

Linguistics-Based Review of Medical English Functional Translation in Chinese Medical Universities



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Review Article

Abstract

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This review article aims to have a brief linguistic point of view of medical English functional translation in medical English studies in Chinese medical universities. What is little known is that medical English translation has its distinctive stylistic framework in the field of medical English studies. It shows a high degree of unity in terms of both medical English vocabularies and medical English text structures. At the same time, in the field of language studies, language translation and language application based on functional linguistics coincide with each other, which has been more and more concerned with and applied to the related field of language translation studies. A brief linguistics-based review on medical English functional translation will directly help medical English language educators and researchers to observe the linguistic features and laws of medical English translation at different levels such as words, sentences, and discourses. Furthermore, it will form ultimate feedback on medical English translation classroom teaching in particular Chinese medical universities and even on course evaluation in different subject areas of medical English studies.

مروری بر زبان‌شناسی ترجمه کاربردی انگلیسی پزشکی در دانشگاه‌های پزشکی چین

هدف این مقاله مروری، ارائه دیدگاه مختصر زبان‌شناختی از ترجمه کاربردی انگلیسی پزشکی در مطالعات انگلیسی پزشکی در دانشگاه‌های پزشکی چین است. آنچه کمتر شناخته شده است این است که ترجمه انگلیسی پزشکی چارچوب سبکی متمایز خود را در زمینه مطالعات انگلیسی پزشکی دارد. از نظر واژگان انگلیسی پزشکی و ساختارهای متن انگلیسی پزشکی، درجه بالایی از وحدت را نشان می‌دهد. در عین حال، در زمینه مطالعات زبان، ترجمه زبان و کاربرد زبان چینی بر زبان‌شناسی کاربردگر مطلق هستند که بیش از پیش به حوزه مرتبط مطالعات ترجمه زبان پرداخته و به کار گرفته شده است. یک بررسی مختصر چینی بر زبان‌شناسی در مورد ترجمه کاربردی انگلیسی پزشکی به طور سیستماتیک به مریدان و محققان زبان انگلیسی پزشکی کمک می‌کند تا ویژگی‌های زبانی و توانایی ترجمه انگلیسی پزشکی را در سطوح مختلف مانند کلمات، جمالت و گفتمان‌ها مشاهده کنند. علاوه بر این، بازخورد نهایی را در مورد تدریس کالس درس ترجمه انگلیسی پزشکی در دانشگاه‌های پزشکی چین و حتی در مورد ارزیابی دوره در حوزه‌های موضوعی مختلف مطالعات انگلیسی پزشکی تشکیل می‌دهد. واژگان کلیدی: دانشگاه‌های پزشکی چین، زبان‌شناسی کاربردی، ترجمه کاربردی انگلیسی پزشکی چینی بر زبان‌شناسی، بررسی مطالعات انگلیسی پزشکی

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Introduction

Medical English translation is a branch of English for Academic Purposes (EAP). Generally, academic English refers to English that English language learners use to learn and communicate in an academic context. Academic English is actually a set of discourse-related methods established by the academic discourse community (Feng, Wu & Qi, 2017; Nesi, 2016). From this point of view, medical English translation also has its own set of conventional expressions.

Medical English translation in medical English classes has a distinct style. This is mainly reflected in levels of medical English vocabulary, medical English syntax, and medical English text structure. Their most common and obvious feature is that they all maintain a high degree of unity (Huang, 2017). In other words, medical English translation shows a high degree of united structure, whether it is in terms of medical English vocabulary or the syntactic and textual structure of medical English.

As a matter of fact, in the field of language studies, functional linguistics coincides with the translation of language and the application of it and it is also more and more concerned and applied to related fields of language translation studies (Hyland & Tse, 2005). In view of that, many medical English language researchers have based on a close integration of functional linguistics and a medical English corpus and functionally classified medical English translation into three types, which include medical English conceptual translation, medical English interpersonal translation and medical English textual translation (Liang & He, 2012).

