

Frozen Lexicon

What is Frozen Lexicon?

A lexicon in this case means - the vocabulary of a language or of an individual, whether written or spoken/signed.

Frozen meaning that it cannot be changed.

Frozen lexicon is the language register that is set, and here refers to the process of translation i.e. that it is not possible to alter from one language structure to another. Example of this occurs in BSL where the Bible is extremely difficult to convert into BSL therefore it would be translated exactly as it is read or said. It could be said to be Signed Support English but because we are using BSL then it is acceptable within these instances.

Other examples of Frozen Lexicons are court, police (reading of your rights), and various faiths; even songs of various kinds. Some commonly used phrases may also be frozen if it is not possible to change the language without changing the meanings intended.