

PROBLEMS OF TRANSLATING MEDICAL TEXT- A STUDY BASED ON THE BOOK “GUIDELINE FOR RABIES PROPHYLAXIS”

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Abstract

Translation is the process of rendering the meaning of a text from one language into another. Translation is an important factor in spreading out the knowledge and new discoveries in the medical field. It focuses on the number of subject areas, including pharmacology, medical rescue system, surgery, obstetrics, pediatrics, psychiatry, internal medicine, oncology, cardiology and other fields of specialty. Every second there is a message/news from the medical field and that news meet the need to be shared with the entire world. Today, people in Jaffna show much interest in their health and seek alternative sources of information instead of just believing whatever said by the doctor. As a result, many medical articles and books are constantly written and many of them should be translated. In this context, Rabies treatment unit is a special medical field which occupies an important place in contemporary Jaffna. Due to the increase of animal bites notably by Dogs & Cats medical officers are need to convey the information in a communicative and reader-friendly manner to the people, but most of the rabies treatment books are in English. They need to be translated. Translating a medical text from English into Tamil seeks certain procedures, strategies and techniques. This article discusses Rabies disease, importance of medical translation, problems face by the medical translator such as Linguistic Problems, Extra Linguistic Problems, Equivalence Problem, Miscellaneous Problem-Lexicons (Dictionaries, Glossary of Medical Terminology) that are not up-to-date and the ways of overcoming.

Keywords : Medical Translation, Rabies Treatment, Prophylaxis, Post-Exposure Treatment, Animal Bite Wound.



1. INTRODUCTION

Translation is an art. In general sense, translation is an act of conveying the meaning of source language text by means of an equivalent target language text. The purpose of translation is to convey the original tone and intent of a message, taking into account cultural and regional differences between source and target languages. Translation is a vast area; this includes different genres such as medical translation, literary translation, legal translation, historical translation and so on. Many scholars have defined the translation in their unique way. Eugene.A.Nida define translation as follows,

“Translating consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style (Eugene.A.Nida,1982)”.

Medical translation is different from other type of translations. Translation is an important factor in spreading out the knowledge and new discoveries in the medical field. Medical translation focuses on the number of subject areas, including pharmacology, medical rescue system, surgery, obstetrics, pediatrics, psychiatry, internal medicine, oncology, cardiology and other fields of specialty. Medical writing has always been important. Initial medical writings helped to make the history of medicine and presented valuable information that helped to gain the medical knowledge. Now, there are new inventions made and a vast range of knowledge to gain within medical field. Every second there is a message/news from the medical field and that news meet the need to be shared with the entire world. As a result, many medical articles and books are constantly written and many of them should be translated. Medical articles are mostly written in English as English is an international language. It is very difficult to understand by the laymen and semi-experts for whom English is a foreign language. Further, several medical writings are written in foreign languages. Therefore, these writings should be translated into other languages as per the need.

Medical Translation is the major phrase. While translating the text the translator faces several difficulties. Therefore, in order to overcome those problems many techniques and strategies are used. It is very important to identify the difference between the technique and strategy. Techniques are universally accepted and applied. For example, borrowing is a technique which refers to transferring a source text word into the target Language which has no Tamil equivalent or which sounds better and easier to understand. Example, Chloroquine_Therapy-குளோரோகுயின் சிகிச்சை, Viral-வைரஸ் etc. A strategy is a potentially conscious

procedure for the solution of a problem which an individual is faced with when translating a text segment from one language to another. These strategies may be varied according to the translators. For example, Immunity could be translated as நிர்ப்பீடனம் or நோய் எதிர்ப்பு சக்தி by two different translators. It is based on the translator's own perspective. Therefore, such techniques and strategies are extensively used by the translator in her translation “நீர் வெறுப்பு நோய்த் தொற்றுகைக்கு ஏதுவான நிலைக்கான தடுப்புச் சிகிச்சை வழிகாட்டி(2018)” in order to give the same message of the source text “Guideline for Rabies Prophylaxis (2015)” which was written by Dr.C.S. Jamunanantha.

2. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Translation of Medical writings seems to be a challenging task. Therefore, the purpose of the research is

- To identify the problems through empirical way,
- To apply the appropriate methods, techniques and strategies in order to overcome the problems,
- Then to evaluate the accuracy of the text,
- Finally to make suggestions for an effective translation of medical text in Tamil.

3. METHODOLOGY

Comparative methodology is used to compare the source text “Guideline for Rabies Prophylaxis” with its translation ““நீர் வெறுப்பு நோய்த் தொற்றுகைக்கு ஏதுவான நிலைக்கான தடுப்புச் சிகிச்சை வழிகாட்டி” and to identify the problems of translating medical text for the Experts. Descriptive methodology is used to describe the study.

4. RABIES DISEASE

The context of the book is Rabies. The Rabies is a dreadful zoonotic disease caused by the rabies virus with a horrifying symptom. Human infection by rabies virus usually occurs as a result of a transdermal bite or scratches. The disease is invariably fatal and perhaps the most painful and horrible of all communicable disease in which the sick person is tormented at the same time with athirst and fear of water (hydrophobia). This is almost 100% fatal but 100% preventable. The disease is transmitted from animal to animal or from animal to human. Rabies is a neglected disease because it is the disease of the hardcore poor and no advocate for them (Dr. Jamunanantha, C.S (2015), p.1).



Dr.V.Naaganathan, Medical Officer in charge, Rabies Treatment Unit, Teaching Hospital, Jaffna, highlighted in his message to Dr.C.S. Jamunanantha's book which was written on the topic "நீர் வெறுப்பு நோய்" mentioned that due to inability in capturing the street Dogs and institute rabies injections there are a lot of rabies dead and annually, Sri Lanka allocates 350 million for rabies prophylaxis from its economy. Further, in the same book on the preface, Dr.C.S. Jamunanantha mentioned that World Health Organization is in the process of abolishing the rabies disease by the year 2020. In addition, annually, 55000 deaths are due to rabies. Among them, 20,000 deaths are in India and 25,000 are in Africa. About 50 people are dying due to the Rabies in Sri Lanka. Among those victims 30-60% are children. Translations of medical guide books related to Rabies prophylaxis are very much important in order to spread the awareness among the people through medical officers. Therefore, the article considers the problems in translating medical text for experts, based on the book "Guideline for Rabies Prophylaxis".

5. IMPORTANCE OF MEDICAL TRANSLATION

The roots of Western medicine lie in Greek. Medical learning was transmitted in Latin translations of Greek and Arabic texts, mostly by translators whose first language was not a European vernacular, like Greek. Medical texts began to be translated into vernacular languages such as French, English, German, Portuguese, and Catalan in the 14th and 15th centuries, almost simultaneously in different parts of Europe. However, at that time, Latin retained its strong position as a Pan-European language of science. The situation started to change in France, at the end of the 16th century, and in England, at the end of the 17th century, when several authors began to publish in both Vernacular languages and Latin. From the past, translation of medical text occupies an important place in Sri Lanka. Dr.Samuel Fisk Green (1822-1884) is the scientific Tamil pioneer who paved the way for the translation of medical text. The first book selected for translation was Dr.Calvin Cutter's Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene (அங்காதிபாதம், ககரணவாதம், உற்பாலனம்). Dr.Green did not attempt a direct translation, but his aim was to put it as simply as possible into the Tamil language. In June 1852, the first translated medical text was ready for the press. Maunsell's Obstetrics (மவுன்சலின் பிரசவ வைத்தியம்), Druitt's Surgery (துருவிதரின் இரண வைத்தியம்), Gray's Anatomy (கிரேயின் அங்காதிபாதம்), Hopper's Physician's Vade Mecum (ஹாப்பரின் வைத்தியாகரம்) Wells' chemistry (வெல்சின் கெமிஸ்தம்), Dalton's Physiology (டால்தனின் மனவுககரணம்), Waring's Pharmacopoeia of India (வாஜிங்கின் சிகிச்சா வாகடம்) are the medical science works published in Tamil as a result of Dr.Green's planned undertaking. All of these works were

translated by Dr.Green and his students. Therefore, the above mentioned facts bear witness for the translation of medical text in Sri Lanka. This shows that medical translation played an important role throughout the history.

