

The Integration of Traditional Culture and Modern Technology in the Standardization of Traditional Chinese Medicine Translation

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Abstract: Traditional Chinese medicine translation is an essential component of traditional culture and medicine. This article explores the current situation, implementation path, and key technologies of standardization in Chinese traditional medicine translation, and proposes some thoughts on the implementation path of standardization. This includes establishing translation standards for Chinese traditional medicine majors, strengthening the cultivation of translation talents, establishing a standard library for Chinese traditional medicine translation, and promoting standardized practices in Chinese traditional medicine translation.

Keywords: Standardization; Chinese Traditional Medicine Translation; Practical Path

1. Introduction

In order to further enhance the spread and growth of China's TCM and Chinese medicine culture overseas, the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine issued the Development Plan for Promoting the High Quality Integration of TCM and Jointly Building the "the Belt and Road" (2022-2025) at the end of 2022.^[1]

Traditional Chinese medicine, as a precious cultural heritage of Chinese traditional medicine, not only has a long history and profound heritage, but also has its unique theoretical system. With the increasing global attention to comprehensive healthcare, the dissemination and growth of TCM theory and culture overseas have made tremendous progress. Currently, the overseas dissemination of TCM faces many challenges, such as cultural differences, standardized translation, legal regulations, and educational recognition issues.^[2]

2. Study on TCM and its Cultural

Translation Theory

So far, the translation of TCM in China can be summarized as a process from light translation theory to heavy translation theory. Representative scholars in the study of light translation theory, such as Qian Gechuan. Qian Gechuan proposed, "Translation cannot only focus on theory, it must have something to show. Theory is taught by skilled people, and what is translated may not necessarily be good."^[3]

That is to say, there has long been a phenomenon in the field of TCM translation that emphasizes the practice of translation over theoretical research. Many outstanding experts in the areas of TCM translation from the older generation have translated numerous high-quality works on traditional Chinese medicine or compiled Chinese English dictionaries of traditional Chinese medicine, but there are relatively few achievements in researching the theory of traditional Chinese medicine translation.

It is widely believed in the academic community that Professor Li Zhaoguo pioneered the study of modern Chinese medicine translation theory in China. In 1993 the publication of the Professor Li Zhaoguo's "Introduction to Traditional Chinese Medicine Translation", marked the beginning of systematic research on TCM translation theory.

3. Exploration of the Practice Path for Standardization of TCM Translation

3.1 Design Ideas For Standardized Practice Paths

In the TCM translation, an effective set of professional translation standards for traditional Chinese medicine should be established, which should include standardization of TCM terminology, the norms of translation, and technical standards to ensure the accuracy and uniformity of

TCM translation.

In 2007, two kinds of standardized translations of TCM were introduced. One was the International Standard for Traditional Medical Terminology issued by the Western Pacific Region of the World Health Organization, and the other was the International Standard for TCM Terminology issued by the World Federation of TCM. Establishing the standards of translation for TCM is a complex and important task, and the following are several key steps for establishing translation standards for TCM:

Collecting and organizing TCM terminology is the first step in establishing standards. This involves the collection and analysis of classic Chinese medicine literature, dictionaries, professional literature, and expert opinions. The purpose is to determine the fundamental terminology of traditional Chinese medicine and clarify its definition and usage.

Secondly, based on the collection and organization of TCM terminology, it is essential to establish a unified terminology standard. Standards include requirements for the spelling, pronunciation, translation, definition, and scope of terminology. Through unified standards, terminology confusion can be reduced, and translation accuracy and consistency can be improved. Thirdly, when translating traditional Chinese medicine, it is necessary to develop standardized translations based on terminology norms. This requires translators to accurately understand the theory and practice of traditional Chinese medicine, and to use appropriate language to express themselves. A standardized translation should follow the meaning and expression of the original text, while ensuring accuracy, taking into account the culture and context of the target language. These references can be classic Chinese medicine literature, authoritative monographs, or research papers.

In summary, establishing translation standards for traditional Chinese medicine requires collecting and organizing TCM terminology, developing unified terminology standards, establishing standardized translations, providing references and annotations, and regularly revising and

updating standards. This will help promote the international dissemination and application of TCM, and improve its comprehensibility and operability.

3.2 Standardization Practice of Vocabulary and Expression

The standardized practice path of vocabulary and expression in traditional Chinese medicine translation is an important way to ensure the accuracy and consistency of TCM medicine in international dissemination and application. The author puts forward the following suggestions for this:

3.2.1 Term Collection and Screening

Firstly, it is necessary to extensively collect the terminology involved in traditional Chinese medicine literature, monographs, dictionaries, and research results. This includes classic works of traditional Chinese medicine such as Huangdi Neijing, Shanghan Lun, Compendium of Materia Medica, as well as related research papers and textbooks in modern Chinese medicine, traditional Chinese medicine, and other disciplines. Secondly, screen and classify the collected terms. Basic and technical terminology levels can be determined by ranking and classifying them based on their importance and frequency of use in the theoretical system of traditional Chinese medicine.

