle of the century, English began to displace French as the main language of diplomacy, especially after the Second World War. In the 20th century, despite the dominance of English in international relations, French continues to be used in diplomacy (Han 2020).

Modern diplomacy is characterised by a wide use of technology, openness, and transparency (Azhimov et al. 2026; Aliyeva 2025). The French language was marked by the creation of international organisations such as the European Union (EU), the League of Nations and the United Nations Organisation (UN), which contributed to the development of multilateral diplomacy and the strengthening of international law. French diplomatic terms continue to be used in official documents, negotiations, and agreements. French is one of the six official languages of the United Nations, so many resolutions, reports, and official documents are published in French, and meetings and discussions. French is the official language of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) along with English. All important documents and announcements are made in French. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) plays a key role in shaping global diplomatic policy.

French, due to its structure and rich vocabulary, allows precise and clear formulation of diplomatic documents and agreements. The use of French terms highlights the cultural heritage and traditions of diplomacy,

reflects a high culture of communication and respect for historical norms. French terms, as part of the international language of diplomacy, promote effective interaction and mutual understanding between countries and international organisations. At international diplomatic conferences, agreements, in official documents and speeches, French terms such as: "*développement durable*" (sustainable development), "*changement climatique*" (climate change), "*coopération internationale*" (international cooperation), "*accord commercial*" (trade agreement), "*partenariat*" (partnership), "*investissements étrangers*" (foreign investments) are actively used to discuss key issues.

Next, the study considers the history of the appearance and evolution of common French terms in diplomacy by period:

1. The Old French period (9th-13th centuries). It is characteristic that during this period some Old French diplomatic terms began to form. These were terms related to the royal court and public administration, such as "*ambassade*" (embassy) and "*accord*" (agreement).
2. The Middle French period (14th-15th centuries). During the Hundred Years' War between Britain and France, many diplomatic documents were written in French. New terms have appeared: "*traité*" (treaty) and "*négociation*" (negotiations).
3. The New French period (16th-18th centuries). By this time, French had become the main language of diplomacy. New terms such as "*diplomatie*" (diplomacy), "*ambassadeur*" (ambassador), and "*republique*" (republic) were actively used in international relations.
4. The modern period. Modern diplomatic terms include words such as "*coopération*" (cooperation), "*sécurité*" (security), "*développement durable*" (sustainable development) and "*droits de l'homme*" (human rights) (Purevdorj, 2020).

The classification in Table 1 represents French terms in diplomacy.

This classification provides an overall picture, it is important to keep in mind that context always plays a key role in determining the meaning of a term.

3.2. FRENCH DIPLOMATIC TERMS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. TRANSLATION STRATEGIES AND DIFFICULTIES

French diplomatic terms contribute to accuracy and clarity in diplomatic communication, support the traditions and culture of the French language, ensure mutual cooperation in the international arena, and their use has common features in application (Table 2).

French political terms often reflect the cultural and historical heritage of France, characterised by elegance and formality, which shows the traditions of the French language and diplomatic protocol. They may contain elements that are unique to the French political system and history. For example, the term "*laïcité*" (secularism) is unique to the French political system and denotes the principle of strict separation of church and state, or, for

Table 1. Classification of French diplomatic terms.

