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Medical Discourse Translation during COVID-19: A Case Study of Translating Medical Discourse into Arabic

Asmaa Alduhaim *
Department of English, Gulf University for Science & Technology, Kuwait

Muman Alkhaldy
Department of Modern languages, University of Birmingham, UK
Department of English, Ajdabiya University, Libya

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Abstract

This article aims to tackle the problems of translating medical terms from English to Arabic, particularly terms related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It first examines medical terminology in English, considering how such terms are coined or created, and later sheds light on the importance of neologism in medical discourse. Although English maintains itself as the *lingua franca* of science and medicine, many researchers have examined the importance of translating medical terminology into Arabic and creating new equivalents instead of borrowing foreign words directly into Arabic. Thus, this article aims to first shed light on newly used words that have emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic, and then analyse their most commonly used translations. The data consists of four common words that have been extensively used during the pandemic. The study concluded that the majority of these terminologies are translated using a descriptive method, or Arabicization. The article further highlights the importance of creating a consistent medical terminology base in Arabic.

Keywords: COVID-19, Neologism, Arabicization**,** Borrowing, Medical Translation.

1. Introduction

"Scientific and technical translation has always played a pivotal role in disseminating knowledge." "Today, the domain of science and technology is the main area of translation work" (Krein-Kühle 2003, 1). Scientific translation is now, quite clearly, an important field in translation in general, and requires both accuracy and knowledge of the field. With regard to medical translation, Yaseen (2013) states that this is a growing area of translation that includes various genres such as specialized forms of health information, drug packages, medical books, and specialized articles in medical journals. The medical field is mostly written in English, since English has historically been the *lingua franca* of the medical field, and indeed most jargon and terminology is usually translated or borrowed from English into various languages. Krulj, Prodanovic and Trbojevic (2011, 170) stress that, "It is well known that English is the

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* Corresponding Author: **Alduhaim.a@gust.edu.kw**

leading language of medical sciences. Communication in English has been indispensable throughout the history of medicine."

English medical terminology often consists of newly coined words or new words that have appeared in the language because of new diseases. Thus, neologism plays a significant role in creating medical terminology, and finding an appropriate equivalent is, without a doubt, a challenging task for translators belonging to different languages.

At the end of December 2019, the world woke up to a new pandemic that rapidly spread from China to the rest of the world. The outbreak of severe cases of pneumonia as a result of this unknown virus was first reported in Wuhan province in China. After extensive investigation, the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention announced the existence of a new virus that was somewhat similar to SARS-type coronaviruses (Rabadan 2020). Although scientists and doctors warned the public of its rapid spread across the globe and tried to quarantine those who had already contracted it, the virus had already spread to a number of countries. By 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced a global pandemic due to the number of resultant deaths, then labelled it 'Coronavirus Disease 19, or COVID-19. During 2020, the WHO advised governments to initiate lockdowns, quarantines, shut down their airports, and urged the public to stay in their homes, requirements that have been variously adopted into law in countries around the world and that are now practiced daily by governments to protect their people, including such requirements as self-quarantine, distance learning, virtual online working, and ongoing sterilization of equipment and furniture.

Similar to other new diseases, a name for such a disease is coined from previously existing names, or after the region or the person who discovered it. With regard to the name COVID-19, it was derived, as implied above, from the previously known coronaviruses diseases. This is due to the similarity of characteristics they share, while the number 19 refers to the year in which the virus first appeared.

One can argue that the constant progression of modern technology, new inventions, as well as new diseases such as COVID-19, are the reason why neologism is often used in the scientific fields to create new terminology. Although COVID-19 is a combination of an existing term, it reproduced several new terminologies (formal or colloquial) that have been used throughout the pandemic, such as *covidiot*, *infodemic*, *lockdown*, *face shield*, and *herd immunity*. This is why, in particular, translators are constantly faced with challenges to find the most appropriate equivalents for such new jargon within a given target language.

