ترجمة المختصرات الطبية الإنجليزية الى اللغة العربية في الموقع الالكتروني لوزارة الصحة السعودية

دراسة تحليلية

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Translated English-Arabic Medical Abbreviations on the Saudi Ministry of Health Website: An Analytical Study.

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Abstract

The current research study seeks to investigate translating English medical abbreviations into Arabic. It was aimed to highlight how these medical abbreviations were rendered into Arabic and the possible challenges faced when they were addressed. In addition, the study was set to identify the translational means through which these abbreviations were translated into Arabic. To this effect, the electronic website of Saudi ministry of health (MOH), www.moh.gov.sa, was surveyed and mainly attempted to gather the sample of medical abbreviations needed for the purpose of the research. With this in mind, a random sample of various texts published on this particular website was culled and surveyed to extract all relevant terms and holistically process them to reflect on the research's objectives. Hence, abbreviations that are not medical were considered irrelevant and excluded from the analysis. The findings revealed that the medial abbreviations were notably prevalent in the data under investigation and mostly translated into Arabic through three translation strategies, namely, calque, transposition and equivalence. Some other strategies, however, were also observed such as adaptation, addition, modulation and literal translation. The findings also revealed that Arabic is still somewhat reluctant to using abbreviations as stand-alone words although several abbreviations were used in Arabic as they are with no change. The researcher provided a four-point recommendation to better improve the use of abbreviations in Arabic and make them widely used, smooth and problem-free. This is believed to help save time and efforts in written and oral discourse as well as avoid any lengthy lines, while ensuring brevity where it should be a merit.

Key Words: English-Arabic Abbreviations, Translation, Medical Abbreviations, Translation Strategies.

ملخص البحث :

يهدف هذا البحث إلى دراسة المختصرات الطبية الإنجليزية المترجمة الى اللغة العربية وبيان الصعوبات التي توجه المترجم في ترجمته لهذه المختصرات كما تهدف أيضا إلى بيان الطرق والوسائل التي يمكن من خلالها نقل هذه المختصرات الى اللغة العربية. وقد قام الباحث بمسح استعراضي لنصوص عشوائية من الموقع الالكتروني لوزارة الصحة السعودي لاستخلاص المختصرات الطبية المترجمة الى اللغة العربية وتحليلها بما يتوافق مع أهداف بحثه واستبعاد المختصرات غير الطبية من التحليل والدراسة وقد كشفت الدراسة عن انتشار المختصرات الطبية في العينة التي تم دراستها وان الترجمة تمت من خلال عدة استراتيجيات منها النقل كما هي أو إيجاد المقابل في اللغة العربية أو الحذف أو الإضافة

لبعض الكلمات في تلك المختصرات لتتوافق مع طبيعة اللغة العربية واساليبها التعبيرية كما قدمت الورقة نصائح وارشادات للمترجمين في هذا المجال لجعل الترجمة أكثر دقة وسهولة وتجنب الترجمات الطويلة والغامضة.

كلمات مفتاحية: المختصرات الطبية, الترجمة, المترجم, استراتيجيات الترجمة

Introduction

Translation *per se* is not one-layered rendition of meaning from Source Language (SL) into Target Language (TL) only; rather, translation oftentimes involves cracking the code of how new terms are coined and how such newly coined terms are packaged into readily made abbreviations. It stands to reason that not all languages – hence cultures – have the same subtle nuances of meanings. With cutting-edge and state-of-the-art technologies along new-fangled inventions coming into play, not all cultures have readily heralded the terms used to refer to such newly existing items. Translation-related issues become more challenging when such newly coined terms are couched in abbreviations. Given the fact that languages and cultures sustain lingual hegemony practiced by English as the language of science (Ammon, 2011), most if not all abbreviations are received – not coined – by submissive languages and cultures. Against a backdrop of being more passively receptive of an unabridged list of abbreviations, English-Arabic translation trudges awkwardly because translators need almost always to use the full form of any given abbreviations (Hamdan and Fareh, 2003). In this paper, I will draw descriptive and analytic investigation for English medical abbreviations used in English-Arabic translation from a purely linguistic point of view. The paper **seeks** to answer the following questions:
1. How are English abbreviations translated into Arabic?
2. What difficulties do English abbreviations sustain when translated into Arabic?
3. What are the benefits of using abbreviations in translation?