Category	Application	Examples and their translation
<i>Political terms</i>	Terms related to political institutions and positions	" <i>président</i> " (president), " <i>ministre</i> " (minister), " <i>mission diplomatique</i> " (diplomatic mission)
	Terms related to public administration and structures	" <i>république</i> " (republic), " <i>démocratie</i> " (democracy)
<i>Historical terms</i>	Terms have Latin and Greek roots and denote important economic, political, and social concepts.	" <i>charge d'affaires</i> " (chargeable pro tempore), " <i>traité de paix</i> " (peace treaty), " <i>convention</i> " (convention)
<i>Economic terms</i>	Terms related to economic and financial issues	" <i>économie</i> " (economics), " <i>commerce</i> " (trade)
	Terms related to international financial institutions and agreements	<i>Banque mondiale</i> (World Bank), " <i>accords commerciaux</i> " (trade agreements)
<i>Legal terms</i>	Terms related to international law and treaties	" <i>traité</i> " (treaty) " <i>accord international</i> " (international agreement)
	Terms related to human rights and humanitarian law	" <i>droits de l'homme</i> " (human rights), " <i>droit humanitaire</i> " (humanitarian law)
<i>Social and cultural terms</i>	Terms related to social issues and cultural exchange	" <i>culture</i> " (culture), " <i>coopération internationale</i> " (international cooperation)
	Terms related to education, science, and technology	" <i>éducation</i> " (education), " <i>technologie</i> " (technology)
<i>Military and defence terms</i>	Terms related to defence and security issues	" <i>sécurité</i> " (security), " <i>défense</i> " (defence)
	Terms related to international military cooperation and alliances	" <i>OTAN – Organisation du traité de l'Atlantique nord</i> " (NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organisation), " <i>forces armées</i> " (armed forces)
<i>Interdisciplinary terms</i>	Terms that reflect the influence of other disciplines on the French language, such as geography, physics, computer science and biology, and culture.	" <i>technologie</i> " (technology), " <i>culture</i> " (culture), " <i>coopération</i> " (cooperation), " <i>solidarité</i> " (solidarity)
<i>General cultural terms</i>	Terms that carry moral ideas and define the logic of behaviour in the diplomatic process.	" <i>institut français</i> " (French institute), " <i>éducation diplomatique</i> " (diplomatic education), " <i>diplomatie culturelle</i> " (cultural diplomacy)
<i>Environmental terms</i>	Terms related to environmental protection and sustainable development	" <i>environnement</i> " (environment) " <i>développement durable</i> " (sustainable development)
	Terms related to international environmental agreements	" <i>accords environnementaux</i> " (environmental agreements), " <i>changement climatique</i> " (climate change)
<i>Anthropogenic terms</i>	Terms created at the level of text or discourse and associated with strategies and tactics of speech communication.	" <i>Négociation</i> " (negotiations), " <i>médiation</i> " (mediation), " <i>arbitrage</i> " (arbitration)

Source. Compiled by the authors based on Abu Jaber (2024).

example, the terms "*éloquence*" (eloquence) and "*souveraineté*" (sovereignty) are used to denote important concepts in political speeches and documents. Studying and understanding them helps to avoid misunderstandings and strengthens mutual understanding between countries. French diplomatic terms are the standard in international negotiations and official documents. French terms are used at all levels of diplomatic activity. Below are a number of countries that use French diplomatic terms internationally.

French is one of the two official languages of Canada, especially in the province of Quebec. In the provinces of Canada, French is the main language of diplomacy, and

French terms are used in all official documents and negotiation processes. Canadian diplomats actively use French terms in international negotiations and official documents, in Canadian international relations, and in communication with French-speaking countries. For example, terms such as "*réunion*" (meeting), "*négociation*" (negotiations), "*traité*" (treaty), "*diplomatie*" (diplomacy), "*consulat*" (consulate), "*mandat*" (mandate), "*Alliance*" (Alliance) are used.

Belgium is a country with three official languages, including French. French is used in diplomatic circles and government institutions. Flexibility and the ability to adapt to different language situations are important

Table 2. Common features in the application of French political terms in international practice.

Feature	Description
<i>Historical legacy</i>	Many French political terms have their roots in the era of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars. For example, concepts such as " <i>libéralisme</i> " (liberalism), " <i>conservatisme</i> " (conservatism), and " <i>républicanisme</i> " (republicanism) were originally formulated by French philosophers and politicians.
<i>Versatility</i>	French political terms are used all over the world, especially in countries where French is the official or widely spoken language. The terms " <i>démocratie</i> " (democracy), " <i>république</i> " (republic), " <i>diplomatie</i> " (diplomacy) and " <i>sécurité</i> " (security) are recognised and understood in international practice, have similar forms and meanings in different languages, which contributes to their understanding at the international level.
<i>Legal accuracy</i>	French and international terms often have a high degree of legal precision and are used in official documents, treaties, and agreements. This helps to ensure clarity and understanding in international relations. Examples: " <i>traité</i> " (treaty) is used in both French and international diplomacy, and has a clear legal definition, " <i>détente</i> " (defusing international tension), " <i>rapprochement</i> " (rapprochement, improvement of relations), " <i>Quatrième République</i> " (Fourth Republic), " <i>Cinquième République</i> " (Fifth Republic (the current political regime in France)), " <i>Gaullisme</i> " (Gaullism (the ideology of Charles de Gaulle)).
<i>Influence on other languages</i>	French political terms are widely used in other languages, especially in European ones. Many words and expressions related to politics are of French origin: " <i>bureaucratie</i> " (bureaucracy), " <i>débats</i> " (debates)
<i>Evolution and adaptation</i>	Both French and international political terminology are evolving and adapting to changes in the political, social, and technological environment. New terms appear and are integrated into official documents and negotiations. The term " <i>développement durable</i> " (sustainable development) has been integrated into international practice and is used in many languages to denote concepts related to sustainable development and environmental responsibility.

