

Problems and Countermeasures in the English Translation of Heat-sensitive Moxibustion Terms

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ABSTRACT. Heat-sensitive moxibustion therapy originated from the classic book the Yellow Emperor's Canon of Medicine, it based on the clinical, and it is a new moxibustion method which is safe and effective. As the development of heat-sensitive moxibustion, the research on heat-sensitive moxibustion is on the rise, it has been widely used in the clinical practice of TCM. However, there are few researches on the English translation of heat-sensitive moxibustion terms. This study will put forward the problems and countermeasures in the english translation of heat-sensitive moxibustion terms, in order to give some help which can promote the communication of heat-sensitive moxibustion spread all over the world, and accelerate the process of heat-sensitive moxibustion advance to the world.

KEYWORDS: Heat-Sensitive Moxibustion Terms, English Translation, Existing Problems, Countermeasures

1. Introduction

Under the background of the Belt and Road, the Traditional Chinese Medicine has ushered in the excellent period a excellent period and development opportunities for foreign exchange and communication. TCM "going abroad", translation is a necessary method to spread related information. According to the "Guan neng"(Chapter 73) in The Spiritual Pivot, "If acupuncture cannot be used to treat disease, moxibustion should be used."The moxibustion was not only mentioned in The Yellw Emperor's Canon of Medicine, but also had special chapters in some famous medical books as follows: Bian Que Xin Shu, Yi Xue Ru Men, Ming Yi Bie Lu. Professor Chen Rixin inherited and innovated independently on the basis of predecessors' moxibustion therapy, created an innovative moxibustion method: Heat-sensitive moxibustion therapy. After more than 30 years of clinical research, he enriched and developed the theory and technology of moxibustion therapy, and the clinical moxibustion effect has been significantly improved [1]. Heat-sensitive moxibustion heat is use the moxibustion heat to stimulate the acupoints which

character is preference heat, penetrating heat and transferring heat. The application of moxibustion on the heat-sensitive points are easy to stimulate the sensation, then qi arriving at the pathogenic [2], thus reach “small stimulation inducing large response”. Heat-sensitive moxibustion therapy emphasizes the sensory activity formed in moxibustion treatment. In recent years, doctor of acupuncture and moxibustion from many countries came to heat-sensitive moxibustion hospital of Jiangxi province to learn heat-sensitive moxibustion technology, this technology has been favored by people all over the world. Under such background, the English translation of heat-sensitive moxibustion terms plays an important role in facilitating foreign scholars' understanding of related knowledge. At present, a monograph named Heat-sensitive moxibustion has been published, some terms can be used with reference for general nomenclature of science of acupuncture and moxibustion[3]. However, the terminology standard of heat-sensitive moxibustion has not yet been established, the translation of heat-sensitive moxibustion terms in the thesis present an irregular situation.

2. Selection Source of Heat-sensitive Moxibustion Terms

This study adopts the method of literature retrieval, screening heat-sensitive moxibustion terms from Practical reading of heat-sensitization moxibustion[4], heat-sensitization of acupoint: A new moxibustion therapy[5], heat-sensitization moxibustion therapy[6]. These terms can be roughly divided into two categories: the first one is heat-sensitive moxibustion related theories, conceptual terms, the second one is related technical terms. Using these terms as key words to consult the relevant literature on CNKI, find out how scholars translated them into English. The three books were written under the leadership of professor Chen Rixin who is the founder of heat-sensitive moxibustion therapy. In the efforts of the team led by him, the stagnant state of traditional Chinese moxibustion therapy greeted a new dawn. These three books use plain language, and they are in high popularity. These books have both theory and practice, and they are not only suitable for ordinary people, but also for clinical, researchers, students and so on. They are the authoritative monographs on heat-sensitive moxibustion.

3. Examples of Problems and Countermeasures in the English Translation of Heat-sensitive Moxibustion Terms

3.1 The Usage Rate of the Terms with Standard Is Not High

Heat-sensitive moxibustion therapy is originate from moxibustion, according to trigger the sensation propagated along the channel, then qi arriving at the pathogenic locations. Therefore, heat-sensitive moxibustion belong to the moxibustion, parts of the heat-sensitive moxibustion terms can refer to the moxibustion standard in general nomenclature of science of acupuncture and moxibustion.

Table 1. Heat-sensitive moxibustion terms mentioned in general nomenclature of science of acupuncture and moxibustion

Term's name	general nomenclature of science of acupuncture and moxibustion	Translation 1	Translation 2
Jiu Liang	amount of moxibustion	quantity of moxibustion	dosage of moxibustion
Hui Xuan Jiu	circling moxibustion	swirling moxibustion	
Que Zhuo Jiu	sparrow pecking-like moxibustion	sparrow pecking moxibustion	birdpecking moxibustion
Wen He Jiu	gentle moxibustion	mild moxibustion	warming moxibustion

From the literatures, there were only few scholars who translate the terms according to the standards in the general nomenclature of science of acupuncture and moxibustion, it shows that the usage rate of the standard is low. Take the term “Jiu Liang” as example, it means the effective dose of moxibustion everytime, whether moxibustion is effective or not, it is a very important factor. The optimal “Jiu Liang” of different individuals is also different in clinical because of the different state of disease and other factors. There are many scholars who do not translate the terms according to the standard, they translated them as “amount of moxibustion、 quantity of moxibustion、 dosage of moxibustion”, the three nouns “amount, quantity, and quantity” are represent quantity. The are interpret differently in The New Oxford English-Chinese Dictionary. “Quantity” means the amount of a substance, “amount” is a common word, indicate the total, “dosage” is defined as the dose of a medicine. In the process of translation, it is not only necessary to meet the requirements of the grammar, but also to select the appropriate words and to be in line with the expression of the English language. According to the meaning of the word, the amount of moxibustion is not only a single factor, it is closely related to the time, strength and area of moxibustion. It is more appropriate to use the common word “amount”, use the meaning dose or quantity is not appropriate.

