

Exploring Language Education for Sustainable Biomedical Translation in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT: *Biomedical translation does not occupy the most central position in the world of medicine, it certainly plays an important role in knowledge mediation, which involves sharing medical research results, publicizing new findings in the international scientific community and marketing new medical products and services. The study explored language education for sustainable biomedical translation in Nigeria. The concept of language and language education, sustainable and biomedical translation were clarified. Language education and a sustainable biomedical translation was discussed. It was recommended amongst others that medical service providers should inculcate the services of language expert for effective service delivery.*

KEYWORDS: language, education, sustainable, biomedical, translation, exploring

INTRODUCTION

Although Biomedical translation does not occupy the most central position in the world of medicine, it certainly plays an important role in knowledge mediation, which involves sharing medical research results, publicizing new findings in the international scientific community and marketing new medical products and services. It is an important area of medical science that has significantly encouraged the consumption of medical research globally. However, Padilla-Cabello (2022) observed that one of the greatest limitations to the practice of biomedical translation is the challenge of language barrier. Also, Karwacka (2004) noted that the full benefit of the intent of biomedical translation cannot be harnessed in any system where language expertise is absent.

Language education on the other hand is a branch of linguistics designed to equip learners with adequate knowledge of communicative situations. Since the primary intent of biomedical translation requires effective communication skills and language education on the other hand can produce effective communicative skills, in medical personnel, then there is need for effective collaboration between language education and biomedical translation. Hence, this study explored how language education can sustain biomedical translation in Nigeria.

Conceptual Clarification

Language and Language Education

Language is one of the attributes of humans. It is a medium through which Ideas opinions and feelings are expressed. It is indispensable in the co-existence of humans. Anogbou and Mba (2010), in offor (2014) defined language as a means which human beings have devised for communicating ideas, feelings, emotions, desires, etc, through complex vocal and written sounds. Language education is an aspect of education which is aimed at bringing the learner to a level of proficiency in the use of language, so that when he/she listens or speaks, reads or writes it will reflect the totality of culture it represents. Idu and Obam (2021) posits that language education is designed to equip the learner with adequate knowledge and practical skills. It is also a process and practice of acquiring a second foreign language. It is a branch of applied linguistics and is considered an interdisciplinary field. This implies that it can be useful to any field of human endeavor of which medical science is a part.

Sustainable

The concept sustainable emerged in the 1980s in response to the need to balance economic and social progress with a concern for the environment and stewardship of the earth's natural resources. Hence, sustainable means preserving the overall balance, respect for the environment and preventing exhaustion of natural resources (Amuta, 2019). In this context, sustainable means strategies or approaches through which the biomedical translational practice can be enhanced.

Biomedical Translation

Medical translation serves as a platform for mediating professional communication between patients and medical personnel. It plays an ancillary role in medical research and practice. This is even more serious knowing the there is a growing tendency in healthcare communication to focus attention on patients (Montalt, 2012). The National Centre for Advancing Translational Science (NCAIS, n.d) considers biomedical translation as the process of turning observations in the laboratory, clinic and community into interventions that will improve the health of individual and the public from diagnostics and therapeutics to medical procedures and behavioral changes. Wehling (2006) defined biomedical translation as the field of investigation focused on understanding the scientific and operational principles underlying each step of the translation process. Apart from books, articles and presentation, translated medical texts primarily include registration documents such as application dozziers for the registration of new machines and medical services as well as instruction manuals for medical equipment and instruments, documents for clinical trials.

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Entrepreneurship Role

Entrepreneurship can be defined as the application of enterprise skills specifically to creating and growing organizations in order to identify and build on opportunities. Omeodu (2019) identified it

as a means of providing employment and income generation in the country and a panacea to poverty reduction and pathetic unemployment situation. The concept of entrepreneurship is nebulous and many academic disciplines have contributed their perspective on the concept including physiologist and economist. An economist views entrepreneurship in the context of the combination of resources, such as: labour, materials and other assets such that their value is grater as a group than individually. Akissani (2019) viewed entrepreneurship as the act of starting a company, arranging business deals and taking risk in order to make profit through the education skills acquired. Operationally, entrepreneurship is the willingness and ability of a person to acquire educational skills to explore and exploit investment opportunities, establish and manage a successful business enterprise. Entrepreneurship forces acts across market and industries simultaneously creating new products and business models.