Source. Compiled by the authors based on Hamann (2021).

qualities of Belgian diplomats. Belgian diplomats use the terms "*ambassadeur*" (ambassador), "*république*" (republic), "*sécurité*" (security).

French is one of the official languages of Switzerland. French terms are often used in international relations and diplomatic meetings, especially in Geneva's political circles. Examples of terms: "*Le Département fédéral des affaires étrangères*" (Federal Department of Foreign Affairs), "*Un traité bilatéral entre la Suisse et la France*" (Bilateral Treaty between Switzerland and France), "*Une conférence diplomatique à Genève*" (Diplomatic Conference in Geneva).

These countries often borrow and use French terms in their political practices. In African countries such as Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, and Morocco, French political terms are widely used in official documents and negotiations. French terms occupy an important place in the formulation of official statements and treaties. Algeria is a former French colony where the French language retains a significant influence. Algerian diplomats use the terms "*accord bilatéral*" (bilateral agreement), "*coopération économique*" (economic cooperation), "*développement durable*" (sustainable development). Morocco is also a former French colony, and French is widely used in diplomatic and government practice. In Morocco, "*accord*" (agreement, contract), "*ambassadeur*"

(ambassador), "*Chargé d'affaires*" (chargeable pro tempore), "*protocole*" (protocol, rules of etiquette), "*partenariat*" (partnership), "*échange culturel*" (cultural exchange), "*politique étrangère*" (foreign policy) are used (Guaad, Azennoud 2025).

It is worth noting the role and influence of French diplomatic terms on the effectiveness of negotiations, as their use can significantly enhance it. The French language allows diplomats to formulate their thoughts and negotiated terms precisely and concretely (Toktalieva and Tokobaeva 2024; Sabirova et al. 2025). Cultural differences can influence the perception and interpretation of diplomatic terms. Therefore, it is important to consider cultural features and context in the translation and use of terms to avoid misunderstandings and conflicts. The same term can have different meanings and connotations depending on the cultural context. Translators should be attentive to these differences and adapt the terms according to the cultural characteristics of the target audience. For example, the aforementioned term "*laïcité*" (secularism) has a deep meaning in France, but in some countries it may be more difficult to convey all its cultural connotations. Or the term "*negociation*" may refer to different styles and approaches to negotiation in different cultures.

Table 3. Translation strategies.

Strategy	Description
<i>Modulation</i>	Technique of changing the opinion or viewpoint when translating a term to preserve the meaning and meaning of the original. For example: the term " <i>securité intérieure</i> " can be translated into Russian as "внутренняя безопасность" ("internal security") instead of the literal translation "security inside".
<i>Equivalence</i>	Strategy for searching for a similar expression or term in the target language that conveys the same meaning as the original. For example: " <i>coopération internationale</i> " translates into Russian as "международное сотрудничество" ("international cooperation").
<i>Calque</i>	Literal translation of a term that preserves the structure of the original, but uses the vocabulary of the target language. For example: " <i>diplomatie culturelle</i> " (translated as cultural diplomacy).
<i>Borrowing</i>	Using the original term without translation, especially if it is already accepted in the target language. For example: the term " <i>diplomatie</i> " can be used in Russian without translation as "дипломатия" ("diplomacy").
<i>Adaptation</i>	Transformation of terms, considering the cultural differences between the source and target languages.
<i>Addendum</i>	Include additional information in the translation to ensure clarity and understanding. For example: the term " <i>négociation</i> " (negotiation process) has been translated to emphasise the procedural side.
<i>Omission</i>	Exclusion of irrelevant information or a term that has no equivalent in the target language. For example, when translating the French term " <i>pacte de non-aggression</i> ", the word " <i>pacte</i> " can be omitted and translated as "non-aggression pact".

Source. Compiled by the authors based on Hamann (2021).

Historical events and relations between countries can influence the perception and interpretation of terms. Translators should be sensitive to the historical context and use terms with care. An example of this is the term "*coopération*" (cooperation), which can have positive connotations in one country and neutral or even negative ones in another, depending on the historical experience of cooperation. Terms often help to avoid misunderstandings and ambiguities, making negotiations more productive. Using, for example, "*accord*" (agreement) and "*négociation*" (negotiation), allows formulating the terms and conditions precisely and concretely, which helps to achieve mutual understanding, avoid misunderstandings and ambiguities. The use of French terms by diplomats shows respect for cultural and historical ties with France and the strengthening of trusting relations between the two countries. The terms "*coopération*" (cooperation) and "*solidarité*" (solidarity) demonstrate respect and understanding of cultural traditions, radically smooth communication, increase the prestige and authority of the country in international relations, "*diplomatie*" (diplomacy) and "*sécurité*" (security) emphasise the professionalism and competence of diplomats, which positively affects the perception of the country in the international arena. These aspects give an idea of the importance and significance of the French language in international diplomatic practice.

