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Collaborative Dynamics in Translating Financial Terminology: Bridging Gaps and Promoting Linguistic Equity in South Africa Focusing on Tshivenḓa

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the collaborative dynamics between language practitioners and financial term specialists in translating financial terminology from English into Tshivenḓa. Grounded in South Africa's constitutional mandate to promote linguistic equity, the research addresses systemic gaps in cross-disciplinary collaboration that hinder the development of accurate, culturally relevant financial terminology. Employing a qualitative approach, the study analyses data from in-depth interviews with 10 Tshivenḓa language practitioners, supported by theoretical frameworks from Sociolinguistics, Knowledge Management (Nonaka and Takeuchi's SECI model), and Skopos Translation Theory. Findings reveal a critical lack of structured collaboration between translators and financial experts, leading to reliance on networks within the same profession and ad hoc translation strategies. Key challenges include technological resource gaps, cultural mismatches in term adoption, and institutional frameworks that prioritise linguistic development over interdisciplinary integration. The study highlights how limited knowledge exchange disrupts the SECI model's socialisation phase, while sociolinguistic factors and translation purpose (skopos) shape term acceptability in Tshivenḓa's 'linguistic marketplace'. Practical implications call for institutional reforms, including mandated collaboration mechanisms, localised technological tools, and dual-validation protocols involving financial specialists and community stakeholders to ensure technical accuracy and cultural relevance. The research underscores the need to reconceptualise financial translation as a socio-technical endeavour, bridging disciplinary divides to enhance financial literacy and linguistic equity. Future studies should explore

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term adoption over time, cross-language comparisons, and insights from financial experts to overcome collaboration barriers. This work contributes to global discourse on language development, offering insights for policymakers, translators, and financial institutions in multilingual contexts.

Keywords: Financial Terminology; Tshivenḓa; Collaborative Translation; Indigenous Languages; Knowledge Management; South Africa

1. Introduction

The translation of financial terms into South African indigenous languages represents a critical intersection of language policy, professional collaboration, and economic accessibility [1]. This study examines the collaborative dynamics between language practitioners and financial term specialists in translating financial terminology from English into Tshivenḓa, adopting a holistic approach that considers translation practices from various times and places, including those outside the mainstream.

The foundation for this work was laid by South Africa's Constitution [2], which granted official status to indigenous languages, necessitating comprehensive language development initiatives. This constitutional mandate created an urgent need for new terminology development across various sectors, particularly in specialised fields like finance [3]. The government established key institutions to support this development, including the National Language Services (NLS) and its Terminology Division, working in conjunction with the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB) and its National Language Bodies. This commitment was further strengthened in 2003 when the South African Government adopted the National Language Policy Framework (NLPF), establishing crucial objectives including promoting equitable use of all 11 official languages, facilitating access to government services, and addressing historical marginalisation of indigenous languages.

Within this policy environment, the Tshivenḓa National Language Body (TNLB) plays a vital role in standardising Tshivenḓa terminology and orthography, working alongside multiple stakeholders including the Tshivenḓa National Lexicography Unit and Provincial Language Committee [4]. However, despite this established institutional framework, significant challenges persist in the translation of financial terms into Tshivenḓa. The complexity of word-formation processes and the use of uncommon English terms often result in terminology equivalents that are not easily understood or accepted by the target audience. This issue is compounded by insufficient collaboration between language practitioners and financial term specialists, leading to inconsistencies and inaccuracies in translated terms.