3.2.2. Terminology Translation and Standardization

Translate accurately and appropriately based on the collected terminology. During the translation process, it is necessary to respect the meaning and expression of the original text, and appropriately consider the cultural background and contextual characteristics of the target language. When translating, reference can be made to existing international translation standards for traditional Chinese medicine, professional dictionaries, and opinions from peer experts. It is important to ensure the accuracy and readability of the terminology. According to the characteristics of traditional Chinese medicine translation, there may be multiple optional translation methods for terminology. Therefore, it is recommended to provide multiple translation options and explanations for terminology in translation standards to meet different scenarios and needs.

3.2.3 Definition and Scope of Terms

When establishing standards, it is necessary to accurately define and scope each term. Ensure the correct use of terminology in different fields and applications by clarifying its meaning, scope, and appropriate context. Definition and scope definition require reference to existing academic literature and professional works on traditional Chinese medicine, as well as expert opinions and consensus. This helps to maintain the accuracy and consistency of terminology definitions.

3.2.4 Terminology Resource Construction and Management

After establishing translation standards for traditional Chinese medicine, it is necessary to organize standardized terminology into a terminology resource library or terminology dictionary, which is convenient for scholars, translators, and practitioners to refer to and use. The construction of terminology resources requires a consistent format and structure, including terminology, definitions, translation options, scope definition, and reference information. Up to now, it is necessary to establish some management mechanisms and update rules to maintain the timeliness and scalability of terminology resources.

Through the above steps, the standardized practice path of translating vocabulary and expression in TCM can ensure the accurate dissemination and application of TCM, improve the consistency and comparability of TCM concepts, and promote international exchange and cooperation.

3.3 Standardized Practice of Cultural Adaptation and Communication Effectiveness

One of the biggest differences between TCM and Western medicine is the cultural factors contained in traditional Chinese medicine. Cultural factors are also one of the main reasons for the difficulty in translating TCM and the difficulty in unifying translation names. It can be considered that the translation of TCM cultural language is currently the core issue of TCM translation, and it is also a stumbling block to the standardization process of TCM translation. Therefore, the standardized practice of cultural adaptation of TCM and its dissemination effect is a practice to ensure that the dissemination of TCM can better

adapt to different cultural backgrounds and dissemination environments, to enhance the dissemination effect and acceptance.

3.4 Application and Standardization Practice of Modern Scientific and Technological Tools

The application and standardization practice of modern scientific and technological tools in TCM translation is aimed at improving the efficiency and accuracy of traditional Chinese medicine research and dissemination. By utilizing advanced technology and tools, the process and results of traditional Chinese medicine translation are standardized and unified. Firstly, by establishing a standardized terminology database, the translation and use of TCM terminology can be standardized. These databases can be jointly maintained by TCM medicine research institutions, international organizations, and professional academic groups, constantly updated and revised.

For example, the International Society of Traditional Chinese Medicine has established a database of traditional Chinese medicine terminology, which includes a large number of traditional Chinese medicine terminology and its English translations. Medical researchers and translators can quickly search for and use correct traditional Chinese medicine terminology by accessing the database. Secondly, due to the large amount of literature and materials in the field of TCM translation technology can help improve translation efficiency and accuracy. By establishing a machine translation system in the field of traditional Chinese medicine and training and optimizing it, TCM literature can be quickly translated into other languages. For example, the Traditional Chinese Medicine Knowledge Engineering Laboratory has developed a tool called "Traditional Chinese Medicine Machine Translation System", which can translate traditional Chinese medicine texts into multiple languages such as English, French, and German. This system is based on professional terminology and grammar rules in the field of traditional Chinese medicine, and can provide high-quality translation results. At present, in the research and writing of TCM, it is often essential to cite other literature and materials, and computer-aided translation tools can help manage and cite these materials, improving

translation efficiency. For example, the literature management software EndNote can help translators manage and cite traditional Chinese medicine literature. Translators can use this tool for literature search, literature organization, and citation generation to better support traditional Chinese medicine research and writing.

4. Conclusions

The standardization practice of TCM translation is an important task in protecting and inheriting Chinese culture, and also a key link in promoting the internationalization of TCM. By establishing translation standards for TCM, strengthening the cultivation of translation talents, and establishing a standard library for TCM translation, the quality and efficiency of standardization in traditional Chinese medicine translation can be continuously improved. At the same time, we should also face the risks and challenges faced by the standardization practice of traditional Chinese medicine translation, take effective measures and response strategies, strengthen standardization practice, and enable traditional Chinese medicine

translation to play a more important role in international exchanges.

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