When translating French diplomatic terms, translators use various strategies and methods to ensure the correctness and adequacy of the translation, and to preserve semantic and cultural nuances (Table 3). The use of these translation functions allows translators to adapt French diplomatic terms to the specific cultural and linguistic contexts of their target audiences.

Among the translation methods used by translators are: literal translation – word-for-word translation while preserving the structure of the original ("*coopération économique*" (economic cooperation)); free translation – preserving the general meaning and context, but with a possible change in the structure and form of the original for better understanding ("*sécurité nationale*" (national security)); description is an explanation of the term with an explanation of the context when there is no direct equivalent in the target language ("*coup d'état*"); transliteration is the transfer of the term using the alphabet of the target language ("*détente*" (detente)).

However, the translation and interpretation of diplomatic terms face a number of difficulties and challenges, especially when it comes to different languages and cultural contexts. One of them has a variety of meanings. Diplomatic terms can have different meanings depending on the context and cultural environment (Ilieva 2024). For example: "*sécurité*" (security) can mean both guard and national security. And translated from French to English, this term can be interpreted as "security" or "safety", depending on the context. Structural differences between languages also seem to be a problem – different languages have different grammatical and syntactic structures. The term "*coopération bilatérale*" (bilateral cooperation) requires reformulation when translated into languages such as Chinese, but with a different syntactic structure. The way French diplomatic words are translated in Kyrgyzstan depends on the language situation there, where both Kyrgyz and Russian are often used in official communication. Some French diplomatic terms don't have direct equivalents in these languages, which makes it challenging for translators. In these situations, the meaning of the words needs to be clarified through

Table 4. Key French diplomatic terms, their meaning and application in practice in Kyrgyzstan.

Term	Meaning	Practical application
" <i>Accord</i> " (agreement)	Agreement is an official documented agreement between two or more parties that sets out rules, conditions, and obligations related to a specific topic. These are trade agreements, cooperation agreements, and mutual assistance agreements.	In 2024, Kyrgyzstan and France signed an agreement on investment protection and avoidance of double taxation (Kyrgyzstan has proposed..., 2024); cooperation agreement between the Department of Cinematography under the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic and the National Centre of Cinematography and Animation of France (The department of cinematography..., 2024). According to this agreement, cooperation is envisaged in such areas as support for the audiovisual industry, transfer of expertise, training and retraining of specialists and cinematographers, and joint production of films. The use of the term " <i>accord</i> " emphasises the formality and legal binding nature of the document.
" <i>Ambassade</i> " (embassy)	Embassy is an official representative office of one state on the territory of another, which is engaged in diplomatic and consular affairs, and protecting the interests of its citizens abroad.	The French Embassy in Bishkek is actively working to strengthen bilateral relations, organises cultural events and supports French citizens in Kyrgyzstan. The presence of an embassy promotes the establishment of strong diplomatic ties and cultural exchange, and ensures the protection of the rights and interests of citizens abroad.
" <i>Diplomatie</i> " (diplomacy)	Diplomacy is the practice of managing international relations through negotiations, which includes concluding treaties, conducting negotiations, and participating in international organisations.	Kyrgyzstan's diplomatic activities are aimed at maintaining peaceful relations with neighbouring countries and actively participating in international organisations such as the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). The use of diplomatic methods contributes to the achievement of mutual understanding and conflict resolution, increasing stability and security in the region.
" <i>Coopération</i> " (cooperation)	Cooperation is the joint efforts and actions of two or more parties to achieve common goals, share knowledge, resources, technological advances and experience.	Cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and France in the field of healthcare includes the exchange of medical experience, joint research and training of medical personnel. The term " <i>coopération</i> " emphasises the importance of joint efforts and mutually beneficial exchange.
" <i>Négociation</i> " (negotiations)	Negotiations are the process of communication and discussions between representatives of states or organisations to reach agreements and resolve conflicts.	Negotiations on trade issues between Kyrgyzstan and the EU are conducted in French, which facilitates mutual understanding and reaching agreements. The use of the term " <i>négociation</i> " emphasises the formal process of exchanging opinions and arguments to reach compromises and resolve contentious issues.
" <i>Traité</i> " (treaty)	Treaty is an official agreement between states that has legal force and regulates various aspects of international relations, such as trade, security, and cultural cooperation.	The Agreement on Mutual Assistance and Cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and France strengthens bilateral relations and promotes the development of various areas of cooperation. The term " <i>traité</i> " emphasises the legal obligation and significance of the document, which helps to strengthen trust and fulfil obligations by the parties.
" <i>Sécurité</i> " (security)	Security is a state of security from external and internal threats, which is achieved through joint efforts and cooperation between states and organisations.	Joint border security measures between Kyrgyzstan and neighbouring countries include information exchange and coordination of actions. The use of the term " <i>securité</i> " means the importance of joint efforts to ensure stability and security, which contributes to the prevention of conflicts and threats.

