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Medical English Translation in Medical English Classes of Chinese Colleges: A Literature-based Review



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Abstract

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Chinese Medical Colleges, Medical English Classes, Medical English Translation

The current literature review intends to have a brief understanding of the general situation of medical English translation in medical English classes of contemporary Chinese medical colleges. Thus, in order to acquire an evaluation of the existing situation of medical English translation in contemporary Chinese medical colleges, this reviewing paper organically collects relevant literatures regarding medical English translation in contemporary Chinese medical colleges. Based on the results of this reviewing paper, a gap between a lack of certain series of practical medical English translation methods and the needs of applying necessary medical English translation methods is found ultimately. In view of this situation, the reviewers have reiterated the relationship between medical English translation and language learning and brought forward a translational enlightenment for the follow-up translational studies as well as future research regarding medical English translation in contemporary Chinese medical colleges.

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Introduction

Information exchanges between countries around the world have become more and more frequent since human beings entered the 21st century. This kind of cross-border information exchange has also become more and more efficient. In the professional field of medicine, due to the continuous development of medical undertakings, medical academic exchanges between different countries have also become frequent (Zhu, 2015).

Under such a general background, the 21st century will make the little-known medical English translation become more and more important in international medical communication (Yang & Liu, 2009). As a result, many researchers around the world have become more and more enthusiastic about the research and discussion of medical English translation (Fu & Luo, 2012; Hutchinson & Waters, 2002; Liu, 2000).

In general, as far as medical English translation is concerned, international medical conferences, international cooperative surgeries, international import and export of medical equipments and drugs, translation of international medical English documents, etc. all over the world require authoritative translation experts (Ma, 2005; Ma & Jin, 2008). At present, however, there are not many experts or talents in the field of medical English translation in China. And in this related medical field, most of the current medical English translation activities are done by experience and more systematic translation theories that can guide the practice of medical English translation have not yet been formed (Xi, 2009).

Thus, in the process of adopting proper reviewing methods of the current literature review as well as in the selection of the reviewing samples, the current literature reviewers firstly analyze the stylistic characteristics of medical English, and connect the characteristics of medical English with the general theories of scientific English translation samples. Then, the reviewers analyze further samples of medical English translation texts and list the commonly used medical English translation methods in the process of medical English translation. Next, the reviewers summarize the problems existing in medical English translation at the emerging stage and explore the reasons for the problems. At the same time, the reviewers attempt to come up with some feasible suggestions for medical English translation, and to provide references for the future research in terms of medical English translation in contemporary Chinese medical colleges.

Specifically, with the help of the comparative analysis method as well as the literature review

method, the reviewers have fully analyzed the main works and documents on medical English translation at home and abroad. On this basis, the reviewers thoroughly come to explore the overall situation of medical English translation in the medical English classes of contemporary Chinese medical colleges. At the same time, based on the overall situation mentioned above, the reviewers further analyze the main medical English translation methods involved in the modern medical English classes of contemporary Chinese medical colleges.

Meanwhile, through the introduction and analysis of medical English translation methods commonly used in medical English classes, the current literature review intends to compare the advantages and disadvantages of different medical English translation methods, and to provide comments and suggestions for the majority of medical English educators and learners. Most importantly, just as Fu and Luo (2012) have claim, it will also provide more promising enlightenment for the application of knowledge of medical English translation by the majority of medical English educators and learners in their future medical English classes.

To emphasize, the current literature review has actually laid a solid foundation for the majority of medical English educators and learners in their follow-up and future medical English translation processes. In particular, for medical English educators, it will obviously help them understand the future development trend of medical English translation in their follow-up medical English translation researches, and turn up more clear researches and discussion directions.

For the majority of medical English learners from most Chinese medical colleges, the reviewing paper also reminds them of being more clearly aware of the current status and significance of medical English translation in their medical English classes, in that case, they can always remind themselves to autonomously learn and master more and more solid medical English translation knowledge reserves, so as to face the future medical English classes more and more proactively and confidently.