What has to be noted is that, a medical English corpus is a collection of naturally occurring medical English language texts, which can be in the form of several medical English sentences, or a collection of medical English texts or recordings (Qi, 2012).

In that case, such a medical English corpus can provide a validated and convenient operation for describing medical English language more comprehensively as well as more objectively. Nowadays, according to different medical English language educators, a medical English translation-related analysis based on a medical English corpus has opened up a new research idea for medical English language studies (Yong, 2013).

As a useful supplement to the introspective and intuitive rationalist research paradigm, medical English corpus linguistics has also embraced a representative collection of real medical English language materials by random sampling as the research objects. It attaches great importance to the probabilistic analysis of medical English language usage, and on this basis, it

continuously promotes the demonstration and promotion of functional linguistics in the field of medical English translation studies (Liang & He, 2012).

Thus, with the help of a medical English corpus, functional linguistics and medical English studies are closely linked, which makes medical English translation show the characteristics of specialization in the forms, structures, and styles of the medical English language (Hyland & Tse, 2005). It is due to this distinctive feature that it has incubated those three above-mentioned important types of medical English functional translation that are increasingly being paid attention to by many medical English educators as well as medical English researchers, etc.

Linguistics-Based Review

A linguistics-based review, which is also the body of the current review article, mainly includes three parts. The first part briefly introduces an overall situation of what medical English translation is, this is because it is, to a certain extent, little-known to a certain number of people regarding what it really defines even in the new century. The second part deals with what “functional linguistics” is as it is employed and closely linked to medical English translation. The third part of the body mainly reviews the systematic organic combination of medical English functional translation, which includes medical English conceptual translation, medical English interpersonal translation, and medical English textual translation.

Medical English Translation

Directly, the so-called “medical English translation” refers to a manifestation of the relevant application of English translation in medical disciplines. Since medical English translation is the way to use English translation as a language in medical subjects, medical English translation is not only a professional course but also a professional major (Hutchinson & Waters, 2002). The learning and application of medical English knowledge is the same as the learning of the language of the English translation (Ma & Jin, 2008). Thus, a comprehensive study of medical English translation includes both medical English translational reading and medical English translational writing.

Medical English translation, as a particular form of language learning, is also a kind of knowledge that most medical professional researchers and learners must predominate and master. Medical English translation plays an important role in the language-learning process of most

medical professional researchers and learners (Wang, Shang, & Li, 2009).

Medical researchers and learners who have mastered a certain degree of medical English translation knowledge can better apply their medical English translation knowledge and can more easily read and understand different versions of medical English translational literature (Zhu, 2015). This can also more effectively promote the continuous improvement of the medical English translation knowledge storage as well as its application ability of most of medical professional researchers and learners.

The appearance of medical English translation does not have a long history. However, the development of medical English translation in its later period has become very rapid. Especially since entering the 21st century, medical English researchers and experts from all over the world have paid more attention to the application and development of translational theories in the medical field in order to understand the latest developments in other countries' medical careers to a great extent.

As a matter of fact, the process of medical English translation is the process of communication in the medical professional field between different countries around the world (Hutchinson & Waters, 2002). Therefore, it can be seen that medical English translation is inseparable from the medical development of those countries and even their cultural development (Zhu, 2015; Yan, 2007). It is because medical English translation depends on the specific conditions of the medical development of each country and its language dissemination and communication (Liu, 2000). Say, medical English translation is separated from the specific conditions of medical development in those particular countries, and then it will not have any denotations.

As medical English translation educators as well as learners, we need to be able to fully understand the beginning as well as the historical development of medical English translation at home and abroad. Once we can really do this, then we would also be able to recognize the significance, the characteristics as well as the categories of medical English translation consequently. On the basis of that, the process of medical English translation will become as meaningful as possible.