The technology an organization adopts to a far extent influences the quality of service to be delivered. However, it is worthy to note that the ability to share the quality service available in an organization remains the only means of increasing revenue of any business venture. In line with this, Ajibola (2020) noted that language is an instrument of liberation, which endows man with the ability to reason, lead and charge others to a predetermined action rather than being directed or misguided. Also, Teibowei (2021) reported that actions start in the form words which describes, explain thoughts, incite, threaten or persuade people to a predetermined course of action. She further stated that daily operations are conditioned by the quality of our perceptions and communications.

Entrepreneurship needs people who have the linguistic ability to discuss evaluate and make sense of what they are told, as well as to take effective actions of the basic of their understanding. That is to say, the quality of medical service available in a given facility can only bring revenue when it is shared with the appropriate language and audience. For instance, the Bayelsa State diagnostic centre is a state-of-the-art facility in Africa. The process of sharing these available services via French in francophone countries, can help aid patronage from that end which in turn increases entrepreneurship stance and revenue. A potential patient who listens to the advert from the medical facility presented in his/her language will feel safer to patronize the facility.

Harnessing Research Products

The core of biomedical translation is dissemination of research results and this can only be effective when the receiver is conversant with the language in which the report is written as translated. Language education is primarily aimed at developing learners' language skills to the fullest in order to enable him/her use language effectively both in oral and written forms in a variety of communication situations. Language education is a lead component of biomedical translation which gives medical personnel opportunities to effectively utilize as well as contribute to the advancement of medical practice globally. It is worthy of note that this area of focus has also stirred up a handful of post-doctoral opportunities globally. Specifically, Palida-Cabelo (2022) reported that European Union (EU) has increase the budget for Medical Research Council (MRC), with the intent of creating the European biomedical translational hubs incorporating over eighty

academic research centers. In another vein, the Medical and Pharma Growth Centre (MTP connect, 2022) has launched the Biomedical Translation Bridge Program. This program is worth twenty-two-million-dollar, medical Research future fund initiative, to nurture the translation of new therapies, technologies and medical devices via foreign language.

Quality Service Delivery

Manojlovich (2010) avers that service delivery in medical facilities includes among others record management, safety and health, extramural activities, and guidance and counselling. Quality service delivery refers to all the activities pertaining to effective teaching and learning provided by the medical tertiary institutions in attaining set standards. Schuermeyer, et. al., (2017) stated that the rating of a medical institution is premised on the quality of the services it delivers to its patients and one of its major proponents is effective communication. Communication remains an indispensable endeavor in human existence. It is a social skill that cuts across all areas of human endeavors. These skills are of particular importance to human focused professions, such as nursing, pharmacy, medical laboratory science, etc (Truglio, et. al., 2018). Ineffective communication between a patient and members of a therapeutic team can negatively affect the treatment outcomes. Foronda, et. al., (2016) reported that deficiencies in communication also lead to conflicts between members of the therapeutic team and increase aggressive behaviour of the staff towards patients. It is worthy to note that the presence of conflicts and aggression promotes the development of avoidance which in turn can cause a deterioration of long-term relationship between collaborators and patients in long term and it is considered as one of the rationales for professional burnout. Alternatively, Ellison, (2015) submitted that good communication can enable better diagnosis, increases patient compliance with treatment recommendations, reduce the medical errors committed by personnel, and stirs positive mood and satisfaction in patients. Sequel on the above, the task to improve the quality of communication between medical practitioners and patients has become a global priority.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The study has shown that language education is a lead component of medical translation. This implies that incorporating language education content into the medical curriculum will sustain the practice if biomedical translation in Nigeria. With this position, the following suggestions are given:

- i) The services of language expert should be inculcated into medical services for effective service delivery.
- ii) The content of foreign language handled by language education should be integrated into medical curriculum so that future medical professional will appreciate the need for medical translation.

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