Previous research has demonstrated that effective collaboration between language practitioners and subject specialists can significantly improve organisational communication and knowledge creation in international business contexts [5, 6]. For instance, Lønsmann emphasised that cross-functional teams in multinational corporations' benefit from reciprocal knowledge exchange [5], particularly when linguists and domain experts align their goals. Successful collaborative relationships are also characterised by the co-creation of new knowledge, which Paltridge and Starfield attribute to trust-building and shared problem-solving in interdisciplinary teams [7], as observed in their analysis of academic-industry partnerships. Positive emotional interactions, such as mutual respect and empathy, further mediate collaboration. For example, Hwang. demonstrated that affective dynamics, including emotional intelligence and conflict resolution, are critical for sustaining productivity in multicultural teams [8]. These findings align with the broader role of transdisciplinary action research (TDA) in bridging academic and practical expertise. Whitehouse, for instance, applied participatory TDA frameworks to co-design financial literacy materials with linguists and economists, enhancing accessibility for non-expert audiences [9]. Similarly, a study by Koller et al. showed that collaborative workshops integrating language specialists and financial analysts improved laypersons' understanding of complex financial texts, thereby advancing financial literacy [10]. Despite these studies, the specific nature of collaboration between language practitioners and financial term specialists remains underexplored, especially in South Africa. This research seeks to address this gap by examining three central questions: to what extent do language practitioners collaborate with financial term specialists for terminology creation; what are the barriers to effective collaboration between these professionals; and how can collaborative efforts be improved to enhance the quality and acceptance of translated financial terms?

This study aims to examine the extent and nature of existing collaborations between language practitioners and financial term specialists, identify barriers to effective teamwork in financial term translation, and propose strategies to enhance collaborative efforts. By addressing these objectives, this research seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the collaborative dynamics between language practitioners and financial term specialists, ultimately contributing to the development of more effective translation practices in the financial sector. The goal is to ensure that translated financial terms are accurate, culturally relevant, and widely accepted by Tshivenḓa speakers, thereby advancing both practical translation outcomes and the broader goals of language development in South Africa.

2. Theoretical Underpinning

This study's examination of collaboration between language practitioners and financial term specialists is underpinned by three interconnected theoretical perspectives: Sociolinguistic Theory, Knowledge Management Theory, and Translation Theory. These frameworks together provide a comprehensive lens through which to understand the complex dynamics of financial term translation in South African indigenous languages.

2.1. Sociolinguistic Theory

Sociolinguistic theory, particularly as developed by Labov and later extended by Trudgill[11, 12], forms the primary theoretical foundation for this research. This theory posits that language use and development are inherently social processes, shaped by both linguistic and social factors. In the context of financial term translation, sociolinguistic theory helps explain how new terminology emerges and gains acceptance within speech communities. The theory's concept of 'linguistic marketplace' is especially relevant to understanding how financial terms are valued and adopted in Tshivenḓa. According to Bourdieu's extension of sociolinguistic theory[13], linguistic practices carry different values in different social contexts, much like commodities in a marketplace, where certain terms gain currency based on their perceived utility and prestige within the speech community. This framework helps explain why some translated financial terms gain widespread acceptance while others remain marginal, based on their perceived social and economic value within the community. Furthermore, sociolinguistic theory's emphasis on language variation and change provides a framework for understanding how new financial terms are integrated into Tshivenḓa. The theory suggests that language change occurs through a complex interplay of social factors, including power relations, prestige, and social networks – all crucial elements in the financial term translation process.

2.2. Knowledge Management Theory

The second theoretical pillar is Knowledge Management Theory, particularly SECI model[14], which stands for Socialisation, Externalisation, Combination, and Internalisation. This model provides a framework for understanding how tacit knowledge – such as financial specialists' deep understanding of complex financial concepts – can be transformed into explicit knowledge in the form of translated terms. The SECI model identifies four modes of knowledge conversion that are particularly relevant to this study. Socialisation describes how financial specialists and language practitioners share tacit knowledge through direct interaction. Externalisation involves the process of converting tacit financial knowledge into explicit linguistic forms. Combination explores how different bodies of explicit knowledge (financial and linguistic) are integrated. Internalisation addresses how translated terms become internalised by the target community. This theoretical framework helps explain the challenges and opportunities in knowledge transfer between financial specialists and language practitioners, particularly in the context of creating new terminology. By breaking down the knowledge conversion process into these distinct stages, the SECI model offers insights into the complex dynamics of interdisciplinary communication and terminology development.