A Literature-based Review

As the body of the current literature review, this part mainly includes three sections. The first section briefly introduces what “Medical English” is since it is little-known to a certain number of people regarding what it really means even in the new century. The second section deals with what the so-called “medical English classes” is as it is closely connected with “Medical English”. For the third section of the body, it mainly reviews “Medical English Translation”, which includes the

historical development of medical English translation, the significance of medical English translation, and the characteristics of medical English translation as well as some specific medical English translation methods in contemporary Chinese medical colleges' medical English classes.

Medical English

The so-called “Medical English”, to put it simply, it refers to a manifestation of the relevant application of English in medical disciplines. Since medical English is the way to use English as a language in medical subjects, medical English is not only a professional course, but also a professional major (Hutchinson & Waters, 2002). The learning and application of medical English knowledge is the same as the learning of the language of English (Ma & Jin, 2008). Thus, a comprehensive study of medical English includes medical English listening, medical English speaking, medical English reading, medical English writing and medical English translation, etc. Medical English, as a form of language learning, is also a kind of knowledge that the majority of medical professional learners must predominate and master. Medical English plays an important role in the language learning process of the majority of medical professional learners (Wang, Shang, & Li, 2009).

For instance, medical learners who have mastered a certain degree of medical English knowledge can better apply their medical English knowledge and can more easily read and understand different versions of medical English literatures (Zhu, 2015). This can also more effectively promote the continuous improvement of the medical English knowledge storage as well as its application ability of the majority of medical professional learners.

Medical English Classes

The medical English classes are a very important place for medical English learners to learn the knowledge of medical English. This place is also the main channel for medical English educators to teach and educate their medical English learners (Hutchinson & Waters, 2002). The medical English classes are the same as the ordinary class, which is acting as a period of structure. During this period of structure, medical English learners learn the knowledge of medical English, master it, and even apply what they have learned into practice. Generally, the medical English classes mainly include two necessary activities of medical English teaching and medical English learning.

Medical English Teaching and Learning

In medical English classes, the teaching of medical English educators and the learning of medical English learners are closely related and inseparable. Whether it is medical English teaching or medical English learning, both of them include the five macro language skills of medical English in listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation. The teaching of these five macro-level language skills by medical English educators has a profound impact on the acquisition and application of these five macro-level language skills for medical English learners.

In the teaching process of medical English, medical English educators create necessary medical English situations based on various teaching practice, and provide medical students with opportunities for in-class practice, including practical opportunities for listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation of medical English (Yang & Liu, 2009). Especially as a language skill that has an indispensable role, these five macro skills of medical English fully demonstrate the comprehensive application ability of medical English learners (Hutchinson & Waters, 2002). Therefore, medical English educators need to allow medical students to have practical experience in a specific medical English environment (Lepetit & Cichochi, 2002), so that they can gain knowledge of medical English in specific activities, experience and apply the knowledge of medical English flexibly.

As medical English learners, in their medical English learning process, they should do their best to continuously improve their medical English listening, speaking, reading, and writing and translation abilities. As the main body of medical English learning, medical English learners should also participate in various practical activities organized by their medical English teachers in the class, and strive to make such medical English classes a lively medical English learning paradise. In that case, medical English learners can smoothly allow themselves to learn and practice naturally and orderly in a pleasant medical English learning environment (Hutchinson & Waters, 2002), and continuously improve their comprehensive abilities in medical English listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation.

What needs to be emphasized is that among the five macro-language skills of medical English listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation, medical English translation, which can ultimately reflect the comprehensive application ability of knowledge of medical English, has always been the interests of countless medical English experts and scholars at home and abroad (Bao, 2015).

This is because, to a certain extent, the ability of medical English learners' translation fully reflects the response ability as well as the level of adaptability in a specific medical English situation. This also further reflects their comprehensive ability to perceive medical English knowledge, experience medical English emotions, and reflect on medical English knowledge in different medical English learning activities.

Medical English Translation

Since the birth of medical English translation, it has not been a long way. However, the development of medical English translation in its later period has become very rapid. Especially since entering the 21st century, medical experts from all over the world have paid more attention to the application and development of translation theories in the medical field in order to understand the latest developments in other countries' medical careers to a greater extent.