2. Medical Discourse in English

Medical discourse is constantly evolving due to the rapid development of the fields of science and medicine, in addition to the ongoing discovery of diseases, viruses, vaccines, and medications. Newmark (1988) states that the nature of medical discourse completely differs from that of any other language, and is thus regarded by many linguists as a technical language in nature. Herget and Alegre (2009) define medical language as a specialized language with specific terminology that is mainly used for medical purposes between professionals to communicate efficiently. This type of language, according to Davies

(1985), consists of three types of words: (1) English words, (2) words borrowed from other languages, and (3) newly invented words. The need for the evolution a linguistic framework for the medical language was stressed by Wulff (2004, 187), who is quoted as saying: "There is no recognized discipline called medical linguistics, but perhaps there ought to be one. The language of medicine offers intriguing challenges both to medical historians and to linguists".

According to Karwacka (2015), contemporary medical discourse consists of eponyms**,** acronyms, and neologism. Eponyms constitute a large portion of the medical discourse, as it is replete with over 13,000 eponyms (Perlińska and Krzyżowski 2009). In medical discourse, an eponym is "*a disease, syndrome, body structure, instrument, procedure or test that is named after the person who first identified it*" (Walker, Wood, and Nicol, 2016, p. 19), examples of which have been given by Karwacka (2015, 275); these include *Parkinson's disease, Lou Gehrig disease,* and *Down's syndrome*. Eponyms can similarly be derived from the geographic location where the disease originates, such as the *Spanish flu* and *Lyme's disease* (Lončar and Ostroški-Anić 2014).

Another feature of medical discourse is the use of acronyms and initials. Acronyms are the shortened forms of a word or phrase, or a word created from a sequence of several words that are typically written in capitalized letters (Kasprowicz 2012). Kasprowicz argues that this type of word is extensively employed in English medical language because of the historical tradition of the language of medicine, and the economy in space and time they provide (2012). Similarly, Džuganová (2018) believes that using initials is very popular since it shortens long descriptive terms, for example, GP for *General Practitioner*, SARS for *Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome*, AIDS for *Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome*, and DNA for *Deoxyribonucleic Acid*.

The rapid development that the medical field is witnessing, and the increasing number of pharmacological discoveries will eventually lead to the importance of creating new medical terminology to cope with the field and its practices, which is known as Neology. Newmark refers to neologism as the "newly coined lexical units or existing lexical units that acquire a new sense" (1988, 140). Neologism does not necessarily mean entirely new words, but rather existing words coined or reidentified to indicate new, different meanings. As previously mentioned, English is the *lingua franca* of medical research; hence, most neologisms originate from English and are later translated into other languages. According to Argeg (2015), neologism is very common in medical terminology, in particular for names of diseases, and sometimes for functional-descriptive terms such as *Swine flu*.

Today, the widespread distribution of the Coronavirus pandemic has started putting words in the mouths of billions of people across the globe, in which neologism has played a significant part not only in the creation of new terminology but in giving new meanings to already-known terms. Lawson (2020) argues that, due to Coronavirus, associated terminology has been developing and emerging faster than at any other time in history, and has become used extensively across the world, such as *self-isolating*, *social distancing*, *herd immunity*, and *lockdown*. Likewise, there has been the invention of new terms, whether by combining two existing words or simply creating a new one, for instance *covidiot* (someone who ignores warnings regarding public health), *covexit* (the strategy for exiting lockdown), *WFH* (Working

From Home), *infodemic* (the widespread distribution of incorrect information), and *PPE* (Personal Protective Equipment). All of these words, whether newly coined to describe aspects of the current situation or newly created, have a huge role in language, in particular to translators who work as mediators between societies and countries across the world, in terms of sharing knowledge about and unifying efforts with regard to reaching a solution to the current pandemic. One might note that all of these terms originated in the English language and were later translated or borrowed and adopted into others such as French, German, and Arabic. This paper aims to investigate the various approaches used by translators to find the most appropriate equivalence to translate these terms into Arabic, bearing in mind the rapid spread of the disease, its novelty, and perhaps most importantly the huge linguistic difference between the English and Arabic languages themselves.