2.3. Translation Theory

The third theoretical foundation is Translation Theory, specifically Skopos Theory as developed by Vermeer and further elaborated by Nord[15, 16]. This theory posits that the purpose (skopos) of the translation determines the methods and strategies used. In financial term translation, this means considering not just linguistic equivalence but also the functional purpose of the translated terms in their target context. Skopos Theory is complemented by Toury [17], Descriptive Translation Studies framework, which emphasises the importance of cultural norms in translation. This theoretical perspective helps explain how translation decisions are influenced by both source-language financial concepts and target-language cultural contexts.

2.4. Theoretical Integration

These three theoretical frameworks integrate to form a comprehensive lens for analysing financial term translation. Sociolinguistic Theory provides the foundation for understanding how new financial terms are socially constructed and accepted within the Tshivenḓa-speaking community. Knowledge Management Theory explains the processes through which financial knowledge is transformed into linguistic knowledge during the translation process. Translation Theory provides specific frameworks for understanding the decision-making processes in financial term translation. Together, these theories suggest that effective financial term translation requires recognition of the social and cultural contexts that influence term adoption, systematic processes for knowledge transfer between specialists, and purpose-driven translation strategies that consider both linguistic and functional equivalence. Specifically, Sociolinguistic Theory emphasises understanding the social dynamics of term acceptance, Knowledge Management Theory focuses on the transfer of specialised knowledge, and Translation Theory ensures that the translated terms are both accurate and functionally appropriate within the target language context. This theoretical framework guides both our methodology and analysis. It provides a structured approach to understanding the complexities of financial term translation in South African indigenous languages. By integrating these theories, we gain comprehensive insights into the technical, social, and functional aspects of terminology development. It suggests that successful translation requires attention not just to linguistic equivalence, but also to social acceptance, knowledge transfer processes, and functional effectiveness of the translated terms.

3. Literature Review

3.1. Extent of Collaboration between Language Practitioners and Financial Specialists

Language practitioners and financial term specialists engage in significant collaboration, which is considered crucial for effective translation and terminology development [18]. This collaboration is essential to ensure that financial terms are not only linguistically accurate but also relevant, understandable, and acceptable to the target users [19]. Moreover, Cabre emphasise that the success of any terminology project depends on this partnership between language experts and subject matter experts. This collaboration is also vital for developing effective translation tools and improving communication in financial contexts [18]. In Azerbaijan, the establishment of a Terminology Commission has significantly advanced the development of financial terms, reflecting the influence of historical trade relations and recent economic reforms [20]. Similarly, the globalisation of markets has necessitated the adaptation of economic and financial terminology across various genres, prompting collaboration between linguists and financial experts to ensure accessibility for non-specialists [21]. Moreover, the integration of term banks and termbases facilitates this collaboration, allowing for the systematic organisation of terminology that supports translators and practitioners in navigating complex financial concepts [22]. Collaborative platforms like TermFactory further enhance this process by enabling diverse contributors to develop specialised vocabularies, although challenges in coordination and consistency remain [23]. In Ukraine, the dynamic interplay between national and foreign terms underscores the importance of such collaborations in maintaining linguistic integrity while accommodating new economic realities [24].