In fact, the process of medical English translation is the process of communication in the medical professional field between different countries around the world (Hutchinson & Waters, 2002). Therefore, it can be seen that medical English translation is inseparable from the medical development of those countries and even their cultural development (Zhu, 2015; Yan, 2007). This is because medical English translation depends on the specific conditions of the medical development of each country and its language dissemination and communication (Liu, 2000). If medical English translation is separated from the specific conditions of medical development in those particular countries, then it will become meaningless.

Therefore, because of the above situation, as medical English educators as well as learners, we need to be able to fully understand the beginning as well as the historical development of medical English translation at home and abroad. If we can really do this, then we would also be able to recognize the significance and the characteristics of medical English translation consequently. In that case, the process of medical English translation will become as meaningful as possible.

In addition, a further understanding and analysis of various medical English translation methods in medical English classes of contemporary Chinese medical colleges will definitely play a pivotal role in our follow-up and even future medical English translation research. What's more, it will also point out a clear direction for research as well as a path for the majority of contemporary Chinese medical English educators and learners in their future medical English translation researches and studies.

Beginning of Medical English Translation

Although translation theories in the world came into being relatively early, the translation of medical English appeared very late. It was even much later when people began to record the activities and theories related to medical English translation. As is recorded, as early as the Qin Dynasty in China, Chinese medicine was already introduced to Southeast Asian countries, however, the foreign translation activities related to medicine just began around the 8th century (Yin, 2013). That was also the period when Chinese medicine was introduced into Arab areas as well as other countries.

And then, due to historical reasons, the Arabs' medical English translation methods and their translation theories at that time had very little influence on future generations. Precisely because of this, what can really provide us with detailed information for research related to medical English translation thus began in the middle of the 17th century when the medical industry in Europe developed rapidly, and this was ultimately regarded as the beginning of medical English translation (Sheng, 2009).

Later on, with the increasing frequency of economic and trade exchanges between various countries around the world, according to Yin (2013), this had also led to the promotion of traditional Chinese medicine in the world as well as the participation of many Chinese translators. Slowly, people began to take medical English translation seriously as an important activity or even see it as a discipline.

Historical Development of Medical English Translation

Although the historical development of medical English translation is not very long, due to the extremely rapid economic development worldwide, various information exchanges between countries are becoming more and more efficient, which also makes medical English translation perform with different characteristics in different time periods. Based on the characteristics and development achievements of medical English translation in different periods, the historical development of medical English translation has been divided into five stages as follows (Sheng, 2009; Bo & Deng, 2005; Li, 1997).

From the Middle of the 17th Century to the End of the 19th Century

The first stage of the historical development of medical English translation is from the middle of

the 17th century to the end of the 19th century. This stage is mainly the first and most immature stage of the historical development of medical English translation. At this stage, medical English translation mainly focuses on the translation of some common medical diseases, including the translation of common diseases in Western medicine and the translation of common diseases in Chinese medicine. In this most primitive stage, no more complete and systematic monographs and books on medical English translation have been found.

From the Beginning of the 20th Century to the Middle of the 20th Century

The second stage of the historical development of medical English translation is from the beginning of the 20th century to the middle of the 20th century. This stage is a period of in-depth development of medical English translation all over the world. At this stage, many medical scholars and experts from western countries directly participated in the activities of medical English translation, and different styles of medical English translation forms and characteristics have also been formed (Yan, 2007). Different medical English translation concepts have slowly emerged. At this critical stage, English, as an intermediary language, occupies a dominant position in medical English translation.

From the 1950s to the Mid-1970s

The third stage of the historical development of medical English translation is from the 1950s to the mid-1970s. In this stage, scientific and technological exchanges between various countries around the world have become more and more frequent. It is precisely because of this that, in the field of medical disciplines, medical English translation appears for the first time under an official organization. It can be seen that medical English translation will get in touch with science and technology and develop further under the impetus of this new situation.

From the 1970s to the End of the 20th Century

The fourth stage of the historical development of medical English translation is from the 1970s to the end of the 20th century. At this stage, the trend of global economic integration is becoming more and more obvious, and the status of science and technology among countries on a global scale is becoming more and more important.

