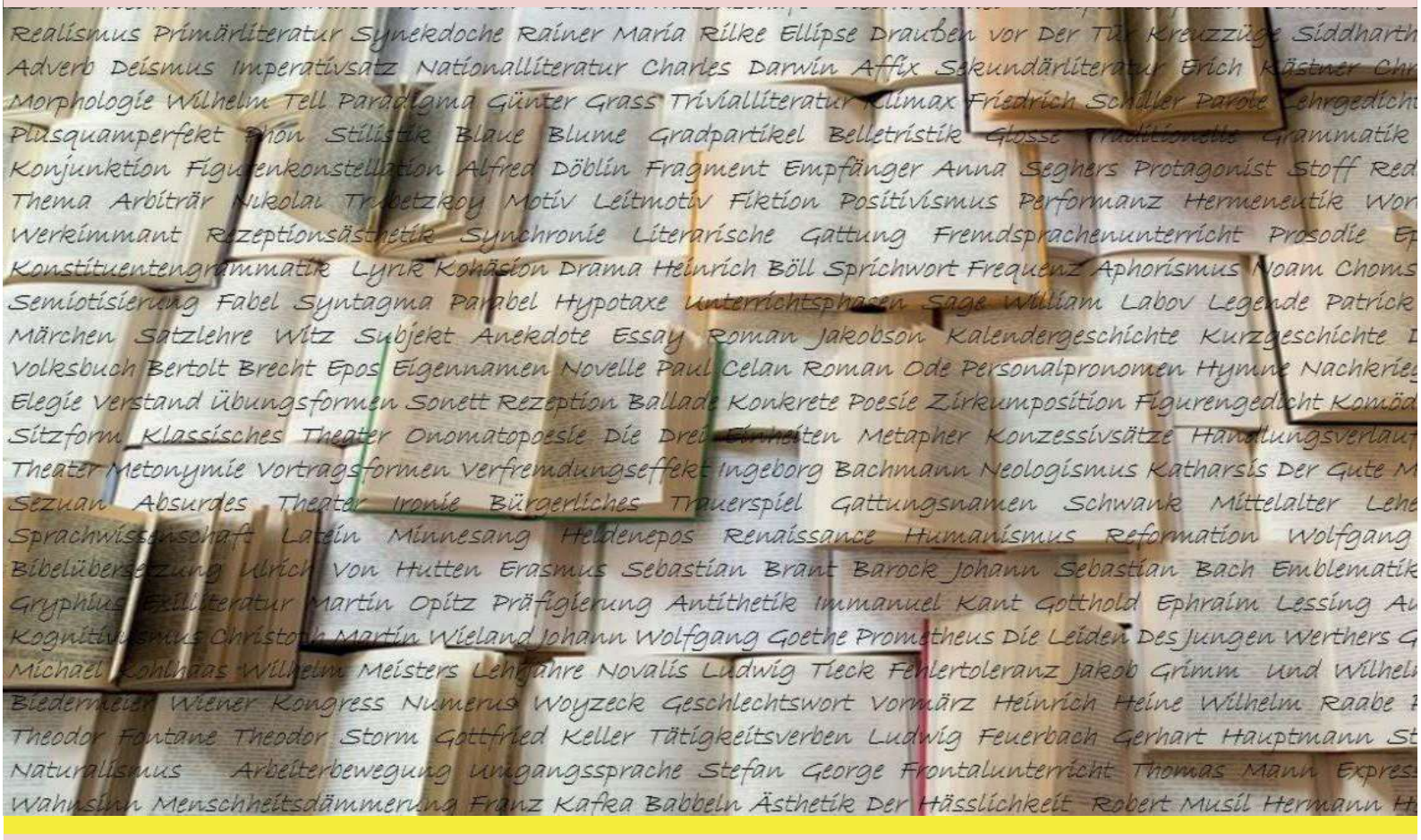
SCHRIFTEN ZUR SPRACHE UND LITERATUR VII



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Çizgi e-Kitap

SCHRIFTEN ZUR SPRACHE UND LITERATUR VII

DİL VE EDEBİYAT YAZILARI VII

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ÇİZGİ
KİTABEVİ

Çizgi Kitabevi Yayınları (e-kitap)
Eğitim Bilim

©Çizgi Kitabevi
Temmuz 2023

ISBN: 978-625-396-051-3
Yayıncı Sertifika No:52493

KÜTÜPHANE BİLGİ KARTI
- Cataloging in Publication Data (CIP) -
BALCI, Tahir | ÖZTÜRK, Ali Osman | AKSÖZ, Munise
SCHRIFTEN ZUR SPRACHE UND LITERATUR VII
DİL VE EDEBİYAT YAZILARI VII