Aim

The current research aims to provide a translation-based investigation into the English-Arabic medical abbreviations. Although previous research studies address medical translation in general with a special focus on consistency on the terms used and other on the translation methods used to examine accuracy, they all research into medical discourse as a genre. The English-Arabic translation of medical abbreviations has not yet received any attention across the translation studies. The results revealed in this research study will be an added value to the existing literature albeit riddled with paucity or dearth of relevant topics addressed by researchers.

Contributions

The contributions to be made by the current research study will enrich the methods adopted by the medical text writers and the translators to better enhance the use of English-Arabic medical abbreviations. This also helps the existing and potential translators to smooth away any difficulty or inaccuracy. This in turn may develop an approach that welcomes the introduction of medical abbreviations into Arabic without being frowned upon or awkwardly used.

Limitations

The current research study is faced with certain limitations. The sample of the medical abbreviations culled from www.moh.gov.sa is not fully representative of the entire medical abbreviations across English. The results revealed about the randomly collected sample cannot be generalized as more research studies and a wider sample needs to be further collected. Another challenge is that standard Arabic is still relatively resistant to using medical abbreviations that can hardly be conventionalized into dictionaries unless otherwise officialized and circulated among the general public. In a similar vein, the researcher could

not have access to the translator(s) who rendered the English-Arabic medical abbreviations at www.moh.gov.sa to better understand how such medical abbreviations are rendered this way and why. Of note, the researcher had access to the official website of the Ministry of Health, www.moh.gov.sa, different times between January and April of 2021; therefore, any update to the website as of this the said date is not included in this research study. The researcher could not have communicated with many medical specialists to ensure the accuracy of the translation of the medical abbreviations; the researcher only consulted specialized dictionaries.

Literature review

In language, words can easily slip into use and by time become more officialized through morphosyntactic and lexico-semantic methods, such as coinage, clipping, blending, calque, backformation, abbreviations, acronyms, and initialisms (Haspelmath and Sims, 2010). Unlike English, it seems that lexicography does not always open up to neologisms in Arabic. It is also noticeable that Arab lexicographers and semanticists often do not allow a neologism unless it immaculately goes through a set of stages, such as derivation, conjugation and inflection (Alshamrani, 2017). For this reason, using abbreviations has been broadly unconventional in Arabic until recent years (Altai and Abuhumeid, 2013). In contrast, the use of abbreviations or the lexical reduction of a string of words to their initials in English was semantically developed in the late 1950s and 1960s, thanks to the technical and scientific discoveries that have deeply affected organizations, hence a new form of language has also slowly creeped into every-day English (Bankole, 2006). Bankole (2006) emphasizes that although initialism first gained prominence in the Oxford English Dictionary in 1899, the first acronym to have been observed in common use was given a dictionary entry only in 1943. In the same vein, Crystal (2018: 130) remarks that "Often thought to be an exclusively modern habit, the fashion for abbreviations can be traced back over 150 years. The fashionable use of abbreviation – a kind of society slang – comes and goes in waves, though it is never totally absent". Interestingly, it is via radio stations, media outlets and TV channels that abbreviations have first made their existence, dating back to about 1960s. Mitib (2017) remarks that abbreviations in Arabic could have pragmatic reasons, reflecting why a given string of words has sneaked into language slowly over time. Etymologically, the term 'abbreviation' is derived from Latin 'brevis', meaning 'short'. Abbreviation means "a shortened form of a written word or phrase used in place of the whole word or phrase" (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 2021). Some good examples of abbreviations include 'USA', 'UK', 'KSA', 'AA', 'COD' and 'MBA' United States of America, United Kingdom, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Associate of Arts, Cash on Delivery, Master of Business Administration respectively. In terms of capitalization, abbreviations in English can be either capital or small letters. When the original term is capitalized, the abbreviated form shall remain capitalized as in 'St.' for 'Saint'. However, when a term is abbreviated with the first letter of each word is taken, all such letters shall be capitalized as in 'FYI' for 'for your information' (Fowler and Butterfield, 2015). Other abbreviations remain in lowercase, such as 'km' for 'kilometer' and 'vs' for 'versus'. Unlike English, Arabic does not feature capitalization, hence most Arabic abbreviations are either conjoined letters as in "ملم" for مليمتر or separate letters as in "ر. ف. ك." for رياضيات وفيزياء وكيمياء as an undergraduate interdisciplinary major. In the same vein, it should be noted that no all abbreviations in English use an internal or final full stop; some linguists and lexicographers have mixed opinions about full stops in abbreviations. For instance, 'ante meridiem' is unsystematically abbreviated either 'a.m', 'am, or 'AM' (Waddingham, 2014). Moreover, in many cases of the English- Arabic translation of abbreviations, the translators tend to opt for the full forms of

