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**EXPLORING THE PROBLEMS FACED LIBYAN TRANSLATORS IN
TRANSLATING ENGLISH MEDICAL TERMS**

A Dissertation Proposal submitted to the Department of English in Fulfillment
of the Requirement of the BA in Translation Studies

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Dedication

To my dear parents and my supervisor

Acknowledgment

It has been a great time to gain lots of experience in this project .For this project , I would like to thank all the teachers who made it possible for student like me .And special thank to my parents for their supporting and encourgment .

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Abstract

The scientific world is predominantly in English-speaking and major scientific journals publish papers in English . The share of scientific papers written in English in the total number of papers published is 80% according to Montgomery (2009) and 85% according to Kalpan (2001). It is widely known that the field of translation have been changed different parts of the world. Translation is a crucial field in disseminating knowledge and discoveries in the medical field. It can also be a critical factor in providing healthcare services to foreigners or minorities . The translation of medical terms face a number of challenges , some of them are quality issues , lexical equivalence of medical terminology . This dissertation studies the major problems in translating the medical terms by the Libyan translators . It briefly presents the history of medical translation and the development of medical language . And also will figure out the problems and the solutions for these problems by providing the Libyan translators with a questionnaire in the methodology chapter . In the final chapter we will analyze the problems of translating medical terms and clarify them , and the conclusion of the study is that should be specialized in translating the medical terms and the only problem that the Libyan translators faced in translating the medical terms is the Latin terms have no equivalents in Arabic language .

Keywords : translation , medical translation , medical terminology , quality , equivalence , translators .

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER ONE:

1.1 Research background

This study explores the problems that face translators in translating English medical terms into Arabic in order to offer a good solution for them . Even more , this study will focus on the different types of medical terms including pharmacy, related terms and find the difficulties and identify them clearly.

Medical translation concerns a number of subjects areas, including pharmacology, psychiatry, internal medicine, oncology and cardiology and other fields of specialty. According to the main characteristics of specialized medical text including terminology and syntactic features , such as , nominalization, heavy pre – and post modification , long sentence , use of passives and third person. According to (Askhave and Zethsen, 2000) the section presents some of the most prominent features of medical English terms with particular focus on medical terminology and related translation problems and challenges .

1.2. Reseach aim and objective

This study deals with the problems of translating English medical terms which are common in Libya . Some Libyan translators might not have the excellent background of medical

terminology and the exact way of using the right equivalence of medical translation. We have to explore the solution of translating English medical terms mistakenly . The medical terminology advances with the advancement of time and the professionals in translating it must be aware to this kind of new innovation .

This study will find the problems that the Libyan translators faced in translating the English medical terms into Arabic and how to deal with such a problem .

1.3.Research problem :

In scientific and medical research there are many terms and expressions that are not clear. Therefore, the translation of medical and scientific research needs to distinguished translators and in a professional manner regarding the medical field in order to be able to find an equivalent meaning to some words.

Translating the medical terms by misunderstanding leads to choosing words that are not at all appropriate for the study, as scientific and medical translation does not need a literal translation, but rather the formulation of words in the medical framework in which they are located.

1.4.Research question :

The main research question of this research is

What are the problems that face Libyan translators in translating English medical terms?

1.4.Research hypothesis

The Libyan translators should understand the medical terms and then find the right equivalence for it. also , focus on the framework of the medical terms and be aware of the repetition and literal translation of some words in which they are located . for that . the translation of the medical terms would be in professional manner .

CHAPTER TWO :

LITERATURE REVIEW :

2.1. Introduction :

In this chapter , we are going to review the problems of translating the medical terms from the scholars reviews . the medical discourse comprises a range of forms of communication , Gotti (2008:24) uses the terms specialized discourse as "the specialist use of language in context which are typical of specialized community stretching across the occupational area of knowledge and practice" .

2.2. Defining Translation :

Translation is mental activity in which a meaning of given linguistic discourse is rendered from one language to another .it is the act of transferring the linguistic entities from one language in to their equivalents in to another language ,according to Nida (1964) who defines translation as a process of finding the closest natural equivalent of source language in the target language in terms of message and style .and Catford (1965) who believes that translation is the replacement of the source language textual elements by the target language textual elements. Catford (1965, 1) can be defines translation as "a process of substituting a text in one language for a text in another".

2.3. Medical language history :

Medical language is used from expert to expert and expert lay communication ,with characteristics features varying from genre to genre , depending on the communicative situation and its participants . khashim (2006) notes that although Arabic is the official language in all Arab countries , English is still used as the language of teaching in most Arab medical universities except Syria and some Arab countries in north Africa . thus, English terminology is used academically and its use is crucial. Hence, there is a great demand for the study of scientific and technical translation from English into Arabic and vice versa .

2.4.Previous studies :

Al-ma'ni (2000) believes that while the understanding of the source text terminology is an important factor in the process of translating , the coining of the terms target language counterparts is of equal, if not, greater importance. Montalt (2011) emphasis that medical translation is one of the most active types of professional translation. The researcher suggests the medical terms are the main challenge for a translator of medical terms he/she comes across during the translation process in both languages and should also be aware of the sensitivity of the subject matter . Khashim (2006) the rigorous research that has been undertaken by the researcher herself (including in the British library, the Tripoli Academy library and the Benghazi Academy library) has shown that only little research has been undertaken into Arabic medical translation in general. Therefore, the researcher's work covers this neglected area. Although many English to Arabic medical dictionaries have been compiled and some technological supports (CAT(computer-assisted translation)tools) including translation memories, term bases terminology management systems, have been developed, many medical terms still cannot be found in such dictionaries, and computer translation tools .