Specifically, a further understanding and analysis of various medical English translation divisions in medical English translation classes of Chinese medical universities will definitely play a pivotal role in our follow-up and even future medical English translation studies. At the same

time, it will also point out a clear direction for studies as well as a path for Chinese medical English translation educators and learners in their future medical English translation research and studies.

Functional Linguistics

A Brief Introduction

What is functional linguistics? To this day, there may not be a completely precise definition. In a sense, all researches and studies involving the use or application of language functions fall under the category of functional linguistics (Halliday, 2007). Functional linguistics has a broad as well as a narrow sense. In a broad sense, functional linguistics studies language and linguistics in conjunction with practical problems; while in a narrow sense, functional linguistics studies language application which includes language teaching and language learning, especially second or foreign language teaching and learning, etc.

Rather than saying that functional linguistics is a theoretical framework, it is a methodological system. This is because functional linguistics focuses on solving the practical functional problems of language in social life through the cross-application of functional linguistics and other related linguistic theories and methods (Hyland & Tse, 2005). That is to say, the research and studies of functional linguistics are mainly based on language phenomena and language usages, which absorb and apply all relevant linguistic theories and methods that are conducive to solving problems in terms of language utilization. This has also shown that the essence of functional linguistics has the characteristics of multidisciplinary overlapping with blurred boundaries.

It is precise because of those characteristics that functional linguistics has expanded from focusing on foreign language teaching research in the early days to integrating with multiple disciplines and developing many new disciplines (Liang & He, 2012). Although the conceptual definition of functional linguistics still needs to be perfected, functional linguistics continues to promote the continuous development of foreign language majors and programs in non-English-speaking countries around the world with its strong practicality, wide applicability, and infinite vitality.

In other words, functional linguistics itself is a diachronic dynamic category, and this feature is clearly reflected in the course of the development of modern linguistics. In the mid-19th century, structural linguistics was generally regarded as the origin of modern linguistics. Over the next century or so, structuralist linguistics research has expanded from the study of a single language system to a broader dimension including the field of language utilization (Baker, 1993). Therefore,

the theories of functional linguistics based on structuralist language research are also emerging in an endless stream, showing a kind of diversity.

As a modern discipline, in functional linguistics, relevant research methods and research objects are necessary elements. Scientific research methods are very important to any discipline because it is an important guarantee for the discipline to always develop in a scientific and correct direction. Therefore, timely reflection on the research methods and characteristics of functional linguistics will be beneficial to the healthy development of functional linguistics.

In current China, many foreign language majors and programs in colleges and universities are in a period of transformation and upgrading, and a correct understanding of the support of their own professional disciplines is the foundation for the sustainable development of the majors and the programs (Liang & He, 2012). Therefore, functional linguistics plays an indispensable role in the development of foreign language majors and programs in modern Chinese colleges and universities.

This is because functional linguistics is an important basis for China's higher education to carry out advanced specialized knowledge instructions and research activities. Although different disciplines continue to differentiate with the development of science, technology, economy and society, the blending, infiltration and integration between disciplines promote the formation of interdisciplinary, while the cross-differentiation of functional linguistics has its order and relative stability (Zhu, 2015).

A full application of functional linguistics in the modern Chinese college and university system makes it necessary for every Chinese college and university to organize knowledge instruction and conduct research activities around relatively stable subjects or interrelated subject groups. This is also a basic requirement for modern Chinese colleges and universities to set up foreign language majors and programs (Yong, 2013). For example, in the current review article, the close integration of functional linguistics with the teaching of medical English translation in Chinese medical colleges and universities fully demonstrates that functional linguistics plays an indispensable role in the development of medical English majors and programs in Chinese medical colleges and medical universities.

Methodological Functional Linguistics

Methodological functional linguistics, like linguistics itself, is a diachronic category. With the

development and progress of the times, the research methods and nature of linguistics are constantly being adjusted. Not only those, the research methods of functional linguistics have also distinct national characteristics (Zhang, 2010). For example, in eastern countries, the original form of traditional functional linguistics research is the classic exegesis, which retains more humanistic nature. It has abandoned its natural scientific aspect, and is therefore regarded as “unscientific”.

