



Translation Problems of Some Medical Terms

Prof.Aula Abdul Ghaffour Muhammad^{1*}

^{1*}Al-Nahrain University/College of Pharmacy/Iraq, dr.olaa.abdulghafoor@nahrainuniv.edu.iq

Citation: Prof.Aula Abdul Ghaffour Muhammad.et al. (2024), Translation Problems of Some Medical Terms..., *Educational Administration: Theory And Practice*, 30(4), 2245-2248,
Doi: 10.53555/kuey.v30i4.1838

ARTICLE INFO ABSTRACT

Medical translation is one of the important topics in translation studies. The translation of these terms is not easy. It has a number of difficulties that the translator may face during translation. This leads him/her to use a number of strategies that enable him/her to translate such medical texts efficiently.

This research comprises three sections. Section one presents definitions of translation. Section two deals with the translation strategies that the translator use to translate such terms. Section three deals with these strategies and analyze their implications in translation. Finally, the conclusions have been drawn.

1-Translation

Translation is a general term covers a process of transferring language of speech from one language into another. Many definitions have given to it : Wilss (1982: 3), states that translation is " a transfer process which aims at the transformation of a written source language text (SLT) into an optimally equivalent target language text (TLT)", Nida and Taber (1982: 12) see translating as " a process of reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message", Newmark (1991: 27) defines it as " the act of transferring meaning of a stretch or a unit of language, the whole or a part, from one language to another". All these definition manifest that translation is a transfer of meaning, message, and style from one SLT to the TLT. But, SL terms may not have TL ones such as the medical terms, that is, words often do not have a direct correlation with the target language. In such cases , one may need to borrow certain medical words. When confronted with difficult or uncommon medical items, one may choose to explain what the word means. This involves adding a translator's note with the definition or explanation (translation partner Site), e.g. chemotherapy العلاج الكيميائي. Besides, Medical items is littered with acronyms and abbreviation. When translating these, one'll need to break down into their full phrases such as SARS: Severe acute respiratory syndrome متلازمة الالتهاب التنفسي الحاد (Ibid).

1-2-Transaltion Strategies

Two translation strategies are distinguished which are as follows
(Chesterman, et al, 2000:113):

1-2-1-Direct translation strategies : They are as follows :

1-2-1-1-Borrowing strategy: One language may possess words for which there are no equivalents in the other language , for example , AIDS ايدس.

1-2-1-2-Loan translation strategy: A compound in English that literally translates as word - for -word. Also known as *calque*, for example, blood pressure ضغط الدم.

1-2-1-3-Literal translation strategy: The rendering of text from one language to another "word-for-word", for example , medicine الطب.

1-2-2-Indirect translation strategies : They are as follows:

1-2-2-1-Paraphrasing translation strategy: Replacing a word in the SL text by a group of words or an expression in the TL text, for example , heart attack أزمة قلبية.

1-2-2-2-Free translation strategy: Replacing a term with cultural connotations, where those connotations are restricted to readers of the original language text, with a term with corresponding cultural connotations that would be familiar to readers of the translated text, for example , plastic surgery عملية تجميل.

1-3-A Translation analysis of Some Medical Terms

1-3-1-What is anorexia nervosa?

Anorexia nervosa is an illness that usually occurs in teenage girls, but it can also occur in teenage boys, and adult and women (Lissen Site).

عادة عند البنات المراهقات، لكنه يُمكن أن يحدث أيضاً عند الأولاد المراهقين، ومرض فقدان الشهية العصبي؟ فقدان الشهية العصبي هو مرض يحدث ما هو (Ibid). أيضاً عند النساء.

The phrase *Anorexia nervosa* is translated into Arabic *مرض فقدان الشهية العصبي*. The former has the TL equivalent *قلة الشهوة للطعام* (Hiti&Al-Khatib, 2006:31). The latter is an Italian term which means *العصبي*. Besides, the item *مرض* is added to this phrase to explain that it is a disease as well as all SL passage is replaced by TL one which is used to explain all the symptoms of this disease. Paraphrasing translation strategy is used here.

1-3-2- Unwanted side effects such as *hypo-* or *hyper-*pigmentation or, in extreme cases, burning of the skin call for an adjustment in laser selection or settings (Context Site).

أو في الحالات القصوى كحروق الجلد التي تستدعي إلى إجراء تعديلي في اختيار نوع فرط في التصبغ أو قصور الآثار الجانبية الغير مرغوب فيها مثل الليزر. (Ibid)

The two prefixes *hypo-*, *hyper-* are used to refer to the extent of disease whether they are low or above (over) (Wordreference). Both *Hypo-* and *hyper-* are translated paraphrasely *قصور*, *فرط*. Besides, *pigmentation* is translated literally *التصبغ*.

