Rendering Covid-19 Related Terms from English into Asante Twi in Press Releases from The Ghana Ministries of Health and Information

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Abstract: *At the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was the pressing need to communicate the COVID-19 situation in the Ghanaian public space and to ensure the dissemination of accurate information and measures to curb the spread of the virus. This study thus identified, described and explained the translation of COVID-19-related terms from English into Asante Twi, determined the strategies used to render the terms into Asante Twi and brought out constraints faced by translators to communicate the terms into Asante Twi. The study adopted a quantitative and qualitative research design that hinged on the Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS) approach by Toury (1995). The research was underpinned by the Communication, Skopos and Sociolinguistic theories of translation. A corpus of 15 COVID19-related terms in English and their corresponding Asante Twi translations were compiled. The English COVID-19-related terms were extracted from press releases of the Ghana ministries of health and information and their Asante Twi translations in three broadcast stations namely: Adom FM, Adom TV and Peace FM. The findings of the study revealed that the techniques that were frequently used to render the COVID-19-related terms from English into Asante Twi were explicitation, expansion and equivalence which were all target-text oriented. These techniques all fell under the domestication strategy (oblique or free translation) accounting for 93% of the overall strategy used. The study also revealed the most common constraints were at the level of structure at a percentage of 53%, and that the strategy of domestication can be used in overcoming most of these constraints. This study is a significant contribution to the field of translation studies and to the growing body of research on language access in public health emergencies.*

Keywords: *COVID-19 related Terms, Translation, Translation Strategies and Techniques, Constraints, Asante Twi, Descriptive Translation Studies*

Résumé

La présente étude porte sur la traduction des termes liés à la COVID-19 de l'anglais vers asante twi. Elle visait à analyser et explorer le vocabulaire utilisé pour parler de la situation de la COVID-19 dans l'espace public ghanéen afin d'assurer la diffusion d'informations précises et de mesures visant à endiguer la propagation du virus. Elle a identifié, décrit et expliqué les termes liés à la COVID-19 de l'anglais vers l'asante twi, a déterminé les stratégies utilisées pour rendre les termes en asante twi, et a mis en évidence les contraintes liées à la traduction des termes en asante twi. L'étude a adopté un modèle de recherche quantitatif et qualitatif qui s'articule autour de l'approche des études de traduction descriptive (DTS) de Toury (1995). S'appuyant principalement sur les théories de la communication, du skopos et de la sociolinguistique de la traduction, l'étude a consisté en l'analyse de quinze (15) termes liés à la COVID-19 en anglais et de leurs traductions en asante twi. Les termes anglais liés à la COVID-19 ont été extraits des communiqués de presse des ministères de la santé et de l'information du Ghana, et leurs traductions en asante twi ont été obtenues à partir de trois

stations de diffusion, à savoir Adom FM, Adom TV et Peace FM. Les résultats de l'étude ont révélé que les techniques les plus fréquemment utilisées pour traduire les termes liés à la COVID-19 de l'anglais en asante twi ont été l'explicitation, l'expansion et l'équivalence, qui ont toutes été orientées vers le texte cible. Ces techniques ont relevé toutes de la stratégie de domestication (traduction oblique ou libre), représentant 93% de la stratégie globale utilisée. L'étude a également révélé que les contraintes les plus courantes se sont situées au niveau de la structure, représentant 53%, et que la stratégie de domestication a pu être utilisée pour surmonter la plupart de ces contraintes. Cette étude a constitué une contribution précieuse au domaine des études de traduction et à l'ensemble croissant de recherches sur l'accès linguistique en cas d'urgence sanitaire publique.

MOTS-CLÉS: *la COVID-19, la traduction,les stratégies et les techniques de traduction, la traduction médicale, les contraintes, Asante Twi, Études de traduction descriptive (DTS)*

1. INTRODUCTION

Alongside the impact of globalization and international communication on the world economy, translation has also become much more important than ever before.In the intricate tapestry of human communication, translation stands as a bridge, connecting distant lands and cultures. It is for this reason that Lotman (1978:211-32) states that 'no language can exist unless it is steeped in the context of culture; and no culture can exist which does not have at its centre, the structure of natural language.' Bassnett (1980: 13-14) underlines the importance of this double consideration when translating by stating that language is 'the heart within the body of culture,' the survival of both aspects being interdependent.

Translation is particularly important in Africa because of the continent's history of colonization, which has resulted in the imposition of European languages on many African countries. Several African countries have more than one official language, and in some cases, even more than one language is spoken within a single country. While advancements in technology and other factors have contributed to the expansion of vocabulary, terminology and the emergence of competing terms among most major languages in the world, unfortunately, African languages are marginalized, leading the younger generation of Africans to distance themselves from them. Consequently, many African languages do not naturally evolve but are instead at risk of becoming extinct. According to the African Language Program at Harvard (2023), Africa is home to approximately one-third of the world's languages with anywhere between 1000 and 2000 languages. Most of the languages are primarily oral with little available in written form. Thus, you will find that the same language has different tonalities, sentence structures and different spellings. Meanwhile, this linguistic diversity does not only reflect the continent's cultural heritage but also presents a formidable challenge for translation especially translation in specialized domains.

Translating specialized domains is a demanding endeavor that requires a unique blend of linguistic proficiency, subject-matter expertise, cultural sensitivity and legal awareness. Nowhere is this more evident than in the field of medical translation, where the lack of accuracy and precision of translation can have life-altering consequences. Medicine is practiced differently around the world, and cultural factors can significantly influence medical terminology and practices. Despite the fact that efforts have been made in distinguishing the various audiences when it comes to medical translation, translation of medical texts into African languages still poses a problem due to their dense and technical language. A typical example is the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019 which sent shockwaves across the world, leading to a global health crisis of unprecedented proportions. As the virus spread rapidly, countries and communities scrambled to implement containment measures and disseminate vital information to safeguard public health.

