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What you always wanted to know about translation standards

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/uwe_muegge/63/
What you always wanted to know about translation standards

Uwe Muegge
What is a standard?
Definition

standard

normative document, developed according to consensus procedures
Why would you want to use a translation standard?
Two types of standards
Data Exchange Standards

**SRX**
Segmentation Rules eXchange

**GMX**
GILT Metrics eXchange

**TMX**
Translation Memory eXchange

**TBX**
TermBase eXchange

**UTX**
Universal Terminology eXchange

**XLIFF**
XML Localization Interchange File Format

**OLIF**
Open Lexicon Interchange Format
Process Standards

- LISA QA Model
- ISPOR Principles
- SAE J2450 Translation Quality Metrics
- ISO 704 Terminology Work
- EN 15038 Translation Services. Service Requirements
EN 15038: Translation Services

- Basic Requirements
- Client TSP Relationship
- Procedures in Translation Services
EN 15038: Translation Services

- Basic Requirements
  - Human Resources
  - Technical Resources
  - Quality Management System
  - Project Management
EN 15038: Translation Services

Translation Procedures

Managing Projects

Preparation

Translation Process
EN 15038: Translation Services

Preparation  Translation  Editing/Revising  (Review)  Verification
EN 15038: Translation Services

• Emphasizes communication between client and TSP before, during, and after each translation project
• Requires that the TSP performs quality assurance after each phase of the translation project
• Recommends that the TSP performs terminology work during the preparation phase of each translation project
ISPOR Principles

ISPOR: International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research

ISPOR Principles

- Preparation
- Forward Translation
- Reconciliation
- Back Translation
- Back Translation Review
- Harmonization
- Cognitive Debriefing
- Review of Cognitive Debriefing
- Proofreading
- Final Report
## ISPOR Principles

### Cognitive Debriefing:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Critical components</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
<th>Who should do this</th>
<th>What are the risks of not doing this?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive debriefing of the new translation, usually with patients drawn from the target population</td>
<td>To assess the level of comprehensibility and cognitive equivalence of the translation.</td>
<td>The newly translated measure should be tested for cognitive equivalence by the key in-country person (or another in-country consultant) on a group of 5 to 8 respondents in the target country. Respondents should be native speakers of the target language who adequately represent the target population (sex, age, education, diagnosis). In certain circumstances it may be appropriate to include healthy respondents.</td>
<td>Missing or inaccurate data resulting from respondents’ misunderstanding of items.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 7: Step 7—Cognitive Debriefing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Critical components</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
<th>Target group</th>
<th>Who should do this</th>
<th>What are the risks of not doing this</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;I think&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;I understand&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;I agree&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;I disagree&quot;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Expert feedback</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patient feedback</td>
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<tr>
<td>Focus group feedback</td>
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<tr>
<td>Team feedback</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ISPOR Principles

• Addresses the special needs of the life science community
• Involves a usability study with patients
• Requires a major departure from standard translation processes and workflows
SAE J2450
Translation Quality Metric

Seven Primary Error Categories
Two Secondary Error Categories
Two Meta-Rules
Numeric Weights
SAE J2450
Primary Error Categories

- Wrong Term (WT)
- Wrong Meaning (WM)
- Omission (OM)
- Structural Error (SE)
- Misspelling (SP)
- Punctuation Error (PE)
- Miscellaneous Error (ME)
SAE J2450
Secondary Error Categories

Serious

Minor
Choose earliest primary error category

When in doubt: Choose ‘serious’ over ‘minor’
# SAE J2450 Error Categories & Weights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category Name: (acronym)</th>
<th>Sub-Classification: (acronym)</th>
<th>Weight: serious/minor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Wrong Term (WT)</td>
<td>serious (s)</td>
<td>5/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Wrong Meaning (WM)</td>
<td>minor (m)</td>
<td>5/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Omission (OM)</td>
<td></td>
<td>4/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Structural Error (SE)</td>
<td></td>
<td>4/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Misspelling (SP)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Punctuation Error (PE)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Miscellaneous Error (ME)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3/1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SAE J2450

• Provides objective guidelines for measuring translation quality
• Specifies the exclusion of style as a translation quality factor
• Requires little training, which is one reason why this is the most widely used translation standard
Final Words of Wisdom

• No need to re-invent the wheel: Translation standards are an excellent source of industry best practices
• Like most standards, adopting a translation standard is voluntary
• Even if you are not certified, you can still mention compliance with a particular standard in your profile
Q&A
Thank you for your attention!