3. Translating Medical Terminology into Arabic

English became the dominant language used in the medical sphere during the 20th century, with most medical research being published in English; 95% of medical papers are in English, with much of its terminology having Latin or Greek origins, such as cerebrum and pelvis (Pilegaard 2000, 7). This dominance of the English language in the medical field inevitably results in English terminology such as *AIDS*, *virus*, *bacteria*, and *influenza* being used in other languages, including Arabic. According to Hassan (2017), scientific translation is a crucial channel of knowledge dissemination, but which is extremely scarce in Arabic, and which is not necessarily keeping pace with the explosion of global knowledge. Indeed, there has been little research regarding the translation of medical terminology, in particular, into the Arabic language. For instance, Al-Jarf elaborates on the versatility of equivalents for medical terminology in Arabic (2018, 102). Her research was based on examining several medical terminologies and how they are differently rendered in several dictionaries, in addition to the difficulty the students face when having multiple equivalents while translating. Al-Jarf concluded by highlighting the necessity of creating an online database for medical terminology as a reference for Arab translators (2018, 110).

On the other hand, Mahadin examined the use of machine translation in creating a medical glossary for COVID-19 terminology in Arabic (2022). She concluded that “Human translation in the current COVID-19 situation is challenged by time constraints, high volumes of information, and steep financial costs which MT has the potential to facilitate, particularly for speakers of wide-dispersion languages” (2022, 47).

Indeed, there has been little focus on the examination of the medical terminology and the approaches used to translate them into Arabic. Thus, in this article, we intend to examine several English terms related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The examination aims to firstly highlight the various approaches used in the Arabic language when translating medical terminologies, and later demonstrates the approaches used by the translator to translate new medical terminology and whether these terms are consistently used across the Arab region.

3.1. Issues in Translating Medical Discourse into Arabic

Perhaps the most likely reasons behind the difficulty in translating medical terminology into Arabic are as follows: 1) Arabic is not flexible with regard to borrowing morphemes or words from other languages; 2) many such terms are the product of the West, and therefore carry their inventors' Western names; and 3) there is no agreement within the Arab regions regarding the use of these terms (Elmgrab, 2011). Similarly, Argeg argues that the problem with finding new Arabic equivalents has led many translators to appropriate technical terms into Arabic, and which are thus now very common in the Arab world (2015). This section will first discuss the equivalence problem facing Arabic translators, followed by the common approaches used by translators to render medical terminology into Arabic.

"Non-equivalence at word level means that the target language has no direct equivalents for a word which occurs in the source text" (Baker 2011, 23). Medical and technical terms are known to be among the most difficult words to translate into Arabic. The associated problems may vary, as previously discussed. However, there are particular reasons to why it is hard to translate medical terminology, namely the use of acronyms, abbreviations, loan words, collocation, and compounds.

a) Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronyms and abbreviations are among the most widely used terms in the medical sphere in English. This, however, is not the case in Arabic since the language does not employ either acronyms or abbreviations. In this regard, Newmark states that "Arabic resists most acronyms and explicates them" (1988, 148). When it comes to translating acronyms or abbreviations, most translators opt to translate the whole term or adopt the acronym into Arabic. For instance, MRI, the acronym for *magnetic resonance imaging* is always translated into Arabic as 'التصوير بالتنويم المغناطيسي'.

b) Loan Words

Loan words are words borrowed from other languages and adopted into a given language, and are usually names of people or places. The problem with Arabic when appropriating English terms is that certain letters have no equivalents. The process of transliteration can be problematic at times due to non-existent letters in the Arabic alphabet such as the letters 'P' and 'V'. On the other hand, the existence of more than one letter in Arabic as an equivalent to one letter in English is possible, such as the hard 'G' which can be 'ق' or 'ج' or 'غ'. Thus, the word Myoglobin in English is transliterated into Arabic but into various forms, namely 'ميوجلوبين/ ميوقلوبين/ ميوغلوبين' (Argeg, 2015).