In this fight against the unseen enemy, clear and accurate communication proved to be a fundamental weapon. However, language barriers soon emerged as a significant obstacle, hindering the effective understanding and adoption of crucial COVID-19 terms and guidelines, particularly in areas where English was not the primary language. One such area is Ghana, where the Akan language is widely spoken, primarily in the Ashanti region and various parts of the country. As the pandemic's impact expanded, it became evident that merely translating COVID-19 information into major world languages was insufficient to reach all corners of the globe. Recognizing the need to break down language barriers and to ensure equitable access to vital information, efforts to translate COVID-19

terms from English into Asante Twi were set in motion. However, it seems that most of the "language" used to talk about COVID-19 in Asante Twi was developed "on the go".

Hence, the objective of this paper is to find out the strategy used to translate COVID-19-related terms in the press releases of the Ghana ministries of health and information from English into Asante Twi and the constraints that were encountered.

1.1 Key Concepts

This section of the work defines and examines concepts that constitute the foundation of the study. These include: translation, translation strategies, translation techniques, translation constraints, COVID-19 related Terms, Asante Twi, translation value judgement and Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS).

1.1.2. Translation

Translation as a concept has many meanings. Etymologically, the word 'translation' means 'to transfer' which means 'to carry across'. The notion of translation comprises three different aspects; translation as a profession which describes the role and task of the translator as well as translation ethics, translation as a process which is what happens from the input at the source text transiting through the translator to the target text, and translation as a product which refers to the end result of translation. It is important to note that translation has been defined by many scholars over several years. The definitions of Newmark (1988) as well as Nida and Taber (1974) are explored in this section.

Nida and Taber (1974: 12) define translation as 'reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style.' This definition distinguishes between meaning and style as objects of translation. For Newmark (1988:17), translation is 'a craft consisting in the attempt to replace a written message and/or statements in one language by the same message and/or statement in another language.' However, the definition is limited in that it only refers to written materials, although spoken texts can also be translated.

The definition of Nida and Taber (1974) appears to be the most appropriate for the context of this study because they refer to the translated product as being represented in terms of meaning and style and assert that the process is a reproduction, implying respect for target language norms.

1.1.3. Translation Constraints

Translation is essentially a decision-making process with constraints such as space, time, information quality, problem-solving competence, and so on, (Darwish 1999: 11). It is important to highlight that constraints in translation vary from one translator to the other depending on their level of experience, their available resources and the purpose of the translation. According to Darwish (1999: 19), a translation constraint is any factor in the translation process that limits the realisation of optimally approximated translation at the macro or micro levels. He further classifies them as external and internal constraints. External factors are subdivided into intrinsic and extrinsic factors. Extrinsic factors refer to physical variables that are not directly connected with the act of translation i.e., environment, time and space, standards, norms, protocols, tools, technology, systems and machines. Intrinsic constraints are those that are encountered in the translation process and emerge in the course of translation. These include information medium, readability, legibility and audibility of discourse.

In contrast to Darwish, Hasan (2016: 402- 403), divides translation constraints into two categories: linguistic and cultural constraints, which are further subdivided into lexical, syntactic, and semantic constraints. In the context of this study, Hasan's model of linguistic and cultural constraints will be adopted. This is because he asserts that the linguistic aspect of translation is of a multi-layered nature, consisting of lexical, semantic and syntactic levels.

1.1.4. Translation Strategies

Translation strategies are the general decisions a translator takes before engaging in the translation of any text. These general decisions could concern the issue of whether the translation would be literal, foreignized or source-text oriented; or whether it would be free, oblique, domesticated or target-text-

oriented (Ngoran 2016:48). In his work, *The Translator's Invisibility*, Venuti (1995) approaches issues concerning the translational task from the seventeenth century until the present time, in linguistic and political terms. The author problematizes some translation theories and translated texts throughout history, proposing two possible procedures to handle cultural elements: Domestication or Foreignising.

Foreignization

According to Venuti (cited by Munday, 2001:147) foreignization is a translation strategy in which there is 'close adherence to the source text structure and syntax'. It is a source-text-oriented translation which is more or less literal translation. In foreignization, the reader is taken closer to the foreign language author, the foreign language itself as well as the foreign culture. The techniques often used to effect his strategy include literal translation, word for-word translation, borrowing and calque.

Domestication

According to Venuti (1995, cited by Munday, 2001: 146), domestication is a translation strategy in which a transparent and fluent style is adopted in order to minimize the strangeness of the foreign text for target language (TL) readers. It means making the text recognizable and familiar and thus bringing the foreign culture closer to that of the readers. It is a target-text oriented translation. Translation techniques used to operationalize this strategy include expansion, explicitation, transposition, modulation, reformulation, omission, cultural equivalence, dynamic equivalence, synonymy, local adaptation and global adaptation ((Ngoran 2016:49).

1.1.5. Translation Techniques

A translation technique is an operational mechanism put in place by the translator in the course of actual translation (Ngoran 2016:48). These techniques are for operationalizing a general translation strategy. Literal translation, calque and borrowing are examples of techniques used for the operationalization of the translation strategy of foreignization, whereas equivalence, adaptation, transposition, modulation, reformulation, and expansion are examples for the operationalization of the translation strategy of domestication.

1.1.6. COVID-19-related Terms

Kitanovska-Kimovska and Neškovska (2022:46) state that most of the COVID-19-related terminology falls within the field of medicine. Nevertheless, there are some terms which belong to the general language vocabulary. With the COVID-19 pandemic, themes related to health have attracted a greater interest from society and have started to systematically integrate the contents of written and spoken media. Among the several new terms and concepts, before being given its official name, 'COVID-19', underwent changes both in the scientific community and in the society as a whole. Initially, the virus had several names linked to the place where the first cases occurred and to its country of origin. Among these names, Zeng et al. (2020:49) cite the 'Chinese virus', 'Wuhan Coronavirus' and 'Wuhan SARS'. These terms bring with them xenophobic characteristics and other forms of prejudice against certain nationalities, generated by fear of contamination and false information. According to the Chinese COVID Term (Ma et al. 2020: 4), COVID-19 terminology can be classified into 10 broad content domains: disease, living organism, clinical manifestation, diagnosis and treatment technique, qualifiers, demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, epidemic prevention and control, medical equipment, instruments and materials, psychological assistance and anatomic site.