1-3-3- Also, as a possible cause is called *lymphocytic leukemia* chemotherapy (Ibid).

(Ibid). الليمفاوي و العلاج الكيميائي سرطان الدم وأيضاً، كسبب محتمل يسمى

As one see the SL text with its TL one, he/she can realize the followings:

- *Lymphocytic* has no TL equivalent that is why is borrowed *اللمفاوي*.
- *Leukemia* is a combination of the Greek word *leukos* and *heima* which means white blood (Wjgnet Site) *الدم* and the term *سرطان* is added. Paraphrasing translation strategy is used here.
- *Chemotherapy* is translated into *العلاج الكيميائي*. The first part *chemo* is translated literally and the second part *therapy* is translated paraphrasely.

1-3-4- People with *Crohn's disease* are at risk of developing a number of complications (Context Site).

إن الأشخاص الذين يعانون من داء كرون معرضون لخطر تطوير لعدة مضاعفات

(Ibid)

Crohn's disease is named after the famous gastroenterologist, Dr. Burrill Crohn. It first became regarded as a medical condition when it was described by Crohn and colleagues in 1932. However, the first explanation of Crohn's was given by Giovanni Battista Morgagni, an Italian physician who diagnosed a patient suffering from a debilitating and long-term disease that caused diarrhea (Robertson:1). *Crohn* is borrowed; *disease* is translated paraphrasely *مرض* rather than its literal translation *بعضيات*. Moreover, the term *complications* is translated paraphrasely also *المضاعفات* instead of its literal translation *بعضيات*.

1-3-5- Your body needs water to keep things moving through your *colon* (Context Site).

يحتاج جسمك إلى الماء للحفاظ على حركة الأشياء من خلال قولونك.

Colon has not TL equivalent that is why it is borrowed as well as the inseparable pronoun *ك* is added to the TL equivalent *قولهون* to indicate the masculine speaker.

1-3-6- As with all surgical procedures, the first step is *anesthesia* (Ibid).

(Ibid). كما في كل العمليات الجراحية فإن الخطوة الأولى هي التخدير.

Surgical procedures is equated with the Arabic equivalents *العمليات الجراحية* and here the procedures which means *إجراءات* is translated paraphrasely. Besides, *anesthesia* which means *بنج* is translated paraphrasely also.

1-3-7- Now today we treat *high blood pressure* mostly with pills (Ibid).

بيومنا الحالي. غالباً ما يتعالج مرضى ارتفاع ضغط الدم بالحبوب

The phrase *high blood pressure* is rendered literally into TL sentence. In addition, the item *pills* is translated literally *الحبوب*.

1-3-8- Acute pancreatitis is the inflammation of *pancreas* that develops quickly (Ibid).

التهاب البنكرياس الحاد هو التهاب البنكرياس الذي يتطور بسرعة.

Pancreatitis comes from medical Latin, from combining form of pancreas + -itis which means *inflammation* (etymonline Site).

Besides, *The inflammation* is rendered also literally in the TL sentence and *Pancreas* is borrowed.

1-3-9- Doctors call this ruptured *appendicitis*, and it's serious (Context Site).

(Ibid). وأنه لأمراً خطيراً بالتهاب الزائدة الدودية التمزق يسمى الأطباء هذا

The word *appendicitis* stems from *appendix* and Latin, combining *appendix* and *-itis* which means *inflammation* (Nebi Site). Such a term is equated with *التهاب الزائدة* and the term *الدودية* is added. Paraphrasing translation strategy is used.

1-3-10- It causes a mild upper respiratory infection that resembles acute *influenza* (Context Site).

(Ibid). الحادة الانفلونزا والذي يشبه تؤدي إلى التهاب خفيف للجهاز التنفسي العلوي

The item *influenza* is borrowed.

1-3-11- Let's run some tests to see if he has *meningitis* (Ibid).

(Ibid). لنجر بعض الفحوص لنرى إن كان يعاني من التهاب السحايا

The term *meningitis* which means التهاب أغشية المخ is translated freely into the TL sentence as التهاب السحايا.

1-3-12- Avoiding cigarette smoke is also important in preventing bronchitis(Ibid).

التهاب القصبات الهوائية (تجنب دخان السجائر فهو مهم أيضا للوقاية من

The term *bronchitis* stems from *bronch* which means قصبة and the suffix *itis* which means inflammation and الهوائية is added.Paraphrasing translation strategy is used.

1-3-13-In the past five years, no cases of polio have been recorded(Ibid).

