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Устный перевод в медицинской сфере

В статье рассматривается положение устного медицинского перевода, а также трудности связанные с его осуществлением. Медицинский перевод обслуживает одну из наиболее значимых социальных сфер. Он является особым видом перевода, требующим не только знания языка, владения навыками устного перевода, но также понимания медицинских процедур, владения терминологией, соблюдения этических принципов и способности работать в стрессовых ситуациях. Сегодня в медицинской сфере требуется все больше и больше профессиональных переводчиков. Это обусловлено глобализацией, т. к. с каждым годом количество бизнесменов и туристов, которые выезжают за границу, растет, увеличивается и приток иммигрантов в некоторые страны.

Medical interpreting

Medical interpreting (MI) is one of the most complicated types of interpreting. It plays an important role considering that it occurs when a

person's state of health is the object of translation. That is why worldwide the demand for interpreters working in medical settings is so strong.

MI is performed in situations related to medicine and human health, taking place: 1) in the doctor's office (clinics, hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, health centers, etc.); 2) when doctors visit patients (district doctors, emergency doctors); 3) at the chemist's; 4) in insurance companies; 5) during major sporting events (such as the Olympics), etc.

Generally, an interpreter translates conversations between medical staff (doctors, nurses) and the patient (and/or the members of his/her family) [1].

The need for medical interpreters is becoming acute as globalization has played its part, i.e. more and more people are travelling on business or for pleasure and in some countries the numbers of immigrants are raising. For instance, in the USA MI services are in great demand: "Over the past ten to fifteen years, the changing face of immigration in the United States has had an unprecedented impact on the health care system. Today, over 300 languages are spoken in the U.S. Political, economic and social changes worldwide continue to feed a constant stream of immigrants into the country. Their immediate and frequently urgent health care needs do not wait for linguistic adjustment or cultural assimilation" [2].

Today a lot of people reside in foreign countries and travel abroad and it is difficult for them to get a good medical care there, because they don't know the language. What should they do? "Patients who are not proficient in the language of the country where they live often depend on family members and friends to act as interpreters for them when they access healthcare but this raises issues relating to confidentiality and also to the accuracy of the information being conveyed by people who are doing their best to help but are not trained interpreters. Bilingual staff may act as interpreters but this may also have an impact on confidentiality and accuracy. Consequently it is more appropriate to hire qualified interpreters to work face to face or over the phone or to recruit staff interpreters" [3].

Some people prefer to ask their friends or their relatives to help them, while others prefer to hire qualified interpreters, because they consider them to be more reliable. Anyway, the current situation shows that people tend to choose untrained "interpreters" to perform MI because they think it is the easiest and the cheapest way. But it may lead to devastating results even fatal ones.

"While the function of interpreting in order to allow communication between a patient and a health care provider who do not speak the same

language has been going on for a long time, in the past this function was performed mostly on an ad hoc basis. Calling on whoever was immediately available – family members (including children), non-medical hospital staff, and even other patients – it was a practice that ran a high risk of inadequate communication resulting in misdiagnosis and inappropriate treatment that could, in a worst case scenario, result in the death of the patient” [2]. Nevertheless, now more and more MI practitioners and researchers in the field are speaking in support of MI professionalization.

Boston research firm Common Sense Advisory found that at the moment from 15 to 17 thousand interpreters work in medical settings in the United States (the average wage is \$ 25–30 per hour). But the population is growing and the need for trained interpreters at hospitals and clinics is becoming more urgent. According to the local law, patients have the right of free interpreting assistance in social institutions. The problem is that the experts suitable for the work are not always available [4].

Anyway, there is a number of challenges medical interpreters face with:

- 1) when interpreting the translator doesn't have an opportunity to use dictionaries; timeframe is limited;
- 2) the purpose of interpretation is to convey the meaning of the message, thus lexical and stylistic features are not a priority;
- 3) when performing consecutive interpreting the translator may lose sight of phrases that don't carry an important meaning, the main task is to convey the general meaning of the message;
- 4) when interpreting the translator does not have time to think over the most appropriate variant of the translation [1].

And yet here is the list of top five most complex problems researchers in the field speak of. These are problems associated with translation of: 1) the terminology; 2) Latin borrowings; 3) collocations and phrases typical of medical texts; 4) abbreviations; 5) eponyms [5].

To sum up, there is a great number of challenges translators face in the field of MI. It is crucial for a medical interpreter to understand all the difficulties and be qualified. Interpreters can't perform well in various fields, therefore they choose only one to specialize in. MI requires not only good command of two languages and interpreting skills but also understanding of the procedures, knowledge of the terminology, stress resistance and compliance with ethical guidelines. Thus only professional medical interpreters must work in MI.

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Можно ли измерить качество перевода?

В условиях современного глобального рынка качество производимой продукции или оказываемых услуг становится главным конкурентным преимуществом любой организации. Не являются исключением и переводческие компании. Чтобы оценивать качество выполняемых переводов и определять возможности для улучшения, этот аспект деятельности необходимо измерять. Однако количественная оценка такой субъективной категории, как качество перевода, вызывает немало трудностей. Одной из общепризнанных