Book Review

Crezee, I. H. M. & Ng, E. N. S. (2016). *Introduction to healthcare for Chinese-speaking interpreters and translators.* Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins

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Addressed to practising interpreters and translators, interpreting and translation educators as well as language researchers, *Introduction to Healthcare for Chinese-speaking Interpreters and Translators* grows out of the very popular previous international publication *Introduction to Healthcare for Interpreters and Translators* (Crezee, 2013). The latest version includes English-Chinese glossaries that are organised into 21 sections and added at the end of relevant chapters, covering a broad spectrum of subjects in healthcare settings. The newly added contents are exceptionally useful for those who specialise in English-Chinese translation/interpreting and those who need to update their translation memory system by adding medical jargon.

Translation/interpreting practitioners need to acquire extra-linguistic knowledge while building up their translation/interpreting competence, that is, "declarative knowledge…about the world in general and special areas" (PACTE, 2003, p. 59), because they constantly meet clients with different professional and educational backgrounds and, at times, may be offered assignments pertaining to a particular work area or setting they are not familiar with. In many cases, for translators and interpreters to successfully complete their tasks, they would have to seek assistance from subject-matter experts. However, such help is not always available, which leaves some potential knowledge and skill 'gaps' that translators and interpreters need to fill on their own. Translation educators seeking to enable their students to fill these gaps need to provide training in context-specific discourse and the idiosyncrasies of different settings to their students. This appears to be the authors' motivation for writing this book, in which they describe a wide range of healthcare settings and introduce a great variety of technical terms and translation skills required by translators and interpreters. In this respect, this book is an ideal guidebook for healthcare translation and interpretation, providing much needed solutions for issues related to subject-matter knowledge.

This book is logically sequenced, and helps the readers familiarise themselves step-by-step with healthcare settings and terminology. It consists of 28 chapters, which are further divided into three separate parts. Part I (Chapter 1 to Chapter 4) opens with a brief introduction to healthcare interpreting, covering the development of the interpreting profession, the demand for interpretation around the world, teaching healthcare interpreting, cultural issues faced by professional interpreters as well as medical terminology that interpreters would be confronted with in healthcare settings. In this part, the authors outline a number of key topics for healthcare interpreting. After reviewing a wide range of studies related to healthcare interpreting, the authors first discuss the challenges involved in translator/ interpreter training, and summarise them as follows: (1) reducing the virtual Mount Everest of Latin, Greek and complex science, to a seemingly surmountable 'molehill'; (2) allowing students to practise interpreting whilst also getting immediate feedback on their performance, as that is effective and powerful; (3) familiarising and preparing students for the ethical challenges they will face in practice. Crezee & Ng pay particular attention to feedback on student performance, and believe that when educators share their personal experiences, they help students build up their knowledge system in healthcare interpreting. In addition, they strongly agree with Gonzalez Davies regarding the situated learning model whereby interpreter training concentrates on "theoretical knowledge of healthcare settings and terminology", "theoretical and practical knowledge of the professional code and conduct" and "providing semi-authentic simulated opportunities for interpreting practice" (Gonzalez Davies, 2004, p. 8). Part I also presents an overview of the skills, abilities and knowledge required by healthcare interpreters. The authors emphasise the importance of accuracy and possessing specific knowledge of terminology, and they believe that accurate interpretation is the basis for smooth doctor-patient communication and that accuracy relies heavily on an interpreter's knowledge and understanding of anatomy and physiology. In this respect, they clarify some key criteria regarding terminology management such as spelling and punctuation, and provide a number of examples commonly found in healthcare settings such as Latin words/affixes denoting body parts (Chapter 4).

Accurate interpretation requires interpreters to be conscious of the differences between the healthcare systems in a patient's current country of residence and their country of origin (extra-linguistic competence). Interpreters mediate between different cultures, and they need to be well aware of cultural issues and know how to respect patients' cultural beliefs, choose appropriate methods to communicate with patients and render accurate utterances to both doctors and their patients. The authors regard interpreters as cultural liaisons and specify some ways that culture may impact cross-cultural communication between interpreters and doctors/patients (Chapter 3).