c) Collocations

According to Newmark, collocations consist of two or more words that are frequently used in association with one another in a given language in a form of group (1988). Collocations are very common in the technical languages, especially in the medical field (Argeg 2015). For example, the word 'benign' and 'malignant' always collocate with the word '*tumour*' (Yaseen 2013, 24). Although translating collocation into Arabic can be extremely problematic due to the non-existence of a dictionary

to render their meaning, translating medical collocation might prove to be easier. This might be due to the existence of an equivalent to each particular collocation in Arabic. The following are examples of English medical collocations that have Arabic equivalences, which are:

Table 1: Examples of English Collocations that have Arabic Equivalences

Bird flu	انفلونزا الطيور
Nerve cell	خلية أعصاب

On the other hand, Baker (2011) argues that translators sometimes choose the wrong literal translation for a common English collocation and thus produce a weak, or rather odd, collocation in Arabic. For instance, Argeg (2015) demonstrates this with an example; the collocation 'heart failure', which is regularly translated as 'فشل القلب', instead of 'قصور القلب', indicates a complete failure of the heart and that it cannot perform its job.

d) Compounds

Compounds are defined by Sager as new syntagmatic units composed of at least two words that convey a new meaning independent of what they mean separately (1990, 265). Examples of compounds from the medical field include *chickenpox*, *heartbeat*, and *forehead*. Dealing with medical compounds can be rather challenging for translators, especially when there is a lack of equivalence in the target language. While some compounds are easily understood and translated because they consist of words that can help determine their meanings, such as *photo-allergy* 'حساسية للضوء', others are more challenging, such as *hay fever*, which is translated to 'حساسية الربيع'.

4.2 Common Approaches in Medical Translation

In addition to the common challenges translators face when translating English texts into Arabic due to the considerable differences between the two languages, medical translation is known to be among the hardest of texts to translate due to medical jargon. As explained in the previous section, there are common reasons why translators struggle when translating medical terminology. Among the very different approaches translators use to render a given meaning from English medical discourse into Arabic, there are three prominent communicative and semantic strategies: Arabicization, transliteration, and description. Although one can argue that both Arabicization and transliteration can be considered forms of transliteration, we believe that the process of Arabicization greatly differs to transliteration. The following sections will highlight these differences.

a) Arabicization

Scholars believe that the process of Arabicization is a very difficult but important due to rapid developments in medical terminology, and hence the fact there have been several attempts to establish a standardized Arabicization of technical terms since 1971. According to Elmgrab (2011, 469), Arabicization can be defined as the process of adopting a non-Arabic term into Arabic by replacing both the morphological and phonological rules of English. Elmgrab believes that Arabicization has, in fact,

contributed to the modernization of the Arabic language and is the reason that it now consists of several vocabularies of foreign origin (2011, 469). Famous examples of the Arabicization of medical terminology can be seen in the table below:

Table 2: Examples of Arabicization

Term in English	Term in Arabic
Alzheimer's	الزهايمر
AIDS	أيدز
Oxide	أكسيد

In the examples above, we can clearly see the influence of Arabic phonological and morphological rules, for instance, the word *oxide* is translated into 'أكسيد', and after applying the Arabic grammatical rules we can derive several words from this root such as 'تأكسد' (*oxidize*).

We believe that translators tend to use Arabicization especially when dealing with acronyms or abbreviations such as the term AIDS, in addition to eponyms when the term is mainly a name, like Alzheimer's. Regardless of how important the standardization of medical terminology is, many translators prefer the use of Arabic equivalences rather than Arabicized terms. In this regard, Sarouf argues that using the term 'داء المفاصل' instead of 'روماتيزم' for *rheumatism* may be misunderstood by a specialist as a disease that only affects joints and does not involve the back (1908, 565).

b) Transliteration – Loan Words

Unlike Arabicization, transliteration is the process of appropriating a foreign word without, or at least seldom with, any changes. Argeg (2015) explains how transliteration differs from Arabicization, arguing that in this process loan words are taken from their source language without making any changes. "Transliteration is the phonetic transcription from a source language of a word by the usage of differing script" (Argeg, 2015, 106). The following examples illustrate this further:

