

Covid 19 to new normal terminologies and concepts: a translation study

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Abstract: The study aimed to develop a compendium of COVID-19-related terminologies and concepts by translating their definitions from English to Filipino and Hiligaynon. Utilizing a qualitative translation research design, the researchers followed systematic processes of translation, editing, and expert validation. Anchored on Jakobson's theory of translation and Skopos theory, the study ensured linguistic and semantic accuracy. Findings revealed that most terms had equivalent translations in Filipino and Hiligaynon, while some required retention of original terms for consistency. The compendium, validated by language experts, addresses the public's need for clear and culturally relevant information about COVID-19. This resource is expected to enhance public understanding, awareness, and preparedness during the pandemic while promoting linguistic and cultural integration.

Keywords: Covid19, New normal, Translation study

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INTRODUCTION

According to World Health Organization (2019), Coronavirus Disease or CoViD-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Most people infected with the CoViD-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without special treatment. However, older people and those with some underlying medical problems are more likely to develop severe illness. The CoViD-19 pandemic has resulted into a significant loss of human life throughout the world and poses an unprecedented threat to public health, food systems, and the workplace.

In connection to this, the pandemic in our country gave birth or brought light to various terminologies and concepts associated with CoViD-19, which serve as a guide for people to widen their knowledge, understand our current situation, and improve their awareness of the surroundings. Therefore, CoViD-19 terminologies and concepts are essential as they lead to a better response and more responsible individuals in these difficult times. Moreover, they unlock new ideas and information necessary to adapt and survive today's world.

However, many people face both major and minor problems with CoViD-19 especially with the information about the virus, its level of seriousness, restrictions implemented by the government and the necessary things they need to do in order to deal with the pandemic properly due to the inadequate knowledge and ideas about different CoViD-19-related terminologies and concepts which some experienced conflicts, problems and even put their lives in danger. Communicating the meanings and essence of these words will help people to become well-informed about certain things or phenomena around them.

With regards to what have been mentioned above, the researchers want to pursue a compendium of the various CoViD-19 terminologies and concepts and unveil their meanings and significance in this time of pandemic, which will become a translation study. By translation, we pertain to a mental activity in which the meaning of given linguistic discourse is rendered from one language to another. The translation is an act through which the content of a text is transferred from the source language into the target language (Foster, 1958). Definitions of the words, phrases, or statements related to CoViD-19 will be translated from

English to Filipino and Hiligaynon languages. Theories, approaches, and principles of the translation will serve as reference and add input on translation, which will be conducted. Increased knowledge, understanding, and consciousness of the people to solve problems and live the right way are at the heart of this research study or activity.

Statement of the problem

The study will generate compendium of the terminologies and concept related to CoViD-19.

Specifically, it seeks to answer the following questions:

- 1) What terminologies and concepts are associated with CoViD-19?
- 2) What possible and appropriate translations of definitions can be obtained from the English meanings of terminologies and concepts associated with CoViD-19 in Filipino and Hiligaynon?
- 3) How the panel of experts validate and correct the translated Filipino and Hiligaynon definitions of CoViD-19 terminologies and concepts?
- 4) What deliverable can be obtained out of the result of the translation?

METHODOLOGY

Research design

The research employed a translation study design focusing on the compendium of COVID-19 terminologies and concepts. The translation process involved systematic stages, including literature review, analysis of translation theories, and principles applicable to inter-lingual translation across English, Filipino, and Hiligaynon languages. The researchers aimed to identify and translate terminologies while ensuring accuracy and adherence to linguistic rules. The study applied Jakobson's theory of translation, emphasizing inter-lingual translation, and was further anchored on Reiss Vermeer's Skopos theory and Katherina Reiss's functional approach to translation.

Locale of the study and respondents

The study did not involve physical participants or a specific location since it was a translation research. The researchers collected data from credible online sources, including medical glossaries and expert-established websites. The translation was personally conducted by the researchers and validated by a panel of experts proficient in English, Filipino, and Hiligaynon. This ensured accuracy and cultural relevance of the translations.

Research instruments

As the study centered on translation, there were no traditional research instruments or tools used to collect participant responses. Instead, the researchers gathered data by compiling COVID-19-related terminologies and concepts from reliable internet sources. The process involved multiple stages, including data verification, translation into Filipino and Hiligaynon, and expert validation. The translations were adjusted based on the panel's feedback to produce a comprehensive and accurate compendium.

Data analyses procedure

The study utilized a qualitative content analysis approach. Researchers first translated the COVID-19 terminologies from English into Filipino and Hiligaynon and then validated these translations with experts in the respective languages. The translated data was arranged and analyzed thematically, focusing on linguistic and semantic accuracy. Finally, the findings were summarized to address the research objectives, linking the outcomes to translation theories and principles to ensure the study's rigor and reliability.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Terminologies and concepts associated with covid-19

Time has been altered, our way of life has been compromised, so many opportunities and missed chances all because of the corona virus that spread throughout nations ravishing our bubble of normal and affecting the safety of our peers, colleagues, and our loved ones.