1.1.6. Descriptive Translation Studies

Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS) broadly refers to a non-prescriptive type of translation study distinct from the prescriptive approaches that largely dominated the study of translation up to the 1980s. Unlike prescriptive approaches that impose a specific theory and advocate for a standardized set of rules and laws for all translations, DTS takes a non-prescriptive stance. Scholars in DTS analyse translation phenomena without prescribing a fixed notion of 'what translation should be.'Toury's contribution towards DTS is a central one, due to his emphasis on the need to promote descriptive studies: 'no empirical science can make a claim for completeness and (relative) autonomy unless it has a proper descriptive branch' (Toury 1995:1). For the purpose of studying translations as cultural

facts, Toury (1995: 36-39, 102) presents a three-stage methodology: firstly, to identify and describe texts that the target culture considers to be translations; secondly, to conduct a comparative analysis of source and target texts, by mapping target text segments onto source text segments; and, thirdly, to identify regularities evinced by translation shifts, and to formulate generalizations about norms of translational equivalence, defined as the translational models in force in the target culture and identifying implications for future translation work. This study makes use of this three-stage methodology (identification, description and explanation) proposed by Toury (1995).

1.1.7. Translation Value Judgement

Translation value judgement can be defined as the assessment of the target text and effectiveness of translation strategy used and the overall consequence of the theoretical approaches and techniques used in rendering the TT. The terminology used for this assessment is adapted from Toury's (1985) description of initial norms which determines the global approach of the translator with respect to the following two polar alternatives: the translator submits himself or herself to the textual relations and norms embodied in the source text (adequacy) or the translator follows the linguistic and rhetorical norms of the target language and culture (acceptability). Toury considers that any microlevel decision can be accounted for in terms of adequacy versus acceptability. This study thus adapts Toury's (1985) description of norms, favouring a choice either for *adequacy* – determining adherence to source norms – or for *acceptability* – determining a preference for the norms of the target culture) to evaluate the translation of the COVID-19 related terms.

1.1.8. Asante Twi

Asante, also known as Ashanti, Ashante, or Asante Twi, is one of the principal members of the Akan language continuum. It is a Niger-Congo language and a member of the Kwa family (Kropp-Dakubu 1988). It is one of the four mutually intelligible languages of Akan which are collectively known as Twi, the others being Fante, Bono and Akuapem. Asante speakers are mainly concentrated in Ghana and southeastern Côte d'Ivoire, and especially in and around the Ashanti Region of Ghana. AkuapemTwi became the prestige language because it was the first dialect to be used for Bible translation. However, over time, Asante Twi and Fante are now spoken by a large population. The Ghana Statistical Service (2012) indicates that the Akans constitute 47.5% of the total population. About 43 to 45 % of Ghana's population speak Akan (Twi) as a first language (Osam 2003). However, about 80% of Ghanaians speak Akan (Twi) as a first and second language (Essegbey 2009). It is officially recognized for literacy, at least at the lower primary and junior high school level and studied at the university as a bachelor or master's program.

2. THEORETICAL REVIEW

Some relevant theories that underpin this study are discussed in this section. These are the Skopos Theory, the Sociolinguistic Theory and the Communication theory of translation.

The Skopos Theory

Vermeer's Skopos Theory, introduced in the 1970s, shifted translation theory from equivalence to function. It emphasizes that the translation's purpose or "Skopos," is crucial. This means that translation aims to create a text for a target audience, serving a specific purpose and context. This approach opposes traditional equivalence-based theories that prioritize the source text. Although a rather specific critique levelled by Nord (1997: 109-122) pinpoints that the Skopos Theory is inapplicable to highly stylistic texts, like literary texts or religious content, the translator may tailor his/ her style to suit the purpose of the translation (Nord, 1997:111).

The Communication Theory

The surge in translation's prominence began in the late 1960s, primarily revolving around the debate of literal versus liberal translation. From the perspective of Newmark (2001) 'the argument was theoretical: the purpose of the translation, the nature of the readership, the type of text, was not discussed'. He proposed categorizing texts as expressive, informative or vocative, leading to the concepts of semantic and communicative translation.

Newmark (1988:39)) states that the Communicative Theory of Translation 'attempts to produce on its readers an effect as close as possible to that obtained on the readers of the original.' It can be inferred

from this definition that Communicative Translation should focus more on the receptor and the environment of acceptors rather than the original work so as not to follow the standard of the original language form, but rather translate the phrases and words according to the target language and culture. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was the need for clear, consistent and credible information that bridged cultural gaps in communication. Communicative Translation was useful in retaining the original denotation of the COVID-19 related terms while conveying the accurate message that the target language readers need to know. This highlights its pertinence to this study.

The Sociolinguistics Theory

Before the late 1960s, translation was predominantly seen as a linguistic phenomenon (Vinay&Darbelnet1958; Catford, 1965). However, Translation Studies began to evolve in the 1970s, adopting a multidisciplinary approach that incorporated ideas from sociolinguistics, cultural studies and pragmatics. This shift placed the focus on the text and its communicative intent. Sociolinguistic theories of translation prioritize the target text and the recipients of the translation. They treat translation as a communicative act, involving the decoding of a message encoded in the source language by the translation's readers. Proper interpretation requires considering the extra-linguistic context of the text, such as the author's information, historical background, production circumstances and interpretation history.

The Sociolinguistics Theory of Translation asserts that the social framework determines what is translatable and acceptable, often involving mechanisms of selection and filtration. Translators are products of their societies, and this perspective considers the impact of language use on societies and vice versa, making it relevant to various studies. Hence, the sociolinguistic approach to medical language describing and analyzing it in terms of speakers and communicative situations (Pilegaard 1997: 159) seems to be the best way forward when dealing with medical translation.

3. EMPIRICAL REVIEW

This section examines studies carried out by other researchers relating to the translation of COVID-19 related terms.

Restiana and Nugroho (2021) research on the translation techniques used by translators in translating various medical terms contained in the COVID-19 guidebook based on the theory from Rask (2008). The study uses the descriptive qualitative method, classifies and describes the medical terms in the COVID-19 guidebook according to the types of translation techniques based on Molina &Albir (2002). Its findings reveal that Established Equivalence has the highest frequency of 739 in all categories with a percentage of 63.54%.