Especially, with the implementation of China's opening-up policy and the extensive

development of the in-depth publicity work of Chinese medicine to the outside world (Liu, 2000), medical English translation has shown obvious extensiveness and applicability. Various researches on medical English translation theories have also appeared continuously (Bao, 2015).

From the Beginning of the 21st Century

After entering the 21st century, with the globalization of science and technology as well as the promotion of the World Health Organization, medical English translation throughout the world is in the ascendant and develops rapidly. The emerging medical English translation activities are even closely integrated with traditional Chinese medicine, infused with scientific and technological features (Ge & Luo, 2010).

For example, in China, with the continuous development of medical English translation, many medical English translation dictionaries as well as medical English dictionaries compiled by international and domestic medical experts and scholars have emerged (see **Table 1**. below).

Table 1

List of Some Medical English Translation Dictionaries since the 21st Century

Editor(s)	Name of the Dictionary	Publication	Year
Zhao, Q.	<i>The Chinese-English Medical Dictionary.</i>	Beijing: People's Medical Publishing House (PMPH).	2015
Chen, W., & Li, D.	<i>The English-Chinese Medical Dictionary.</i>	Shanghai: Shanghai Science and Technology Press.	2015
Fang, T., Ji, B., & Wu, Q.	<i>New Chinese-English Dictionary of Traditional Chinese Medicine.</i>	Beijing: China Medical Science and Technology Press.	2013
Fang, M.	<i>Dictionary of Chinese Medicine.</i>	Shanghai: Shanghai Education Press.	2011
Chen, W.	<i>An English-Chinese Medical Dictionary. (3rd edition).</i>	Shanghai: Shanghai Science and Technology Press.	2009
Wang, X., & Zhang, Y.	<i>English-Chinese Medical Dictionary.</i>	Beijing: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press.	2008
Li, J.	<i>Dictionary of Traditional Chinese Medicine.</i>	Beijing: People's Medical Publication.	2005

Bai, Y.	<i>An English-Chinese Dictionary of the World's Medicine.</i>	Beijing: World Book Inc.	2004
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In general, medical English translation has made considerable progress in the course of the latest several centuries all over the world. In its continuous development in the future, medical English translation will be closely integrated with modern science and technology (Dong & Liu, 2001), presenting a totally new situation much closer to the development of the times around the world.

Nevertheless, compared with the speed of development of medical English translation in the world, the speed of the internationalization of the Chinese medical English translation still lags far behind reality (Wang, 2014). As far as Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in China is concerned, the researches on TCM English translation, the development of TCM English translation theory and the TCM English discipline construction are relatively weak, all of which are lagging far behind the overall development of translation in other disciplines in China. At present, researches on the theories and methods of TCM English translation in China are still far from being systematic, the positioning of TCM English translation discipline is also not clear enough, and the academic community of TCM English translation is even more lacking.

Significance of Medical English Translation

To a certain extent, translation is not only a conversion of words in a language, but also a cross-language and cultural exchange. In the era of globalization, especially the era of globalization dominated by science and technology, the function and the significance of translation are more prominent. The meaning and function of medical English translation are closely related to the characteristics of medical English itself.

On the one hand, medical English translation is the need for medical information exchanges in various countries around the world. The emergence and development of science and technology have turned the entire world into a global village (Hutchinson & Waters, 2002). The communication among people living in this global village has also become faster and more frequent. In the field of medical science, timely and efficient medical information exchange and communication are essential, which ultimately provide fertile soil for the existence and

development of medical English translation (Liu, 2000).

On the other hand, medical English translation is the need for people all over the world to bravely face and solve many intractable diseases and medical problems. With the help of the combination of medical English translation and modern science and technology, medical experts and scholars around the world can learn the latest information about the most difficult and the most complicated diseases in the shortest time. At the same time, through medical English translation, it is also conducive to medical experts and scholars from all over the world to work together to solve various medical problems (Yin, 2013).