Table 4. (Continued)

Term	Meaning	Practical application
"Développement durable" (sustainable development)	Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present people without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. This includes environmental responsibility, economic development, and social well-being.	Joint projects of Kyrgyzstan and France on the development of renewable energy sources and environmental protection are aimed at achieving sustainable development. This highlights the importance of long-term goals and environmental responsibility, which contributes to creating a sustainable and prosperous future.

Source. Compiled by the author based on Bilateral relations (2021).

the situation or changed to reflect the way diplomats talk in that area.

When compared with equivalents in other languages, there is a similar term in most languages. For example:

- the term "*accord*" (agreement) in most languages has a similar term, but cultural and legal features may affect its interpretation and application (in English, "agreement", in Russian, "соглашение");
- the term "*ambassade*" has similar meanings in many languages, but the functions and status of an embassy may vary depending on the country and culture (in English, "embassy", in Russian, "посольство");
- the term "*diplomacy*" is widely used and recognised in many languages, which facilitates its use in international contexts (in English, "diplomacy", in Russian with a similar sound, "дипломатия");
- the term "*coopération*" has similar meanings, but cultural differences can affect the perception of the level and type of cooperation (in English, "cooperation", in Russian, "сотрудничество");
- the term "*négociation*" has similar meanings, but cultural differences can affect the perception of the negotiation process and the manner in which they are conducted (in English, "negotiation", in Russian, "переговоры");
- the term "*traité*" (treaty) has a legally binding meaning in all languages, however, legal systems and ratification procedures may differ (in English, "treaty" in Russian, "договор");
- the term "*securité*" (security) can have several meanings depending on the context, which requires care when translating (in English "security/safety", in Russian "безопасность");
- The term "*développement durable*" is an internationally recognised concept, but cultural and economic differences can influence interpretation and application (in English, "sustainable development", in Russian, "устойчивое развитие").

3.3. FRENCH DIPLOMATIC TERMS IN KYRGYZ DIPLOMACY

The transformation of French diplomatic terms in Kyrgyz discourse is a multi-faceted process driven by historical, political, and cultural factors. Kyrgyzstan was

for a long time part of the Russian Empire and then the Soviet Union. This has led to the dominance of the Russian language in the diplomatic sphere. After gaining independence in 1991, Kyrgyzstan began actively developing international relations, including with France. In February 1992, France established diplomatic relations with Kyrgyzstan. This event became a key moment that laid the foundation for future cooperation and interaction between the two countries, and led to the need to adapt French diplomatic terms to the Kyrgyz language. In June 1994, Kyrgyzstan and France signed the Agreement on Mutual Understanding, Friendship and Cooperation between the Kyrgyz Republic and the French Republic (Paris, June 3, 1994) (1994). This agreement was an important step towards strengthening bilateral relations. French diplomatic terms were used in the text of the treaty, which facilitated their integration into the official diplomatic language of Kyrgyzstan.

The transformation of French diplomatic terms takes place in the context of the development of Kyrgyz statehood and the development of national identity. Translators and linguists who develop glossaries and dictionaries of diplomatic terms play an important role. When translating French diplomatic terms into Kyrgyz, difficulties arise due to differences in language systems. Calques and transliteration are often used, but terms are also adapted to consider the specific features of the Kyrgyz language. It is important to consider the cultural features of Kyrgyzstan in order to avoid misunderstandings and distortions of meaning. The development of relations between Kyrgyzstan and France contributes to a deeper understanding and adaptation of French diplomatic terms.

With the development of information technology and the Internet, French diplomatic terms are actively being disseminated and adapted into Kyrgyz discourse. An important role is played by the mass media, which use and popularise diplomatic terms (Nazarbetova et al. 2016; Toktarbekova et al. 2025). It is also worth noting that Kyrgyzstan is striving for a multi-vector foreign policy, which contributes to increasing contacts with France, and as a result, to deepening the penetration of French diplomatic terms into Kyrgyz discourse.