6. PROBLEMS FACED BY THE MEDICAL TRANSLATOR

In order to identify the specific problems, it deals with the comparison of the source text "Guideline for Rabies Prophylaxis (2015)" with its translation "நீர் வெறுப்பு நோய்த் தொற்றுகைக்கு ஏதுவான நிலைக்கான தடுப்புச் சிகிச்சை வழிகாட்டி(2018)" which is aimed at medical officers in the Rabies Treatment Unit. On this basis, the article includes the problems and the ways which were used by the translator in order to convey the message.

In medical translations, first and foremost, it is important to understand the Source Text and its problematic areas. All texts that should be translated have certain specific problematic areas beneath the surface. It is the responsibility of the translator to prevent this from happening and deliver a high-quality reader friendly target text. Medical translators have more responsibility as they have to deal with more problems than translators who translate literature. When a problem is made during the translation process, it will be pointed out to the translator and a warning ensues that this better not happens again. However, for the medical translator, the consequences of problems can be graver. As the scope of this research is about medical translations, the situations and examples will only deal with the selected medical texts which is aimed at medical officers. The problems that are identified in the comparative analysis of the source text with its translation can be categorised under the following categories. They are Linguistic problems, Extra-linguistic problems, Equivalence Problem and Miscellaneous problem-Lexicons (Dictionaries, Glossary of Medical Terminology) that are not up-to-date.

Analysis of Linguistic Problems

Language is a means to communicate, it is a semiotic system. Linguistics is the scientific study of language and analyse the language form, meaning and context. Linguistics studies a language as a formal system consisting of four main branches known as micro linguistics. They are phonology, morphology, syntax and semantic.

To start off with the linguistic problems, morphology and syntax are the major problematic areas for the medical translators. Phonology deals with the speech



sound and their pattern while Morphology deals with the words formation such as compounding, inflexion, derivation etc. Syntax focuses on the arrangements and relationship of words in a sentence. The syntactic structure of a language helps to identify the different boundaries on the way messages are arranged in that particular language, which results in various difficulties in translations. Semantics speaks in favour of the meaning. Hence, Phonological and morphological problems will be analysed on the area of terminology and in this part, the researcher is going to analyse the syntactical and semantic problems faced by the researcher while translating the medical text.

The use of active voice and passive voice sentences depend on the target reader. If the reader is an expert, writer and the translator can use passive voice. It keeps the necessary high formality and style, and thereby the credibility of the text. Further, such active and passive voice sentences lies as complex sentences in the source text. Therefore, in order to bring the same intended message into the target text complex sentences should be split into separate sentences and at times, based on the situation splitting is avoided.

Example 1

Source text- Intra-dermal inoculation is deposition of approved rabies vaccine (or antigen) in the layers of dermis of skin. Subsequently the antigen is carried by antigen presenting cells via the lymphatic drainage to the regional lymph nodes and later to the reticulo-endothelial system eliciting a prompt and highly protective antibody response.

Target text- தோலினூடான இடல் என்னும் நீர் வெறுப்பு நோய்க்கான பிற்பொருள் தோற்படைகளினுள் தடுப்பூசி மூலம் செலுத்தப்படும். பின்னர் பிற்பொருளானது பிற்பொருளைக் காவும் கலங்களால் காவிச்செல்லப்பட்டு நிணநீர்க் தொகுதியினூடாக நிணநீர் கணுக்களைச் சென்றடையும். பின் காலம் தாழ்த்தாது நிணநீர்க் தொகுதியில் சரியான பாதுகாப்பான பிற்பொருள் எதிரிக்குரிய விளைவை வெளிப்படுத்தும்.

In relation to the above mentioned translation situation, complex sentence split into separate sentences and translated using active and passive voice forms because, it is very difficult to bring the same meaning into the target language. Therefore, in order to give the sense needed the translator is compelled to split the sentence.