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TERMINOLOGICAL EQUIVALENCE IN TRANSLATION OF MEDICAL TEXTS

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1. INTRODUCTION

Medicine, a field of specialization, is always on the agenda as it is related to human health. The motto "health comes first", which people use quite often, shows how important medicine is for people. Because it is so important in human life, medicine is a field that is constantly developing and always up-to-date. The continuous development of a field means that new knowledge is constantly being added. New knowledge can be about diseases, a vaccine, or a medical device, or about surgeries, organs, or genes - in short, about anything related to human beings and their health. As can be understood, the field of medicine has a very broad spectrum. Within this broad spectrum, there are parties with active or passive roles: physicians, nurses, academicians, students, health workers, patients, in brief, everyone. Every health-related issue requires the exchange of information between the parties involved. Healthy and understandable communication depends on the level of medical language and terminology used.

Medical language and terminology play a key role in the healthy and comprehensible exchange of information between people from different languages as well as between people using the same language. In this regard, two important issues stand out. One of them is the medical language and terminology used in the source text. The medical language used in the source text (whether it is a language dominated by medical terminology of Latin and Greek origin or an easy-to-understand language using commonly used medical terms) is influential in determining the terms to be used in translation. The other is the target audience. Will the translation be done for people who are familiar with medical terminology and who are in the medical field, or will it be done for people who are not from the field, with little or no knowledge of the terminology? Because it is essential to use a language that the target audience can understand.

This study focuses on medical terms used in medical texts that serve to inform the public. The aim of the study is to investigate whether the linguistic features of terms are taken into account in translation, i.e. whether equivalence is achieved at the term level, and to reveal the importance of equivalence for the target audience.

2. MEDICAL LANGUAGE

The medical language has its unique terminology, which has its origins in Greek and Latin. Medical terminology consists of terms related to human health such as anatomy, physiology, disease, finding, diagnosis, tests, and surgeries. The medical language is not completely separate and distinct from the standard language, but it differs from it because the meanings of words, syntax, and grammatical features can differ from the standard language.

The terminology and language used in medical texts vary depending on the type, function, and target audience of the text. Some researchers make classifications in terms of the language used in medical texts. In the opinion of Hudson (1978: 5), medical language can be divided into three sub-branches. While high technical language is used in academic studies, and textbooks, medium technical language is used among experts, healthcare professionals, in procedures, etc., and low technical language is used in magazines, newspapers, brochures, among laypeople (cited by Erten, 2016: 104). The classification used by Newmark, on the other hand, is divided into three categories: academic, professional, and popular (1988: 153). Latin and Greek terminology (e.g. myocardial infarction) predominates in texts using a high or medium technicality language. In texts in which low technically language is used, terms that are commonly used in the colloquial language, in other words, terms used by the public (e.g. heart attack) predominate. When highly technical language is used, laypeople, e.g. patients, find it difficult to understand the text. In this case, we can say that Latin and Greek terms make the comprehensibility of the medical language difficult for those who have no knowledge of the medical field.

Medical terminology of Latin and Greek origin is difficult to understand for those who have no knowledge of the field, but it is an advantage in terms of comprehensibility for others. In this regard, Fluck (1996: 92) states that the use of terms of Greek and Latin origin in medical language is advantageous in terms

of its internationalization, the absence of false connotations, and the immutability of its semantic content.

Moreover, since the language of science has been predominantly English in recent years, the use of English as well as Latin and Greek terminology in medical terms has started to attract attention. English usage is seen especially in the newly introduced concepts and terms in the field of medicine.