3.2. Barriers to Effective Collaboration

Despite the recognised importance of collaboration, there are several barriers that can hinder its effectiveness. One major challenge is the lack of consultation with all stakeholders during the term creation process, which can lead to negative perceptions of financial term specialists and result in the proliferation of synonyms [25]. Logistical issues such as time constraints and financial limitations also pose challenges. Additionally, differences in professional priorities and interpersonal dynamics can impede collaboration [26]. The practice of working in isolation or introducing new terms without proper consultation can result in inconsistent and non-standardised terminology [26]. Furthermore, creating terms that are farfetched or unpopular can prevent them from becoming widely accepted and used [27]. Moreover, language practitioners may struggle with the specialised vocabulary used in finance, leading to misinterpretations and communication breakdowns, as highlighted by the challenges in translating technical terms accurately [28]. Additionally, power differentials and competing demands can hinder teamwork, as financial specialists may undervalue the contributions of language experts, resulting in a lack of mutual respect and collaboration [29]. Furthermore, the absence of shared knowledge regarding each other's roles and terminologies can create confusion, as seen in the context of special education, where professionals often have varying levels of understanding about relevant terms and practices [30]. Addressing these barriers requires targeted training and fostering an environment of mutual respect and understanding [31, 32]. Additionally, the historical lack of structured cooperation, as seen in the South African financial sector, has led to regulatory gaps that hinder collaboration [33]. Furthermore, the low self-efficacy of educators in financial literacy indicates a broader issue of competency that affects collaborative efforts in financial contexts [34].

3.3. Strategies for Improving Collaborative Efforts

Effective collaboration in financial term translation requires a comprehensive approach that integrates multiple stakeholders and leverages modern technologies. The foundation of successful collaboration lies in involving all key participants, including language practitioners, subject specialists, and laypeople, in the term creation process [35]. This inclusive approach harnesses diverse expertise and experiences, simplifying the complex task of terminology development [27]. A robust collaborative framework must emphasise multi-directional knowledge exchange, co-creation of new terminology, and positive interactions among participants. Organisations can facilitate this through transdisciplinary action research (TDA), which bridges the gap between scholarly work and practical applications. This approach enhances the communicative effectiveness of financial texts while simultaneously improving financial literacy among stakeholders.

Technology serves as a crucial enabler in streamlining the translation process. Modern collaborative platforms like SDL Trados and Termsoup enable efficient translation memory reuse, provide real-time feedback, and maintain consistency across translations [36]. These technological solutions support the development of clear, understandable, and widely accepted terminology while avoiding overly complex or obscure terms [19, 26, 27]. Building on this technological foundation, recent innovations have introduced specialised models like FinTeamExperts, which utilise a Mixture of Experts framework to facilitate deeper understanding of domain-specific terminology [37]. The evolution of collaborative tools has led to the development of sophisticated systems such as the Lexicon Enhanced Collaborative Network (LECN), which improves sentiment analysis in financial texts and leads to more nuanced translations [38]. These advancements complement established best practices, including clear communication protocols, targeted financial literacy education, and trust-building within professional networks [39].

To ensure long-term success, these professionals must address term variation challenges through comparative analysis, maintaining consistency across languages. This rigorous approach to terminology management is enhanced by Natural Language Processing tools that bridge the gap between complex financial jargon and general understanding [40]. Furthermore, integrating collaborative learning in translator training programs develops essential teamwork skills and improves the overall quality of financial translations [41]. By implementing these interconnected strategies and leveraging modern tools and methodologies, organisations can create a cohesive ecosystem that significantly improves collaboration between language practitioners and financial specialists. This comprehensive approach ultimately produces more effective and widely accepted financial translations that serve the needs of all stakeholders while maintaining the highest standards of accuracy and clarity.

Current literature reveals several areas requiring further investigation. While existing research provides insights into collaboration barriers and potential solutions, there is limited empirical evidence on the long-term effectiveness of specific collaborative strategies. Additionally, research on the role of emerging technologies in facilitating collaboration between language practitioners and financial specialists remains nascent. Future research should focus on the impact of different collaborative approaches on terminology adoption rates and translation quality. This review of literature demonstrates that while the importance of collaboration in financial term translation is well-established, significant challenges remain in implementing effective collaborative practices. The research suggests that successful collaboration requires a combination of structural support, cultural alignment, and appropriate technological tools, along with a sustained commitment to professional partnership throughout the translation process.