The terms used in Kyrgyz politics, in comparison with international practice, demonstrate common (international understanding) and specific features (conveying the unique cultural and historical aspects of the country). Common features: universal diplomatic terms (widely used and recognised in international diplomacy); institutional terms (related to institutions and structures of state power); legal terms (generally accepted in international practice). Specific features: cultural and historical features (reflect unique aspects of national culture, traditions, and history); linguistic adaptation (some international terms are adapted to the local context and have national specifics in spelling and pronunciation, but may cause difficulties in international communications); regional terms: (some terms used in Kyrgyz politics are specific for the Central Asian region and may have no analogues in other parts of the world).

French diplomatic terms have become widely used in official documents and negotiations between Kyrgyzstan and France. In 2004, a French diplomatic mission was opened in Bishkek, which was transformed into an embassy in 2009. The embassy became the centre of French diplomatic activity in Kyrgyzstan and contributed to the dissemination of the French language and terms in the country's diplomatic practice. The Alliance Française, an organisation dedicated to the dissemination of the French language and culture, is active in Bishkek. Alliance Française organises French language courses, cultural events, and educational programmes. This contributes to an increase in the number of people who speak French and the use of French terms in various fields, including diplomacy (Bilateral relations 2021). Examples of such terms help to accurately and clearly formulate the terms and conditions of agreements, which contributes to more effective interaction in the international arena, and play an important role in shaping and strengthening international relations (Table 4).

These terms contribute to cultural enrichment, emphasise the importance of cultural heritage and multilingualism in international relations, which allows Kyrgyzstan to interact with the international community. In general, the transformation of French diplomatic terms in Kyrgyz discourse is an ongoing process that reflects the development of Kyrgyzstan's international relations and its desire to integrate into the global community.

During official visits and meetings between representatives of Kyrgyzstan and France, French diplomatic terms are often used to denote key concepts and agreements. For example, during the visit of Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev to Paris in 2015, the terms *"coopération"* (cooperation), *"partenariat"* (partnership), *"accord bilatéral"* (bilateral agreement) (Kyrgyzstan are French ... 2018) were prominent in the official speech. For example, an excerpt from a speech by Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov at an international conference in Bishkek in 2022 with French President Emmanuel Macron: *"...Nous devons renforcer nos relations bilatérales et multilatérales pour assurer la stabilité et la prospérité de notre pays. La coopération avec nos partenaires internationaux est*

essentielle pour le développement économique et social de la Kirghizistan. Nous sommes prêts à travailler ensemble pour atteindre nos objectifs communs et renforcer les liens culturels et économiques entre nos peuples..." ("... We must strengthen our relations to ensure stability and prosperity for our country. Cooperation with our international partners is crucial for the economic and social development of Kyrgyzstan. We are ready to work together to achieve our common goals and strengthen cultural and economic ties between our peoples..." (Speech of the Kyrgyz... 2022).

In October 2024, the French Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan signed a declaration of intent with the Minister of Health of Kyrgyzstan regarding cooperation between the ministries of health, which uses the terms *"coopération"* (cooperation), *"santé publique"* (public health), *"échange d'expertise"* (exchange of experience) (Signing of a Declaration ... 2024).

At international forums and conferences attended by representatives of Kyrgyzstan, French terms complement key themes and issues (*"développement durable"* (sustainable development), *"environnement"* (environment) and *"changement climatique"* (climate change), *"droits de l'homme"* (human rights)). For example, the speech in New York by the head of the Kyrgyz Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the UN General Assembly, where he emphasised Kyrgyzstan's success in building a parliamentary system and developing civil society and noted that the country is actively working to address socio-economic issues such as unemployment, education, health, and infrastructure (Speeches by the Minister... 2019).

During bilateral and multilateral negotiations, French terms complement discussions and agreements on various aspects of cooperation (*"commerce"* (trade), *"investissements"* (investment) and *"accord commercial"* (trade agreement)). In the context of educational and cultural programmes organised by Kyrgyzstan and France within the framework of student and teacher exchange programmes (*"éducation"* (education), *"programme d'échange"* (exchange programme) and *"coopération culturelle"* (cultural cooperation)) (France in the Kyrgyz Republic 2024).

These examples demonstrate how French diplomatic terms are integrated into Kyrgyzstan's diplomatic practice and help to convey key concepts and agreements. With their help, diplomats accurately and clearly formulate the goals and objectives of cooperation, avoiding misunderstandings and translation errors, which contributes to effective communication and interaction between participants, especially in the context of multilingual events. The use of generally accepted French terms ensures accuracy and mutual understanding when discussing complex issues, promotes the development of education and culture in both countries and strengthens international relations.