However, in western functional linguistics research, this research paradigm is influenced by the tradition of speculative philosophy, which pays great attention to the analysis of language with the method of logic (Hutchinson & Waters, 2002). Functional linguistics in western countries draws on the concepts of natural sciences such as physics and chemistry to describe language and then formalize language research paradigms.

In each branch of specific functional linguistics, different research methodologies have their own emphasis. For example, theoretical linguistics mainly adopts theoretical methods, which are embodied in logical and qualitative methods, while anthropological linguistics, sociolinguistics, and cultural linguistics adopt descriptive methods, which are embodied in both qualitative and quantitative methods (Zhang, 2007). Western language studies seem to pay more attention to methodology, so methodological functional linguistics has also received great attention from more and more western linguistics scholars.

With the increasingly vague nature of linguistics, the research methods of functional linguistics show new characteristics. While continuing to uphold traditional humanities and social science research methods, functional linguistics actively draws on research methods citing natural sciences. As a result, research methods in different disciplines in natural sciences have gradually spread in modern linguistic research and studies.

For example, mathematical methods have penetrated into research in almost all fields of linguistics. The combination of quantitative and qualitative research in linguistics based on mathematical methods makes the research of functional linguistics more precise and scientific. Functional linguistics, on the other hand, regards language as a mathematical object and establishes a set of axioms and inference rules similar to mathematics on this function.

To specify, in contemporary medical English translation studies, empirical, applied research and its methods have been paid more and more attention, which is fully demonstrated by the emerging sub-disciplines and cross-disciplines of medical English functional translation. As a discipline corresponding to theoretical linguistics, medical English functional translation includes

a conceptual method, interpersonal method, and textual method as its basic sub-methods. The methodology of functional linguistics is positivism, which emphasizes that those medical English translation methods have their corresponding functions that can withstand the test of translational practice.

Medical English Functional Translation

An organic combination of functional linguistics and medical English translation has spawned the wide application of medical English functional translation in the field of medical English studies. The field explores the translation of medical academic English from the perspective of functional linguistics, which plays an extremely important role in the sustainable development of medical English studies (Baker, 1993). The functional approach is taken because functional linguistics provides a theoretical framework for discourse analysis in medical academic English. At the same time, it also closely links the language selection at the micro level with the communication of the medical context as well as the sociocultural context behind it.

The concern of language communicativeness in functional linguistics coincides with the purpose of medical English translation to use language to communicate, and it has been more and more applied to the field of medical English translation studies. Functional linguistics interprets the operating mode of language, which constructs social reality and maintains interpersonal relationships from the perspective of socio-semiotics, and divides the meta-functions of language into conceptual meta-functions, interpersonal meta-functions, and textual meta-functions (Hyland & Tse, 2005).

The highly abstract concepts of functional linguistics are embodied by several semantic systems. Specifically, medical English conceptual function translation corresponds to transitivity system and normalization; medical English interpersonal function translation corresponds to mood, modality, and evaluation system; medical English textual functional translation corresponds to cohesion system, thematic structure, and information structure (Zhang, 2010). These three medical English translation methodologies based on functional linguistics will be realized through the selection of medical English vocabularies and medical English text structures.

Medical English Conceptual Translation

Medical English conceptual translation refers to the use of medical language to talk about the

understanding and feeling of medical English knowledge and its context, such as medical emotions, medical information, medical thoughts, and so on. Medical English translation in this way plays a functional role in constructing medical English knowledge and content in the process of the medical academic English translation (Yang & Liu, 2009). The translation of medical English concepts is realized through transitivity, which divides the context of medical English into multiple processes, and is concentrated on the processes of medical materials, medical psychology, and medical relationship.