4. Research Methodology

The study employed a qualitative research methodology to investigate the collaboration between language practitioners and financial term specialists in translating financial terms from English to Tshivenḓa. Through purposive sampling, 10 Tshivenḓa language practitioners were selected based on having at least five years of experience in translation work involving financial documents. Participants included five translators working in governmental institutions, three from financial institutions, and two independent contractors, ensuring diversity of professional contexts. Data were collected via face-to-face, semi-structured interviews lasting approximately 60–90 minutes each. The interview protocol included 15 core questions focused on collaboration experiences, translation challenges, and solution strategies, with follow-up questions tailored to each participant's responses. Interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed verbatim, and analysed using thematic analysis as described by Braun and Clarke [42]. This involved a six-phase process: familiarisation with data, generating initial codes, searching for themes, reviewing themes, defining themes, and producing the report. This approach allows for a comprehensive and nuanced examination of the collaborative translation process, providing insights into the complex interactions between language practitioners and financial term specialists while maintaining ethical standards of participant confidentiality and informed consent. To enhance validity, preliminary findings were shared with three participants for member checking. Additionally, two independent researchers reviewed the coding framework to ensure consistency and objectivity in data interpretation.

5. Findings

The findings are organised into major themes, supported by direct quotes from participants.

5.1. Absence of Structured Collaboration with Financial Specialists

A significant finding was the consistent lack of formal collaboration between language practitioners and financial term specialists. All participants indicated they had limited or no direct interaction with financial experts when translating specialised terms. As one participant noted:

> *"We work primarily within our language teams. When we encounter complex financial concepts, we consult dictionaries or existing translations rather than reaching out to financial experts. There's no established system for connecting with them."* (Participant 3)

Another participant highlighted the implications of this gap:

> *"Sometimes we struggle with new financial products or concepts because we don't have direct access to people who deeply understand these terms. We end up making educated guesses about the best translations.*" (Participant 7)

5.2. Intra-Professional Collaboration Practices

While collaboration with financial specialists was limited, the study revealed robust collaboration among language practitioners themselves. Participants described regular consultation with colleagues and shared review processes. One participant explained:

> *"We have weekly meetings where we discuss challenging terms and review each other's translations. This peer review system helps maintain consistency and quality within our team."* (Participant 1)

Another practitioner emphasised the value of this internal collaboration:

> *"When faced with difficult financial terms, I*

first consult with senior colleagues who have more experience in financial translation. We often brainstorm together to find the most appropriate Tshivenḓa equivalents." (Participant 5)

5.3. Technological Tools and Resource Limitations

Participants identified significant gaps in technological resources and standardised tools for financial translation. As one practitioner stated:

> *"We lack specialised translation software for financial terms in Tshivenḓa. Most existing tools are designed for European languages, which means we often have to create our own glossaries and term banks."* (Participant 4)

Another participant noted:

> *"Without access to comprehensive financial term databases in Tshivenḓa, we spend considerable time researching and validating terms. A collaborative platform connecting us with financial experts would be invaluable."* (Participant 8)

5.4. Cultural and Contextual Challenges

The interviews revealed particular challenges in translating modern financial concepts into Tshivenḓa while maintaining cultural relevance. One participant explained:

> *"Many contemporary financial products and services have no direct equivalent in Tshivenḓa culture. We need input from both language experts and financial specialists to create terms that are both accurate and culturally meaningful."* (Participant 2)

5.5. Impact on Translation Quality

Participants expressed concerns about how the lack of collaboration affects translation quality:

> *"Without regular interaction with financial experts, we sometimes worry whether our translations fully capture the nuances of complex financial instruments or regulations."* (Participant 6)

Another practitioner added:

> *"There have been instances where our translations were technically correct but didn't align with the terminology commonly used in the financial sector. This creates confusion for end users."* (Participant 9)

Participants highlighted specific translation challenges with terms such as 'derivatives', 'hedge funds', and 'cryptocurrency'. For example, one participant explained their approach to translating 'hedge fund':

> 'For "hedge fund", we initially created a direct translation that emphasized protection **(u tsireledza)** combined with the loan word "**fandu**". However, without input from financial experts on the nuanced meaning of hedging in financial contexts, we were not confident the term captured the risk management aspects correctly.' (Participant 4)

6. Discussion

This study examined the collaborative dynamics between language practitioners and financial term specialists in translating financial terminology from English to Tshivenḓa. The findings reveal several significant patterns that both support and extend existing theoretical frameworks and empirical research in the field of specialised translation.

