Birmingham Community Health Information Translation Project

Translation Research Strategies

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Aims and Objectives

This presentation will describe some of the tools and resources available to help community translators in Birmingham.

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Why do research?

Translators carry out research to ensure their translations are accurate. Accuracy is vital in communicating important messages such as health information. It is the ethical responsibility of the translator to convey such information accurately.

A translator might need to do research to make sure they understand everything in the source text.

They might also need to do research to find the best solution to a translation challenge.

Research helps the translator choose between alternative solutions and it gives them the evidence to explain and justify their decisions.

How to Research

There are many ways to carry out background research, but the important thing to think about is how reliable your sources are.
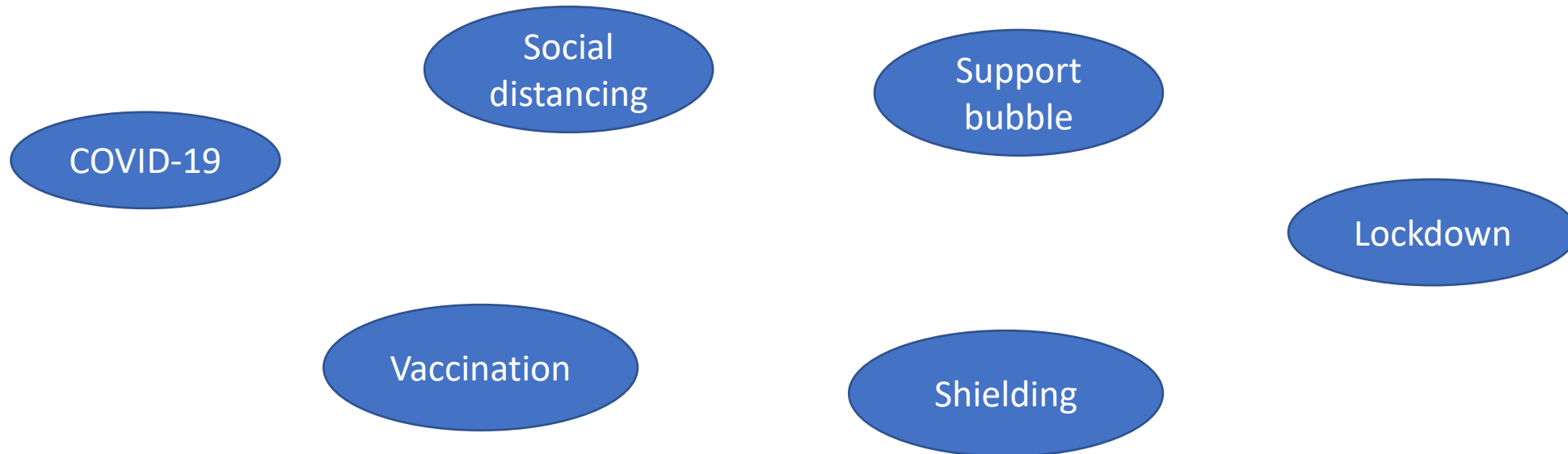
If you are trying to understand a term in the source text, a general internet search is a good place to start, but only use trusted sites for health information, such as:

The NHS website - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

The World Health Organisation - WHO (https://www.who.int/)

Researching Terminology

Words and phrases that are specific to a particular subject area are called terms. The collection of such terms is known as terminology.

Social distancing

Support bubble

COVID-19

Lockdown

Vaccination

Shielding

Glossaries

A glossary is a list of words in the source language and the target language that are specific to the subject area. It is organised in alphabetical order, like a dictionary.

Here is an example of one of the glossaries we have collected to help with translating from English to Somali.