It is not difficult to see that medical English translation is extremely important for the future development of medical undertakings in the world today, as well as for the dissemination and exchange of medical information between countries. Lu (2012) even believes that medical English translation shoulders the important task of “going out to communicate” with the cultures of various countries. He also strongly advocates the formation of a stable medical English translation academic echelon and a medical English translation learning group, so that such academic construction can promote the development of the discipline of medical English translation, thereby ultimately promoting the attention and learning focus of medical English translation by the whole society and the people all over the world.

Characteristics of Medical English Translation

As mentioned above, in the past several decades, medical English translation has become more and more important in international medical communication, and many experts and scholars around the world have also conducted a certain series of researches and discussions on it. Just as Hutchinson and Waters (2002) explain, the characteristics of medical English translation are different from those of other subjects. In general, because medical English not only has a large vocabulary, a large number of professional terms, scattered phrases, but also has a relatively large sentence length and a relatively complex sentence structure (Huang, 2012). This has brought more difficulties and problems to most medical English translators.

In many medical materials, copywriting and articles, it is very common for readers to see countless long sentences due to the need for narrative reasoning. Therefore, in any text involving medical English, long sentences and complex structures are a major feature of medical English, and it is also obvious.

Medical English is a branch of scientific English. It is very common and necessary for long sentences to appear in medical English in order to have a clear concept, a prominent logical relationship, accurate contents, and precise data. Therefore, the appearance of long sentences in medical English translation can be attributed to the following two aspects.

On the one hand, long sentences in medical English translation use a variety of modifiers, which expand the structure, make the sentence longer, and result in the contents becoming more complicated (Huang, 2012). On the other hand, medical English materials, copywriting and articles have relatively high requirements for scientificity and logic. In this way, as one of the components, long sentences have become important in most medical English materials, copywriting and articles in terms of translation.

Therefore, in the process of medical English translation, medical English translators not only need to master the solid foundation of the English language knowledge and the necessary medical expertise, but also have a good grasp of the understanding of long sentences (Yan, 2007; Dong & Liu, 2001). Only in this way can medical English translators make the finished medical English translation more appropriate and accurate in content.

Medical English Translation Methods in Contemporary Chinese Medical Colleges

Generally speaking, in the medical English classes of contemporary Chinese medical colleges, there are mainly the following three translation methods involved in medical English translation, which include medical English literal translation method, medical English free translation method and medical English transliteration method.

Whether it is the translation of Western medicine or Chinese medicine, these translation methods have their own advantages and disadvantages. Perhaps this is because Western medicine and Chinese medicine are based on different philosophical ideas, are born in different cultural soils, and have their own characteristics in many aspects (Wang, 2014). Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) emphasizes a way of savvy thinking, which considers the combined analysis of *jin* (metal), *mu* (wood), *shui* (water), *huo* (fire), and *tu* (earth) while Western medicine emphasizes a rational way of thinking, which specifically analyzes cells and tissues.

Medical English Literal Translation

In the medical English classes of contemporary Chinese medical colleges, the most common

medical English translation method is the literal translation. This is also a translation method commonly used in other disciplines. The advantage of choosing to use such medical English literal translation method, according to Huang (2012), is that the translational product under this translation method can retain the language form and content form of the original text of the corresponding medical English materials, copywriting and articles, etc. At the same time, this medical English literal translation method is faithful to the original text and pursues the most similarity with the original text. For medical English learners, the finished medical English translation is relatively concise and easy to accept (Wang, 2014).

For example, in the case that the equivalent words can be found directly, the medical English translator can directly use the medical English literal translation method for translation. For example, see **Table 2**. below.

Table 2

Medical English Literal Translation

Medical Chinese Terms	Medical English Literal Translation
rén tǐ qì guān 人体器官	Human Organs
xīn zàng 心脏	Heart
gān zàng 肝脏	Liver
pí zàng 脾脏	Spleen
fèi zàng 肺脏	Lung
shèn zàng 肾脏	Kidney

Medical English Free Translation

Medical English free translation method is also a commonly used translation method in the medical English classes of contemporary Chinese medical colleges. Medical English free translation actually belongs to the category of domestication translation under certain translation theories. It pursues a high degree of compatibility with the original text of medical materials, copywriting and articles and makes the translational products pretty readable and receptive (Wang, 2014). In addition, in the process of using the medical English free translation method, the finished products

of the medical English free translation method can greatly enhance the reader's interest in reading because such products conform to the expression habits of the target language in translation.