Example 2

Source text- In patients and those in whom the presence of immunological

memory is no longer assured as a result of other causes, proper and thorough wound management and antisepsis accompanied by local infiltration of rabies immunoglobulin (ERIG/ HRIG) followed by anti-rabies vaccination (CCV) are of utmost importance.

Target text- ஏனைய காரணத்தின் விளைவாக நோய் எதிர்ப்பு நினைவகம் காணப்படுகின்றதா என்பது பற்றி தற்போது வரை உறுதியாகக் கூறமுடியாத நோயாளிகளுக்கு நீர் வெறுப்புத் தடுப்பூசியைத்(CCV) தொடர்ந்து நீர் வெறுப்பு நோய் பிறப்பொருள் (ERIG/HRIG) உட்செலுத்துதலுடன் இணைந்து முறையானதும் முழுமையானதுமான காயப் பராமரிப்பும் தொற்று நீக்கி மருந்துகளும் வழங்குதல் மிகவும் இன்றியமையாததாகும்.

Indeed, the above example is a complex sentence and it avoids sentence split because if there are possibilities to translate the complex sentences without split, then the translators should not split.

Next problem in linguistic level is sometimes the translator have to do addition, deletion omission, alteration and substitution with the target text in order to give the appropriate contextual meaning. These are commonly called as strategies in translation. Addition or deletion of information in target language can also cause changes in the grammatical system. Baker points out, "*A Translation which repeatedly indicates information that is normally left unspecified in the target language is bound to sound unnatural*" (Baker, 1992:87).

Sometimes, the translator has to add some explanation or description to the sentences or other times, have to delete or omit certain words or phrases from translation. Deviation or willful distortion should not take place, because it could lead to unfaithful translation. It is very important that a translator should not use these strategies without a prior knowledge about them. For example,

Example 1

Source text- Cells presenting the fragments of G protein are the targets of cytotoxic T- cells and the N protein induced T helper cells.

Target text- G வகை புரதத்தின் துண்டுகளைப் பிரதிநிதித்துவப்படுத்தும் கலங்கள் கலநிரோத(cytotoxic)-T கலத்தின் இலக்குகளாகவுள்ளன அத்துடன் N வகை புரதம் T- உதவி கலங்களை தூண்டுகின்றன.



In this context, G protein and N protein are types of protein. As the text is written for medical officers and according to the expert's writing style G protein and N protein could be understood. But when it is translated into Tamil the translator should write as G வகை புரதம், N வகை புரதம், otherwise, it will reveal that the medical translator do not have a deep understanding in the particular text. Therefore, in this context, addition of the word “வகை” is a must and in fact, it is the right way to give the sense to the translation. Therefore, as mentioned above, translator used the strategy of “Addition”.

Example 2(Addition)

Source text-

III. Screening the animal

A. In case of major exposure to dogs and cats:

Target text-

III. கடித்த விலங்கினைப் அவதானித்தல்

A. தொற்றுக்கு பாரிய ஏதுநிலையில் கடித்த நாய் அல்லது பூனையினை அவதானித்தலும் சிகிச்சையும்:

In this context, the source syntax structure could be understood by the medical officers. But, when it is translated into Tamil, translator has to add some information in order to give the sense. When the translator tries to translate “Screening the animal” literally, it could be simply translated as “விலங்கினைப் அவதானித்தல்” but, this will raise a question as which type of animal should be screened. Therefore, in order to avoid this pitfall, it is translated as “கடித்த விலங்கினைப் அவதானித்தல்”. In the second instance, needed therapy for major exposure to dogs and cats are given in the continuous sentences. According to English-medical language it is correct, but while translating the sub-heading the translator need to understand the continuity and should translate it as a complete sentence by adding needed information as “தொற்றுக்கு பாரிய ஏதுநிலையில் கடித்த நாய் அல்லது பூனையினை அவதானித்தலும் சிகிச்சையும்:”. Therefore, in this context, addition and sense for sense translation strategies are used by the translator. Therefore, proper addition of information is a must in translation of medical text, but it should not distort or deviate the meaning of the source text.