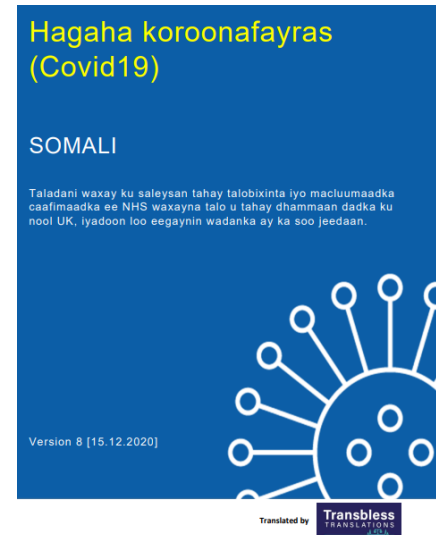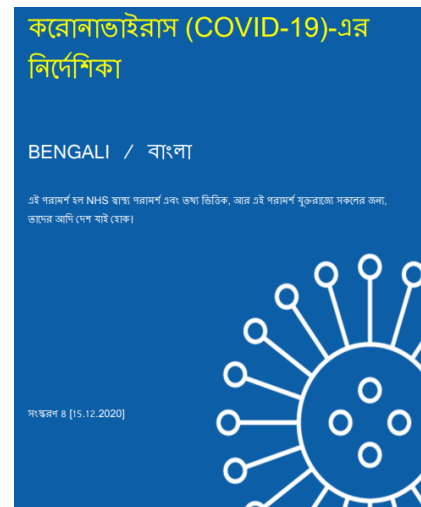| ENGLISH	SOMALI
Airbone	Hawada ku faafa
Communicable	La is-gaadhsiin karo
Community spread	Bulshada ku Faafa
Contact tracing	Dabagalka xiriirrada qofka
Coronavirus	Coronavirus
COVID-19	CVEID-19
Disinfect	Jeermis-dile

Source: Polaron Language Services

Glossaries

Glossaries sometimes contain other useful information like definitions, acronyms or examples of how a term has been used in other documents.

This one is an example of a glossary we have created ourselves, including terms that appear frequently in Covid-19 vaccination documents published by Public Health England

Key Term	Definition	Examples from public health texts	Translation of Key term
advice (noun)	guidance or recommendations offered with regard to prudent action	seek advice, follow the advice, infection control advice	
appointment (noun)	an arrangement to meet someone at a particular time and place	next appointment	
asymptomatic (adjective)	(of a condition or a person) producing or showing no symptoms	asymptomatic infection	
care (noun)	the provision of what is necessary for the health, welfare, maintenance, and protection of someone or something	care homes, care staff, care workers/workforce, social care	
clinical (adjective)	relating to the observation and treatment of actual patients rather than theoretical or laboratory studies	underlying clinical risk factors, non-clinical evidence	

Previously Published Documents

Another useful resource can be other documents about the same subject area, that were written in the target language originally, or have already been translated by a professional translator. These will probably contain some of the terminology that you need.

We have created a repository of such documents that could be helpful when translating messages about public health.

Document Repository

	Resource title (English)	Language	Translated resource title	Topic	URL
1	Covid-19 selfcare guidance	Arabic		Selfcare	https://covid19graphic...
2	General Covid-19 guidance - Doctors of the World	Arabic		General Covid-19 guidance	https://www.doctorsof...
3	Government guidance on Covid-19 response – Spring 2021 roadmap	Arabic		Roadmap	https://assets.publishi...
4	NHS Covid-19 vaccine information video	Arabic		Vaccination video	https://vimeo.com/508...
5	Covid-19 vaccination guide for healthcare workers (PHE)	Arabic		Vaccination health care workers	https://assets.publishi...
6	Covid-19 vaccination guide for older adults (PHE)	Arabic		Vaccination older adults	https://assets.publishi...
7	Covid-19 vaccination guide on pregnancy (PHE)	Arabic		Vaccination pregancy	https://assets.publishi...
8	What to expect after your COVID-19 vaccination leaflet (PHE)	Arabic		Vaccination	https://assets.publishi...
9	Why you have to wait for your Covid-19 vaccine (PHE)	Arabic		Waiting for your vaccine Vaccination	https://assets.publishi...
10	Covid-19 Face coverings	Arabic		Face coverings	https://covid19graphic...
11	Covid-19 Test and Trace	Arabic		Test and trace	https://covid19graphic...
12	Covid-19 Shielding support	Arabic		Shielding	https://covid19graphic...
13	Covid-19 Places of Worship	Arabic		Worship	https://covid19graphic...
14	Covid-19 migrants' rights	Arabic		migrant rights	https://covid19graphic...
15	Answering The Myths about Covid-19 Vaccination	Arabic		mythbusters Vaccination	https://britishima.org/...
16	Covid-19 English-Arabic glossary (Oxford Languages)	Arabic		glossary	https://www.dropbox.c...
17	Covid-19 English-Arabic glossary	Arabic		glossary	https://docs.google.co...

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Summary

- All translators carry out research
- It helps you understand the text you are translating
- It helps you make decisions about how to translate certain things
- There are lots of different ways of doing research
- Glossaries and previously published documents can be particularly helpful
- As part of our project to empower community translators in Birmingham we have collected and produced some of these resources for Arabic, Bengali and Somali.