The stylistic characteristics of medical academic English translation determine that the stylistic principles should be followed in the process of translating medical English concepts. At the same time, it should also conform to the language conventions of the medical academic English discourse communities. That is to say, in the language set that reflects the types of medical translation texts, medical English translators should make a choice of specific conceptual translational languages, so that the practice of medical English conceptual translation can be better integrated into the medical academic discourse communities, and then help the medical English target readers form good medical communications and medical interactions.

Let's see the following examples:

Example 1: *A great number of experts in anorectal surgery unanimously advocate the use of cotton swabs soaked in normal saline to check whether every middle-aged man has rectal gonorrhoea.*

Example 2: *Patients with muscle weakness are often preliminarily detected as central muscle-based weakness or peripheral muscle-based weakness in the process of being examined by a neurologist.*

Regarding the translation of “*unanimously advocate*” in the first example and the translation of “*preliminarily detected*” in the second example underlined, medical English translators should fully consider the methodological underpinning of medical English conceptual translation when choosing medical English wording factors. In this way, medical English translators will better integrate their conceptual translational practice into the particular medical academic discourse community in the language set that reflects the type of medical English translation texts, and then form a conceptual interaction with those medical English target readers.

Medical English Interpersonal Translation

Medical English interpersonal translation refers to another use of medical language to establish or maintain the doctor-patient relationship, to influence the doctor-patient relationship, or to use medical language to express views on a particular medical phenomenon (Xu, 2017). Medical academic English translation is not only a forum for transmitting medical academic knowledge but also an important occasion for the interactive discourse practice of doctor-patient relationships in medical interpersonal relationships.

In order to establish the identity of a medical scholar, the subjects as well as the modality system in the process of medical English interpersonal translation become the language resources and means to realize the function of interpersonal translation. The modality system is embodied in the process describing the possibility and regularity of medical interpersonal contexts.

The characteristics and conditions of medical English interpersonal translation mentioned above can be easily seen in the following examples:

Example 3: *This current research report truly provides general background information about COVID-19, and specifically discusses the situations related to COVID-19 during pregnancy.*

Example 4: *We still strongly recommend systemic antifungal therapy for patients, and in terms of medication, we will consider the use of flavomycin.*

Example 5: *The researchers have found that when performing medical treatments on a patient, the main purpose is to firstly rule out the factors that cause the patient to develop ulcers, so as to better change the PH value of gastric juice in the stomach.*

Medical English Textual Translation.

Medical English textual translation refers to the transfer of medical information and knowledge through connectives. Because the process of transmitting information and constructing knowledge in medical academic English papers is based on careful logical analysis and reasoning, the medical-style has a clear language selection tendency in terms of the types of connectives (Li, 2014).

Through the retrieval of the medical English corpus, it is found that the connective words with a high probability of use are mainly words that reflect the causal relationships. This also reflects the limited propositional conditions, revealing inferences resulting from medical semantic features. Therefore, medical English translators should choose the appropriate medical English wordings according to the actual medical texts in their timely translation process.

For example, in the following translations, connectives based on causality frequently appear in the process of medical English textual translation.

Example 6: *For the reason that patients shall get a better treatment plan, we hence recommend a chest X-ray to them followed by an ultrasound.*

Example 7: *Since your laboratory report shows that your white blood cell count is a little high, a more detailed test of the red blood cell to white blood cell ratio will be given to you consequently.*

Discussions and Recommendations

Dilemma of Medical English Functional Translation

International exchanges in the medical field have become more frequent with the expansion and deepening of China's opening to the outside world. The role of medical English translation has thus become increasingly necessary and prominent (Ma, 2005). Nevertheless, just as Ma and Jin (2008) have pointed out that there are not enough translators who can undertake medical English translation to a certain extent, not to mention those who are able to cope with medical English functional translation; even most of them are senior experts in the related fields.