Analysis of Extra –Linguistic Problems

The extra linguistic problems begin when decision to translate a second language text, continues with the development of the translation and ends with the publication and dissemination of the translated text. In case of medical translation, culture is also included in to the extra-linguistic level, because, in medical

translation the term “culture” is used in the different context. Cultural elements in the translation of medical texts pertain to names of medicines, procedures and protocols, names of instruments, measurement units, questions relating to patient history, the availability of therapeutic methods. The Translator identified and classified the extra-linguistic problems and used appropriate techniques and strategies as follows.

Problem in translating the Dosage Measurement Units

Dosage units also caused problems for the translator, because a translator is not always familiar with dosage and its units. According to the treatments of several sub-fields of medicine these units may vary.

Actual equivalents of these terms are very rarely found in the medical glossaries. Although if the translator is capable of understand the dosage measurement units it is very difficult to convey it in the target language. Therefore, such units are directly borrowed from source language into the target language.

“Dose of rabies immunoglobulins:

Equine Rabies Immunoglobulins (ERIG) : 40 IU per kg body weight up to a maximum of 3000 IU.

Human Rabies Immunoglobulins (HRIG): 20 IU per kg body weight (maximum 1500 IU)”.

Target text-

“நீர் வெறுப்பு நோய் புரத பிறப்பொருட்களின் வழங்கப்படும் அளவு.

குதிரையின் சீரத்தில் உருவாக்கப்பட்ட புரத பிறப்பொருள்(ERIG):**40 IU /kg** உடல்நிறையிலிருந்து ஆகக்கூடியது 3000 IU .

மனிதனின் புரத பிறப்பொருள் (HRIG): **20 IU /kg** உடல்நிறை (ஆகக்கூடியது 1500 IU)”.

As the text is written for the experts or medical officers there was no problem in borrowing and using the unit directly in the target language. This strategy is used by Vinay and Darbelnet as a direct translation procedure. Borrowing refers to transferring a source text word directly into the target Language which has no Tamil equivalent or equivalents which sounds better. But if the text was translated for the semi experts or laymen then it is better to explain the unit “IU” as “IU-International Unit-**அரசு** அலகு” with the help of self-explanatory or descriptive technique or by indicating in the footnote. Experts avoid explanatory footnotes, because they understand the words in medical articles so they do not need explanatory footnotes. If there is a technical term which a medical officer is

not familiar with or has forgotten what means, he/she will know where to find the meaning of that term. However, if a medical article is written about something completely new within the medical world and it contains new technical terms, footnotes are preferred over explanations in the actual text (Anette Thorup Pedersen and Tanya Nielsen Halliday, 2009).

Problems faced in translating the Terminologies of drugs (medication)

Modern medicine evolved from the western world. Therefore, most of the medication terminologies have no equivalent in Tamil. Not all the drugs have Tamil equivalents. In such cases, the translator should borrow and use the English terminologies in the target language or should transliterate the terminologies following the medical glossary. The following are names of some drugs which appear in the text “Guideline for Rabies Prophylaxis” .

Example 1

“Application of antiseptics: After thorough washing and drying the wound, any one of the available chemical agents should be applied viz Povidone iodine (Betadine), Alcohol, Chloroxylonol (Dettol), Chlorhexidine Gluconate and Cetrime solution (Savlon - in appropriate recommended dilution), etc.”.

கொற்று நீக்கியைப் பூசுதல்: “காயத்தை முழுமையாகக் கழுவிக்காய்ந்த பின் Povidone Iodine(Betadine), Alcohol, Chloroxylonol(Dettol), Chlorhexidine Gluconate மற்றும் Cetrime Solution(Savlon-முறையாக பரிந்துரைக்கப்பட்ட ஐதாக்கல் அளவில்) இவை போன்ற கிடைக்கக் கூடியதாகவுள்ள இரசாயன பதார்த்தங்களில் ஏதாவதொன்றை அதன் மீது பூச வேண்டும்”.

In the above text, medication terminologies were borrowed from source text and used directly (English Terminologies) in the target language, because those terminologies had no equivalents in the target language and even few of them could be translated, they were also borrowed (Iodine, Solution) otherwise there might be a meaningless translation.

