

Interpretation of Medical English Translation Features and Translation Skills

Ying Feng

Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures, North Sichuan Medical College, Chong City, Sichuan 637000

Abstract: As an international common language, English is the main window for foreign communication. Translation needs to express the English language accurately and completely, focusing on the connotation of English content. Medical English has complex vocabulary, strong content professionalism, and a large number of long sentences. There are relatively many nominalization structures. In the translation process, it is necessary to conduct in-depth analysis of the grammar and vocabulary characteristics of medical English and clarify the translation standards of medical English, mastering effective analysis skills, based on this, this paper focuses on the translation characteristics of medical English and translation skills analysis, that in the translation of medical English need to fully grasp the overall characteristics of the content, vocabulary characteristics and sentence characteristics, hoping to provide some reference suggestions for medical English translation work, so as to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the translation content, to meet the actual needs of medical work.

Keywords: Medical English; Translation characteristics; Translation skills

Medical English is the main communication tool of modern medical information. With the continuous development of international medicine, the application scenarios and status of medicine and English are constantly improving. Medical English usually refers to the work of medical personnel, medical departments, medical research, etc. The specialized language used in the process has strict language structure and strict and professional words and sentences. Therefore, translators need to master the characteristics of medical English in the translation process, use various translation techniques to accurately and completely report the content of medical English.

1. Translation Standards for Medical English

Different English types of translation have special translation standards and translation processes. Translators need to strictly abide by the translation standards according to the translation content, so as to ensure that the translated content is more professional and authoritative. In the process of translating medical English, Translators need to follow the following principles. On the one hand, they need to ensure that the translated content is consistent with the writing style and ideas of the original content. On the other hand, it is necessary to ensure that the translated article or text can express the meaning of the original text smoothly and accurately. There will be a large number of professional English words in medical articles. These words are not commonly used in daily life, so the professional requirements for translators are higher. In the translation process, translators must accurately express the meaning of the original text. At the same time, it is also necessary to avoid excessive pursuit of the translation content to be consistent with the original sentence structure, thereby reducing the reading difficulty of readers. The translator can make appropriate adjustments to the sentence structure on the basis of the original meaning, the main purpose is to facilitate the reading and understanding of readers^[1].

2. Characteristics of Medical English Translation

2.1 General characteristics

In the process of development, medical English is influenced by French, Greek and other languages. It is unique in terms of vocabulary and structure. Through the analysis of the etymology of a large number of medical professional terms, it can be found that more than 48% of medical English The terms come from Greek, and about 38% of the terms come from Latin. It can be seen that the composition of medical English is complex, which greatly increases the difficulty of translation. At the same time, in order

to accurately express the medical professional content, medical English has a strict logical structure in terms of wording and other aspects, and the rhetoric is relatively simple, which can objectively and accurately express the meaning of the content. The common content that needs to be translated is mainly medical literature, such as medical reviews and medical papers, Drug instructions, case reports, etc. [2].

2.2 Vocabulary characteristics

The lexical characteristics of medical English are mainly reflected in the fact that the same word often contains multiple meanings, rich affixes, and a large number of professional terms and abbreviations. For example, the hemodystrophy of blood malnutrition is composed of three different derived parts. It is precisely because of a large number of unfamiliar words and affixes that the structure of professional terms is complex, and there are greater difficulties in understanding and memory. In the process of medical development, in order to improve the efficiency of medical communication, abbreviations are widely used in both clinical and medical research. For example, MRI(magnetic resonance imaging) MRI images often appear in the form of abbreviations in medical literature. If the translator cannot master certain medical knowledge, it is difficult to accurately translate these contents. In addition, some medical terminology will use names or place names to express English content, which is also one of the translation difficulties that translators need to face.

