

# Medical Translation Problems

Student. Abdullah Ali. K.F.U

ID:0000000

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## **Abstract**

There are many problems with medical translation especially in cases of death or informing the patient with a bad news. However, the obstacles with the vocabulary it is the main problem in translating the medical terms. By examining the translation theory and learning the consecutive translation methods, a translator should be able to translate any speech without any troubles. Although the knowledge of medical terminologies is very important. Even translating textbooks and medical articles needs some keen skills. There will be a survey and it will be distributed on translators in the local hospitals in Al-Ahsa to determine the most obstacles they face on a daily bases and to see what is the best solutions in their own opinion. The results should have some ideas that help the translator to achieve his/her purpose with focused courses in translating medical terms and some special classes in language psychology. You can not be a good medical translator without having the proper knowledge and the proper manner of distinguishing the bad news with concern.

## **Introduction**

Medical translation is the most difficult subject in language translation. There are many attitudes a translator can use to assist him/her self to translate properly. Therefor, a translator must identify and analyze them in order to obtain the best way of translation. There are limited studies that serve to improve the translator skills such as The Translation Theory, Consecutive Translation and Translating Text Types. The translator usually faces the terminologies and accents that unknown to him, what a translator should do?

## **Literature review**

There are many books on Translation Theory and Consecutive Translation, which we have examined in the early years. There is an article that was published in ٢٠٠٩, It was about translating English medical shortened forms and how difficult it is to translate medical vocabulary; which presents an interesting figure and the difficulties that a translator is facing in a daily base. Therefore; there will be an experiment similar to it , and it's going to be held in Al-Mosa hospital. It should identify the defined objectives, the most known problems and potential solutions.

There are many approaches a translator can have, to avoid the general translating problems; such as daily exercises on metaphors. That should help him/her to substitute the words, which cannot be rendered in a direct word-to-word method. Especially in medical translation, it almost has to have some psychological knowledge. For example: in case of death when translating from Arabic to English instead of saying your father died you say: your father past away. However, it depends on the speaker's personality, and his/her willingness to change. Therefore, you can be a good translator but it does not make you a good medical translator. In order to identify the most perfect solution there will be tests on a group of translators to recognize what we can do to make translating in its appropriate form.

## **Significance of Research**

What I'm going to examine in this research studies and surveys are that the most problems faces translators are in vocabulary. Thence, by focused courses in medical terms should be enough to surmount these obstacles. Not to forget the emotional pressure that goes with this particular occupation.

The important thing is to notice the best way to solve them in the most delicate solutions possible. Therefore in each hospital with a different region and/or specialization there should be an elaborated course and some field work observation.

## **Research Question**

Why Medical Translation is the toughest areas of translation? There is the emotional part which needs attention. What are the hardest words to translate? How to translate them properly? On the most delicate way keeping in mind the patient's feelings. All of the previous in light of the Translations Theory.

## **Research Methodology**

### **Participants**

Medical translators from Al-Mosa General Hospital, males and females with considerations to recognize the gender in the statistics to make it even. Not less than ten participants in each group. Based on the observation of the group discussion.

### **Apparatus/Materials**

There will be discussion groups, surveys and simple Yes, No questions. Trying to figure out where are the problems before sorting the answers. In the area of handling shortened forms, and the hardest words to be translated.

### **Procedure**

In Al-Mosa General hospital I will distribute forms of simple Yes, No questions to begin the survey. In light of that the groups will be formed and will discuss the study outcome

## **Ethical Consideration**

I will take permission forms to the hospital management and there will be signing form for each participant. If possible I'm going to observe the translators and take notes to discuss.

## **Limitations of the study**

Ofcourse, there are obstacles in collecting the information such as: the privacy of the society especially in the female translators. As a known information that female translators are more sensitive than their male colleagues which might affect your outcome of the study.

## **Expected Results**

Expectations of this study is to determine the percentage of errors in translation and determine the level of problems that may be encountered in daily life and identify intensive courses to serve in the medical field and linguists together with a focus on the particular courses in psycholinguistics, Where the focus is on the method of formulating sentences and deliver information in the right way.

**Survey**

GENDER:

YEARS OF WORKING:

- What are the most difficult words to translate?
  
- What is the most difficult situation you have been in?
  
- How many articles have you translated?
  
- What special courses have you taken in your career life?
  
- What is harder translating from Arabic to English or vice versa? And why do you think that?
  
- What do you think medical translation needs nowadays?

Yes, No Questions

GENDER:

YEARS OF WORKING:

➤ Do you have any difficulties in translating ?

➤ Yes      No

➤ Do you feel the need to change the way you translate?

➤ Yes      No

➤ Do you have any special courses in your line of work?

➤ Yes      No

➤ Do you feel the need to have something to improve your job?

➤ Yes      No

## References

**Authors:** Henry Fischbach

**Idea :**

**Article Title:** Problems of Medical Translation

**URL:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC197861/>

**Authors:** L Haffner

**Article Title:** Translation is not enough. Interpreting in a medical setting

**URL:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1011272/>

**Authors:** Małgorzata Kasprowicz,

**Article Title:** Handling Abbreviations and Acronyms in Medical Translation

**URL:** <http://www.translationdirectory.com/articles/article2188.php>