Example 2

1. Adrenaline- அதிரனலின்
2. Hydrocortisone-ஹைரோகொட்டிசன்மருந்தாசி:
3. Chlorphinaramine-குளோபினாரமைன் மருந்தாசி.
4. Ranitidine- ரானிற்றைடின்மருந்தாசி.

In the above example, the terminologies of the medications are transliterated

because they have no synonyms/denotative equivalents in Tamil. Transliteration is the process of rendering the letters of one alphabet in terms of letters of another with a different alphabetic system. Therefore, this technique was used by the translator in translating the names of medications as could be easily understood by the medical officers.

Analysis of Problems in finding Equivalence Problems faced in translating Affixation

Medical Terminologies are the specific problematic area which often leads to difficulties in translation. It is always defined as a set of words which accurately describe human body and its processes in a scientific manner. Medical translators often have to deal with a larger number of medical terms. Most of them are derived from Greek or Latin because medical field was developed by the western world. Latin roots are used to create words describing anatomical structures whereas Greek roots are used to create words describing a disease, treatment or condition. Medical terms are often based on the concept of word roots, prefixes and suffixes. A root word contains a primary meaning of a medical term.

A prefix is defined as a word element which is added to the beginning of a word root. A prefix changes word's meaning and usually describes a position, direction or negation. Medical translators should have deep knowledge in Latin and Greek root words, because a large number of medical terminologies are based on them. A suffix is defined as a word element which is placed at the end of a word and therefore changing its meaning. In medical terminology suffixes usually denote a pathology, surgical procedure or symptom.

The source text "Guideline for rabies prophylaxis" contains several medical terminologies with affixation. For example,

- a. **Prophylaxis** தடுப்புச் சிகிச்சை
- b. **Anaphylaxis** கடும் ஒவ்வாமை
- c. **Encephalitis** மூளை அழற்சி
- d. **Anti-rabies** நீர் வெறுப்பு நோய்த் தடுப்பு e. **Cytotoxic** கரைநீரோத

Among the above terminologies, when compared to the first two terminologies that is prophylaxis and anaphylaxis look as antonyms but they express different meanings. Likewise, Encephalitis is a technical term in medical field. There are some rules for the technical terms to form their Tamil equivalents. According to Techniques of Translation by Radha Chellapa "The suffix "itis" is added to the



medical terms to denote inflammation in the organs of the body. Pericarditis, nephritis, arthritis, bronchitis are examples. This English suffix “itis” can be translated in Tamil as “அழற்சி” (Radha Chellapa,(1999).On Translation, Article-Techniques of Translation). Therefore, Encephalitis was translated as மூளை அழற்சி. General purpose dictionary recorded the meaning as மூளையில் ஏற்படும் வீக்கம் but it is not an appropriate equivalent. It is better to clarify the appropriateness of the equivalent with the help of a medical officer.

Finding the appropriate equivalents for the Specialised Medical Terminologies became the major burden in the translation process, in fact, equivalence is a much debated concept within the field of translation studies. The source text “Guideline for Rabies Prophylaxis” includes a lot of difficult medical terminologies; some equivalents are alien to the translator. Because, they are not in contemporary usage, so it is the responsibility of the translator to find out the appropriate equivalent. Therefore, the researcher identified those difficult terminologies, compiled and attached a glossary at the end of the target text (pages from 33-39). Vincent Mantalt Ressereccio and Maria Gonzalez Davies mentioned that compiling a glossary is one of the main steps in the process of medical text translation (Vincent Mantalt Ressereccio and Maria Gonzalez Davies, 2007).

For Example,

Abrasions-சிரம்க்கைகள்,தோற்காயங்கள். Anti-septic-தொற்று நீக்கி
Anaphylaxis-கரும் ஒவ்வாமை etc.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Abbreviations and acronyms are shortened forms of words or phrases. Abbreviations are used very frequently in medical field. They boost efficiency as long as they are used intelligently. An abbreviation is typically a shortened form of words used to represent the whole while an acronym contains a set of initial letters from a phrase that usually form another word. They are very difficult to understand because of their shorten form, sometimes, one abbreviation or acronym may have different explanation in different field so, it may lead to ambiguity. Abbreviations and acronyms are often interchanged, yet the two are quite distinct. The main point of reference is that abbreviations are merely a series of letters while acronyms form new words. Each one allows writers to make large blocks of text easier to read.