In view of the fact above, the dilemma of medical English functional translation lies in such a situation that there are a lot of medical English terminologies, the related sub-categories of medical English are even more than complicated, and the degree of professionalization of medical English knowledge is relatively high (Dong & Liu, 2001). The existing dilemma thus makes it difficult for medical English translators to cope with the important activities of medical English functional translation without a series of systematic medical English professional knowledge as well as certain years of medical English translation experiences (Ma & Jin, 2008).

Thus, as is mentioned in the first chapter, on the basis of a medical English corpus, functional linguistics and medical English studies are closely linked, making medical English translation show the characteristics of specialization in the forms, structures and styles of medical English language (Hyland & Tse, 2005). It is due to this distinctive feature that it has further incubated those three above-mentioned important types of medical English functional translation, leading to the existence of such a dilemma in medical English functional translation, which has been paid great attention to by many medical English educators as well as other medical English researchers and stakeholders, etc.

Regular Patterns of Medical English Functional Translation

It is also worth noting that, on the one side, since the punctuation of medical English translation is relatively regular, thus, all medical English educators and medical English researchers, as well as medical English students should possibly grasp those particular patterns in their medical English functional translation (Huang, 2012). On the other side, in the process of medical English functional translation, all those medical English translation stakeholders should also pay attention to the proper nouns in medical English studies. To specify, the medical English proper nouns are usually capitalized in any of the medical English texts.

For example, the “*Medical Academic English Corpus*”, also “MedDEAP”, a sub-project of the “*Project of Special English Corpus Construction under the China Foreign Language Education Fund*”, brings together a large number of real medical English language examples out of the field of regular patterns of medical English studies (Feng, Wu & Qi, 2017).

In this sub-project, the MedDEAP uses a wordlist to present different medical English functional translation vocabularies with both regular patterns and different frequencies. That is, the corpus has comprehensively included a list of various medical English words that match their regular united expressions as well as their frequencies of occurrence. Moreover, all retrieval methods under MedDEAP fully reflect those three above-mentioned important types of medical English functional translation, including medical English conceptual translation (e.g., the transitivity of medical English verbs), medical English interpersonal translation (e.g., the collocation of medical English subjects and modal verbs) and medical English textual translation (e.g., the usage of connectives between medical English vocabularies).

As for Medical English conceptual translation, it is clearly referred to as a sort of particular usage of medical English language to talk about cognition and feelings about the world, such as emotions and thoughts, etc. This translational approach regularly plays a role in constructing the contents of medical English knowledge in particular related medical English materials and literature. Huang (2017) points out that the conceptual translation of medical English is realized through the transitivity of verbs. The transitivity of verbs divides this experience-based world into four processes, namely the material process, psychological process, relational process, and behavioral process (Halliday, 2007). At the same time, the corresponding types of those four processes are determined by the semantics of the corresponding transitive verbs.

With the help of the retrieval of transitive verb-based expressions in MedDEAP and the

operation of “Frequency Breakdown” processed by the platform of MedDEAP, we can obtain the medical English transitive vocabularies as well as the frequencies of their usage. In the process of medical English conceptual translation, the persuasive nature of the medical English language is expressed through the perception and awareness of those medical English transitive verbs, including words such as “estimate”, “understand”, “approve”, “and propose”, etc. This has enabled the whole medical English translation practice to be better integrated into the medical academic discourse community and form a better interaction with all the target readers (Li, 2014).

When it comes to medical English interpersonal translation, it is regarded as another sort of special usage of the medical English language to establish or maintain social relationships, influence others, as well as to express personal views within the medical world. Nesi (2016) maintains that the medical English language is not only a forum for the transmission of academic knowledge but also an important occasion for the formation of interpersonal interactive discourse practice. In the process of interpersonal translation, in order to establish a medical English scholar’s identity, the medical English subjects and modality system become the language resources and means to realize such an interpersonal function applied in medical English translation.