Table 3: Examples of Transliteration

Term in English	Term in Arabic
Bacteria	بكتيريا
Nucleotides	نوكليوتيدات
Pancreas	بنكرياس

As seen above, the grammatical and morphological rules of Arabic do not necessarily apply to the loan words, creating a new terminology that is only used in the medical field. Surprisingly, the last example, *Pancreas*, already has an Arabic equivalent, 'المعثكلة', that is very rarely used; rather, the loan term 'بنكرياس' is the commonly used term in Arabic medical discourse. Linguists argue that even if loan words are borrowed due to the necessity of using them at the current time in the medical field, translators and linguists should work to find the appropriate Arabic equivalences. According to Hassan (2017), using transliteration only implies that Arab translators are incapable of creating new terms to cope with new technical developments and modern technology.

c) Description

Description is a communicative approach that has a highly significant role in rendering the meaning and enriching language with new terminology. According to Molina and Albir, description is the replacement of the term in the source language with its description or function in the target language (2012, 510). This process adheres to Newmark's theory that focuses on creating an effect on the target language reader and establishing understanding through the source language's thoughts (1988). Elmgrab remarks that this approach is a result of the various attempts to translate complicated foreign terminology such as compounds and neologisms (2011). In addition, Baker (2011) emphasizes that adding an explanation to foreign words can, in fact, be beneficial, for instance, translating *Schizophrenia* to 'مرض انفصام الشخصية - الشيزوفرينيا'. Consider the following examples:

Table 4: Exampled of descriptive translation

Term in English	Term in Arabic
Cataract	إعتام عدسة العين
Tyrocidin	المادة المضادة للجراثيم الثيروسيدين
OB	طِبُّ التَّوليد

The examples above clearly demonstrate how Arabic medical terminologies are mainly a description or an explanation of the equivalent English term. Clearly, description is among the most popular approaches to translating abbreviations, as seen in the last example, since the term OB is an abbreviation for *obstetrics*, yet the Arabic equivalence uses the description of the term. It is worth noting that description is also used to translate one-word terms that consist of prefixes and suffixes, as per the example below:

- *Pheochromocytoma* = (pheo = dusky) + (chromo = colour) + (cyt = cell) + (oma = tumour) = ' ورم القواتم'

Although this approach may create more vocabulary than a short form of one term, it may create more acceptable terms in Arabic as they follow the phonological and grammatical rules of the language. Moreover, it will help in standardizing the technical language in Arabic, and most importantly the medical language.

4. Scope of the Study and Methodology

During the recent COVID-19 pandemic, the Arabic language has seen a particular lack of consistency in the associated medical terminology and its translation into Arabic. This was particularly reflected in the approaches used by translators to render newly coined words by simply borrowing the original word in English; translators have otherwise opted for the English abbreviation, simply due to the lack of an equivalent, or the impracticability of creating a similar, straightforward abbreviation in Arabic.

This study focuses on a number of recently coined and newly created words that were recently incepted due to the emergence of the newly discovered disease, COVID-19. These terms are associated to some greater or lesser extent with this Coronavirus, and are used in various platforms such as newspapers,

news broadcasts, Twitter and, of course, medical reports. Our data was, for the most part, collected from various platforms such as the World Health Organization's website and other recognized websites such as the Ministry of Health website in both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, online videos, press conferences, and newspaper articles up until today. The data collected consists of a number of terminologies associated with Coronaviruses, such as *Covidiot*, or has been widely used during the pandemic, for instance, *infodemic'*. In this research, we will examine the origin of the term, and how it was firstly coined in English. The analysis will later compare its various Arabic translations and examine them. We will highlight the different methods used to translate the terms such as Arabicization, transliteration, and description.