For example,

- a. ARV-Anti-Rabies Vaccine-நீர் வெறுப்பு நோய்த் தடுப்பு மருந்து.
- b. IDRV -Intra-Dermal Rabies Vaccination - தோலினூடான நீர் வெறுப்பு நோய்த் தடுப்பு மருந்து.
- c. IM-ARV₂ Intramuscular Anti-Rabies Vaccination- தசையினூடாக நீர்வெறுப்பு நோய்த் தடுப்பு மருந்து.

Analysis of Miscellaneous problem

Lexicons (Dictionaries, Glossary of Medical Terminology) that are not up-to-date

One problem the translator of medical texts faces concerns medical lexicons as they are often incomplete and not updated. It is obvious that any translator knows lexicons fall short because they cannot manage with the fast changing words undergo in the medical field. New words are added to spoken languages daily and it takes months or even number of years for a new word to be inserted into a lexicon, sometimes they do not include in to the medical lexicons. Only few of them absorb these changes. Most often, in cases of slang and other more specific languages, such as jargon, lexicons fall short.

In addition, there is the problem of reliability. Most languages have a variety of medical lexicons in monolingual, bilingual or even in multilingual and one, or a few of those, stand out above the other ones. That one is considered to be the best and has a high factor of reliability. But sometimes the use of medical equivalents may vary according to the dialect and country where the translator lives. These factors also cause problem for the translators to relay on the equivalents.

Example

Source text- Cauterisation of wound is no longer recommended as it leaves very bad scar, and does not confer any additional advantage over washing the wound with water and soap.

Target text- காயத்துக்கான தீய்த்தல்(cauterisation) மிகவும் மோசமான வடுக்களை ஏற்படுத்துவதனால் ஒருபோதும் பரிந்துரைக்கப்படுவதில்லை. அத்துடன் காயத்தைச் சவர்க்காரத்தாலும் நீராலும் அதிக தடவை கழுவுவதனால் மேலதிக நன்மைகள் கிடைப்பதில்லை.

In the above text “cauterisation” is the difficult terminology. The glossary “மருத்துவக் கலைச்சொற்கள்-டாக்டர் சாமி சண்முகம் (மூன்றாம் பதிப்பு-2005)” brings the equivalent as “தீய்த்தல்”. Obviously, this particular Tamil equivalent is not familiar to the Tamil people. Cauterisation indicates burn the skin or wound



with a heated instrument or caustic substance in order to stop bleeding or to prevent infection. For example, freeze the hand and cauterise the wound. The particular Tamil equivalent is an alien term to most of the medical officers, but the medical officers are competent enough to understand the source term “Cauterisation”. Therefore, while translating the source text according to the advice of the medical officer Dr.C.S.Jamunanantha used the English equivalent within the brackets. Hence, the above mentioned medical glossary was incompetent to give the reader friendly equivalent.

Therefore, in order to overcome the problems in finding the appropriate equivalents in bilingual-medical glossaries, the translator compiled a glossary which includes the updated equivalences for several terminologies in the text and attached them at the end of the book. Further, in order to find the equivalents it is very much effective to approach the help of the medical officers.

7. CONCLUSION

Over all, now, there are new inventions made and a vast range of knowledge to gain within medical field. The knowledge is shared in English or some other western languages. So the medical officers are unaware of it. Therefore, medical translators act as a bridge between the medical officers in order to share the medical knowledge in their native language. Further, as a result of the growing awareness on health, general public interested in medicine, treatments etc. create a demand for translations so they can find the information they seek in their first language. In both cases, translating the data texts has been difficult because of the lack of dictionaries and glossaries. This highlights how difficult it will be for any translator to translate medical articles unless he/she has the possibility to consult with a medical professional. In fact, there are many aspects to consider when translating medical articles and it might be difficult to solve the problems. However, understanding the source text and the purpose of the text (to whom the text was written) might help to do a better translation of the medical articles.

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