the abbreviated terms rather than coining equivalent abbreviations in Arabic. In other words, the abbreviated English terms are rendered in their full forms in Arabic in which their meanings are decoded to Arabic readers. For example, 'EU' is decoded into Arabic as الإتحاد الأوربي and not. يو. إي. or إي يو or any other abbreviated forms. However, Huang (2013) asserts that unlike other terms, medical terminologies present problems different from other specialized domains. In a research study that covered medical conclusion sections in selected Spanish-English articles addressing psychology, cardiology and pediatrics, Vayá and Mora (2009) find that researchers use different methods to introduce such neologisms into Spanish and make them conventionalized into medical language. Zeinali (2009) also conducted a research study on English-Persian medical terminology in terms of translation strategies and procedures. The researcher finds that different translation methods are used in translation, including substitution and borrowing; dozens of them, however, have been borrowed from Arabic. The researcher also noticed that a few English medical terms in his selected data were left with no appropriate Persian translation. Furthermore, in another study investigating challenges in translating medical terms into some African languages, Hlongwani (2012) identifies the following challenges faced by the translators when translating English medical terms to Xitsonga. These include excessive transliteration, inconsistency in equivalents and word-for-word translation, zero-equivalent medical terms and excessive borrowed terms.

However, as far as the researcher is aware, the English-Arabic translation of medical abbreviations has been left uninvestigated and not yet received any attention across the translation studies. This is probably due to several reasons but more importantly the nature of the topic itself that requires special skills and effort to consulate certain medical dictionaries to check the existing terms and find their Arabic equivalents. Equally important, such a topic is not dealing with our general daily life and therefore is not extensively discussed in the translation studies as other translated topics such as cultural or social related issues. Hence, the current study aims to draw the attention and raise the awareness of the researchers about the importance of such issues and the results revealed here are hoped to bridge the gap in the translation literature and lead to further researches that tackle the issue from different translational perspectives albeit riddled with paucity or dearth of relevant topics addressed by researchers.

Research Methodology

It stands to reasons that a research methodology guides the researcher all the way through a piece of research and sets the stage for all the primary and secondary phases, hence to reveal reliable results and seminal recommendations.