Medical English free translation is mainly used when there are huge cultural differences between the original language and the target language. Compared with the medical English literal translation method, it is more flexible, concise and crisp in practice (Huang, 2012). In addition, this translation method can effectively reduce the reader's misunderstanding of certain medical theories. It is actually the most commonly used and easily accepted translation method in other disciplines as well. For example, see **Table 3**. below.

Table 3

Medical English Free Translation

Medical Chinese Terms	Medical English Literal Translation	Medical English Free Translation
línchuáng zhèngzhuàng 临 床 症 状	Clinical Symptoms	Clinical Symptoms
xīnqūzāyīn 心 区 杂 音	Heart Noises	Heart Murmur
línbāchùtòng 淋 巴 触 痛	Lymph Pains	Lymph Tender
jīnyè 津 液	Body Fluid	Thick Fluid
xuèyū 血 瘀	Blood Blocks	Blood Stagnation

Medical English Transliteration

Medical English transliteration is a very commonly used translation method for Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in the medical English classes of contemporary Chinese medical colleges. One of the main differences between Chinese medicine and Western medicine is that the language of traditional Chinese medicine is obscure and difficult to understand. At the same time, many traditional Chinese medical terms lack physical counterparts and are always abstract and vague.

As a result, many traditional Chinese medical terms cannot find their corresponding equivalent words in the translation outcomes. In other words, most of the vocabularies in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) have very strong Chinese cultural characteristics in nature, which has resulted in

such a fact that it is quite difficult to find the corresponding medical English equivalent words to interpret their inner meanings (Huang, 2012). In that case, the medical English transliteration method is mainly used in the process of medical English translation in the medical English classes of contemporary Chinese medical colleges. For example, see **Table 4.** below.

Table 4*Medical English Transliteration*

Medical Chinese Terms	Medical English Literal Translation	Medical English Transliteration
zhōngyàomíng fāngjì míng 中 药 名 / 方 剂 名	Names of Chinese Medicine/Prescription	Names of Chinese Medicine/Prescription
wūjī 乌 鸡	Black Cock	<i>Wuji</i>
qīnglóng 青 龙	Blue Dragon	<i>Qinglong</i>
báihǔ 白 虎	White Tiger	<i>Baihu</i>
gāncǎo 甘 草	Licorice	<i>Gancao</i>

Discussion**Difficulties of Medical English Translation**

The current literature review has an in-depth review on the stylistic characteristics of various medical English text samples as well as a detailed comparison of three commonly used medical English translation based on a preliminary introduction of the historical background, together with an analysis of the characteristics of medical English translation. In view of this, the reviewers attempt makes the majority of contemporary Chinese medical students realize how important medical English translation is to the overall development of medical disciplines in present China. With the expansion and deepening of China's opening to the outside world, international exchanges in the medical field have become more frequent, and the role of medical English translation has become increasingly prominent (Ma, 2005). Nevertheless, just as Ma and Jin (2008) have pointed out that there are not enough translators who can undertake medical English translation to a certain extent, and most of them are senior experts in the related fields. Why can't ordinary translators deal with medical English translation activities as easily as they do in some other fields?

The key reasons include that there are a lot of medical English terminologies, and that the

related sub-categories of medical English are complicated, and that the degree of professionalization of medical English knowledge is too high (Dong & Liu, 2001). These reasons thus make it difficult for translators to cope with the important task of medical English translation without systematic medical English professional knowledge as well as certain years of medical English translation experience (Ma & Jin, 2008).

Principles of Medical English Translation

As we all know, medicine is not only a rigorous science, but also a science that concerns human life. Therefore, based on the current literature review, the reviewers have discovered and intend to remind all medical students that the accuracy of medical English translation is something we must pay attention to. Xi (2009) has ever maintained that only when we become accurate and faithful enough to the original medical English texts, can we further polish them into more faithful and fluent translation products.