Ensuring that the general public has accurate information is essential in helping them understand how and why it is necessary to prevent the spread of the CoViD-19 virus. When confronted with the rising amount of complicated terminology that has developed, almost overnight, in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, it can be challenging to remain objective.

During the CoViD-19 outbreak, various words and terms are being used regularly in the news, radio, television, and the internet that we may or may not have seen, heard, or used before. The following are the most important and commonly used terminologies and concepts that the general public should be aware of concerning the CoViD-19 pandemic, such as the necessities to use as primary protection against the infectious disease, the different tests conducted to check for the presence of the virus, scientific terms related to

CoViD-19, community guidelines and restrictions to impose in specific regions, strategies and recovery plans to return to normalcy.

To help improve everyone's understanding, the researchers have compiled a compendium of CoViD-19 terms and concepts with plain English definitions. This compendium has been adapted from verified websites such as www.tmc.edu, www.cdhn.org/ and www.tesda.gov.ph. Out of inclusion and exclusion made by the researcher the following terms are presented.

Covid-19-related terminologies and concepts translations of definition from English into Filipino and Hiligaynon

Translating information, knowledge, and ideas is essential for disseminating information, knowledge, and ideas. It is a fundamental component for effective and sympathetic communication between people of diverse cultures, regardless of their background. As a result, translation is essential for maintaining social harmony and peace. According to Anton Popovic (1987), translation theory is a science which studies the systemic examination of translation and its task is to structure the translation process and the text. Similarly, Peter Newmark (1981) defines translation theory as a body of information related to translation process.

The world is surprised by Coronavirus's anticipated outbreak, which causes chaos and uncertainty due to the lack of preparation. Inadequate knowledge of the scientific terms necessary to explain this fatal virus may substantially impact public awareness.

To translate the English CoViD-19 terminologies and concepts into other languages, the researchers followed the following procedure: preparation, translation, editing, and proofreading.

The researchers wrote the terminologies and definitions of the CoViD-19 to make them appropriate for translation. It entails thoroughly reading and comprehending its content and meaning. They provide a sufficient amount of space to allow for the expansion of a translated text. For example, there are instances in which the target text is around 10 percent to 20 percent longer than the source text in question.

The most crucial step in this translation process is the translation itself. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to translate CoViD-19 terminologies while also conveying the

core idea of the text from the source language to the target recipient. When it comes to translating definitions, the researchers employ various translation techniques to arrive at

the most acceptable translations for each language. The first method used is the word-for-word translation. As demonstrated by the researchers' work, it preserves the original language's word order while translating the words according to their most common meanings. Some of the terms were also translated using thought-by-thought, shifting each word from the source to the target language. The researchers examined the whole sentence and moved it over as an easily understood unit. In addition, communicative type translation is employed to represent the exact contextual meaning of the original so that both the language used and the content itself are readily accepted and understandable to the target audience.

According to Koller, translation activity is an equivalence operation between the source text and the text in the target language. Here the translator seeks for fidelity in order to make a transfer sentence-for-sentence and word-for-word. "Word-for-word" or "literal translation" is based on this equivalence principle which means the source language text is dealt with in terms of content and form. (Tanrikulu, 2017).

To better understand CoViD-19, the researchers have translated the terminologies and concepts related with it into two languages: Filipino and Hiligaynon. Filipino is regarded to be the national language of the country because it is spoken by a large number of citizens. On the other hand, Hiligaynon is a dialect that is extensively spoken in the Western Visayas, notably in the province of Capiz. Providing accurate information, protocols, and necessary preventive measures regarding our current situation in Filipino and Hiligaynon languages could aid the public in better understanding and acquiring accurate information, protocols, and necessary preventive measures regarding our current situation.

Since most of the source text contains medical terminology such as CoViD-19, serology, diagnostic, herd immunity, immunocompromised, and other terms required for any type of health care information, issues arise. As a result of only being available in English, these medical terminologies are not easily translatable into other languages such as Filipino and Hiligaynon, limiting their use. The researchers continued to use existing source words throughout the procedure since they expressed the same thought as new source words. There are other cases in which the researchers did not translate the words verbatim but instead used alternative terminology nearest to the original form of the words. The next step is editing. The researchers edited some of the text by adding, deleting, and rearranging letters, sentences, and paragraphs. They compared the target text with the source text to ensure that the translation was accurate, that the style was appropriate, and that any necessary modifications were made. The process is also carried out to examine the content of the definition being conveyed and determine whether the translated terms and concepts were expressing the same meaning in both the source and target texts for the reader to understand.

Proofreading is the final step in the translation process. Before proceeding with validating a text, the researchers thoroughly checked it for possible errors to ensure that it was free of errors. At the end of the translation process, the researchers corrected minor spelling, punctuation errors, typos, formatting issues, and inconsistencies discovered during the translation process.

Validation and correction of the panel of experts on the translated covid-19 terminologies and concepts in Filipino and Hiligaynon

As this research is a translation study, there is no presence of any respondents to participate in the data gathering procedure. The researchers looked for validators in Filipino and Hiligaynon languages and asked for their expertise in checking, correcting, or validating the CoViD-19 terminologies and concepts translations.

