

# Strategies for Cultivating College Students from the Perspective of Emergency Language Services - Taking a Local Medical College as an Example

Mengxin Miao

Binzhou Medical University, Yantai 264003, China.

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**Abstract:** Emergency language service is essential to the national emergency management system, especially during the post-pandemic era. In addition to the implementation of macro policies, we should focus more on micro-level practices. This study will explore the training and cooperation path of multilingual, interdisciplinary talents between universities, hospitals and governments.

**Keywords:** Emergency Language Services; Emergency Management; COVID-19; Medical Schools

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## 1. Introduction

With the further development of China's reform and opening-up and the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, China is accelerating its integration into the world. And the number of foreigners, as well as their residential areas, is gradually increasing. In this context, once some emergent accidents such as natural disasters and other public emergencies happen, it is crucial for us to overcome language barriers and maintain information communication. Relevant emergency language services should become integral to the emergency management system.

The *13th Five-Year Plan for the Development of the National Language in China* released in 2016 proposed establishing a national language emergency service mechanism and improving language service capacity to safeguard national strategies and security. In 2020, emergency language services played an irreplaceable role in the sudden outbreak of the coronavirus epidemic (COVID-19), and the construction of an emergency language service mechanism has become one of the trending topics. In 2022, the *14th Five-Year Plan for the National Emergency Response System* further pointed out several problems existing in the emergency language services, such as the multilingual ability of emergency rescue personnel should be improved, and the professional emergency language service teams should be built with universities, research institutes, medical institutions, and volunteer organizations.

## 2. Literature Review

Foreign scholars have attached importance to research related to emergency language services. Bell (2017) explored the issue of the importance of disseminating disaster information in multiple languages. O'Brien et al. (2018) researched communication for disaster resilience and prevention and language technologies for disaster preparedness and response from the perspective of translation in disaster events. Cadwell (2015, 2020) studied the Japanese earthquake and confirmed the context dependence of translation credibility in response to disaster-related communication. Uekusa (2017) focused on linguistic minorities and proposed a definition of "Disaster linguicism".

In recent years, domestic research on emergency language services has started. Some scholars have sorted out literature and research paths about foreign emergency language services (Teng, Y. J., 2018; Zhang, T.W., 2020; Wang, J., and Qu, Z.Q., 2020). Since the outbreak of the coronavirus epidemic, emergency language services for epidemic-based public emergencies have become an emerging academic focus, including theoretical discussions on emergency language issues (Wang, L. F. et al., 2020; Yin, C. P., 2020; Teng, Y. J., 2020), the practice of emergency language services in China (Li, Y. M. et al., 2020; Liang,

Y. Y., 2021), and the training of emergency language service personnel (Wang, L. F, Mu Lei, Liao R.X., et al. 2020; Cai, J.G., 2020; Teng, Y. J., 2021).

Countries with frequent disasters and advanced economies have the necessity and possibility of language emergency practices, so they have more experience in emergency language services. There are more robust mechanisms, and their research primarily focuses on developing emergency language forms and protecting the rights of vulnerable language groups (Zhang, T.W., 2020). Most domestic research concentrates on macro policies and planning at the national level. However, neither the current emergency language systems in China are complete, nor the training of emergency language professionals has been fully implemented, thus insufficient attention has been paid to the multilingual skills of emergency language staff and emergency foreign language services (Cai, J.G., 2020).

### **3. Talent cultivating strategies and practices from the perspective of emergency language services**

#### **3.1 Practices in the local medical university**

First, we should build a medical English curriculum system that matches the medical education system based on an in-depth analysis of target needs, rely on a team of interdisciplinary medical English teachers, improve top-level design according to requirements, and steadily promote medical English teaching reform.

Secondly, universities can establish a pool of emergency language talents and a database of emergency language volunteers to expand the reserve strength of emergency language service talents, thus solving uncertainties such as the mobility of emergency language service talents and the convenience of participating in rescue. To improve the quantity and ability level of emergency language talents, medical colleges and universities can reorganize the limited resources in medical universities, plan practical professional training for relevant talents in emergency language service, and conduct regular simulation drills for appropriate talents in emergency language service.

Thirdly, combining with the needs of disciplines and industries, multilingual volunteers or staff, especially English volunteers, should be recruited to utilize platforms like emergency languages service corpus such as the novel coronavirus corpus and WeChat public accounts posting related news and notices in foreign languages, producing short videos and micro courses for science popularization, to disseminate timely and accurate information about public emergencies and meet the language needs of different service recipients in emergency language services (we can first involve international students and hearing-impaired students in the local medical university as a pilot study and then extend to larger scales).

#### **3.2 Methods**

Firstly, the content and composition of emergency language services should be clarified by sorting out the existing literature and practices and related surveys about emergency language services. The current gap in emergency language services will be obtained.

On a theoretical basis, the existing teaching resources of local medical schools are integrated to carry out optimization and teaching reform projects for courses such as medical English, and relevant training and thematic competitions are actively organized to absorb emergency language talents.

At the same time, recruiting notices for emergency language volunteers (English, sign language, speech rehabilitation, etc.) are distributed through various channels on campus. After screening and training, talent and volunteer databases are constructed. The talent database includes professionals (experts and scholars, full-time faculty at universities, etc.) and non-professionals (students, etc.). Participants' information is compiled according to their age, gender, major, education, professional background, and other information for dynamic and structured management. This project involves emergency language services, medical English teaching reform, corpus research, and other fields. It will integrate and promote them according to research needs, incorporating new ideas, methods, and perspectives for existing research in these fields.

Once the construction of the talent database begins, the structure of the language resources base for emergency services and communication platforms such as public accounts and short videos making can be started, and the practice of emergency language services will be launched, such as the release of information related to public emergencies. This project will improve the language resource bases of local emergency services in terms of communication in English and other emergency languages, sharing and disseminating local anti-epidemic stories, terminology databases, corpus construction, etc. The results can also be applied to research and teaching. Therefore, it has a high application value for helping to establish a long-term local emergency language mechanism and improve medical English teaching and research.

Coping with foreign-related medical services department and the Foreign Affairs Office in local government, professional advantages of local universities will be elaborated such as English, Korean, translation, medicine, etc., and the universities will jointly provide professional consultation and talent export services to improve foreign-related medical services and enhance the internationalization of their residency.

## Conclusion

While few studies have been conducted on the construction and specific implementation paths of emergency language service talents, as previous studies have mainly focused on national language governance from a macro perspective, the analysis in this paper focuses on the cultivation of talents in colleges and universities from the standpoint of emergency language services, and this will contribute to the local response to public emergencies and the establishment of a long-term local emergency language mechanism by leveraging the professional advantages of medical schools; it will also contribute to teaching reform, promote disciplinary integration, and cultivate complex medical talents by leveraging emergency language service research.

From the perspective of the talent cultivation strategy of local medical colleges, this study will benefit the building of an interdisciplinary medical English faculty team; improve the top-level design according to the demand; steadily promote the medical English teaching reform; accelerate the interdisciplinary medical talent and teacher cultivation, and facilitate the integration of multiple disciplines.

Taking medical schools serving the emergency language talent pool as the research focus, researchers will go deep into the front line of foreign-related medical treatment to explore the cooperation path between universities, hospitals, and governments, exploring the long-term operation and playing the organizational roles of the universities in university-government cooperation.

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