The translation of abbreviations is of a special nature to translation in that full words are reduced into either intelligible or unintelligible meanings from the SL into the TL. With this in mind, the researcher seeks to revisit the existing English-to-Arabic translation of medical abbreviations in a specific discourse, namely, the official website of Saudi Ministry of Health (MOH), made publicly available at www.moh.gov.sa, where English and Arabic are the two working languages. The published materials cover a wide range of medical and related issues and stretch from new medical events, discoveries and diseases to MOH publications. To this effect, the selected electronic website was thoroughly surveyed and various published texts in Arabic along their English translation were randomly selected in order to extract all medical abbreviations in Arabic and their correspondents in the English version to reflect on the study's objectives outlined above. Of note, the researcher had access to the official website of the Ministry of Health, www.moh.gov.sa, between January and April of 2021; therefore, any update to the website as of this the said date is not included in this research study. However, the website was chosen on the rationality that such an official website received a special

consideration from the relevant ministry as it represents its profession and concern about the provided information from both medical and linguistic point of view. Hence, mistranslation or translation errors in the published materials will affect or damage the ministry's image in the eyes of the professional viewers and compromise its reputation locally and internationally.

The relevant extracted abbreviations, however, were listed in tables along with their full forms and provided translations. Each table presents a set of collection of abbreviations that address a certain method or linguistic drawbacks and therefore was individually processed. This was conducted on the basis that such tables will promote the readers' understanding of the focal points of the analysis and ease the analytical considerations to answer the research questions. However, it should be emphasized that not all presented examples in the provided tables were analytically processed or explained. This was not possible as the aim of the research is only to signal the methods and potential difficulties faced when such medical abbreviations are attempted. It is believed that doing so will add more value to the research and enucleate any repetition or redundant analysis which kill the spirit of the research's creativity and novelty. However, it should be noted that the present paper is not set to provide any possible alternative translations for any qualitative assessment. This may be a seminal research study yet to be conducted in the future. Moreover, it is worth mentioning that some abbreviations found in the selected data were not included in the analysis because they are not medical, such Vision Realization Office (VRO) and National Center for Digital Certification (NCDC); they are general abbreviations relating to Vision 2030 of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The researcher, therefor, restricted his effort to mainly figure out how these extracted terms were treated when rendered into Arabic. This includes identifying the methods adapted in the process and some potential drawbacks faced by the translators and some tangible benefits from using abbreviations. In order to ensure the validity and reliability of the research's outcomes, the researcher had to check all the extracted medical abbreviations and their respective translation sampled for the research study to be certain that such medical abbreviations do exist in the international list of medical abbreviations. Hence, several specialized medical dictionaries were consulted including *Dictionary of medical terms* (Ibrahim, *et al.*, 2010), *Hitti's new medical dictionary, English- Arabic: with an Arabic-English glossary* (Hitti, 2009), *Dorland's dictionary of medical acronyms and abbreviations* (Dorland, 2015) and *Jablonki's dictionary of medical acronyms and abbreviations* (Jablonski, 2008).

The researcher adopted for Vinay and Darbelnet Translation Strategies (1995). Given the linguistic factors that take into consideration the intra linguistic and extra-linguistic differences that exist between Arabic and English that are genetically much unrelated, the translation strategies proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet will provide a meticulous scrutiny into how the processed medical abbreviations are translated from English into Arabic. The said translation strategy is of a two-model approach, where each approach breaks down into more microscopic strategies: Direct Translation and Oblique Translation, which both include borrowing, calque, literal translation, transposition, modulation, adaptation and equivalence. The research looked closely into each medical abbreviation and identify how each term is translated in order to answer the research questions. To ensure the researcher's translation judgement on the strategy used for each medical abbreviation sampled for the research study, he contacted 12 senior English-Arabic translators specialized in medical translation of nine Arab countries (Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan, Bahrain, Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon, Oman and Sudan) and invited them to an online constructive, thoughtful and open discussion about the extracted abbreviations and the adapted method for each term. Earlier to the said discussion,

the researcher sent to them s general explanation supported with textbook examples for Vinay and Darbelnet translation strategy to refresh their memory before the discussion was conducted to ensure all of them were on the same page. The discussion indicated that there was a prevailing consensus of the results revealed in this research study about the processed medical abbreviations and the respective strategies adopted for each.