4. DISCUSSION

The results of this study give an idea of what French diplomatic terms are in international politics, and also

show that the use of French diplomatic terms in the diplomatic practice of Kyrgyzstan and other countries has many advantages. Firstly, French diplomatic terms help to avoid misunderstandings and ambiguities, which contributes to more accurate and clear communication between countries. This is especially important in the context of international negotiations, where every detail matters. Secondly, the use of French diplomatic terms helps to achieve mutual understanding and strengthen ties between the countries. These terms often have recognised meanings, which facilitates their use in official documents and negotiations. In addition, French diplomatic terms emphasise the professionalism of diplomats and politicians. Their use demonstrates a high level of education and cultural awareness, positively affecting the perception of the country in the international arena.

The outcomes of diplomatic discourse in general are closely connected to the study of French diplomatic language. Choosing and interpreting specific words might make it harder for people to understand what is being said during talks and change the way diplomats talk to each other. This is how diplomatic vocabulary not only makes communication clearer, but also helps to develop professional authority and identity in international diplomatic discourse.

Translators should consider the context, cultural features, and nuances of the meanings of terms to avoid misunderstandings and ambiguities. Research by Noruzi (2023), Fofana (2024), Dang (2024), Ekwere (2024), Santarelli (2025) showed that French diplomatic terms should be interpreted in such a way that they retain their meaning and connotations in the target language, considering cultural and contextual differences. Similar to the study by Zou and Zhu (2023), the present results show that diplomatic language acts form a kind of national image, contribute to the regulation of international relations, and ensure global harmony.

The rapid growth of the cultural base in modern international diplomatic relations, scientific curiosity about the French political model of language, and the value of practical and theoretical perspectives have predetermined the topics for many scientific studies. It is worth referring to the opinion of Labbé and Savoy (2021), who noted that the influence of Latin and French is evident in the fact that Latin served as the basis for French. The results of research indicate that the study of the history of the development of French vocabulary in the field of international relations shows changes in the word formation system in a certain historical period and has left a significant mark on the terminology of this field. The influence does not have the boundaries of a single language, since in a certain historical period terms were created in the French vocabulary of international relations, which later became international. Cumbane (2021) argued that French became the international language of diplomacy long before the traditionally accepted time, and the first document drawn up in French was the treaty between King Edward III of England and King Charles II

of Navarre, the Evil, dated August 1, 1351. This fact was mentioned in the current study.

The present results coincide with the conclusions of a number of other studies that emphasise the importance of multilingualism and cultural exchange in international diplomacy. Mulcahy (2017) showed that the use of French diplomatic terms helps to strengthen international relations and increase the level of mutual understanding between countries. The researcher points out that the essence of French cultural diplomacy remains unchanged along with military, political, and economic power. The “soft power” of politics that has to do with lifestyle and cultural inventiveness has become a major tool for creating French diplomacy in the world. The fact that French diplomatic words are still used further makes people think that France is a cultural authority and has a high diplomatic reputation in the world. Through diplomatic language, France preserves a symbolic presence in international communication. Using French words shows that France has a long history of diplomacy and helps the country stay in a strong position in global diplomacy.

In addition, research by Kiçmari (2024) in the field of international law and diplomacy confirmed that the use of clear and precise terms, such as French diplomatic terms, helps to avoid legal and diplomatic misunderstandings. The researcher expressed the opinion that diplomatic language is a means of reducing misunderstandings and relieving tension in relations between states. Kiçmari also highlighted the consequences of efforts to create a universal language for international diplomacy, noting the importance of linguistic equality in agreements between countries.

However, not all researchers agree with the effective influence of French diplomatic terms on international practice. Ribera and Díaz (2020) suggested that the French language and its terms can create barriers to understanding, especially if the negotiators do not speak a foreign language at a sufficient level. Temesas (2022) argued that the use of generally accepted international terms in English can be more effective and universal, since English, being the mother tongue or second language for many inhabitants of the planet, is the most popular language in the world. However, according to Hazaymeh et al. (2019), none of the diplomatic countries will call themselves the *de facto* centre of the English-speaking world, and will not use English in foreign policy, but the French language is centralised. Researchers have noticed that this allows Paris to influence the language more effectively. Thus, unlike English, the main representative of French is the French government. Relying on the French language as a tool of “soft power” has created a wide sphere of influence for Paris.

In addition, Gómez and Piella (2015), Salehan et al. (2024) pointed to cultural differences that may influence the perception and interpretation of French terms. This was noted in the present results, so it is important to interpret correctly, following all translation strategies and methods.

