

# Review of previous studies on the translation of Abstract of traditional Chinese medicine papers

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**ABSTRACT.** *With the accelerated speed of globalization and rapid development of science, new information of various disciplines is blowing up in a fantastic rate. And the latest achievements in the developing process are to be shared on a global scale, therefore, worldwide academic exchanges become increasingly frequent. English abstract, being an essential part of most research papers, is regarded as a bridge in the process of international information transmission and academic communication, since readers home and abroad can sort out needed research papers only by a speedy look at the abstracts. Obviously, the quality of an English abstract will greatly affect the degree of spreading and acceptance of a research article. In view of the vital role played by English abstracts in the process of academic exchanges, many scholars at home and abroad focused their studies on abstract s writing and translation, and the results were fruitful. This review mainly introduces the previous studies on the translation of abstract of TCM paper. Emphasized the importance of standard and Indicate the existing problem.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Traditional Chinese medicine; Abstract; translation*

## 1. Introduction

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) is extensive and profound, which is deeply rooted in the Chinese cultural. On one hand, the task of translating TCM article into English is to disseminate the knowledge of Chinese medicine. On the other hand, it is to spread Chinese culture so that foreigners can fully understand and make use of TCM on the basis of understanding Chinese culture. In order to achieve these goals, many scholars have published academic papers on TCM. Abstract is an important

part of academic papers, it has the independent discourse structure and stylistic characteristics, plays a vital role in the transmission of text information. Abstract writing based on the thinking habits and writing characteristics of native language scholars is necessary for academic papers to be published on international journals [1]. Abstract is an important part of a paper, which should include both Chinese abstract and English abstract. The abstract should reflect the content of the paper in an objective way. High-quality Abstract are the key to the successful publication of the paper, among which English Abstracts are an important carrier of international communication [2]. As an important part of academic papers and the concentration of original literature, the quality of English abstract is directly related to the academic level of the paper. Whether an academic paper can be included by SCI, Chinese core journals and other international literature retrieval organizations depends on the quality of the English abstract and whether it meets the requirements of international conventions. A high-quality abstract helps promote the academic outcome of the paper and enhance the academic interaction between international scholars.

## **2. Introduction of the existing problem**

Now available reference standards for translation of TCM terms including International standard terminology in traditional medicine in the western Pacific of the world health organization, International standard Chinese-English basic nomenclature of Chinese medicine, English translation of common terms in Traditional Chinese Standardization Law of the People's Republic of China•Basic theory nomenclature of traditional Chinese medicine, International standard Chinese-English Basic Nomenclature of Chinese Medicine, International standards of traditional medical terminology. Some TCM journals also have its own rules and make a clear regulation. Take the Chinese journal of traditional Chinese medicine for example. English translation of TCM terms refers to the Chinese Terms in Traditional Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy(Science press, 2005), which approved by China National Committee for terms in sciences and technologies. What's more, combined with free translation, literal translation, proprietary vocabulary of Chinese medicine suggestion.[3] With too much standards, it leads the great mass of translation. Chen Ning et al. [5] collected the English abstracts of all the papers in

the core journal of traditional Chinese medicine in 2013, among which 1 structural abstract was selected from each journal in each period, and a total of 204 structural abstracts were collected, which were decomposed into four parts: objective, method, result and conclusion. After the file is de-noised, a corpus with marked part of speech is generated. Based on the above corpus analysis, the following conclusions are drawn. Most papers use an unscheduled phrase directly after Objective to express the purpose of this paper, and a few adopt the phrase "This study was aimed at..." "Or" The purpose of the paper was to... The expression of the same sentence. It can be seen that the structure of the infinitive at the beginning of the sentence to guide the whole part of purpose is relatively common in the structural summary. The most common tense in the method part of the structure summary is the past tense, while the present tense is relatively rare, and the future tense is generally not present. The use of modal verbs should be avoided as far as possible; More dynamic sentence patterns should be used. In the result part of the structure formula, the general past tense is obviously more than the general present tense. More passive voice is advocated. The results show that the conclusion part is the most commonly used modal verb in structure abstract. This also indicates that there is still a lack of grammatical norms and standards in the translation of abstract of academic papers of TCM, which leads to the existence of some problems.

A TCM journal editor, HuangJiang, found there are 5 main problems among the translation. Which are easy mistakes, illogical mistakes, ambiguity, discursive mistakes, irregular mistakes. To some extent, it reflects the lack of basic qualities of editors in academic journals of TCM, including the lack of professionalism, professional knowledge and writing ability, as well as the lack of familiarity with norms and regulations.

### **3. Introduction of previous studies**

Shi Shugui[8], guided by the relevance theory, take the abstract of TCM for example, the English translation of it of cultural default and compensation problems associated strategy has carried on the empirical study, illustrates the pinyin literal translation, annotation, domestication method, filtration method and synthetic method of TCM in dealing with the role of English translation of cultural default and compensation, supplemented by appropriate translation examples for reference and

demonstration. This paper expounds a method in the translation of abstract of TCM, which can make the translation of TCM texts show good relevance. Although the theory of relevance has its own shortcomings, for example, it has been proposed that it has insufficient understanding of the probabilistic conclusion of pragmatic reasoning, and is too formalized, idealized and operationalized, but so far it has the most powerful explanatory power for translation. Relevance theory holds the dynamic characteristics of translation from the perspective of cognitive relevance, which has a broader theoretical overview [9]. The application of relevance theory in the translation of TCM can well solve the cultural default and compensation problems in the translation of TCM.

According to Zhu JianFei [10], the translation quality of academic papers of TCM will directly affect the academic exchange. Based on the translation practice of TCM, he the problems that attention should be paid to TCM translation from the perspective of translation studies, and points out that the translation of abstract of TCM papers should be accurate, concise and meet the standard requirements.

Professor Ni ChuanBin[11] proposed that the establishment of Chinese medicine English corpus should abide by the following six principles: the principle of application specificity, the principle of corpus representativeness, the principle of structure rationality, the principle of storage capacity appropriateness, the principle of content authenticity, and the principle of sampling randomness. His suggestion provides the standardization of TCM translation.

Li JunMei[12] from Henan University thinks that TCM paper's abstract must have format, content simplification, clear hierarchy. The main body of the research paper of TCM mainly introduces the research objective, research methods, research results and comprehensive evaluation of the research through comprehensive analysis. abstract of traditional Chinese medicine research paper adopts four structural abstract, including objective, methods, results and conclusion. The principle of "equivalent translation" is the translation of the main body of the abstract of the research papers of traditional Chinese medicine.

According to Liu Wei[13], TCM articles are included in scientific paper. Therefore, scientific and technological style should be adopted to the translation of it's abstract which are as follows. Be impersonal, formal in mode of speech, standard in language, unadorned in stylistic, strict in logic, concentrated in technical terms.

#### 4. Discussion

With the development of TCM and globalization, international academic communication is becoming more and more frequent. English is no doubt the universal language on the most influential scientific journals. Consequently, translation is the least requirement of publishing. abstract, one of the most important part of a paper, is used to help the readers have a rough understanding of the main idea of this paper. It not only help to save time on searching but also assist the researcher to select the correlative paper they want. Great importance should be attached this field because of the nonconformity of standard and simple mistakes.

It is encouraging that significant advancement has been made on the establishment and formation of corpus of TCM abstract translation basic on the Chinese core journals. Many scholars also raise their findings and devote into this filed. Obviously, the relevant study is in demand, more efforts should be paid on and more researcher should be involved as well as international academic exchanges.

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