Data Analysis

Based on the Vinay and Darbelnet translation strategies (1995) and on the consultation of 12 senior English-Arabic translators specialized in the medical translation of nine Arab countries mentioned earlier, the data analysis reveals that medical abbreviations selected for the purpose of the study were translated through different translational strategies and tactics. It was observed that transposition was a key strategy in dealing with abbreviated medical terms. The table below includes some of them to cast a fresh light on how such a method was useful to render abbreviations intelligibly along with their translation into Arabic against each:

Abbreviations	Full Forms	الترجمة	
HIP	Health Insurance Program	برنامج التأمين الصحي	Transposition
COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	مرض الانسداد الرئوي المزمن	Transposition
IBD	Inflammatory Bowel Disease	مرض التهاب الأمعاء	Transposition
CDE	Complete Dental Evaluation	تقييم كامل للأسنان	Transposition
PFT	Pulmonary Function Test	اختبار وظائف الرئة	Transposition

The aforementioned medical abbreviations slightly feature transposition. For example, HIP which stands for Health Insurance Program and is translated as برنامج التأمين الصحي has one word that is changed from one grammatical class into another: from [health = noun] in English into [صحي = adjective] in Arabic. If translated as it is without any change in grammatical classes, it would read برنامج تأمين الصحة. Such rendering may be understood that this is the insurance provided by the ministry of health which is not intended or meant by the original term and therefore, it is not the proper transfer of the medical term into Arabic and the translation provided in the website is the more accurate one using this translational strategy.

Another interesting example is CDE which stands for Complete Dental Evaluation and is translated as تقييم للأسنان. In the ST, [dental = adjective] is translated into [للأسنان = plural noun] in the TT. If translated as it is in the ST, it would read something like تقييم سني كامل. Again, the translation would be confusing as سني stands for a single tooth by which the treatment is limited to only one tooth and not all and this will compromise the accuracy of the translation.

By the same token, PFT which stands for Pulmonary Function Test is translated as اختبار وظائف الرئة, where [pulmonary = adjective] in the ST is translated into [الرئة = noun] and [function = singular noun] is translated into [وظائف = plural noun] in the TT. Transposition in translation gives the translator more options to maneuver lexically and syntactically to choose the best wording in a given context, hence the translator conveys the meaning while does not feel too much tethered to the ST literally. The other three medical terms included in the table above also undergo slight changes to the grammatical classes, while maintaining the ST intended meaning and were left unexplained for the seek of brevity and abridgment.

In different occasions, it was revealed that medical abbreviated terms were translated into Arabic with the great help of employing the equivalence strategy. Some of them are listed in the table below along with their translation into Arabic against each:

Abbreviations	Full Forms	الترجمة	
SHS	Secondhand Smoking	التدخين السلبي	Equivalence
SC	Computed Tomography	التصوير المقطعي	Equivalence
ADR	Adverse Drug Reaction	تأثير العقار السلبي	Equivalence
DJD	Degenerative Joint Disease	مرض المفاصل التنكسية	Equivalence
HPV	Human Papillomavirus	فيروس الورم الحليمي البشري	Equivalence
RDS	Respiratory Distress Syndrome	متلازمة الضائقة التنفسية	Equivalence