To make medical terminology easier to understand by the layperson, countries use similar equivalents in their native languages instead of Latin and Greek-derived medical terminology (Günay Köprülü, 2017: 254). During my work as a translator of medical texts, I realized that the terms used in the German language in the field of health are usually not of foreign origin, but have similar equivalents in their native language. Meanwhile, in Turkish, mostly foreign-origin terms are used.

During the covid-19 period, we saw how effective the audio-visual broadcasts were in popularizing the use of terms in Turkish. In this period, the public became familiar with terms such as "pandemi", "bulaş", "kuluçka süresi", "karantina"[27], etc.[28] as they were frequently heard and read. The importance of translation in popularizing and establishing the use of terms is also an important issue that needs to be emphasized.

3. EQUIVALENCE IN MEDICAL TEXT TRANSLATION

In the translation of a text, knowing the type and function of the text is important in determining the translation method and strategies. Indeed, Reiß aimed to reflect the function of the source text in the target text by classifying texts based on their types and functions. Reiß classifies 'informative texts' as content-oriented, 'expressive texts' in which aesthetic values are decisive as form-oriented, and 'operative texts' that are intended to evoke certain reactions in the receiver as appeal-oriented, and, finally, texts accompanied by images and sound (such as theater) as 'audio-modal texts'[29] (1986: 31-49). In the translation methods determined by Reiß according to text types, content-oriented 'informative texts' are texts that aim to inform the recipient, such as

[27] pandemic, contagion, incubation period, quarantine

[28] For more detailed information on terms, see Gül, Ü. and Yakıncı, C. (2020). COVID-19 Küresel Salgınında Ulusal Medyada Kullanılan Tıbbi Terimler Üzerine, Çocuk Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları Dergisi; 63: 32-36.

[29] she changed later to multi-medial texts

news, instructive writing, observation, article, and law, and require translation according to the meaning. It is crucial to preserve the quality of the information they convey and to ensure that this information is understood concretely in the language of translation. To ensure this clarity, the translator may also refer to explanatory phrases and paraphrases, as appropriate. Because in these texts, contextual statements are at the forefront rather than formal language structures (Reiß, 1986: 34-37). In Newmark, we see an approach similar to Reiß's idea that translators may take some liberties to ensure their translation is understandable. Newmark (1998: 47) argues that in communicative translation, the source text should be corrected if it is poorly and/or incorrectly written.

In a classification close to Reiß's, Newmark (1981: 21) divides texts into three categories: expressive, informative, and vocative texts. According to Newmark, texts with scientific, technological, commercial, industrial, and economic content such as textbooks, reports, articles, minutes, and legal documents, etc. are informative texts.

Medical texts can be texts with many different purposes and functions, such as a scientific study, textbook, health report, prescribing information, test result, pathology result, and public health information brochures. In this context, we can classify medical texts under two main headings in terms of their target audience: Medical texts for professionals and non-professionals. Scientific research publications (e.g. academic publications, papers, articles), educational/instructional publications (e.g. textbooks, dictionaries), and texts on the field of practice (e.g. anamnesis, epicrisis, medical reports) are considered within the scope of medical texts for professionals. Brochures on public health, health-related articles in magazines, patient information leaflets called prospectuses, and texts published by health institutions on their websites to inform the public can be given as examples of text types for lay people.

Medical texts are specialized texts that contain information. Specialized texts, also known as special field texts, use a specific vocabulary and terminology. The language used in medical texts varies depending on the purpose and target audience of the text. Therefore, in the translation of medical texts, the linguistic and terminological characteristics of the text should be taken into account when conveying the meaning of the text into the target language in a comprehensible way without causing any loss of information. Care should be taken to use terms and concepts appropriate to the function of the text.

According to Newmark, in the translation of medical texts, a target text should be aimed at the cognitive impression of the source text. The primary goal in translation should be to remain faithful to the content of the text, and the secondary goal should be to create a natural and fluent text in the target language. Hence, the translator should take into account the audience for which he or she is translating, because articles written for laypeople and experts have different styles (Newmark 1979: 1405).