Part II (Chapter 5 to Chapter 16) provides an overview of a wide range of healthcare settings, and covers nearly all the situations and texts that interpreters/translators would come across in their assignments, including encounters with primary physicians and general practitioners, outpatient and clinics, hospitals, emergency departments and emergency rooms, informed consent, pre-operative and post-operative procedures, intensive care, obstetrics, child health, speech language therapy, mental health and oncology. Each topic is logically presented, which allows readers to easily recognise and understand the features of context-specific language. In this respect, the

rationale of situated learning is wisely designed and runs smoothly through this part. If this book is used as a textbook or guidebook, this part will not only help trainee interpreters to quickly familiarise themselves with the general procedures of medical consultation, but also allow interpreter educators to effectively observe the interpreting proficiency of their students and give them timely feedback based on their performance. Throughout Part II, it appears that Crezee & Ng have realised that readers may be at different interpreting proficiency levels and that their knowledge about healthcare may be different too. They explain each setting in great detail and provide a great number of questions that doctors may ask in each context. For instance, they have summarised 13 types of linguistic representations for describing "pain", such as "a dull ache", "niggling or nagging", "a stitch", "stinging", "heavy", "severe", "pulsating" and so forth. For interpreters, accurate description of these symptoms will not only facilitate communication with patients, but also help doctors diagnose effectively and correctly. In addition, the authors provide adequate information about technical terms, with which interpreters can strengthen their understanding of healthcare settings and psychologically prepare before a healthcare interpreting assignment. Crezee & Ng also classify the technical terms which may be associated with each other in certain contexts, and illustrate with pictures and graphs the intrinsic relationships between these terms. This method would be greatly helpful for interpreters and translators to build up valid explicit and implicit knowledge systems in healthcare settings.

Part III (Chapter 17 to Chapter 28) focuses on healthcare specialties and offers an overview of the main body systems, conditions and disorders, investigations and treatments. This part uses the human body as a framework and covers neurology, cardiology, the respiratory system, haematology, orthopaedics, muscles and the motor system, the sensory system, the immune and lymphatic system, the endocrine system, the digestive system, urology and nephrology, and the reproductive system. These topics may prove challenging for some readers, because they involve a great number of technical terms and jargon which interpreters will not see or use in daily life. However, the authors provide step-by-step instructions to help readers find the intrinsic links between what they have learnt and what they will learn. Terminology management in this case is a typical example. In the healthcare profession, the technical terms indicating body organs, diseases and symptoms differ greatly from the English words we normally use, consisting of a lot of Latin and Greek roots and affixes. These lexical items obviously pose a challenge to interpreters and may have an impact on comprehension and/or smooth delivery. Therefore, the authors explain technical terms with plain English and ensure that they use these terms while discussing each topic. The advantages of this method could be two-fold: on the one hand, readers can gain a good understanding of each term through repeated exposure; on the other hand, readers also become familiar with the types of language they can use in the triangle of communication, that is, plain language for patients and technical healthcare language for doctors.

Crezee & Ng also emphasise the importance of learning derivations and collocations as part of terminology development. Specifically, the vocabulary section of each topic focuses on some high-frequency lexical items (including words and affixes), and provides a wide range of derivative terms, word combinations and formulaic sequences containing these lexical items. For example, when they talk about "lymph", they naturally also introduce

"lymphedema", "lymphocyte", "lymphoma", "lymph tissue", "lymph ducts", "lymph nodes" and so forth. Therefore, some semantically associated language expressions in healthcare settings are grouped together, which would greatly help interpreters/translators increase their vocabulary size and interpret/translate accurately. In particular, the authors also use numerous pictures to illustrate body organs and pathological mechanisms, which not only clearly depict the terms but also help interpreters and translators gain general knowledge regarding healthcare.

Generally speaking, in terms of what this book can offer us as interpreters, translators and translation educators, it appears that many points mentioned above may be applied to interpreting practice and in-class translation and interpreting teaching. The variety of issues discussed in this book will provide readers with an invaluable theoretical and practical picture of healthcare interpreting. This book features precise and concise language and is very easy to read. It is also likely to be interesting to language researchers, particularly those whose research interests focus on context-specific interpreting/translation.

Acknowledgement

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