In the same way, in MedDEAP, we can search through medical English subjects and modal verb-based expressions respectively, use the platform of Frequency Breakdown for processing, and then we will get the word lists of the medical English vocabularies which include medical English subjects and modal verbs as well as their frequencies of usage. Therefore, Feng, Wu, and Qi (2017) suggest that interpersonal translation of medical English presents the usage of the subjects in medical academic English language that has three categories, including “self”, “other”, and “inhuman”. Based on such objective and rigorous functions of medical English translation, the interpersonal translation of medical English is ultimately established and confirmed with the help of the search results of the corpus-based database.

With regard to medical English textual translation, since it describes another specific kind of textual way that the medical English language organizes information, the relationship between medical English language information and the corresponding medical English contexts is perspicuously characterized (Wang, 2009). Medical English textual translation reflects the process of generating discourse associations that shape the readability and intelligibility of medical academic English information by means of medical English texts.

One of the main semantic systems to achieve textual translation of medical English is cohesion. According to Xu (2017), this is to reflect the surface structure relationship of the medical English texts through the forms of medical English vocabularies and medical English language grammar. As a common means of linking language texts, connectives are always the linguistic forms employed to express specific semantic relations among medical English vocabularies that closely link the preceding as well as its following medical English translational texts together.

Conclusion

Translation activities are an important part of human activities. As long as there is human communication, translation activities exist (Xi, 2009). Without such activities, cultural dissemination and interpersonal communication would be difficult or even impossible.

From medical English functional translation to medical English studies, there are many types of medical English translation activities, and the definition of medical English translation can also be varied. In the common opinion of the reviewers in this review paper, if the academic studies of medical English can be described as a recreational activity, then those engaged in literary research and literary criticism as well as those engaged in functional linguistics and applied linguistics are playing a different role game.

In other words, although they are all interested in the same thing, they are not playing the same game, i.e. different games have different rules. Thus, different medical English researchers have different views on the problems of functional translation of medical English, but in the field of medical English studies, the discussion is based on a certain scope and premise.

Because of this, it can be said with certainty that whether to discuss the problems of functional translation of medical English from the perspective of functional linguistics or from the perspective of formal linguistics, will ultimately inspire and promote medical English studies.

A Functional Linguistic Enlightenment

Since the current authors aim at having a brief linguistic point of view of medical English functional translation in medical English studies among Chinese medical universities, functional linguistic enlightenment thus goes a result of an active application of a variety of linguistic theories. In other words, the study of the functional translation of medical English in the modern sense is the result of actively applying various linguistic theories, thus forming the linguistic school of

medical English translation research (Ge & Luo, 2010). Although the study of medical English translation based on functional linguistics currently seems to cede its once-occupied central position to translation studies from a functional cultural perspective, its importance in medical English studies cannot be replaced.

Besides, a brief linguistic review of medical English functional translation in medical English studies among Chinese medical universities is of great theoretical and practical significance to the vast number of medical English educators and researchers (Huang, 2017). Meanwhile, the medical English corpus is a collection of a large number of real medical English language examples, which lays an empirical foundation for describing the language characteristics and distributional rules of medical academic English (Nesi, 2016). The functional translation of medical English is not only related to the language conversion of medical English but also involves the language conventions of the special styles.

It is worth noting that, with the help of the conceptual, interpersonal, and textual word lists generated from the medical English corpus, a reflection on the functional translation of medical academic English is ultimately formed. Thus, in the follow-up, medical English translation processes, taking the approach of functional translation to analyze medical academic language will better serve the development and breakthrough of medical English translation practice within the field of medical English studies in the long term.

To conclude further, a brief linguistics-based review on medical English functional translation will directly help medical English language educators and researchers to observe the linguistic features and laws of medical English translation at different levels such as vocabularies, sentences, and discourses, etc. last but not least, it will then form ultimate feedback on medical English translation classroom teaching among particular Chinese medical universities and even on course evaluation in different subject areas of medical English studies.

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