6.1. Analysis of Collaborative Patterns

The study's findings regarding limited structured collaboration between language practitioners and financial specialists align with previous research on terminology development challenges [25, 26]. However, our results suggest that this limitation is more systemic than previously documented. While earlier studies identified consultation gaps as one of several challenges, our findings indicate that the absence of structured collaboration represents a fundamental barrier to effective financial term translation.

The observed pattern of robust intra-professional collaboration among language practitioners, while beneficial for maintaining linguistic consistency, reveals a significant gap in cross-disciplinary knowledge exchange. This finding supports assertion about the necessity of partnership between language experts and subject matter specialists [18], while also highlighting how the absence of such partnerships affects translation quality and term standardisation.

6.2. Technological Infrastructure and Resource Allocation

The identified technological limitations significantly impact the translation process, particularly in terms of terminology management and standardisation. This finding extends work on term banks and termbases by highlighting specific challenges in the African language context [22]. The absence of specialised translation tools for Tshivenḓa financial terms presents a more complex challenge than previously identified in the literature, suggesting that existing technological solutions may require substantial adaptation for indigenous language contexts.

Our findings regarding resource constraints align with observations about collaborative platform challenges but indicate that these constraints have more severe implications in the context of financial term translation [23]. The data suggest that technological limitations not only affect efficiency but also impact the quality and consistency of translated terms.

6.3. Cultural and Linguistic Considerations

The challenges reported by participants in translating modern financial concepts into Tshivenḓa support findings regarding the dynamic interplay between national and foreign terms [24]. However, our results indicate that this challenge is particularly acute in the South African context, where the need to maintain cultural relevance while ensuring technical accuracy creates additional complexity in the translation process.

These findings extend work on terminology project success factors by demonstrating how cultural considerations interact with technical requirements in financial term translation [19]. The data suggest that successful financial term translation requires not only linguistic and technical expertise but also deep understanding of cultural context and local financial practices.

6.4. Quality Assurance and Standardisation

The study reveals significant concerns regarding translation quality and standardisation, supporting findings about the challenges of translating technical terms accurately [28]. However, our results suggest that these challenges are compounded by the lack of structured collaboration between language practitioners and financial specialists. The absence of regular expert consultation appears to create uncertainty about term accuracy and appropriateness, potentially affecting the widespread adoption of translated terms.

6.5. Theoretical Implications

This study contributes to existing theoretical frameworks in several ways:

First, it extends Knowledge Management Theory by demonstrating how the absence of structured cross-disciplinary collaboration affects terminology development in specialised domains. The findings suggest that SECI model may need modification to account for contexts where direct expert interaction is limited [14]. The observed collaborative challenges directly impact each phase of Nonaka and Takeuchi's SECI model. The Socialisation phase is compromised by limited face-to-face interaction between language practitioners and financial experts, preventing tacit knowledge exchange. The Externalisation phase suffers from inadequate conceptual clarification, as financial concepts remain incompletely articulated in Tshivenḓa. The Combination phase is hindered by fragmented knowledge resources, while the Internalisation phase is compromised by uncertain term validation, leading to limited adoption of new terminology in practice. Second, the results contribute to Translation Theory by providing empirical evidence of how Skopos Theory principles operate in indigenous language financial translation. The findings suggest that purpose-driven translation strategies must be balanced against resource constraints and cultural considerations. The purpose (skopos) of financial translations in Tshivenḓa varies from regulatory compliance to financial education, with each purpose requiring different translation approaches. Participants noted tension between creating technically precise terms versus accessible, culturally relevant ones. As one participant explained: 'When translating for regulatory documents, we prioritise precision, but when creating terms for financial literacy materials, we focus on comprehensibility, often sacrificing some technical nuance.' This illustrates how the skopos directly influences translation decisions.

