

SOME SKILLS IN MEDICAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION (II)

2. The processing of word meaning

The word meaning should be decided by the context of original text. The word meaning in original text should be explicated if necessary.

2.1 The choice of word meaning

As we all known, one English word often has several meanings. Besides, there will be some other different meanings after matching with other words.

a) Words are chosen according to the context and speech.

For example:

The temperature will **fall** to normal within 24 hours. 温度在 24 小时内恢复正常。
(Fall: Verb. “下降”)




The child **fell** in this afternoon. 这孩子今天下午摔倒了。(Fall: Link Verb, “摔倒”)

b) To chose word meaning according to collocation. We should master idioms and fixed collocation as more as possible. Especially pay attention to collocation between adj. and noun, verb. and noun.

For example:

Heavy smoking greatly increases the probability of getting lung cancer.
大量吸烟大大增加了患肺癌的可能性。

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Avoidance of **heavy** food is very important of the patients with stomach trouble. □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

2.2 Meaning extended

When we cannot find out suitable meaning to translate, we should consider extending the original meaning. There are two main methods about extending meaning including abstraction and concretion.

a) Abstraction extending. We should use general words instead of concrete words in original text if necessary.

For example:

Application of laser in correction of myopia surgery is still in its **infancy**.

Mistranslation: □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

Suitable translation: □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

b) Concretion extending. We should use concrete words instead of general words in original text if necessary.

For example:

The book is perhaps too **high-powered** for common doctor.

Mistranslation: □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

Suitable translation: □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

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