5. Corona-related Terminology and Translation: Neologism and Compounds

The emergence of medical terms during the pandemic was mainly based on two methodological aspects, which are neologism and compounds. In the case of neologism, newly coined medical terms occurred in order to describe the unprecedented atmosphere accordingly. These coined terms were either presented as a combination of two morphemes, as shown below in examples 1 and 2, or occurred as two separate words, as in examples 3 and 4.

1) Infodemic

The term '*infodemic*' first emerged during Tedros Adhanom's, Director-General of the World Health Organization, speech in which he coined a new term by combining two morphological units together. The combination was a derivation of two morphemes; a prefix '*info*', borrowed from 'information', and a suffix '*demic*', borrowed from 'epidemic'. Each morphological element does not have a lexical meaning if it stands by itself. Although the combination of these morphemes was unknown in the English language as it was used for the first time, it gave a new coined meaningful word that means the excessive amount of information is a problem.

But we're not just fighting an epidemic; we're fighting an infodemic. Fake news spreads faster and more easily than this virus, and is just as dangerous. That's why we're also working with search and media companies like Facebook, Google, Pinterest, Tencent, Twitter, TikTok, YouTube and others to counter the spread of rumors and misinformation (WHO: 15/02/20201).

It is clear that the two methodological aspects of neologism and compounds have been achieved with this example. This is because the term 'infodemic' is a newly coined term, as well being constituted of a combination of more than one morpheme.

The term '*infodemic*' does not exactly apply to the definition of compounds by Sager (1990: 265) in which compounds are new syntagmatic units composed of at least two words that convey a new meaning independent of what they mean separately. This is simply because each morpheme of the term '*infodemic*' does not have a lexical meaning that stands by itself. This would definitely present a challenge to translators when they deal with such terms. The World Health Organization, for instance,

translated the term '*infodemic*' into Arabic as 'المعلومات المضللة', as shown in the following quotation: " بل نحارب سيلا هائلا من المعلومات المضللة" (WHO: 15/02/20202).

In the case of the back translation of the phrase 'المعلومات المضللة' into English, it can be rendered as 'misinformation', which does not necessarily reflect the image of the source text, since there is no reference to the 'widespread' rumours and incorrect information included in the term 'epidemic'. By looking at the context at hand, one can see that Adhanom's main massage is beyond that of using the term 'epidemic', but rather the vast 'spread' of information. Adhanom himself states this clearly by mentioning several social media companies, such as Facebook, in the quotation above. This said, it would be rather significant to highlight the intended message beyond the use of the term 'epidemic' in the Arabic translation, such as 'وباء المعلومات' or a more descriptive method in a phrase such as ' تفشي المعلومات المغلوطة' or 'جائحة تضليل الأخبار'.

2) Covidiot

The term '*covidiot*' is a combination of two morphemes: the prefix '*covi*' borrowed from 'Corona Virus', and a suffix '*diot*' borrowed from 'idiot'. Each one of the two morphological elements does not have a lexical meaning that stands by itself. The Urban Dictionary defines the term '*covidiot*' as "Someone who ignores the warnings regarding public health or safety. A person who hoards goods, denying them from their neighbours" (Express & Star: 22/03/2020[3]). According to the Urban Dictionary, although the term '*covidiot'* may refer to two different meanings, both are equally connected to the newly emerged COVID-19 pandemic.

To analyse this further, the first meaning of the coined term '*covidiot'* is an adjective that describes a person who willingly breaches the public health advice amid the coronavirus outbreak. To demonstrate this with an example, the title "NSW covidiot' caught camping near Townsville", which was used to narrate a story of a woman who travelled to a camp on the beach in breach of the Queensland Chief Health Officer's Border Direction (North Queensland Register, 21, August: 2020[4]).