2.3 Sentence characteristics

Through reading medical English literature, it can be found that medical English uses a lot of phrases, nominalized structures, passive sentences and various clauses in sentence structure, which makes most sentence patterns more lengthy and complex. Translators not only need to have a wealth of medicine and knowledge, but also need to have a solid foundation in English. They can start with the sentence structure and main components of English, on the basis of following the principles of translation, various translation techniques are used to deconstruct the original content so as to achieve the purpose of translation. For example: Unlike disinfectants, which can't be taken into the body without damage to its tissues, chemotherapeutic agents exert what is called a selective action. The use of unlike in this sentence belongs to a prepositional phrase, while which leads to a non-restrictive attributive clause. In the translation process, the translator needs to divide the structure and composition of the sentence, and clarify the subject, clause and other components in order to more accurately express the content of the original text [3].

3. Medical English Translation Skills

3.1 Analysis statement structure

In medical articles or books, most sentence patterns have certain similarities. The translator needs to analyze the sentence patterns to accurately express the meaning of the original text. In the actual translation process, the translator first needs to clarify the existence of the sentence pattern. Several sentence structures, and clarify the relationship between different sentence structures, for example, there will be a large number of non-personal sentences and passive sentences in the medical English translation process, in order to ensure that the medical content is highly professional, the third-person form is usually used when expressing the content in English. Therefore, translators need to master these translation skills to avoid the first-person appearance in the translated article [4].

3.2 Use word formation

Morpheme is one of the common methods in the process of medical English translation. Through the analysis of the characteristics of English vocabulary, it can be found that most medical vocabulary is composed of Latin, Greek and English to form a new vocabulary. Although this kind of word formation method brings certain difficulties to the translation work, it also provides ideas for medical English translation, the translator needs to master some commonly used medical English morphemes and their main usages before formal translation, and try to use morphemes to judge the meaning of vocabulary. This method can effectively save the translator's data query time and improve the translation work. Efficiency, for example, neo in Latin means "new". When translating neonat, the translator can judge the meaning of the word as a newborn by the context of the morpheme and context.

3.3 Combined context

In the process of English translation, there are often polysemy of one word. For this reason, the translator needs to fully understand the meaning of the context to avoid ambiguity in the translation process, which leads to the inability to correctly express the meaning of the original text. For example, arteriolar radius can be translated into radial arteriole, radius also contains the meaning of radius, and can also be translated into arteriole radius in specific context, when a proper noun appears polysemy, the translator can judge whether the meaning of the word is expressed correctly according to the content of the context and the professional medical definition.

3.4 Focus on lexical differences

Vocabulary difference means that there are big differences between ordinary English vocabulary and medical professional words. When translating medical materials, translators can find that many professional vocabulary contents are extended from daily vocabulary, but they need to be accurately distinguished. The difference between the two ensures that the translated content has strong accuracy and can fully express the meaning of the original text. For example, primary can be translated into elementary and main in ordinary English, but if in medical English, the meaning of the word needs to be changed when it is matched with other words, primary nursing cannot be directly translated into main care, but need to be translated into responsibility care. For such special words, translators need to accumulate in the translation process to ensure a smoother translation process.

Concluding remarks:

In short, medical translation requires translators to have rich medical knowledge and language foundation. In the translation process, translators need to clarify the standards of translation content, analyze the characteristics of medical English vocabulary and sentence patterns, and master a variety of translation skills. Translate medical English content accurately and completely.

References:

- [1] Huang Li. Analysis of Characteristics and Skills of Medical English Translation [J]. Science and Technology Wind, 2020(15):205-206.
- [2] Yin Ruoxi. Effective Thinking on Language Features and Translation Methods of Medical English [J]. Overseas English (I), 2020(12):257-258.
- [3] Jiang Shiyong. Cross-cultural Perspective Transformation and Translation Skills in English Translation [J]. Journal of Jiangxi Electric Power Vocational and Technical College, 2021,34(9):57-58.
- [4] Chang Zhaoxia, Xi Hongchang. The construction of functional equivalence theory for medical English translation [J]. Journal of Beijing Institute of Printing, 2021,29(4):79-81.

About the author:

Ying Feng (1978-), gender, female nationality, bachelor/master degree with the highest Han degree (degree), professional title, lecturer's research direction is: medical English teaching.