Most studies in the field of translation emphasize the necessity of creating the same effect on the readers of the target text as the source text has on its readers. That is to say, the equivalent effect is mentioned. When the concept of equivalence is examined, it is noticed that the importance of equivalence is sometimes emphasized in terms of content and sometimes in terms of form.

There are many different classifications of equivalence. Nida (1964) distinguishes between formal and dynamic equivalence[30]. Formal equivalence means translating a poem as a poem, a sentence as a sentence, and a concept as a concept. This translation aims to make the reader understand only what is found in the context of the source language. In dynamic translation, the emphasis is on the statement itself and is based on the principle of equivalent effect. Equivalence is assigned in terms of both content and form. Popovic distinguishes between four types of equivalence: Linguistic, syntactic, formal, and textual equivalence. Newmark (1988) sees the equivalent effect as the desired outcome rather than the goal of any translation (see Köksal, 2005: 34-36).

While communicative translation tries to create the target language reader the equivalent of the effect of the source text on its reader, semantic translation aims to produce the meaning to be conveyed in the source text in the translated text. It is clear that communicative translation focuses on creating an equivalent effect on the target readers. But even here the translator must respect the form of the source language text. Semantic translation attempts to present the contextual meaning of the source text as far as the semantic and syntactic structures of the target language allow (Newmark, 1981: 39).

[30] later functional equivalence

Newmark highlights that the semantic translation method should be applied in the translation of texts where the original language used by the author is as important as the content. The semantic translation should be used for expressive texts and communicative translation for informative and vocative texts. For informative and vocative texts, the translator should focus on the accuracy of the message and the main power of the texts, trying to create a pragmatically equivalent effect on the readers (Newmark, 1981: 44).

4. AN ANALYSIS OF TERMINOLOGICAL EQUIVALENCE IN THE TRANSLATION OF MEDICAL TEXTS

As part of their efforts to protect their citizens from diseases, pandemics, etc., countries prepare brochures and publish them on their websites. The language used in such texts should be easy to understand. For this reason, such texts use terms that the public can easily understand and that are in common use among the people. Hence, in the translation of such texts, it is necessary to use language and terms that the public can easily understand.

The texts analyzed in this study are German texts that were prepared with the aim of informing laypeople (the public)[31]. The texts use terms commonly used in the country, not the terminology of foreign origin.

Example 1: Borreliosis

German	Nicht jeder Stich einer befallenen Zecke führt jedoch zur **Ansteckung**.[32]
Turkish	Ancak tutulmuş her kenenin ısırığı **enfeksiyona** yol açmaz.

In German, the noun word “Ansteckung” is derived from the verb word “anstecken”. This is not a word specific to medical terminology. However, in the context in which it is used, it is used as the equivalent of the term

[31] Leaflets on important infectious diseases https://www.infektionsschutz.de/erregersteckbriefe/ 01/02/2023. In a way that is generally understandable, the information for citizens provides information about the special features of the individual pathogens. Leaflets examined in this paper are: Borreliosis, Hantaviruses, Adenoviruses, Ringel Rubella and Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease.

[32] a bite from an infected tick does not always lead to infection.

"infection" in medical terminology and means *the transmission of disease*[33]. In the Turkish translation, the medical terminology "enfeksiyon"[34] is used directly. "Enfeksiyon" *is the entry and spread of a disease-causing microorganism into the body*.[35] In Turkish, the word "bulaş" is used in the same sense as the medical term "enfeksiyon". The word "bulaş" has been learned by society and its use has become widespread, especially during the COVID-19 period.

Example 2: Hantaviruses

German	Bei der Gartenarbeit können die Viren aus **befallener Erde** über kleine Verletzungen der Haut, beispielsweise an den Händen, in den Körper eindringen. [36]
Turkish	Bahçe çalışmalarında virüsler **kontamine toprak**tan örneğin ciltteki küçük yaralanmalar yoluyla vücuda sızabilirler.