The other meaning can be illustrated in reference to a person who does not intend to breach the law intentionally, but rather someone who chooses to ignore the associated ethics. As seen during disaster, in particular during the COVID-19 pandemic, stores and supermarkets started to run out of basic food. The term '*covidiot'* is also used in this context to refer to a person who voraciously buys more than their need, ignoring others and their needs. According to the Merriam Webster Dictionary, '*covidiot'* is "the practice of collecting or accumulating something (such as money or food). The hoarding and misuse of resources was uncommon even in times of natural disaster."[5]

With regard to the appropriate Arabic translation of the term '*covidiot'*, most translators whose translations are adopted in this study chose one of two common equivalents. Both are considered literal translations of the term by composing two words to create a compound. The first translation is 'حمقى كورونا', which literally translates to 'Corona fool', while the second translation is 'أغبياء كورونا', which

translates to 'Corona idiot'. Surely, translators should translate such sensitive new terms based on the context they exist in; for instance, the suggested translation of this study for a person who neglects rules and regulations is 'هَمَج كورونا', or 'Corona barbarous hooligan', whereas the other meaning regarding inconsiderate people can be translated to 'جَشِعُو كُورونا', or 'Corona greedy', to further emphasise the intended meaning in the source text.

3) Herd Immunity

Unlike the two examples above that are composed of two morphemes, the term 'Herd Immunity' is a combination of two meaningful words. The term 'Herd' in English is commonly used for a group of animals. However, it can also refer to humans in groups and this is when associating oneself with a place, for instance, "it is desirable that young noblemen should herd" (Merriam-Webster Dictionary: 1828[6]). With regard to the Arabic language, the equivalent for the word *herd* would be 'القطيع', which mainly refers to a group of animals in Arabic.

The term 'Herd Immunity' was first coined and used a century ago in 1923 but has, in fact, only recently begun to see more widespread usage. It has been often used in reference to vaccines and disease eradication (Fine, Eames and Heymann 2020). According to Topley and Wilson (1923), the term 'herd immunity' is a natural phenomenon where people become immune to a number of new infections. Recently, the term has been used to describe the reduced risk of infection among vulnerable individuals in a population as induced by the presence of vaccinated individuals, where this makes it likely that a higher percentage of the community are protected and the chance of infection thus minimized (Vesikari and van Damme 2017, 8).

With regard to its translation into Arabic, the most frequently used phrase is 'مناعة القطيع'. Regardless of the accurate connotation it might carry, the word 'القطيع' is greatly frowned upon in Arabic due to its specific application to animals. In addition, such usage would directly compare humans to animals, which is offensive in Arab culture. Hence, a more appropriate translation might be 'المناعة الجماعية' or ' المناعة المجتمعية'.

1) **Cabin Fever**

Another compound word that has been created by adding two words together is *cabin fever*. It consists of the word *cabin*, which means a private home or shelter usually in rural setting, in addition to the word *fever*, which is widely used to signify *sickness.* In English, this word has been often used to refer to people suffering from stress and impatience as a result of staying at home in isolated areas for an extended period of time. The phrase 'cabin fever' would not mean anything if translated literally into Arabic, since it would translate to 'حُمى المقصورة', although it has been used by some authors to refer to this type of stress when translating it from English.

During the current pandemic, and due to the government's instructions regarding the need to stay home, the term has become widely used across the world. An alternative phrase we can suggest in this study to translate it into Arabic and render what it means in a rather better way is a descriptive method, that is, 'ضجر البقاء في البيت' or 'مَلَلَ البقاء في البيت'.

6. Conclusion

Medical discourse has always been challenging for translators with regard to translating terminologies from one language to another. The challenge increases when the source text and the target language fundamentally differ, as in the case of Arabic and English. This occurs every day in parallel with the spread of diseases and pandemics that lead eventually to pharmacological discoveries and, consequently, the creation of new medical terminologies.

The attempt in the present research was to shed light on four medical terminologies accompanying the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. It investigated the emergence of the medical terminology in English, as a mother language, and the meanings according to the context in which they occurred. The study then moved on to explore the methods that have been adopted by translators to convey meanings to Arabic. The final stage of this research was to suggest some Arabic translations of the terms based on the discussions and theoretical opinions of similar medical research.