It can be noted that the above medical abbreviations were translated into Arabic using equivalence strategy as suggested by Vinay and Darbelent (1995). All these medical abbreviated terms and many other alike cannot be directly translated or adapted into Arabic due to their otherness that will unfit the Arabic context if they are calqued or literally transferred. For instance, SHS which denotes *Secondhand Smoking* was translated as التدخين السلبي, the term [*secondhand*] was not literally translated into Arabic as it is because it reads ironically and meaninglessly with such translation. This term *second hand* literally means اليد الثانية، مستعمل، غير أولي and other similar synonyms. Therefore, following Nida's (2001) suggestion to apply the functional equivalent which fits the TL context, the translator sough the best Arabic equivalent that better translate the meaning and fits well with Arabic context and opted for السلبي, as it communicates the ST intended meaning. However, when it goes with *smoking* it literally means التدخين. So, to introduce a perfect and fortunate collocation in Arabic that reads fluent and meaningful, the translator needed to prob for a better equivalent of the term *secondhand* that goes in harmony with the first word *smoking* التدخين. As such, التدخين السلبي deemed the best equivalent for *Secondhand Smoking* abbreviated as SHS. By the same token, SC which stands for Computed Tomography is translated as التصوير المقطعي is done so in that if translated literally, it means الأشعة المقطعية المحوسبة; the translator translated it as is to provide the best equivalent in Arabic without any unintelligible words such as الأشعة المقطعية المحوسبة, which sounds difficult for the average audience to well understand.

The analysis continues to reveal a different strategy observed in the selected data to render some other medical abbreviations. To illustrate the adapted method, several examples are presented in the table below along with their translation into Arabic against each:

Abbreviations	Full Forms	الترجمة	
BMI	Body Mass Index	مؤشر كتلة الجسم	Calque
PTH	Parathyroid Hormone	هرمون الغدة الدرقية	Calque
TCC	Transitional Cell Carcinoma	سرطان الخلايا الانتقالية	Calque
UTI	Urinary Tract Infection	التهاب المسالك البولية	Calque
ACL	Anterior Cruciate Ligament	الرباط الصليبي الأمامي	Calque
ARF	Acute Renal Failure	فشل كلوي حاد	Calque
BP	Blood Pressure	ضغط الدم	Calque
ICU	Intensive Care Unit	وحدة العناية المركزة	Calque

As indicated in the table above, the selected medical abbreviations in the ST and the TT are the same in their syntactical and lexical translation; no change is seen through translation. For example, BP which stands for [Blood Pressure] is translated as ضغط الدم, where the ST term is [noun + noun] and so it goes in the TT [noun + noun]. For instance, translating it through transposition, such as الضغط الدموي may give rise to 'bloody' events as is the case in bloody war, bloody riot, bloody gash, bloody massacre and the like and is seen an inappropriate. The same say goes to the phrase *Intensive Care Unit* which was calqued as وحدة

العناية المركزة in which no syntactical or grammatical change was observed. However, one possible reason why all these medical abbreviations and many other similar terms were calqued is that they were first circulated in English across the entire globe, and given the lingual and cultural hegemony of English, most of the medical abbreviations are thus introduced, hence calqued, into other languages as they are almost with zero change as shown in the examples included in the table above. By doing so, the intended meaning of the SL is intelligibly conveyed and well understood in the TT.

Findings

The data analysis and discussion help to answer the three research questions developed by the research, that are further explained in the following subsequent paragraphs.

Research Question (1)

In reply to the first research question (How are English abbreviations translated into Arabic?), The data analysis and discussion show that the English medical abbreviations are mostly translated into Arabic through three translation strategies: Calque, Transposition and Equivalence. Nevertheless, some other strategies were also identified such as literal translation, addition, modulation and adaptation where the nuance changes were observed in ST at the syntactical and grammatical levels to fit in well with Arabic context. This includes examples such as IBW which donates Ideal Body Weight and was rendered as الوزن المثالي للجسم where the Arabic preposition اللام was added to make the term more readable in Arabic rather than calquing it without any trivial change. Also, the term RDS which stands for Respiratory Distress Syndrome was not literally translated. Some Arabic grammatical features were adapted to better render it in the Arabic context. Therefore, متلازمة الضائقة التنفسية was opted for in which the English masculine adjective *respiratory* and masculine noun *Distress* were changed to feminine adjective and noun and translated as الضائقة التنفسية to respond to Arabic syntactical features.

