

LEXICOGRAPHICAL PROBLEMS OF TRANSLATING MEDICAL TEXTS

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Abstract

This article delves into the intricate lexicographical challenges faced by translators when dealing with medical texts. It explores the unique linguistic nuances and technical terminologies that often pose hurdles in achieving accurate and contextually appropriate translations. Through a thorough literature analysis, this article aims to shed light on the existing methodologies employed to overcome these challenges. In conclusion, the article suggests ways to enhance the lexicographical aspects of medical translation and offers insights for future research.

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Medical translation is a highly specialized field that demands precision and accuracy due to the critical nature of the information being conveyed. The lexicographical challenges encountered in translating medical texts are multifaceted, ranging from complex technical terminologies to cultural nuances. This article aims to provide an in-depth analysis of these challenges and explore the methodologies employed by translators to ensure accurate and contextually appropriate translations.

The literature analysis reviews existing studies and scholarly works related to medical translation and lexicographical challenges [Salieva 5, 6]. It explores the linguistic complexities involved, the impact of cultural variations on terminology interpretation, and the evolving nature of medical language. Notable studies addressing these issues are critically examined to lay the foundation for the subsequent sections.

In this article, various methodologies employed by translators to overcome lexicographical challenges in medical texts are discussed. Techniques such as terminology databases, collaboration with subject matter experts, and the use of context-driven approaches are explored. Case studies are presented to illustrate the practical application of these methods, offering insights into their effectiveness in different contexts.

Russian linguist, translator and lexicographer, classic of the science of translation, Krupnov Viktor Nikolaevich exposed that: "The natural connection between lexicography and translation is even more increases due to the characteristics of the present era: modern a translator translates texts of different genres and types, he needs a wide variety of information, a wide variety of specialized knowledge. The most reliable source of such information are dictionaries and reference books [3. P. 3],

Translating medical texts poses unique challenges, and lexicographical issues are among the prominent difficulties. Here are some specific challenges associated with translating medical texts:

Specialized Terminology:

- **Multifaceted Vocabulary:** Medical texts often contain a vast and complex vocabulary. Translators must be well-versed in medical terminology in both the source and target languages.
- **Constant Evolution:** Medical language evolves rapidly with advancements in research and technology. Translators need to stay updated to accurately convey the latest terms and concepts.

The specialized terminology you've mentioned highlights the challenges and requirements for translators in the medical field. Here are a few more terms related to medical translation and its unique characteristics:

Cultural Competence: Translators must not only understand the technical language but also be culturally competent to ensure that translations are accurate and culturally appropriate for diverse patient populations.

Regulatory Compliance: Medical translations often need to adhere to specific regulatory requirements and standards, especially when dealing with documents related to clinical trials, medical devices, or pharmaceuticals.

Clinical Trial Documentation: This includes protocols, informed consent forms, and other documents related to clinical trials. Translators need to be familiar with the regulatory requirements for these documents.

Patient Reported Outcomes (PROs): Translating patient-reported outcomes involves capturing the patient's perspective on their health, and translators must navigate the nuances of patient language to convey these accurately.

Pharmacovigilance: Translators may be involved in translating documents related to monitoring and assessing the safety of pharmaceutical products, including adverse event reports.

Health Insurance Terminology: When translating documents related to healthcare coverage, knowledge of health insurance terminology is crucial to accurately convey concepts related to policies, claims, and coverage.

Medical Device Documentation: Translating materials related to medical devices involves understanding technical specifications, user manuals, and safety information, requiring a deep understanding of engineering and medical terminology.

Epidemiology and Public Health Terminology: Translators may encounter terms related to the study of disease patterns, risk factors, and public health interventions, requiring a solid understanding of epidemiological concepts.

Radiology and Imaging Terminology: Translating documents related to radiology reports, imaging procedures, and diagnostic tests involves familiarity with specialized terms in medical imaging.

Genetic and Genomic Terminology: With advancements in genetics and genomics, translators may encounter complex terminology related to genetic testing, personalized medicine, and genomic research.

These specialized terms highlight the need for translators in the medical field to possess not only linguistic expertise but also a deep understanding of the subject matter and the ability to adapt to the evolving nature of medical language.

In the process of translating medical texts, translators not only carefully translate medical terminologies, but they must also have special knowledge. Here are some examples based on specific demand for translators:

Cultural Sensitivity:

- **Cultural Nuances:** Different cultures may have varying perspectives on health, illness, and medical treatments. Translators must navigate these cultural nuances to ensure accurate and culturally sensitive translations.
- **Taboos and Stigmas:** Certain medical conditions or treatments may carry stigmas or taboos in some cultures. Translators must be aware of these sensitivities to choose appropriate language.
- **Legal and Ethical Considerations:**
- **Legal Frameworks:** Medical translations often involve legal documents, such as patient consent forms or regulatory submissions. Translators must be familiar with the legal frameworks in both source and target languages.
- **Ethical Dilemmas:** Translators may encounter ethical dilemmas related to privacy, confidentiality, and informed consent. Adherence to ethical standards is crucial.
- **Diversity of Text Types:**
- **Variety of Documents:** Medical texts encompass a wide range of documents, from patient records and research papers to drug labels and clinical trial protocols. Each type requires a specific approach to translation.

Precision and Accuracy:

- **Lack of Ambiguity:** Medical texts demand a high level of precision, as errors or ambiguity in translation can have severe consequences. Translators need to convey the intended meaning with clarity and accuracy.
- **Standardization Challenges:** Achieving consistency in terminology and style across different medical documents can be challenging, especially when dealing with multiple translators.

Regulatory Compliance:

- **Compliance Standards:** Medical translations must adhere to regulatory standards in both the source and target languages. Translators need to be aware of these standards to ensure compliance.

Collaboration with Subject Matter Experts:

- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** Effective medical translation often requires collaboration between translators and subject matter experts. Translators may need to consult with healthcare professionals to ensure accurate interpretation of specialized content.

Recently, machine translation has become quite popular, especially because people are becoming used to the text translation systems freely available online. In addition to this, the scientific community is really involved in machine translation. However, these systems are not perfect, and their quality may decrease in some specific domains like medical translation;

Machine Translation Limitations:

- **Complexity of Language:** Medical language is often highly technical and may involve complex sentence structures. Machine translation tools may struggle with capturing the nuances and accuracy required for medical texts.
- **Contextual Understanding:** Medical translation requires a deep understanding of context, and machine translation may not always grasp the specific context of a medical document:

Addressing these lexicographical challenges in medical translation requires a combination of linguistic expertise, cultural sensitivity, and a deep understanding of the subject matter. Ongoing professional development and collaboration between translators, medical professionals, and language experts are essential for producing high-quality medical translations.

Conclusions. In conclusion, translation of medical texts (medical translation) is the translation of specialized medical publications from one language to another and texts whose content is of a private nature directly related to human health. It is determined by its importance. The demands placed on the accuracy of the translation, the confidentiality of the translation and the special date, as well as the exact quality of the terminology used are increasing. The uniqueness of the medical texts is that it contains special terms and special requirements for translators. Medical texts do not contain enough metaphors and special terminology that convey stylistic meanings. Ongoing research and collaboration between the translators and the medical community is needed to address evolving linguistic and cultural nuances. The continuous professional development of medical translators also plays an important role. Improving the lexicographic accuracy of medical translation requires the development of modern translation tools, joint initiatives between linguists and medical specialists, at the creation of a comprehensive database of new medical terms.

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