6.6. Practical Implications

The findings have several implications for translation practice and policy:

First, they indicate a need for structured collaborative frameworks that facilitate regular interaction between language practitioners and financial specialists. This supports recommendations while providing specific evidence for the financial sector context [35]. Second, the results suggest that technological tools and resources need to be developed specifically for indigenous language financial translation, taking into account local linguistic and cultural requirements. Third, the findings indicate a need for formal validation processes that incorporate both linguistic and financial expertise, supporting Falco' observations about the importance of accessibility in financial translation [21].

Short-term, implementable strategies:

- Establish regular consultation workshops between language practitioners and financial experts.
- Develop digital glossaries and term banks specific to Tshivenḓa financial terminology.
- Implement peer review processes that include both linguistic and financial expertise.

Long-term institutional reforms:

- Create permanent cross-disciplinary units within financial institutions and language bodies.
- Develop specialised training programs combining financial and linguistic expertise.
- Establish formal validation frameworks requiring both technical and cultural assessment of new terms.

6.7. Limitations and Future Research

This study's findings should be considered within the context of certain limitations. The sample size of ten language practitioners, while appropriate for qualitative research, may not capture all perspectives on financial term translation. Additionally, the focus on Tshivenḓa may limit the generalisability of findings to other South African languages. Future research should examine these collaborative dynamics across multiple indigenous languages, potentially employing mixed methods approaches to quantify the impact of different collaborative strategies on translation quality and term adoption. Additionally, longitudinal studies could help understand how collaborative relationships evolve over time and their long-term impact on financial terminology development.

7. Conclusions

From the findings of this study, several important conclusions can be drawn. First, the challenge of financial term translation in South African indigenous languages mirrors global challenges in specialised translation, where the gap between technical expertise and linguistic practice often impedes effective communication. Second, the current approach to financial translation in South Africa appears to be fundamentally misaligned with the actual needs of the field—while the focus has been on developing linguistic expertise in isolation, what is truly needed is an integrated system that combines financial and linguistic knowledge creation. Third, the difficulties faced by Tshivenḓa translators point to a broader truth about indigenous language development: technical terminology cannot be effectively developed through linguistic expertise alone, regardless of the skill level of the practitioners involved.

The findings lead to the conclusion that the current institutional framework for indigenous language development in South Africa, while well-intentioned, may be structurally inadequate for meeting the specialised needs of financial translation. This conclusion stems not just from the observed lack of collaboration, but from the deeper reality that the existing framework treats technical translation as primarily a linguistic challenge rather than a cross-disciplinary one. Furthermore, the persistent challenges in creating culturally relevant financial terms suggest that the very approach to terminology development needs fundamental rethinking—moving away from direct translation approaches toward more culturally embedded knowledge creation processes.

It is clear that further research must be undertaken to address questions that emerge from this study. One crucial area would be to investigate whether similar patterns exist in other African countries that are developing financial terminology in indigenous languages. Another would be to examine how successful financial term development occurs in other multilingual societies, particularly those that have managed to bridge the gap between technical and linguistic expertise effectively. Such research would help determine whether the challenges observed in this study are unique to the South African context or represent a broader pattern in indigenous language development.

Author Contributions

Conceptualization, H.D.S.; methodology, T.M.; validation, H.D.S.; and T.M.; formal analysis, P.M.M.; investigation, H.D.S.; resources, H.D.S.; data curation, T.M.; writing—original draft preparation, H.D.S.; writing—review and editing, T.M.; visualization, P.M.M.; project administration, P.M.M. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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Institutional Review Board Statement

The study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki, and approved by the Ethics Committee of Tshwane University of Technology (protocol code FCRE/APL/STD/2018/13 and 06 November 2018).

Informed Consent Statement

Informed consent was obtained from all subjects involved in the study.

Data Availability Statement

The data supporting the findings of this study are available upon request.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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