CHAPTER THREE :

METHODOLOGY :

3.1.Introduction :

This study deals with exploring the problems of translating English medical terms into Arabic by Libyan translators .this chapter will discuss the methodology used in the research it includes research methods, Data collection, Testing, data review and analysis.,

3.2.Data collection and analysis :

The data was collected from the answers of the questionnaire and were classified and analyzed. Moreover, percentages of the answers were figured out. The qualitative data have been analyzed and described. In order to support my research and to find out the answer of the main question of the research. We have collected our data from eight Libyan translators from different pharmacies .

3.3.Samples of the research :

The samples of the study are 6 Libyan translators. every translator has studied English medical terminology .Each translator has been given a questionnaire which is consist of questions that have medical terms and to which should be translated in Arabic and what are the problems that face the translators during the translations of English medical terms into Arabic .

4.3.English medical translation questionnaire :

I designed a questionnaire in order to explore the problems that face Libyan translators while they translating English medical terms into Arabic. The questionnaire consists of three questions the first question is translate 10 terminological terms into Arabic , the second question is asking them if they have any problems while they translate these terms , the final question is how did the translator translate these terminological terms. In case the Libyan translators did not know some English terms they can use the electric dictionaries .

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS

In this chapter, I provide my questionnaire with three questions. First question, is translating 10 medical terms into Arabic. Second question, is what are the problems that face the translators in translating the 10 medical terms. Third question, is considered of what is the strategy that the translators used in translating these medical terms , I analyzed their translations and answering the questions in relation to what is thought to be the appropriate translation and exploring the problems and finding the right strategy .

QUESTION 1 :

The question is "Translate the following terminological terms into Arabic "

- Anosmia > فقد حاسة الشم
- Soft palate > اللهاة
- Rickets > الكساح
- Dizziness > دوار او دوخة
- Syndrome > متلازمة
- Tuberculosis > مرض السل
- Myocardial infraction > احتشاء عضلة القلب
- Osteoporosis > هشاشة العظام
- Radiologists > اخصائي او طبيب الاشعة
- Antibiotics > مضاد حيوي

The right translation of the term " Anosmia "is " فقد حاسة الشم"some of the translators translate it into "حاسة الشم" which is wrong, because its different from "Anosmia". Three translators answer it wrong. The second term is "Soft palate" which is translated into "اللهاة" four of the translators translate it right and two of them translate it into "الحلق" which is wrong. The third term which is "Rickets" translated into "مرض الكساح" all of the translators had answer it right. The fourth term which is "Dizziness" which translated into"دوار او دوخة" also all of the translators had been translated it rightly. The fifth term "Syndrome" which translated into "متلازمة" it has been translated right except one translator translated it into "اعراض" which is wrong. The sixth term "Tuberculosis" which translated into "مرض السل" it has been answered right from all of the translators. The seventh term "Myocardial infraction" which is translated

into "احتشاء عضلة القلب" have been answered differently from all the translators and these translations are "خرق عضلة القلب، احتشاء عضلة القلب، مخالفة عضلة القلب، اعضاء عضلة القلب" all of them are right except one translation which is "اعضاء عضلة القلب". The eighth, ninth, tenth, terms which are "Osteoporosis", "Radiologists", "Antibiotics" have been all translated right from all of the translators into "مضاد حيوي", "اخصائي او طبيب اشعة", "هشاشة عظام".

QUESTION 2 :

The question is "what kind of problems you have faced while translating these medical terms into Arabic?" most of the translators have problems in not finding the Latin words into the general medical dictionaries and the accurate meaning of the medical, and some of them have no problems in translating the medical terms.

QUESTION 3 :

The question is "what is the strategy that you used in translating these terms?" well, the answers were different some of them understood and memorize the terms and the others used the websites that have medical terminology dictionaries from English to Arabic.

MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY A QUESTIONNAIRE

1- Translate the following terminological terms into Arabic :

- Anosmia.....
- Soft palate.....
- Rickets.....
- Dizziness.....
- Syndrome.....
- Tuberculosis.....
- Myocardial infraction.....
- Osteoporosis.....

- Radiologists.....

- Antibiotics.....

2- What kind of problems you have faced while translating these English medical terms into Arabic ?

3- What kind of strategy that you used in translating these terms?

The results of this study reveal the fact that most of the Libyan translators use the dictionaries to translate the medical terms, and have problem in the confusion that might happen while they translate the medical terms ,also , have problem in not finding the Arabic translation, because of the Latin terms. To solve this problem is to have enough knowledge and specialists in translating the medical terms in pharmacies and hospitals so that will not be any problems if someone bring receipt and the specialists in translating the medical terms from English to Arabic translate it without no problems.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, medical terminology changes across time and all the medical translators should be aware of it. And the medical field especially have been developed fast what makes the medical terminology necessary to learn it, because medical terminology is part of our lives now including the specialized and no specialized.

This study provide the Libyan translators with questionnaire that they can tell their common problems they face in translating medical term and the most common problem was in finding the Latin terms which confuse most of the translators, which leads is to admit that the medical translation is not that easy job to do if you did not know the meaning , roots, suffixes, prefixes, and the Latin terms .

Finally , the medical terminology is worth to study , because the Libyan translators might not have enough medical terminology knowledge., and the most important problems of medical translation are the scarcity of specialized scientific translators in this field, the difficulty of combining specialization and mastery of the Arabic language, and rigidity of the language in the light of rapid pace of renewal of science and the problem of the scientific terms .

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