Kitanovska-Kimovska and Neškovska (2022) research on the vocabulary used to talk about the COVID-19 situation in the Macedonian public space. For the purpose of this study, a corpus of 130 Covid-19-related terms in English and their Macedonian counterparts are compiled. The analysis is based on Vinay and Darbelnet's (1958/1995 in Venuti 2000) model of translation strategies, complemented by some of Molina and Hurtado Albir's translation techniques (2002).

The similarities between the current study and previous studies are that they both use medical texts, specifically COVID-19-related terms as research data. The difference lies in the focus or purpose of the previous research and this current research. This particular study explores possible challenges faced when translating COVID-19 terms into Asante Twi and provides a strategy for overcoming these constraints. The language pairs in question differs from those of the previous studies.

4. METHODOLOGY

This research is a corpus based study with the corpus (data) generated from the official websites of the Ghana Ministries of health and information with their corresponding translations collected from the news briefings of three Twi broadcast stations in Ghana (Peace 104.3 Fm, Adom 106.3 Fm and Adom Television) between the period of March to July 2020. These institutions are authentic sources of information for this research because they provide reliable, accurate and up-to-date information related to COVID-19 in the Ghana. Fifteen excerpts are selected and grouped under six broad content domains out of the ten content domains classified by the Chinese COVID Term (Ma et al. 2020: 4). This classification helps to gain a better understanding of how these terms are used and applied in

different contexts and aspects related to the pandemic. This approach equally enables a holistic study of the COVID-19 related terms.

The main instruments for collecting data are critical discourse analysis and text analysis. This study is a largely qualitative and minimally quantitative research as it only collects non-numerical data. The qualitative aspect focuses on presenting, describing and explaining COVID-19-related terms in both the SLT and the TLT, while the quantitative aspect computes and tabulates their frequency of occurrence in the various categories under study.The data obtained from the websites of the ministries of health and information is solely used for the purposes of this study. Proper attribution is given to the ministries of information and health as the source of the data to maintain transparency and recognize their contributions.

5. DATA ANALYSIS

The data in this study is analysed using the three-stage methodology (identification, description and explanation) in Descriptive Translation Studies proposed by Toury (1995) together with qualitative textual analysis. Frequency tables are used to tabulate frequency of occurrence of particular techniques and strategies. The COVID-19-related terms collected are subjected to: lexical analysis and glossing at the micro textual level. An analysis grid is designed to help in analyzing the excerpts. The source text is first identified with the elements of interest in bold. The terms are then defined and their contexts of production are also stated. The target text is then identified and glossed to give its literal meaning. The possible constraint to the translation is stated. The translation technique used in producing the translated excerpt as well as the theory that underpins the strategy used are identified. Comments on the translation are also provided in the form of discussions and value judgement.

In all, there are fifteen tables for the fifteen selected COVID-19 related terms. Tables 1 to 3 are under Epidemic prevention and control, Tables 4 to 10 are under Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, Tables 11 to 12 are under Disease, Table 13 is under Medical material, Table 14 is under Clinical manifestation and Table 15 is under Diagnosis and treatment technique.

A.   Epidemic prevention and control (Excerpt 1-3)

Excerpt 1

A.	**IDENTIFICATION**		
1	*Source Text*		Ghana to undertake **the disinfection of markets** in order to curb the spread of Covid-19.
2	*Elements of Interest*		*The disinfection of markets*
3	*Definition*		The process of cleaning something, especially with a chemical, in order to destroy bacteria.
B.	**DESCRIPTION**		
4	*Context of production*		Epidemic prevention and control
5	*Target Text*		Ghana sɛ**wɔdennurubɛbaabɛpetepetefaako a wɔ di dwa**sɛneaɛbɛyɛ a wɔbɛsiw Covid-19 trɛwano.
6	*Gloss*	a. Twi	Wɔde/nnuru/bɛbaabɛ/petepete/ faako/a/wɔ di dwa
		b. Linguistic	They will/ medicine/bring/to sprinkle/place/ where/ shopping/ takes place
		c. Literal	Chemicals will be sprayed at market places
7	*Possible translation constraint*		Structural constraint:possibility of sticking to the structure of the English term
C.	**EXPLANATION**		
8	*Translation Technique*		Explicitation
9	*Theory*		Communication Theory

Discussion: Here, explicitation is used in the target text to make the meaning of the source text more accessible to the target audience, thereby overcoming the possibility of sticking to the English text structure. This highlighted the efforts of the government in preventing the spread of the virus.

Value judgement: The translation is acceptable.

Excerpt 2

A.	IDENTIFICATION		
1	*Source Text*		**Enforcement protocols** are being deployed
2	*Elements of Interest*		*Enforcement protocols*
3	*Definition*		A system of rules that explain the correct conduct and procedures to be followed to control the spread of the disease.
B.	DESCRIPTION		
4	*Context of production*		Epidemic prevention and control
5	*Target Text*		Wɔde**nhyehyɛeahorowa aban no de asihɔ**no adidwuma
6	*Gloss*	a. Twi	Nhyehyɛe/ahorow/a/aban/no/de asihɔ
		b. Linguistic	Plans/various/that/government/the/has put in place
		c. Literal	Various measures that the government has put in place
7	*Possible translation constraint*		Structural constraint- possibility of sticking to the grammatical category of the words
C.	EXPLANATION		
8	*Translation Technique*		Explicitation
9	*Theory*		Communication Theory

Discussion: *Enforcement protocols* in the source text is expanded in the target text. By explicitly mentioning the government in the target text, the translation conveys the idea that these protocols are established and enforced by the governing authorities to protect public health and ensure compliance. This helped to ensure adherenceto the health protocols to control the spread of the virus.

Value judgement: The translation is acceptable.

