



One Universal Translation To Rule Them All... Or Not?

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OBJECTIVES.

The linguistic validation of Clinical Outcome Assessments (COAs) in global clinical studies often involves a single language for use in multiple countries (examples include Arabic, Spanish and French). In an effort to reduce costs and improve efficiency, sponsors often request a universal version of a target language that can be used in each country. This poster will discuss the risks of universal translation and provide a decision tree to help sponsors determine whether country-specific versions may be necessary.

METHODS.

An examination of past projects involving different target locales for the same language was conducted. Further, interviews with linguists were completed to analyze the differences between different locales. The information gathered was categorized based on COA type as well as item content (colloquialisms, subject matter, etc.).

RESULTS.

By analyzing past projects as well as linguists' responses, the necessity of multiple locales versus a single, universal translation and the risks vary between different types of COAs:

- ClinRO vs. PRO/ObsRO/PerFO: Compared to PRO/ObsRO/PerFO, the language used in ClinRO is less colloquial and the same clinical terminology tends to be shared across different target countries. Therefore a universal version for ClinRO in general has lower risk. However, since the impact of country-specific translation for ClinRO on cost and timeline is even lower than the risk, it is recommended to have country-specific translation for ClinRO unless the questionnaire developer requests otherwise.

The primary risk of a universal translation is inadequate cultural adaptation. When deciding if a universal translation should be used, an analysis of the below factors is needed. COAs that include the following items are considered to have higher risks.

Item Phrasing – Colloquialisms:

COA TYPE	ENGLISH SOURCE TEXT	TARGET TRANSLATION	EXPLANATION
PerFO	Are you a boy or a girl?	German (Germany): Bist du ein Junge oder ein Mädchen?	This is an instruction spoken to a child. The term "boy" differs between Germany and Austria. A universal term might pose comprehension problems, especially for younger target audience.
		German (Austria): Bist du ein Bub oder ein Mädchen?	

Clinical Terminology:

COA TYPE	ENGLISH SOURCE TEXT	TARGET TRANSLATION	EXPLANATION
ClinRO	Slight stiffness and resistance	Spanish (US): Agarrotamiento y resistencia leve Spanish (Puerto Rico): Leve entumecimiento y resistencia	The term for "stiffness", as confirmed by in-country clinicians, differs between countries. In Spain "agarrotamiento" is the common term for this item, whereas in Puerto Rico "entumecimiento" is more commonly used.

Item Phrasing – Items Related to Daily Life:

COA TYPE	POPULATION	ENGLISH SOURCE TEXT	ARABIC UNIVERSAL TRANSLATION	EXPLANATION
PRO	General Population Age 8-17	I could get up from a regular toilet	استطعت القيام بعد الجلوس على المرحاض	- "regular toilet" was first translated as "regular toilet". In initial pilot testing, while respondents from Israel understood, respondents from Egypt reported difficulties understanding what type of toilet is considered "regular". It was therefore updated to "occidental toilet". - In second pilot testing, the respondents from Israel and Egypt had different feedback. Some respondents from Israel suggested using "ground toilet" (which was actually a misunderstanding as "regular toilet" in source refers to "sitting toilet"). Respondents from Egypt again reported difficulties understanding. The intention of the source is to see if the subject can get up from a sitting toilet and since it is impossible to imply the "sitting" action by specifying the type of toilet, translation is updated to include the word "sitting". The final translation back translated as "I could get up after sitting on a toilet". - While deviating from source, it is the only version that was understood by respondents from different target countries.

Cognitive assessments – Verbal Fluency, Category Fluency, Story Recall:

COA TYPE	ENGLISH SOURCE TEXT	TARGET TRANSLATION	EXPLANATION
PerFO (Story Recall)	Greg / Fortune / captain / and quarterback / for the Atlanta / Panthers / football team / was injured / on a fishing trip / last week.	Spanish (Colombia): Macnelly / Torres / capitán / y medicampista / del equipo de fútbol / millonarios / de Bogotá / se lesionó / en una salida a pescar / la semana pasada. Spanish (Mexico): Julio / Suarez / capitán / y centrocampista / del equipo de fútbol / del Atlas / de Guadalajara / se lesionó / en una salida a pescar / la semana pasada. Spanish (Spain): Goyo / Rico / capitán / y pivot / del equipo de baloncesto / Joventut / de Barcelona / resultó herido / cuando salió de pesca / la semana pasada.	Story recall usually includes names, cities and events that need to be adapted for each target locale. In this example: "Greg Fortune" is adapted to the name and surname commonly seen in target countries. "football" is adapted to "basketball" for Spanish (Spain) as football is not as popular as it is in Colombia and Mexico. "Atlanta Panthers" is adapted to popular sports team in target country. A universal version will result in unfamiliarity and therefore increase the difficulties for recalling.

COA TYPE	ENGLISH SOURCE TEXT	TARGET TRANSLATION	EXPLANATION
PerFO (Category Fluency)	Brand names of commercially available vegetables are scored as incorrect (e.g., Dole, Motts, Del Monte, Flavorite, Libby's).	Dutch (Netherlands): Merknamen van in de handel verkrijgbare groenten worden als onjuist beoordeeld (bijv. Dole, H&M, Del Monte, Bonduelle, Cirio). Dutch (Belgium): Merknamen van in de handel verkrijgbare groenten worden als onjuist beoordeeld (bijv. Dole, Motts, Del Monte, Flavorte , Libby's).	The brand names of vegetables differ between countries.

CONCLUSIONS.

When deciding if a universal translation should be used, an analysis of COA type, Cognitive assessments, item phrasing and developer requirements is needed.

While country-specific translation is considered advantageous for comprehensive and conceptually equivalent translation, if the necessity of universal translation arises due to cost and timeline, the following decision tree would be a helpful guide to sponsors:

