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## **ТРУДНОСТИ МЕДИЦИНСКОГО ПЕРЕВОДА**

Данная статья дает представление о трудностях, возникающих при переводе специфической терминологии из медицинских текстов. Перед переводчиками возникает проблема, когда речь идет о переводе медицинского контента. Профессиональные языки отличаются высоким содержанием иностранных слов.

**Ключевые слова:** медицинский перевод, медицинская терминология, трудности перевода.

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## **THE CHALLENGES OF MEDICAL TRANSLATION**

This article is intended to provide an insight into the difficulties encountered in the acquisition of the medical terminology and the translation of specific medical texts. For the translator this means a very special challenge when it comes to medical content. Technical languages are generally characterized by a high proportion of foreign words.

**Keywords:** medical translation, medical terminology, difficulties of translation

Medical terminology therefore has a certain vocabulary and certain educational rules. These include technical terms and foreign words in particular, which are either very unusual or incomprehensible outside the field of expertise, or have any other meaning.

Example: Sonography – Ultrasound examination:

- caput – head
- corpus – body

- pollex – Thumb.

Medical terminology serves as technical language for precise communication:

- among medical professionals;
- Technical language with binding technical terms;
- for the notification of medical personnel;
- for the transmission of findings;
- to the documentation;
- for lectures;
- for publications;
- in individual cases as «code» to exclude laypersons from;
- communication.

The foundations of medical terminology are the Latin as well as the Greek language, occasionally they also consist of Arabic terms. It should be noted that terms from anatomy are Latin («Cor» for heart, Latinized «Cardia») and clinical terms (e.g. pathology) from the Greek («cardia» for heart, «cardiology»). Since about 1950, the English language is becoming more popular in medical communication. In the English language the technical expressions were translated into English language according to the rules of transcription of Latin.

Since medical terminology is the basis for the translation of medical texts, the acquisition of medical terminology is of importance. The medical Terminology is characterized - as already mentioned - by terms from the Greek and Latin and still today it is used for the creation of new technical terms at new medical knowledge to these languages. On the one hand, this is due to the long tradition of scientific medicine, which is based on around 2500 years of history and Greek and Latin for medical terminology offer a wide range of practical advantages, they guarantee the formation of precise, internationally understandable technical terms.

Greek possesses the ability to transform several arbitrary words into multiunits, resulting in a concise brevity and accuracy of expression. The medical terminology makes a worldwide, unambiguous and uniform transmission of information possible,

which in everyday language can never be guaranteed. Latin, on the other hand, is offered by the medical jargon brevity, precision and expressiveness [1].

For a translator, medical terminology is a challenge, since he must acquire the specialist terminology. The medical technical vocabulary has mainly consisted of terms from the Latin and Greek language for centuries. Basic knowledge of Latin and Greek required for the formal mastery of the medical jargon.

The medical jargon consists, roughly estimated, of approximately 200,000 technical terms, of which approximately 10,000 are names for body parts and organs and 60,000 are disease names. It is impossible to memorize all these terms. Therefore it is from importance of familiarizing oneself with the terminology formation system. By decomposing a term into its linguistic components and then the composition of its meaning, one can grasp the meaning of the word elements and in most cases, the overall concept can be inferred from this. At a closer look, one can see that a just relatively small number of repeating word elements occur, about 300 to 500.

A translator of medical terminology is faced with two main challenges. After he has completed the development and recording of the subject-specific vocabulary, he has to deal with language pair-related problems as quickly as possible so that the translation can take place. For this purpose it is of great importance that the translator has a large selection of specific literature [2].

Once the translator has worked out a terminology inventory, he will be facing another challenge. In the medical field there are very many different types of texts aimed at specific target groups, such as package inserts, medical articles, clinical guides, doctor's letters. The translator must find out what type of text he is facing, the purpose of the text, the type of text, and which target group it is aimed at and, above all, how the text is structured linguistically. Each type of text has its own specific structure and language. Types of text differ in fixed, formal conventions, such as package inserts. These conventions then define criteria such as structure, length, content, style, terminology, and collocations.

One can generally differ between types of text which are primarily addressed to

scientists and doctors and where the technical terminology predominantly is found. This includes for example medical textbooks and studies, certificates, doctor's letters, medical Repertory, professional articles etc. In these texts one speaks of the so-called subject-specific or academic language and terminology.

Another group is made up of texts which are also predominantly written in technical jargon where, the target group is also patients and laypersons, e.g. in the case of package inserts. This language, too, is predominantly geared to specific technical areas, but can be explanations, as it also has informative and explicative aims. As another group, texts or articles on health and medicine are available on magazines, newspapers, and on the Internet, and that are primarily for the purpose of informing the layman. In these texts you will find predominantly common language terms or medical jargon with frequent explanations.

The target groups are very different and can be, for example Scientists, specific or general practitioners, nursing staff, students, pharmacists, or patients and their relatives, all of whom have specific expectations of a text. The determination of the target group therefore is extremely important in this purpose [3].

Today, medicine is one of the most important fields of expertise and provides the translator with a challenge in many ways. While the appropriation of the medical terminology and the translation of medical texts is an obstacle on the other side it has to be noted that the contents of these texts are dealing with an universal subject, Human health!

This means that the translator or interpreter carries a great responsibility that he must live up to. He succeeds in doing this above all through a specific training and the acquisition of medical knowledge.

Another important aspect for the translation of medical texts is the development and progress in the field of medicine, because the task of the translator at this point is medical knowledge also internationally - may be through professional articles, professional literature, national and international conferences, symposia and seminars. Therefore the training of competent medical translators or interpreters are

particularly relevant, which requires both elementary knowledge of medicine and its language.

In conclusion one can say that for a translator in this field, the collaboration or post-processing with a medical editor is always helpful and can be described as the ideal solution. The combination of a linguist with a medical knowledge and a physician with linguistic knowledge forms the basis for an unbeatable team.

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