Excerpt 3

A.	IDENTIFICATION		
1	*Source Text*		With regard to **contact tracing**, a total of 350 contacts have been identified and are being followed up.
2	*Elements of Interest*		*Contact tracing*
3	*Definition*		The process of finding people who may have been exposed to an infected person to follow up on them.
B.	DESCRIPTION		
4	*Context of production*		Epidemic prevention and control
5	*Target Text*		Ɛdefa**sɛwɔrehwehwɛnnipa a wɔabɛn obi wanya yare no bi**, wɔahunnipa a wɔnewɔn di nkitaho a wɔndodowyɛahasaaduonumnawɔrediwɔnakyi.
6	*Gloss*	a. Twi	Sɛ/wɔrehwehwɛ/nnipa/a/wɔabɛn/obi/wanya yare/no/ bi
		b. Linguistic	They/searching/for/people/who/have come close to/someone/who has gotten/disease/some/the
		c. Literal	The search for people who have come into contact with an infected person.
7	*Possible translation constraint*		Structural constraint: possibility of sticking to the grammatical structure of the English term.
C.	EXPLANATION		
8	*Translation Technique*		Explicitation
9	*Theory*		Communication Theory

Discussion: Here, explicitation is used in the target text to fully convey the idea and context at hand in the source text. This helped the target audience to understand that contact tracing is one of the appropriate measures to prevent further transmission of the virus.

Value Judgement: The translation is acceptable.

B.   Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics (Excerpt 4-10)

Excerpt 4

A.	IDENTIFICATION			
1	Source Text			**Fellow Ghanaians**, I am urging all of you to bear with these additional measures.
2	Elements of Interest			*Fellow Ghanaians*
3	Definition			"Fellow Ghanaians" has always been the way and style used by President Nana AkufoAddo to greet Ghanaians during his nation addresses where he provided updates on the virus.
B.	DESCRIPTION			
4	Context of production			Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics
5	Target Text			**Me nuanomGhanafoɔ**, merehyɛ ye nyinaasɛyenninhyehyɛeɛfoforɔyi so.
6	Gloss	a.	Twi	Me/nuanom/Ghanafoɔ
		b.	Linguistic	My/brethren/Ghanaians
		c.	Literal	My Ghanaian brethren
7	Possible translation constraint			Cultural constraint
C.	EXPLANATION			
8	Translation Technique			Adaptation
9	Theory			Sociolinguistic Theory

Discussion: The source text was adapted in the target language. The use of the term "brethren" conveys a sense of kinship, unity and shared identity, which are important cultural values within the Ghanaian context. This fostered a feeling of togetherness and emphasized the collective responsibility of the Ghanaian community in addressing the challenges posed by the pandemic.

Value judgement: The translation is acceptable.

Excerpt 5

A.	IDENTIFICATION			
1	Source Text			The **affected areas**, and, indeed, all other regions have earmarked designated isolation and treatment centres for the management of suspected and confirmed cases.
2	Elements of Interest			*Affected areas*
3	Definition			Areas that have recorded cases of COVID-19 infections.
B.	DESCRIPTION			
4	Context of production			Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics
5	Target Text			**Mmeae a yare no aka wɔn no** ne, nokwarem no, mpɔtamafoforonyinaaahyɛwɔnnsammeae a wɔatewwɔn ho nawɔasawɔn yare a wɔakyerɛsɛwɔmfanniwɔn a wosusuwsɛwɔanya bi ne wɔn a wɔagye atom sɛwɔanya bi no ho dwuma.
6	Gloss	a.	Twi	Mmeae/a/yare/ no/aka/ wɔn no
		b.	Linguistic	Areas/that/disease/the/affected/them
		c.	Literal	Areas affected with the disease
7	Possible translation constraint			Structural constraint: possibility of sticking to the grammatical category of the English text
C.	EXPLANATION			
8	Translation Technique			Expansion
9	Theory			Communication Theory

Discussion: Here, expansion is used in the target text to fully convey the idea in the source text. By expanding the translation, it allows for a more nuanced understanding of the source term's implications. This made the target audience aware about the spread and impact of the pandemic.

Value judgement: The translation is acceptable.

Excerpt 6

A.	**IDENTIFICATION**			
1	*Source Text*			**Asymptomatic**
2	*Elements of Interest*			**Asymptomatic**
3	*Definition*			Not showing any symptoms (signs of disease or illness). Some people without any symptoms still have and can spread the coronavirus.
B.	**DESCRIPTION**			
4	*Context of production*			Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics
5	*Target Text*			Obi a ɔnda yare no ho sɛnkyerɛnnebiara
6	*Gloss*	a.	Twi	Obi a ɔnkyerɛ yare no ho sɛnkyerɛnnebiara
		b.	Linguistic	A person/ who does not show sicknesss/ the/signs/any
		c.	Literal	A person who does not show any signs of the disease
7	*Possible translation constraint*			Structural constraint: possibility of sticking to the grammatical structure of the English text.
C.	**EXPLANATION**			
8	*Translation Technique*			Explicitation
9	*Theory*			Communication Theory

Discussion: *Asymptomatic* in the source text is rendered by its meaning in the target text making the translation explanatory. The provision of a more detailed explanation or description of the concept enables the target audience to understand the intended meaning in the absence of a direct translation. This helped the target audience to understand the fact there are some people who could be infected but do not show any noticeable symptoms of the disease and can still transmit the virus to others.

Value Judgement: The translation is acceptable.

Excerpt 7

A.	**IDENTIFICATION**			
11	*Source Text*			Four (4) persons, who had tested positive for the virus, but were aged and had other serious, underlying medical conditions, unfortunately **succumbed to the disease**
2	*Elements of Interest*			*Succumbed to the disease*
3	*Definition*			To lose the will to oppose something or to give up and accept something that you first opposed. In the context of illness, to succumb to an illness is to stop opposing it, to no longer battle it, but to die from it
B.	**DESCRIPTION**			
4	*Context of production*			Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics
5	*Target Text*			Nnipaanan, a nawɔahusɛwɔanya yare no bi, nansonawɔnmfeakɔanimnawɔwɔ yare bi dedawa emu yɛ den no **woakankyeneegu**
6	*Gloss*	a.	Twi	Woaka/nkyene/egu
		b.	Linguistic	They have poured/the/salt/ away
		c.	Literal	They have lost their lives.
7	*Possible translation constraint*			Stylistic constraint: possibility of sticking to the figure of style of the source text

C.	EXPLANATION	
8	*Translation Technique*	Adaptation
9	*Theory*	Sociolinguistic Theory

Discussion: The rhetorical device which is Euphemism is equally adapted in the translation of the target text to portray the exact image conveyed and to align with the cultural sensitivities of the target audience. This helped to soften the impact of the news and show sensitivity to towards the affected individuals.