The results of this study are reflected in research papers, which confirm that the French language plays a significant role in the diplomacy of many countries, especially in those that were former French colonies. As indicated in the present results and consistent with the conclusions of Candea (2024), French is an international language in the political world, is official in most global organisations, and is an instrument of France's cultural and linguistic diplomatic policy in the global community. The researcher concludes that the improvement of French in diplomacy is becoming more significant. Guo and Shen (2024) also examined the role of the French language in diplomatic relations during the French Wars of Religion. Isnard et al. (2024) argued that French is widely used in the education system and the media, contributing to its dissemination and use in the diplomatic sphere. In diplomatic circles, French is generally thought of as one of the classic languages of international diplomacy by diplomats who don't speak it. Using French as a second language can be hard at times, especially when you're trying to negotiate and need to be very clear about what you mean. However, French is still used as a *lingua franca* in many international diplomatic situations and is still intimately linked to established diplomatic conventions and procedures.

Thus, in the politics of Kyrgyzstan, French terms are used mainly in the context of international relations and diplomatic cooperation. Shyngyssova et al. (2018) wrote in a joint paper that there are training programmes for diplomats in Kyrgyzstan, which include teaching French and diplomatic terms. This helps future diplomats to effectively participate in international negotiation processes where French is used. It is worth adding that Kyrgyzstan participates in the work of international organisations such as the UN and the WTO, where French is one of the official languages, which accordingly requires Kyrgyz diplomats to know and use French diplomatic terms. As indicated by Huang and Wang (2024), French is often included in training programs for diplomats and international specialists because it helps them work more effectively in the international arena, where the language is still used in official documents and negotiations. Although in many post-Soviet and Central Asian countries English has become the main language of diplomacy, French continues to play a role due to its long tradition in international diplomatic practice. For Kyrgyzstan, this is also connected with participation in international organisations such as the UN and the WTO, where French remains one of the official languages and knowledge of French diplomatic terminology can be useful in professional communication.

Further research on the use of French diplomatic terms and their impact on international politics will include: identifying practices and strategies for using the terms; how different cultures and countries perceive and adapt French diplomatic terms; the role of language in international law and its impact on bilateral and multilateral relations between countries. This will benefit both

diplomatic circles and societies in general by facilitating adequate communication in the international arena.

5. CONCLUSIONS

This study examined the role and development of French diplomatic terminology in international relations, with particular attention to its use in the diplomatic practice of Kyrgyzstan. The analysis demonstrated that French diplomatic terms remain an important component of international diplomatic communication and continue to function as recognised elements of official documents, negotiations, and institutional interaction.

Particular attention was paid not only to their definitions and analogues in other languages, but also to the contextual nuances of their use in diplomatic practice. For instance, the term "*ambassadeur*" has undergone semantic and functional development: historically it referred primarily to an official representative of a sovereign at a foreign court, whereas in contemporary diplomacy it encompasses a broader range of roles within multilateral institutions and international organisations. The meanings and practical applications of these terms were considered both at the international level and within the diplomatic practice of Kyrgyzstan.

The findings indicate that French diplomatic terminology performs not only a lexical function but also a broader communicative and intercultural role in international relations. The use of shared diplomatic vocabulary helps structure negotiations, reduce potential misunderstandings, and facilitate interaction between representatives of different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. In this sense, diplomatic terminology can be understood as part of the linguistic infrastructure of international diplomacy, contributing to the stability and continuity of diplomatic discourse across different national contexts.

The analysis also demonstrated that while many French diplomatic terms maintain universal meanings in international practice, their interpretation and use may vary depending on cultural, linguistic, and institutional contexts. The case of Kyrgyzstan illustrates how international diplomatic terminology is integrated into national diplomatic discourse while preserving its conceptual core. This highlights the importance of linguistic competence and contextual understanding in diplomatic communication and translation.

The limitations of the study are related to the relatively limited sample of analysed materials and the focus on selected diplomatic contexts. Expanding the range of analysed diplomatic documents and institutional practices would allow for a more comprehensive understanding of how diplomatic terminology functions in different political and cultural environments. Future research may focus on a more detailed analysis of the effectiveness of diplomatic terminology in specific negotiation settings, the cultural and linguistic barriers that arise in translation, and the psycholinguistic aspects of how diplomatic terms are perceived and interpreted in international communication.

These recommendations can also be implemented through structured training frameworks, such as specialised modules on French diplomatic terminology within diplomatic education programmes, workshops based on real diplomatic documents and negotiations, and the development of practical training materials for translators and diplomats. Such approaches would help move from general recommendations to concrete tools for improving professional communication in international diplomatic contexts.

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