In the source text, the adjective phrase "befallene Erde" is translated into Turkish as "kontamine toprak"[37]. The German verb word "befallen" is not a medical term. However, in the context in which it is used, it carries the meaning of the medical term "contaminated". In this example, the phrase "befallene Erde" refers to *earth infected with virus.* In Turkish language, the adjective word "bulaşmış" is used in the same sense as the medical term "contaminated". It is also noteworthy that the translation sentence is not clear.

Example 3: Borreliosis

German	**Ein typisches Zeichen**, das bei etwa 90% der Fälle auftritt, ist die sogenannte **Wanderröte** (Erythema migrans).[38]
Turkish	Vakıaların yaklaşık % 90'ında meydana gelen **tipik bir semptom eritemler**dir (Erythema migrans).

The expression "ein typisches Zeichen" in the source text is translated into Turkish as "tipik bir semptom"[39]. The colloquial meaning of the word

[33] see https://www.dwds.de/wb/Ansteckung 01/03/2023
[34] infection, contamination
[35] https://sozluk.gov.tr/ 01/03/2023
[36] Viruses from contaminated earth may enter the body through small skin injuries, e.g. to the hands, when working in the garden.

[37] contaminated earth
[38] A typical symptom that occurs in about 90% of cases is erythemamigrans

"Zeichen" in the source text is *sign*. However, when used in the medical field, it means *belirti* in Turkish and is used as the equivalent of the medical term "symptom". While the German equivalent is used in the source text, this is not taken into account in the translation. The medical term "symptom" has a fairly common Turkish equivalent: "belirti". Therefore, "tipik bir belirti" would be a very understandable translation for the target audience. Another example where a medical jargon is used in translation whereas the source text uses a term commonly used in the language of the country is the term "Wanderröte". In German, "Wanderröte"- as already mentioned in the text - is the dermatological term for "Erythema migrans". The German term "Wanderröte" and the Latin term "Erythema migrans" have exactly the same meaning as phrases: migrating redness. For the term "erythema migrans", the Turkish term "öküzgözü eritem" or the noun phrase "boğa gözü döküntüsü"[40] is used; the reason why it is called this way is because of the shape of the rash on the body: large intertwined rings with a clear center and red edges. The term "Erythema migrans" does not have a literal equivalent in Turkish as it does in German. "Eritem"[41] means *redness on the skin*. By using a descriptive expression such as "çember şeklinde kızarıklık"[42] by translating according to its meaning in Turkish, an easy-to-understand translation is made in accordance with the conceptual knowledge of the target audience. Because the term "eritem" is not a commonly known term among the people.

Example 4: Adenoviruses

German	Ansteckende **Augenbindehaut- und Augenhornhautentzündung** (Keratokonjunktivitis epidemica). [43]
Turkish	Bulaşıcı **göz konjonktifi ve göz kornea iltihapları** (Epidemik keratokonjonktivit).

In German, the national medical term "Augenbindehaut" is equivalent to the medical term "conjunctiva" and "Augenhornhaut" is equivalent to the medical

[39] a typical symptom
[40] bullseye rash
[41] Erythema

[42] redness in the shape of a circle
[43] Infectious conjunctivitis and Keratoconjunctivitis epidemica..

term “cornea”. The German word “Entzündung” means *inflammation*. Therefore, “Augenbindehautentzündung” is a German vernacular medical term equivalent to the medical term “conjunctivitis” and “Augenhornhautentzündung” to the Latin term “keratitis”. As can be seen, the source text does not use foreign medical terminology, but its equivalent term in the source language. This is because the text is intended to inform the public. This should also be taken into account in translation. When we look at the Turkish translation, it is seen that the expression “göz konjonktifi ve göz kornea iltihapları”[44] is translated faithfully to the source text. The term “conjonctivite” is written as “konjonktiva” in Turkish. Therefore, the spelling of “konjonktif” is incorrect. It is colloquially known as “göz zarı”[45]. The equivalent of the term “Augenhornhaut” in German is “gözde saydam tabaka”[46] in Turkish. Language use in the source text needs to be taken into account. This is because the target audience of translation is public and therefore terms that are known to the public should be used. Therefore, the translation should read “göz zarının ve gözün saydam tabakasının iltihaplanması”[47], which would make it easier to understand the ambiguous wording in the translation. In this example, it is necessary to draw attention to the adjective word “ansteckende”[48]. This time, it is seen that the word is given with its equivalent in the translation

Example 5: Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease

German	Komplikationen, wie eine **Hirnhautentzündung**, Lähmungserscheinungen oder eine Entzündung des Gehirns, treten nur sehr selten auf. [49]
Turkish	**Menenjit**, felç veya beynin iltihabı gibi komplikasyonlar çok nadir görülür.