In other words, whether it is medical English literal translation, medical English free translation, or medical English transliteration, we must follow the principles of “faithfulness” and “fluency” (Xi, 2009). This is because medical English translation is not without rules (Fu & Luo, 2012).

There is no doubt that, on the basis of mastering general English translation skills, medical English translators not only need to understand the stylistic characteristics of medical English, but also learn basic medical knowledge. Medical English translators who are fully familiar with the expression habits of literal translation and free translation will produce faithful and fluent medical English translations if they can flexibly use medical English knowledge as well as proper translation skills in their translation practice (Xi, 2009; Yan, 2007).

Precautions of Medical English Translation

With the help of the listed examples of medical English literal translation method, medical English free translation method and medical English transliteration method, the reviewers have also found out some precautions in terms of the problems that occur during the translation process of medical English text samples.

The results of the literature review initially illuminate the reviewers to be aware of the principles of “faithfulness” and “fluency” that all medical students should follow when they are doing the translation, especially when using different kinds of medical English translation methods. Say, in

the translation of different parts of speech, part-of-speech conversion is particularly important (Hutchinson & Waters, 2002). For instance, when we encounter a sample of nominal style, we should pay attention to whether we continue to use its noun form or its corresponding verb form in the process of translation.

Besides, it is also worth noting such a fact that, on the one hand, the punctuation of medical English is relatively regular; in that case, all medical students should possibly grasp this in the process of their medical English translation (Huang, 2012). On the other hand, in the process of medical English translation, all medical students should also pay attention to the medical English proper nouns. To specify, medical English proper nouns are usually capitalized in the medical English texts.

Conclusion

From Medical English Translation to Language Learning

Language learning is a big concept. As an extremely important aspect of human learning, language learning is of course also one of the important topics of linguistics, especially psycholinguistics. The content of language learning is also very extensive. According to Richards (2002), the order of the target language learned makes language learning divided into first language learning, second language learning and so on. Meanwhile, based on whether the target language is the mother tongue or not, language learning can be divided into mother tongue learning and foreign language learning.

In the current literature review, medical English translation is actually a sort of application of language skill of the English language learning. From medical English translation to language learning, it is meant that how well contemporary Chinese college medical students behave in their medical English translation inevitably reflects how well they have learned in terms of their medical English language learning.

Therefore, based on the findings of this reviewing paper, the relationship between medical English translation and language learning among contemporary Chinese college medical students has to be reiterated. Meanwhile, a translational enlightenment from medical English translation to language learning should also be proposed so as to pave the way for the follow-up translational studies as well as future researches regarding medical English translation in medical English classes of contemporary Chinese medical colleges.

A Translational Enlightenment

A translational enlightenment of the current literature review lies in providing practical implications for future researches as well as studies on medical English translation in contemporary Chinese colleges' medical English classes. Preliminarily, as has been introduced and discussed, medical English translation among Chinese college medical students has somewhat reflected some of the ways for language learners to learn a certain language, thus it could also be an instructional method for language educators in their language education (Ma & Jin, 2008).

In view of this, as practitioners of language education and language researches, the reviewers thus imply that a good knowledge of medical English translation will help to promote future researches and studies on medical English translation in medical English classes, especially in the domain of guiding medical students how to apply the knowledge of medical English translation as well as practice their medical English translation skills more efficiently and comprehensively (Yan, 2007; Dong & Liu, 2001).

Therefore, from an enlightening standpoint of this reviewing paper, if contemporary Chinese college medical students want to practice their medical English translation skills more comprehensively, obviously, apart from a good basic knowledge of the medical English language, they need a good critical thinking ability of language (Huang, 2013). This, as a matter of fact, has too much to do with their follow-up learning of the knowledge of medical English translation and even with their future studies on more comprehensive language learning practice.

Limitations

Although the current literature review has provided detailed analytical interpretation of the findings regarding medical English translation in medical English classes among Chinese college medical students, it does have some shortcomings. Specifically, the results and findings are basically dependent on a review of relevant medical English translation literatures. In the follow-up and future studies on such topics or issues, more and more other reviewing methods should be taken into consideration as well as employed to carry out so as to ultimately maintain and improve the reliability of such studies of literature review.

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