As another example “Que Zhuo Jiu”, it is use the end of the burning moxa stick which is not fixed at a certain distance from the skin, like a bird's peck, up and down. The translation in the standard is “sparrow pecking-like moxibustion ” which use free translation, place compound words that use hyphens as attributive before

the noun. It conforms to the principle of back-translation in English translation of TCM, when back-translate the word, it is conform to the meaning of the term. It is also similar in form and structure to its chinese name. When foreign readers or listeners read or hear the English translation of this form of heat-sensitive moxibustion terms, they can immediately come up with the chinese name. Think of the method of heat-sensitive moxibustion like pecking, achieve the purpose of two-way transmission of information, and vice versa, so that readers can better understand the meaning of the term.

3.2 Great Differences in Translation of Terms without Standard

In addition to some terms already standardized in GB/T 30232—2013, many of the terms without standard, and the translation method in the relevant literature are different. Take the term “Re Min” as example, it involve the following terms: “Re Min Jiu”, “Re Min Xue”, “Re Min Xue Jiu”, “Re Min Shu Xue”, “Re Min Tai Shu Xue” and so on. By sorting out, it is found that the same word “min” they used different translations. For the same word, there are differences in whether or not to use a hyphen. So it is important to understand the meaning of “min”. For example, “Re Min Jiu” is to moxibustion at points with heat-sensitive properties, these heat-sensitized acupoint are sensitive to heat, thus produce the moxibustion sensation. As an adjective in New Oxford English-Chinese Dictionary, the word “sensitive” means “be sensitive to something”, it is accord with the meaning of the term. Some scholars translate the term “Re Min Jiu” into “thermal moxibustion”, “thermal” as an adjective means hot in the 21st century English-Chinese Dictionary, the translation of the word “thermal” does not reflect the meaning of “Min” or accurately convey the content of the original word. Use adjective compound structures n+adj: “heat-sensitive” to express “Re Min” is in line with the meaning of the term. The structure of is also consistent with its Chinese term when back-translate the word. Moreover, the use of hyphen compound words is in line with the trend of increasing simplification of modern English. When applied to the translation of TCM terms, it shows the integrity of the semantic meaning of terms [7]. The use of hyphen “-” to connect closely related nouns can make the translation concise and in line with the principle of conciseness in TCM translation.

Another example is the translation of the term “Re Min Xue”, some scholars use the adjective “sensitized” to represent a state, while others use the adjective “sensitive” to represent “be sensitive to something”. “Re Min Xue” refers to an individualized, dynamic, sensitized site of the body surface response of a disease. The meaning of “sensitized” in The Great Dictionary of English synonyms is indicat the sensitized state. Therefore, according to the meaning of the words, it is more appropriate to translate the term into “heat-sensitized acupoint”.

4. Examples of the Countermeasures in the English Translation of Heat-sensitive Moxibustion Terms

4.1 Appropriate Choice of the Word

No matter what kind of translation work, the first thing to follow is accuracy, which is the necessary condition for readers to understand the connotation of terms correctly. In terms of heat-sensitive moxibustion, it is very important to distinguish different meanings of the same morpheme for translation, which can help readers better understanding the connotation of terms. In the process of translation, we should not only translate literally, but also consider its cultural background and specific connotation to translate its meaning accurately[8].

4.2 Flexible Use of “Elegance”

The translation of terms should not only be faithful, expressive, but also be elegant. “Elegance” means that the translation should be beautiful, natural, lifelike and perfectly express the writing style of the original text. For example, in terms of key points of heat-sensitive moxibustion technology, “exploration technique” focuses on operation manipulation. If it can be translated more vividly, it will be more beneficial to learners' cognition. When people read or hear the translation, they can think of this manipulation in your head, which really adds interest to the translation.

4.3 Comply with the Conciseness Principle

The principle of conciseness requires that the corresponding words after translation of each term should be reduced as much as possible on the premise that the transmission of information does not lose its original meaning[9]. The term of heat-sensitive moxibustion can be used to use hyphen “-” words closely related to the structure of the connection, which can make the translation concise, not only that, but also the integrity of the term.

4.4 Comply with the Back-translation Principle

The principle of back-translation refer to the English translation of TCM terms should remain similar in Chinese form in terms of form and structure, so that the two-way transmission of information can be well realized in the international exchange of TCM[10]. The term of heat-sensitive moxibustion has the characteristics of Chinese traditional culture, the terms after translation have the nature of back-translation.

It is more helpful for translators to accurately convey relevant information of heat-sensitive moxibustion to foreign scholars. It is also helpful for domestic TCM

translators and medical workers to master the english translation of heat-sensitive moxibustion terms more quickly and accurately. This is more conducive to international exchanges between the two sides.

5. Conclusion

In order to accelerate the spread of heat-sensitive moxibustion, medical colleges should strengthen the training of TCM translators, schools should make full use of their own advantages to strengthen the training of English teachers, teachers should continue to learn relevant knowledge and technology after class. The school should supplement the personnel with various academic backgrounds, train the compound English teaching staff of traditional Chinese medicine, and train more technical talents of English majors in TCM. Students majoring in acupuncture and moxibustion should not only master their own professional knowledge, but also enhance their English knowledge. Students majoring in English of TCM should not only learn foreign language well, but also go into clinical practice. Only by combining theories with clinical practice can we have a better understanding and do better translation practice.

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