In the source text, “Hirnhautentzündung” is translated into Turkish as “menenjit”[50]. “Meningitis” is the technical terminology equivalent of

[44] eye conjunctiva and eye corneal inflammations
[45] eye membrane
[46] transparent layer in the eye
[47] inflammation of the membranes and the transparent layer of the eye

[48] contagious, infectious
[49] Complications – which include meningitis, symptoms of paralysis or encephalitis – are very rare indeed.
[50] Meningitis

"Hirnhautentzündung" in the source text. The national term used in the source text also has its equivalent in Turkish as a national term: "beyin zarı iltihaplanması"[51]. However, as in the previous examples, no attention was paid to ensuring equivalence at the term level, and a higher-level technical term was used in the translation.

Example 6: Ringel Rubella

German	Die **Erreger** sind auch in der Umwelt sehr widerstandsfähig.[52]
Turkish	**Patojenler** ortamda da oldukça dirençlidirler.

In the source text, the word "Erreger" used in the field of health means *something that causes something else (especially a disease)*. The equivalent of this word in technical terminology is the term "pathogen". In Turkish, it is used as a "hastalık etkeni"[53]. However, in the translation, the equivalent of a high-level technical term was used, and the equivalence at the term level was not taken into account.

Example 7: Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease

German	Dies gilt auch für Neugeborene, die durch ihre Mütter bei der Geburt **angesteckt** wurden. [54]
Turkish	Aynısı doğumda anneleri tarafından **enfekte** olan yeni doğanlar için geçerlidir.

In the source text, the word "angesteckt" is translated as "enfekte"[55]. The Turkish equivalent of "infected" in the national medical language is "bulaşlı". However, since the sentence will be meaningless if the sentence is in the form of "anneleri tarafından bulaşlı olan yeni doğanlar"[56], the term should be

[51] inflammation of the cerebral cortex
[52] The pathogens are highly resistant in the environment as well.
[53] disease agent

[54] The same applies to newborn babies, who are infected by their mothers during birth.
[55] infected
[56] newborns infected by their mothers

expressed as an adjective phrase as “anneden bulaş almış yeni doğanlar”[57] according to the usage of the term in the sentence. The public has become familiar with this term as they have heard the use of “bulaş”[58] and “bulaş almak”[59] quite often during the covid-19 period.

5. CONCLUSION

Since the target audience of the source text is the general public, the text does not include foreign medical terms (technical terminology), but their German equivalents. However, this linguistic/terminological use of the source text was not taken into account in the Turkish translation. In the examples analyzed, it is seen that the content of the source text is accurately and completely transferred to the target language. Yet, the relationship established between the reader and the source text is not the same as the relationship established between the reader and the translated text. Because the target language text cannot produce a text that is natural and in line with the linguistic expectations of the reader. The use of foreign medical terms in the translated text causes the reader to move away from the text and not fully understand the text. Therefore, medical concepts and terms used in the source text do not have corresponding equivalents in the translation text in accordance with their target audience-oriented linguistic usage. The equivalents used in the translation text are not appropriate for the target audience as they are medical terms of foreign origin. Accordingly, to explain in line with Hudson's classification, when high-level technical terms are used in the translation, the easy understanding of the target audience is ignored, while low-level technical terms should be used instead.

When the source text is a text produced for a specific function and target audience, the language used is appropriate to the function and the target audience. In this regard, the translation of such texts requires a translation that is equivalent to the linguistic features and terminological usage of the text. The term used in the source text may not always have an equivalent term in the target language. In such cases, conveying the meaning of the term, in other words, providing a definition, makes it easier for the target audience to understand.

[57] newborns infected by the mother
[58] infection
[59] infected

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