Value Judgement: This translation is acceptable.

Excerpt 8

A.	IDENTIFICATION		
1	*Source Text*		The **case patient** is a 35-year-old male, a Ghanaian citizen, who returned to Accra from France within the past 14 days
2	*Elements of Interest*		*Case patient*
3	*Definition*		A patient that is being treated in a hospital
B.	DESCRIPTION		
4	*Context of production*		Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics
5	*Target Text*		**Ɔyarefo a ɔregyeayaresa**yɛɔbarima a wadimfeɛaduasannum, a ɔyɛ Ghana ɔmanba, a ɔfiri France san baa Accra wɔnnafua 14 a atwam no mu
6	*Gloss*	a. Twi	Ɔyarefo/a/ɔregye/ayaresa
		b. Linguistic	A patient who/is receiving/treatment
		c. Literal	A patient who is receiving treatment
7	*Possible translation constraint*		Structural constraint: possibility of sticking to the grammatical structure of the English term
C.	EXPLANATION		
8	*Translation Technique*		Explicitation
9	*Theory*		Communication Theory

Discussion: *Case patient* in the source text is rendered by its meaning in the target text. This helps to clarify the concept and ensures that the intended meaning is accurately conveyed to the target audience. This detailed translation helped the target audience to understand what case patient meant within the contexts of healthcare and medicine.

Value Judgement: The translation is acceptable.

Excerpt 9

A.	IDENTIFICATION	
1	*Source Text*	It will give us the opportunity to try to halt the spread of the virus, and scale-up effectively contact tracing of persons who have come into contact with **infected persons**, test them for the virus
2	*Elements of Interest*	*Infected persons*
3	*Definition*	Someone who has been exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19
B.	DESCRIPTION	
4	*Context of production*	Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics
5	*Target Text*	Ɛbɛmayɛanyahokwanabɔmmɔdensɛyebesiwmmoawa no trɛwano, nayɛayɛnnipa a wɔabɛn**wɔnwanya yare no bi** no nkitahodihwehwɛ mu yiyeasɔwɔnahwɛsɛebiammoawa no wɔhɔanaa.

6	*Gloss*	a.	Twi	Wɔn/a/wɔanya/yare/no/bi
		b.	Linguistic	Those/who/have gotten/disease/the/some
		c.	Literal	Infected persons
7	*Possible translation constraint*			Structural constraint: possibility of sticking to the grammatical structure of the English term
C.	**EXPLANATION**			
8	*Translation Technique*			Expansion
9	*Theory*			Communication Theory

Discussion: Here, expansion is used in the target text to fully convey the term *infected persons* in the source text to overcome the possible constraint at the level of structure. This makes the translation much more natural and easily understood by the target audience.

Value judgement: The translation is acceptable.

Excerpt 10

A.	IDENTIFICATION			
1	*Source Text*			Since then, **six (6)confirmed cases** have been announced
2	*Elements of Interest*			*Six (6)confirmed cases*
3	*Definition*			An individual who had a confirmatory viral test performed by way of a throat swab, nose swab or saliva test and that specimen tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, which is the virus that causes COVID-19.
B.	**DESCRIPTION**			
4	*Context of production*			Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics
5	*Target Text*			Efisaabere no, wɔde**nnipansianawɔayɛnhwehwɛmu de ahusɛwɔanya yare no bi** no atodwa
6	*Gloss*	a.	Twi	Nnipa/nsia/na/wɔayɛ/nhwehwɛmu/de/ahu/sɛ/wɔanya/yare/no/ bi
		b.	Linguistic	People/six/that/have been/tested/to/find out/that/they/have gotten/disease/the/ some
		c.	Literal	Six tested and confirmed infected persons
7	*Possible translation constraint*			Structural constraint- possibility of sticking to the grammatical category of the words
C.	**EXPLANATION**			
8	*Translation Technique*			Explicitation
9	*Theory*			Communication Theory

Discussion: *Confirmed cases* in the source text is rendered by its meaning in the target text. By using the explicitation technique, the translation provides a clearer understanding and emphasizes the fact that these are not just any cases but specifically those that have been confirmed through testing. Knowing the number of confirmed cases made the target audience aware of the prevalence and spread of the disease in the country and to take appropriate preventive measures.

Value judgement: The translation is acceptable.

C.   Disease (Excerpt 11-12)

Excerpt 11

A.	IDENTIFICATION	
1	*Source Text*	Four (4) persons, who had tested positive for the virus, but were aged and had other serious, **underlying medical conditions**, have lost their lives.
2	*Elements of Interest*	*Underlying medical conditions*
3	*Definition*	A medical condition or disease that interferes with daily life or activities and requires continuous medical attention or medical care that lasts for longer than one year.

B.	DESCRIPTION			
4	*Context of production*			Disease
5	*Target Text*			Nnipaanan, a nawɔahusɛwɔanya yare no bi, nansonawɔnmfeakɔanimna**wɔwɔ yare bi dedaw**a emu yɛ den, ahwerewɔnnkwa.
6	*Gloss*	a.	Twi	Wɔ/wɔ/yare/bi/dedaw
		b.	Linguistic	They/have/disease/some/already
		c.	Literal	They have an underlying illness
7	*Possible translation constraint*			Structural constraint- possibility of sticking to the grammatical category of the words
C.	EXPLANATION			
8	*Translation Technique*			Explicitation
9	*Theory*			Communication Theory

Discussion: *Underlying medical conditions* in the source text is expanded in the target text making the translation explanatory. This helps the target audience to comprehend the intended message accurately as it reveals that these conditions increased the risk of complications in the infected persons leading to their demise.

Value Judgement: The translation is acceptable.