Research Question (2)

In reply to the second research question (What difficulties do English abbreviations sustain when translated into Arabic?), the process of translation *per se* is problem-free and the translation is smooth and appropriate. However, when the ST medical abbreviations are used as they are in their short forms, the translator needs to consult a specialized medial dictionary to disambiguate what such initials stand for; Arabic is notoriously reluctant to introduce abbreviations except for some cases that are conventionalized. In a similar vein, when the ST medical abbreviations are used in their short forms and are transferred to the TT as such, they do not read well nor sound intelligible for the Arab audience. Therefore, translating English medical abbreviations becomes a must and using their short forms in Arabic is not conventional at all. The translator should have a substantial reservoir of medical terms and abbreviations when translating from English into Arabic or else, the TT would not seamless and smooth and would take much time to consult to medical dictionaries every now and then.

Research Question (3)

In reply to the third research question (What are the benefits of using abbreviations in translation?), using abbreviations in translation saves time and efforts. It also increases words over the course of time; such abbreviations – whether medical, legal, economic, diplomatic, religious, political, technical or otherwise expressed, become conventionalized and gain entry into dictionaries. Many abbreviations have now become stand-alone terms and are used in their short forms and are widely understood by the general public. However, using abbreviations in Arabic is still notoriously uncommon and creates problems that negatively impact translating the ST or reading STs that use such abbreviations. This creates challenges for average readers when facing uncommon abbreviations. Arabic is reluctant to accept

abbreviations in their short forms; it may accept single abbreviated words but not two, three, four or more words abbreviated. Quite recently, several abbreviations have started to sneak into Arabic but unofficially. This is perhaps due to the lack of editing policy control over the Arabic publications. Good examples include الإسكوا ,الفيفا ,هابيتات ,الناتو ,الفاو ,اليونيسيف ,اليونسكو and some others. Surprisingly enough, some similar abbreviations are not used in Arabic this way, such as IMF (International Monetary Fund) and WB (World Bank) for no valid reason. For instance, إمف for IMF can be used in Arabic, but such an attempt has never been heard of. As such, using abbreviations in Arabic is still governed by ambivalence.

Conclusions

The presented research paper was restricted to explore the English abbreviated medical terms found in the official website of Saudi Ministry of Health (MOH) between January and April 2021. All relevant abbreviations extracted from the website were subjected to close scrutiny in order to reflect on the research's objectives. The research suggested that language and culture can develop over time to keep pace of the update with new coined or invented terms which produce more abbreviations in various domains. The study also highlighted that abbreviations cannot be treated in one translation strategy; this depends very much on the nature of abbreviation and how the TL accepts it. Therefore, the translator may use a broad array of translation strategies to produce seamless and smooth translated abbreviations. Arabic is still somewhat reluctant to abbreviations as stand-alone terms as is the case in English and some other languages although some abbreviations have started to creep into Arabic both in written and oral discourse. The study also revealed that using abbreviations can enrich language and increase vocabulary as abbreviations become conventionalized as stand-alone terms, hence gain dictionary entries over the course of time.

The research study recommends the following suggestions seminal to translation of abbreviations and language use:

1. Developing a list of commonly used abbreviations in Arabic to be more organized, conventionalized, hence gain dictionary entries as stand-alone words;
2. Standardizing a list of commonly used abbreviations in Arabic to avoid any inconsistency when used in written and oral discourse;
3. Encouraging leaners and speakers of Arabic to use abbreviations as they save time and effort and realize brevity in translation instead of using the full forms;
4. Encouraging leaners and speakers of Arabic to use abbreviations as they are in the SL to strike a balance in terms of length of speech or text and avoid any delay in producing their equivalents in the TL.

The researcher also suggests for future research studies to examine how the target audience and readership abbreviations in the Arabic. This helps better understand how much readiness they evince for using abbreviations in their everyday life, and if not why and how to make abbreviations commonly more acceptable and widely used.

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