طوال السنوات الخمس الماضية ولم تسجل أية حالة إصابة بشلل الأطفال

Polio is a disabling and life-threatening disease caused by the *poliovirus*. The virus spreads from person to person and can infect a person's spinal cord, causing paralysis (can't move parts of the body)

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)is rendered into TL sentence اصابه بشلل الأطفال.Free Translation Strategy is used.

1-3-14- Some learning disabilities are diagnosed at birth, such as Down's syndrome(Context Site).

متلازمة داون يجري تشخيص بعض إعاقات التعلم عند الولادة، ومثال ذلك

Down's syndrome is a condition in which a person has an extra chromosome. Chromosomes are small packages of genes in the body. They determine how a baby's body forms and functions as it grows during pregnancy and after birth (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).*Down* is borrowed and *syndrome* is translated literally.

1-3-15-A heart valve opens or closes incumbent on differential blood pressure on each side(Context Site).

معتمداً على ضغط الدم متفاوت بكل جانب يفتح او يغلق صمام القلب

The phrase *a heart valve* is translated literally.

1-3-16-In addition to home treatment, people with the eye inflammation should avoid using cosmetics such as eyeliner, mascara, and other makeup around the eyes(Ibid).

كالكل العينين تجنب استخدام مستحضرات التجميل التي توضع حول التهاب جفن العين بالإضافة إلى العلاج المنزلي، يجب على الأشخاص الذين يعانون من

والماسكارا وغيرها من الماكياج

Eye inflammation is rendered into the TL sentence literally as well as the term جفن is added to this sentence. Paraphrasing translation strategy is used.

1-3-17-Classification is performed by using x-ray imaging to see the bone structures(Ibid).

الرؤية بنية العظم بالأشعة السينية يتم التصنيف باستخدام التصوير

The word *x-ray* is rendered into TL sentence as الأشعة السينية and here *x* is translated as السينية.Free Translation strategy is used . Besides, *bone structure* is translated paraphrasely.Instead of translating structure as هيكل is translated paraphrasely بنية

1-3-18-Also, psoriasis can develop on the skin where it is appeared(Ibid).

يبان ذلك أيضاً (على الجلد حيث الصدفية ويمكن أن تتطور

Psoriasis which comes from *psora* "itch"and *iasis* "action" condition(Wikipedia encyclopedia) is translated paraphrasely .

1-3-19-When he got there, he was recovering from heroin addiction

(Context Site).

الهيروين إدمان وحينما وصلت الى هناك ادركت بأنها قد تعافت من

The phrase *heroin addiction* is translated as ادمان الهيروين.The first term is borrowed.The second one is translated literally.

1-3-20-His left leg was replaced with a prosthesis(Kaplan International Language).

استبدلت ساقه اليسرى بطرف اصطناعي)Ibid(Prosthesis is translated freely.

Translation Strategies of Some Medical Terms

Direct Translation strategies			Indirect translation strategies	
15			18	
Borrowing	Loan translation	Literal translation	Paraphrasing translation	Free translation
7	0	8	15	3

Conclusions

As one sees the translation analysis of some medical terms,he/she can realize the followings:

- Indirect translation strategies (18)are used more than the direct translation ones(15).
- Paraphrasing translation strategy is the most dominant translation strategy(15).
- The least translation strategy is the loan translation strategy(0).
- Borrowing(7) and literal translation(8) are on the intermediate range because some SL medical terms are either borrowed or translated literally.
- Some least medical terms are translated freely(3).

References

1. HTH Worldwide Arabic Medical Translation Guide.<https://books-library.net>.
2. Chesterman ,A.&Salvador,N.&Gambier,Y. (2000) Translation in Context: Selected Contributions from the EST Congress.
3. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) <https://www.cdc.gov/polio/what-is-polio/index>.
4. Context Site. <https://context.reverso.net/>
5. Etymonline Site.<https://www.etymonline.com/word/pancreas>
6. Hiti,Y&Al-Khatib,A(2006)Medical Dictionary:English-Arabic. Beirut:Library of Lebanon Publishers.
7. Kaplan International Language.kaplaninternational.com.
8. Lissen Site.<https://lissan.yoo7.com/t14-topic>
9. Newmark, P(1991) *About Translation*. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters Ltd.
10. Ncbi Site.<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>.
11. Nida, E&and Charles ,R(1982)*The Theory and Practice of Translation*. Leiden: E.J. Brill.
12. **Robertson,S” History of Crohn's Disease”news-medical.net.**
13. translationpartner Site.com
14. Wikipedia Encyclopedia.en.m.wikipedia.org.
15. Wilss, W(1982) *The Science of Translation*. Stuttgart: Gunter Narr verlag Tubingen.
16. Wijnnet Site.www.wijnnet.com.
17. Wordreference.com