Excerpt 12

A.	IDENTIFICATION			
1	*Source Text*			The measures taken by Government tocombat **COVID-19**
2	*Elements of Interest*			*COVID-19*
3	*Definition*			Coronavirus Disease 2019 The disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. COVID-19 for short.
B.	DESCRIPTION			
4	*Context of production*			Disease
5	*Target Text*			Nhyehyɛeahorowabanayɛ de ɛkoatia**COVID-19 anaas3 Coronavirus yareɛ no**
6	*Gloss*	a.	Twi	COVID-19/anaas3/Corona/virus/yareɛ/no
		b.	Linguistic	COVID-19/or/Corona/ virus/ disease/the
		c.	Literal	The Coronavirus disease
7	*Possible translation constraint*			Lexical constraint- possibility of the lack of equivalent term in Asante Twi.
C.	EXPLANATION			
8	*Translation Technique*			Expansion
9	*Theory*			Communication Theory

Discussion: The target text 'unpacks' the term *COVID-19* to recover its meaning which is *Coronavirus*. It sometimes borrows the source text due to the fact that it is well known and adds new information which is *disease* to the target text. The target text sometimes simply shortens the term *Coronavirus* to *Corona.* This draws upon the familiarity of the word which became widely recognized as referring to the virus causing the disease.

Value judgement: The translation is acceptable.

D.   Medical material (Excerpt 13)

Excerpt 13

A.	IDENTIFICATION	
1	*Source Text*	We have had to put up with the discomfort of wearing **face masks** every time we left our homes
2	*Elements of Interest*	*face masks*

3	*Definition*	A material you wear that covers your nose and mouth. It is sometimes called a face covering.
B.	**DESCRIPTION**	
4	*Context of production*	Medical material
5	*Target Text*	Face mask or mask
6	*Possible translation constraint*	Lexical constraint- possibility of the lack of equivalent term in Asante Twi.
C.	**EXPLANATION**	
7	*Translation Technique*	Borrowing
8	*Theory*	Communication theory

Discussion: The source text "face mask" is borrowed in to the target text and even sometimes reduced to "mask" and not adapted to the target culture. I propose that the technique of explictation should have been used in this instance where the meaning of face mask should have been used in the translation i.e. kata *wene ne ano*which literally means a face covering for the nose and mouth.

Value judgement: The translation isadequate.

E.   Clinical Manifestation (Excerpt 14)

Excerpt 14

A.	**IDENTIFICATION**		
1	*Source Text*		Stay home if you feel unwell with **symptoms offever and cough**
2	*Elements of Interest*		*Symptoms of fever and cough*
3	*Definition*		These are early symptoms of COVID-19
B.	**DESCRIPTION**		
4	*Context of production*		Clinical manifestation
5	*Target Text*		Sɛwotenkasɛwo ho nyɛwo den na**wo ho yɛhyenawobɔwaa**a, tra fie.
6	*Gloss*	a. Twi	Wo ho yɛhye/na /wobɔwaa
		b. Linguistic	You are feverish and you are coughing
		c. Literal	Fever and cough
7	*Possible translation constraint*		Structural constraint : possibility of sticking to the structure of the English text
C.	**EXPLANATION**		
8	*Translation Technique*		Transposition
9	*Theory*		Communication Theory

Discussion: The source text is translated using its equivalent term in the target language. There is also omission of the source text *symptoms* in the target translation to keep the straightforwardness of the target language style. This makes the translation more natural and easier to understand as it considers the cultural and linguistic preferences of the target audience. This translation enabled the target audience to understand that feeling feverish and coughing are common and early signs of COVID-19 thus, there was the need to stay at home to prevent transmission.

Value judgement: The translation is acceptable.

F.   Diagnosis and treatment technique (Excerpt 15)

Excerpt 15

A.	**IDENTIFICATION**

1	Source Text		Four (4) persons, who had **tested positive for the virus,** but were aged and had other serious, underlying medical conditions, unfortunatelysuccumbed to the disease
2	Elements of Interest		Tested positive for the virus
3	Definition		This when the virus that causes COVID-19 infection is detected in your body.
B.	**DESCRIPTION**		
4	Context of production		Diagnosis and treatment technique
5	Target Text		Nnipaanan, a nawɔahusɛ**wɔanya yare no bi**, nansonawɔnmfeakɔanimnawɔwɔ yare bi dedawa emu yɛ den, ahwerewɔnnkwa.
6	Gloss	a. Twi	Wɔanya/yare no/ bi
		b. Linguistic	You have gotten/the disease/some
		c. Literal	You are infected
7	Possible translation constraint		Structural constraint: possibility of sticking to the English structure which is much longer.
C.	**EXPLANATION**		
8	Translation Technique		Explicitation
9	Theory		Communication Theory

Discussion: *Tested positive for the virus* is rendered by its meaning in the target text making the translation explanatory. This makes the translation more comprehensible and culturally appropriate for the target audience as it reveals the fact that these persons were infected with the virus.

Value Judgement: The translation is acceptable.

6. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

From the analysis presented in the15 sample grid tables above, it is evident that some COVID-19 terms were successfully translated from English into Asante Twi. Most of these COVID-19-related terms fall within the field of medicine. Nevertheless, there are some terms that belong to the general language vocabulary which were used in the context of the pandemic. This section therefore presents and discusses the result and findings of the analysis of the 15 excerpts as follows:

Results of Translation Techniques

Direct and indirect translation techniques including explicitation, transposition, expansion, borrowing and adaptation were identified in the analysis of the COVID-19-related terms. The following table presents the frequency of usage of the different translation techniques from the data.

Table6.1 *Frequency of Translation Techniques*

Translation technique	Frequency	Percentage
Explicitation	8	53%
Expansion	3	20%
Adaptation	2	13%
Transposition	1	7%
Borrowing	1	7%
Total	**15**	**100%**

According to Temmerman (2000: 235) English is the language of primary word formation for science and technology as conceptualization and the naming of new categories take place in English first. As knowledge is transferred to other language communities, terminology is strongly affected by English with many terms simply being borrowed (loan translations). The results of this study seem to disprove this because from the table above, it is evident that explicitation, expansion and adaptation were adopted as the main techniques in translating the COVID-19- related terms. Considering the fact that these are indirect techniques, it can be deduced that the strategy of domestication was used more than

that of foreignization. Despite the fact that other direct technique like borrowing was also used, its frequency of occurrence was quite low.

Results of Translation Strategies

The table below presents the resulting strategies from the techniques used.

