
INEKE CREEZE. 2013. INTRODUCTION TO HEALTHCARE FOR INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS. AMSTERDAM/PHILADELPHIA: JOHN BENJAMINS PUBLISHING COMPANY, 323 PAGES. ISBN 978 90 272 1206 1.

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Introduction to Healthcare for Interpreters and Translators is intended as a guide for interpreters and translators who are working in healthcare but have not received formal training as health professionals. As the author states from the very beginning, there is no point in learning medical terminology lists without a significant background and understanding of healthcare and that is precisely the reasoning behind this text, which could be considered a reference book to be consulted whenever in need of knowledge of a particular healthcare setting and its terminology. Creeze, the author, is also an interpreting teacher and thus bases her work around the needs of those who are training.

The book is divided into three well differentiated parts in twenty eight chapters, which may seem a lot when first skimming over it, but quite necessary due to its vast content and all the areas it covers. The first part contains an introduction and two chapters which deal with interpreting and culture in health contexts. Part II is an overview of different healthcare settings and part III deals with anatomy and biological systems, illnesses, conditions, diagnosis, tests, treatments and medications.

The introduction focuses on the development of professional interpreters, giving an extensive bibliography for further reading on general information such as how the profession is established in different parts of the world, health interpreting studies and how ethics has evolved in the profession and the teaching of this discipline. The second chapter talks about interpreting in healthcare settings and begins by stating that there is a great demand for these professionals. This may only be applied for certain countries, such as the author's, but definitely not to all, as most European countries have now cut back on social programmes and have thus diminished. The concept of *accuracy* is presented and reflected upon as crucial for effective communication and it is thus explained that in order to interpret accurately, interpreters need a good understanding of the language that will be used, both specialized and idiomatic, as well as the documents involved in the different healthcare situations which may arise, but also of the basics of health (anatomy and physiology of the main body systems, common diseases and disorders, assessments and treatment methods) and the cultural differences in beliefs and backgrounds. Creeze mentions the fact that untrained interpreters are not bound by a code of ethics and the dangers this might entail and thus argues that professional interpreters must at all times follow their Code of Ethics as a necessary distancing from non professionals. The chapter ends with comments about practical concerns such as the seating arrangement, the use of first person, note-taking and specific terminology. Chapter three deals with the very important issue of culture, how it influences communication and the implications for interpreters. Special attention is paid to concepts which can lead to misinterpretations when dealing with cultural beliefs in health settings, such as *sickness* and

disease or the different behaviour and attitude towards illness, diet and pain. A very interesting explanation of how communication may break down if cultural issues and differences are not taken into account is also given. Chapter four deals with medical terminology, from its history to practical elements which help language professionals such as common prefixes and suffixes, word roots, etc.

The second part of the book is comprised of twelve chapters that deal with different health settings. The first chapter in this part, Chapter 5, presents the primary care system in English speaking countries, describing providers and giving very practical information and the type of questions that may be asked when a patient visits the doctor's (history taking, physical examination and common medical investigations). Chapter 6 is a very brief chapter describing outpatient clinics and their procedure with a list of the more common ones in countries with publicly funded healthcare. Chapter 7 describes hospitals, their staff, procedures, main processes (admission and discharge) and the different rooms and sections in hospitals. The eighth chapter is concerned with emergency departments and deals with the different departments and staff as well as common admission and discharge contexts and communicative acts. Chapter nine is a brief chapter concerned with the informed consent process, a fundamental document for any interpreter working in healthcare. The tenth chapter presents settings which may occur in pre and post operation procedures, such as the frequently asked questions and basic equipment. The same type of information is given in Chapter 11 referring to intensive care settings. Chapters 12 to 16 give information about different healthcare areas such as obstetrics, child health, speech language therapy, mental health and oncology. In all of these chapters the main elements and terminology are presented, always taking into account an interpreters' needs, i.e. knowledge about the basic elements and specific terminology that may frequently be used. A particularly interesting feature of the second part of the book is a section which includes notes for interpreters and translators with a word of advice for them on the issue being discussed.

The last part of the book is organized in twelve chapters, by health specialities, where different settings are presented and their most usually covered terms concerning the staff that normally work there, the anatomy involved, the most frequent disorders and illnesses, treatments and drugs. The most common Latin and Greek roots are also covered as help for interpreters who may not be so familiar with specific terminology. The specialities covered are neurology, cardiology, the respiratory system, hematology, orthopedics, 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.

The book's greatest strength is its useful and practical nature and the author has definitely accomplished her objective: creating a guide for interpreters. Both medical concepts and terminology are presented in a clear, concise manner, making Creeze's work an easy to use guide for interpreters to look up if in need of knowledge of a particularly medical area. The large amount of information presented is well structured, follows logical sequencing and touches the basic content. Chapters tend to follow a similar structure, in which specific area guidelines are given, common settings are presented and a section on language of health and medicine and anecdotes from practitioners are also included. This is done by using a very didactic approach which helps reading.

Introduction to Healthcare for Interpreters and Translators will be of great help to interpreting teachers, as it can be used as a content resource for teaching medical translation and interpreting, as it comments on the basic and most common situations which students will encounter when they begin their professional career. It focuses on an intercultural approach which also makes readers aware of the importance of culture and the different issues which arise depending on the different background settings, making context an integral and fundamental concept of study.

In summary, the book is well worth reading because it offers a valuable contribution to the basics of medical content and its terminology, the necessary information for practitioners as well as for trainees and their teachers.