In order to come up with final satisfactory results, this article passed via certain stages. It first summarized some of the previous studies into translating medical terminologies in the literature, in addition to offering an overview of the outbreak of the pandemic. This was followed by a brief discussion of the methodology adopted in this article, where this section referred to a number of newly coined and created words that were recently developed due to COVID-19's emergence. The following section gave a literature review of the relationship between medical discourse and translation. In this section, three contemporary medical discourse components, eponyms, acronyms, and neologism, were discussed. However, only the latter has been discussed in any further detail as, of the three, only this term is directly associated with the pandemic-related terms addressed in this article. The final section of this article presented an analysis of how the four medical terms, infodemic, covidiot, herd immunity, and cabin fever, were constituted during the pandemic, as well as the way they were translated into Arabic. With regard to translating the English medical terminologies into Arabic, this article shows that translators often adopt the two methods of Arabicization and/or descriptive method.

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ترجمة النصوص الطبيّة المصاحبة لوباء كورونا: كوفيد-١٩ دراسة تحليلية في ترجمة المصطلحات الطبيّة إلى اللغة العربيّة

أسماء الدحيم
قسم اللغة الإنجليزية، جامعة الخليج للعلوم والتكنولوجيا، الكويت

مؤمن الخالدي
قسم اللغة الإنجليزيّة، جامعة برمنجهام، المملكة المتحدة
قسم اللغة الإنجليزيّة، جامعة أجدابيا، ليبيا

الملخص

تهدف هذه المقالة إلى تسليط الضوء على بعض المشكلات التي قد تظهرعند ترجمة المصطلحات الطبيّة من اللغة الإنجليزيّة إلى اللغة العربيّة ولا سيما المصطلحات الطبيّة المُصاحبة لجائحة كورونا "Covid-19"، حيث تبدأ المقالة بتحليل نشأة المصطلح الطبّي المصاحب للجائحة وتأصيله حسب معناه في اللغة الإنجليزيّة، ومن ثَمَّ تُسلّط الدراسة الضوء على أهمية الإصطلاح وهوعملية ابتكارمفردات جديدة في النصّ الطبّي من خلال تحليل الترجمات المصاحبة لهذه المصطلحات، فعلى الرغم من كون اللغة الإنجليزيّة هي اللغة المشتركة للعلوم والطبّ إلا أن الكثير من الباحثين يرون بأهمية ترجمة المصطلحات الطبيّة إلى اللغة العربيّة وذلك بإيجاد مصطلحات عربيّة جديدة مكافأة بدلاً من اللجوء إلى التعريب وهوالنقل الحرفي للمصطلح الإنجليزي، وعليه؛ فإن هذه الدراسة تهدف بالدرجة الأولى إلى تناول الكلمات التي ظهرت حديثاً تزامناً مع جائحة كورونا "Covid-19"، ومن ثَمَّ تحليل الترجمات الأكثر شيوعاً لها، أمّا بالنسبة للمادّة والأمثلة المزمع تحليلها في هذه الدراسة فهي عبارة عن أربع كلمات، وهي من ضمن المصطلحات الأكثر تداولاً خلال فترة الجائحة، وقد خلصت الدراسة إلى أنّ معظم هذه المصطلحات تُرجمت باستخدام المنهج الوصفي أو التعريب، وفي النهاية تُوصي الدراسة بأهمية إنشاء قاعدة بيانات للمصطلحات الطبيّة باللغة العربيّة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: كوفيد-١٩، الإصطلاح، التعريب، الاستعارة، الترجمة الطبيّة.

Endnotes

[1] https://www.who.int/dg/speeches/detail/munich-security-conference

[2] file:///D:/Publication/6.%20Corona%20Paper/1.b.%20Infodemic%20Arabic.pdf

[3] https://www.expressandstar.com/news/uk-news/2020/03/22/urban-dictionary-coins-the-word-covidiot-to-describe-stockpilers/

[4]https://www.northqueenslandregister.com.au/story/6889441/nsw-covidiot-caught-camping-near-townsville/

[5] https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/hoarding

[6] https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/herd

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