Table 6.2 *Domestication and Foreignization*

Strategy	Percentage
Domestication	93%
Foreignization	7%
Total	**100%**

From the above table, domestication (oblique or free translation) accounts for 93% of the overall strategy used, while foreignization (literal translation) accounts for only 7%. This highlights the fact that the translator paid much attention to making the translation more familiar, acceptable and accessible to the target audience by emphasizing readability and naturalness over strict adherence to the original text.

Results of Possible Translation Constraints

The possible constraints involved in the translation of the COVID-19-related terms are presented in the table below together with their frequency of occurrence and percentages.

Table6.3 *Possible Translation Constraints*

Translation Constraint	Frequency of Occurrence	%
Structural	8	53%
Lexical	4	27%
Cultural	2	13%
Stylistic	1	7%
Total	**15**	**100%**

From the table above, it can be noted that the most frequently occurring constraint is at the level of structure. This is due to the fact that English and Asante Twi belong to different language families and have distinct grammatical structures which are inherent. English follows a subject-verb-object (SVO) word order, whereas Twi does not necessarily follow the same word order. Similarly, the use of articles and determiners differs between English and Twi. English employs definite and indefinite articles like "the" and "a/an," while Twi does not have equivalent articles. There are equally challenges that had to deal with collocation due to the fact that the word combination in the English language is not necessarily the same in the Twi language. Here, translators would have to ensure that they are not so engrossed in the source text so that they are not led to produce a very odd collocation in the target language.

Furthermore, medical terminology often uses shortenings in the form of acronyms and initialism which are usually composed of the initial letters of words which make up long phrases and are not inherently meaningful, especially for non-medically trained speakers (Peters, Qian& Ding 2018: 107). An example is the term *COVID-19*. Here, depending on the communicative context (whether the acronym is widely known or not; who the audience is), the translator may choose to keep it as it is, translate the phrase and derive an acronym from the translated phrase, "unpack" the acronym and convey the translated multiword phrase or a combination of the different strategies (Kitanovska-Kimovska&Neškovska 2022:43).

Moreover, most of the COVID-19 terms in English are in the noun form because the English language commonly uses nouns to describe and label specific entities, concepts, terms or objects. This is true for various scientific, medical and technical terms, including those related to diseases, viruses, and medical conditions like COVID-19. Thus, it may be necessary to verbalize the term to provide explanations or contextual information in the target language to ensure that the intended meaning of the term is properly conveyed to the Twi-speaking audience. A translator who is not very well versed in the Asante Twi style of translating medical terminology by verbalizing may be tempted to stick to the English structure of the term which will result in producing a translation that lacks cultural relevance and acceptability in Twi.

Other possible constraints such as cultural and lexical differences in both languages are as a result of the lack of direct equivalents, differences in medical knowledge and linguistic expertise to capture the essence and intended meaning of the English terms. The rapid emergence of COVID-19 and its associated terminologies also created a constraint in finding appropriate Asante Twi words and phrases to express these new concepts accurately. One would have expected cultural constraints to be the most dominant constraint given the fact that the analysis is restricted to a particular geographical location language. However, this is not the case. The reason is that the challenges of medical translation and terminology due to cultural differences are evident, perhaps, the most when there are medical conditions which are *endemic* to certain geographical areas (Tercedor Sánchez &López-Rodríguez 2012:249). From the data above, stylistic constraints are less prominent due to the nature of the subject matter. This may be due to the fact that COVID-19 terms often fall within the realm of technical, scientific or medical terminology, which prioritizes accuracy, clarity, and conveying essential information rather than focusing on stylistic variations.

Results of Translation Theories

Translation theories provide a theoretical foundation and principles that guide translators' decision-making processes. The following table presents the frequency of usage of the different translation theories from the data.

Table6.4 *Frequency of Translation Theories*

Translation Theory	Frequency	Percentage
Communication theory	13	87%
Sociolinguistic theory	2	13%
Total	**15**	**100%**

From the table above, it is noted that communication theory is the most dominant theory identified from the data presented. This theory aims at communicative translation, which essentially attempts to produce on its reader an effect as close as possible to that obtained on the original readers (Newmark 1988: 39). It is aimed solely at the target reader, who does not anticipate difficulties or obscurities and would expect a liberal incorporation of foreign elements into his own culture as well as his language where necessary. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was the need for clear, consistent and credible information that bridged cultural gaps in communication. Communicative Translation was useful in retaining the original denotation of the COVID-19-related terms while conveying the accurate message that the target language readers needed to know. This explains the extensive use of free translation techniques in the translations studied.

Translation Value Judgement

Toury (1985: 53-64) considers that any microlevel decision can be accounted for in terms of adequacy versus acceptability. The following table presents the frequency of usage of the different translation value judgements from the data.

Table 6.5 *Frequency of Translation Value Judgement*

Translation Value Judgement	Frequency	Percentage
Acceptability	14	93%
Adequacy	1	7%
Total	**15**	**100%**

From the table above, it is noted that acceptability is the most dominant value judgement identified from the data presented. The translator follows the linguistic and rhetorical norms of the target language and culture to produce translations that are not only accurate and faithful to the source text but also fluent and culturally appropriate and effective in the target language's context. This is evidenced by the frequency of indirect translation techniques used that are target-text oriented. Meanwhile, the percentage at which the translator submits him or herself to the textual relations and norms embodied in the source text (adequacy) may be lower due to the differences in the linguistic structure of the languages under study, differences in culture, lack of lexical equivalents and effective communication and comprehension. This explains the extensive use of free translation techniques in the translations studied.

In conclusion, going by the analysis above, it is revealed that that the techniques that were frequently used to render the COVID-19-related terms from English into Asante Twi were explicitation, expansion and equivalence which were all target-text oriented. These techniques all fall under the domestication strategy (oblique or free translation) accounting for 93% of the overall strategy used. The study also revealed the most common constraints were at the level of structure at a percentage of 53%, and that the strategy of domestication can be used in overcoming most of these constraints. The study concludes that the translator must carefully select the strategy to use in overcoming constraints faced in translating medical terminology into African languages. It can also be affirmed that this study is a great contribution to the field of translation in Africa in general and Ghana in particular as well as to the growing body of research on language access in public health emergencies.

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