Views + Participation + Multimodality =

An alternative take on the study of terminology in interpreter-mediated consultations

Demi Krystallidou, PhD

7th Terminology Seminar in Brussels (TSiB 2014)
VUB, 25 April 2014
Terminology-oriented research in interpreter-mediated discourse

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Bearing in mind that

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- an utterance-based transcript fails to capture a range of aspects in the negotiation of meaning
... it becomes clear that a more comprehensive approach to the study of terminology in the *dialogic* model of communication (dialogue interpreting) is required.
The following questions were explored:

1. How is terminology negotiated in interpreter-mediated consultations by participants’ utterances and non-verbal communication?

2. How does the interpreter’s management of terminology affect the primary participants’ understanding?

3. How do participants’ views of interpreter-mediated interaction and of each other shape the way in which terminology is negotiated by participants?
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106 D in de zin van (. ) de informatie die ze krijgen moet dezelfde zijn of moet dezelfde kwaliteit hebben (. ) e:: (.3) ik denk dat wij sowieso geneigd zijn om gesimplificeerd

=(in the sense that (. ) the information that they get must be the same or must be of the same quality (. ) e:: (.3) I think that anyway we are inclined to use simplified (. ))
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in de zin van (.:) de informatie die ze krijgen moet dezelfde zijn of moet dezelfde kwaliteit hebben (.:): (.3) ik denk dat wij sowieso geneigd zijn om gesimplificeerd (=in the sense that (.:) the information that they get must be the same or must be of the same quality (.:) e:: (.3) I think that anyway we are inclined to use simplified (.:))
Ds’ are instructed to use simplified language in their communication with Ps ... and they claim to do so.
Yet, the use of medical jargon by Ds in their communication with Ps seems to be common practice.

160 D allez (.) je kan thyroïde zeggen maar als de mensen nog nooit van thyroïde gehoord hebben (.) bij ons noemt dat ook schildklier

=(well (.) you can say thyroid but if the people ((patients)) haven’t heard of thyroid before (.) we ((Flemish)) also call it gland as well)
In that case, adjustment of jargon to Ps’ frame of reference is perceived by Ds as part of the interpreter’s job.
In that case, adjustment of jargon to P's frame of reference is perceived by D as part of the interpreter’s job.

159 D ja: bepaalde woorden uit de medische wereld dat ze zeker goed zouden moeten kunnen vertalen ook in eigentijdse volkstaal

(ye:s certain words from the medical world they ((professional interpreters)) should certainly be able to translate well in in eigentijdse vernacular language)

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(well (.). you can say thyroid but if the people ((patients)) haven’t heard of thyroid before (.). we ((Flemish)) also call it gland as well)

(...)

162 D er zal dus in hun taal ook een bepaald woord in de volksmond zijn dat ze begrijpen

(there will also be a specific word in the vernacular in their ((patients’)) language that they understand)
The same perception seems to be widely spread by interpreters.
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866 I maar als tolk vind ik ook wel dat misverstanden qua moeilijke termen en zo dat ook moet rechtgezet worden

=(but as an interpreter I also think that misunderstandings emerging from difficult terms and so must be corrected)

867 I door de tolk (.)

=(by the interpreter ( . ))
From the Qualitative Content Analysis of in-depth semi-structured interviews \( (n=25) \) with Ds and Ints the following **views** emerged:

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I avoid using medical terminology but sometimes I really can't help it and when I do so, then I expect the interpreter to simplify things for the patient. Sure, I can do so, but it's the doctor who should come up with simplified and jargon-free language. At the end of the day, I'm just the interpreter...
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Sure, I can and will do so if necessary, but actually it’s the doctor who should come up with simplified and jargon-free language. At the end of the day, I’m just the interpreter...
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One of the most recurrent Views expressed by participants is that terms are placed in the appropriate frame of reference by the Int.
The adjustment of D-initiated terms to the P’s frame of reference by the Int: the case of an utterance based-transcript

14 D: ja (.) dus in dat kader heb ik een aantal vragen voor mevrouw (.) heeft zij zelf ooit al een trombose of flebitis doorgemaakt?

=(yes (.) so within this framework I have a couple of questions for the lady (.) has she ever had thrombosis or phlebitis ?)

15 Int: (RUS) in gedachten heeft ze enkele vragen voor u (.) eerste vraag (.) hebt u ooit zelf al een slechte bloedsomloop ehm een goede ( ) (.) bloedsomloop gehad of (.) een trombose?

=(to her mind she has a couple of questions for you (.) first question (.) have you ever had poor blood circulation ehm good ( ) (.) blood circulation or (.) a thrombosis ?)
The adjustment of D-initiated terms to the P’s frame of reference by the Int: the case of an utterance based-transcript

16 P: een jaar geleden werd ik zwanger(.) en in de negende maand is mijn kind ( ) twee weken voor zijn geboorte (. ) de reden was (. ) wel de reden werd eigenlijk niet vermeld (. ) in de zesde maand van de zwangerschap had ik problemen (. ) en werd vastgesteld dat ik een tromboflebitis had ( )

(a year ago I became pregnant(.) and in the ninth month my child ( ) two weeks before his birth (. ) the reason was (. ) well the reason was never given (. ) in the sixth month of the pregnancy I had problems (. ) and it was diagnosed that I had thrombophlebitis' )
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17  Int: e:eh dus één jaar geleden was ik zwanger zegt mevrouw a:a en a:a en op de negende maand van mijn zwangerschap dus eigenlijk twee weken voor de voorziene datum van de bevalling is mijn kindje in mijn barmoeder gestorven(.) en op de zesde maand van mijn zwangerschap hebben de dokters gezegd dat ik problemen had met de tromboflebitis ?=

=(e:eh so one year ago I was pregnant says the lady ah: en ah: en during the ninth month of my pregnancy so actually two weeks before the due date of the birth my little child died in my womb(.) and in the sixth month of my pregnancy the doctors said that I had problems with thrombophlebitis ? =
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>DOCTOR</th>
<th>INTERPRETER &gt; P</th>
<th>PATIENT</th>
<th>INTERPRETER &gt; D</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>phlebitis</td>
<td>flebitis (14)</td>
<td>slechte / goede bloedsomloop (15)</td>
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Transfer of terms through the lens of Participation- and Engagement Framework Analysis
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- D initiates a PEF with P
- P responds (G + B.O.)
- Int joins D-P PEF (B.O. + comprehension)
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- D initiates a PEF with Int (G + B.O.)
- Int responds (G + B.O.)
- P seeminly excluded from D-Int PEF
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- Int initiates a “neutral” PEF with P
- P responds (G + B.O.)
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2. Within these frameworks of interaction, terms are being negotiated both verbally and by means of gaze + body orientation in ways that an utterance-only-based transcript would have failed to capture.
   
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Int’s HLA: asking about *blood circulation / thrombosis*

 Modal density

- [ ] co-constructed with P
- [ ] co-constructed with D

foreground | mid-ground | background
---|---|---

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