After finding a group of specialists in two languages to validate their findings, the researchers requested their approval through a formal written letter signed by their research adviser and sent to their emails. The validators were given a particular time frame to accomplish the validation procedure, three weeks in total. Several phone and video calls were made between the researchers and validators to provide instructions, answer questions, and clarify any misunderstandings that arose during the validation process.

When validating the translated Filipino and Hiligaynon CoViD-19 terminologies and ideas, the validators carefully examined the terms and definitions. They analyzed them to determine if they were correct and appropriate for the target language. In some cases, the validators change the definition, such as rephrasing concepts and terms that are more appropriate for a particular definition; for example, the definition was made shorter but more concise than it was previously, making it more understandable for the general public. Some modifications include substituting some words with a more specific term, such as the term "sahi" being replaced with "klasi." Furthermore, the validator agreed that some English terms would have to be borrowed because there is no exact translation in the Hiligaynon language. This was particularly true for terms such as antibody, immune system, coronavirus, diagnostic and serology tests. During the translation process, the validators also made a few corrections to the researchers' definitions, spelling, and capitalizations, which they had made during research. Sometimes in Hiligaynon, words in English must be pronounced as they are, but they must be spelled differently to be considered a Hiligaynon phrase, such as "Virus" to "Bayrus." Validators left a comment and a suggestion about the translation process of the researchers, advising them that they should be cautious and critical.

Deliverable obtained out of the result of the study

Almost shortly after the Coronavirus was detected, people's lives were transformed, and it altered the way people connect and work. Society is confronted with the issue of determining how to discourse about the virus's effect on our daily lives, adapting to a "new normal" imposed on our towns, cities, and communities.

In the wake of the Coronavirus, an outburst of new terms and phrases has appeared in English and other languages. We can make sense of the changes that have suddenly become a part of our daily lives through this new vocabulary. Long-established terminology such as "self-isolating," "pandemic," "quarantine," "lockdown," and "essential business" have seen an increase in usage, while new terms such as coronavirus/ CoViD-19 new words are being coined at a faster rate than ever.

This new terminology has evolved into a helpful shorthand for addressing coronavirus-related topics out from the damage the virus has had on our lives to the implications of lockdown restrictions or simply as a method to poke fun and laugh at ourselves and the environment around us. It also assists people in expressing their concerns about the most significant public health emergency to affect our country in generations.

Researchers created a compendium of CoVid-19 terms and concepts translated into two local languages: Filipino and Hiligaynon. A compendium is a comprehensive list or collection of various items. In this research, the researchers collected one hundred CoViD- 19 terminologies and concepts and compiled in a dictionary type of book. This CoViD-19 compendium will be beneficial to the general public to prevent any possible misinformation from spreading about the ongoing worldwide health crisis because it is translated and written in their language of use. The people in the community will have a deeper understanding and awareness of the various information regarding the coronavirus disease which will allow them to fight and cope with all the preventive measures, protocols and guidelines implemented by the health and government authorities. Additionally, it will

also be a great significance for the students, researchers and next generations as they will be familiar with these newly coined and develop terminologies that became part of today's lives.

Based from the result of the study, the researchers incorporated all the comments and suggestions made by the validators as mentioned. A compendium of one-hundred English CoViD-19 Terminologies and Concepts were made and translated as a response towards the growing need of the community to acquire knowledge about the pandemic.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study concluded that the COVID-19 pandemic facilitated the introduction and reintroduction of important terminologies and concepts related to the disease. These terms were essential for increasing public awareness and understanding during the health crisis. It was found that every terminology and concept had an equivalent translation in Filipino and Hiligaynon, making them translatable and understandable. However, some terms lacked direct translations, prompting the researchers to retain the original terms for consistency. The translation process emphasized the consistent use of words and adherence to linguistic accuracy. The validators, leveraging their expertise and knowledge, meticulously reviewed the COVID-19 terminologies and concepts, providing valuable suggestions, comments, and recommendations. They validated and corrected each definition to ensure accuracy and reliability. As a result of the study's findings, the researchers will produce a compendium of English COVID-19 terminologies and concepts, complete with translated definitions in Filipino and Hiligaynon. This resource aims to help the public better navigate the ongoing health crisis.

Based on the conclusions, several recommendations are proposed. The internet and other media platforms should strive to deliver clearer and more detailed information related to COVID-19, with a particular focus on explaining new or unfamiliar terminologies and concepts. Social media, as one of the most widely used platforms, should serve as a responsible space where individuals can share relevant information about COVID-19 to improve public awareness. Additionally, people, especially students, should be encouraged to study languages like Filipino and Hiligaynon and develop proficiency in the art of translation. Schools should prioritize language education to help individuals better comprehend significant terms associated with COVID-19. A panel of experts is also essential in meticulously reviewing information to prevent mistranslations and the spread of irrelevant data. Lastly, developing a compendium of English COVID-19 terminologies and concepts is highly recommended during this crisis. Such a resource would enable people to better understand the current health situation, enhance their awareness and preparedness, and help them navigate the challenges and changes brought about by the pandemic more effectively.

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