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Translation Procedures of Disease Terms in the Glossary of Medicine, Technology, and Sport 2025

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Abstract

This study investigates the translation procedures applied to disease terminology within a non-narrative glossary environment, where terms are presented as isolated lexical entries without supporting sentence context. Disease terminology was selected because it presents distinctive translation challenges arising from lexical gaps, standardized international nomenclature, and culturally established vernacular equivalents. Using Peter Newmark's taxonomy of translation procedures, this qualitative descriptive study analyzes 31 disease-related terms extracted from the Glossary of Medicine, Technology, and Sport (2025). The findings reveal that source-oriented procedures dominate the dataset, with Naturalization emerging as the most frequently applied strategy, followed by Transference, while Functional Equivalent is employed for terms with well-established vernacular counterparts. Through-Translation and Couplets occur less frequently and are primarily used to preserve the structural and semantic integrity of complex medical expressions. The findings further indicate that the selection of translation procedures is closely related to the presence or absence of target-language equivalents. While glossary translation generally prioritizes terminological consistency and scientific precision, target-oriented procedures are selectively employed to improve reader accessibility when culturally familiar expressions already exist. These findings contribute to translation studies by demonstrating how translators balance standardized medical terminology with reader comprehension in glossary-based translation and provide practical insights for translators and glossary compilers working with specialized medical terminology.

1. Introduction

In specialized fields such as medicine, translation functions as a primary channel for cross-cultural knowledge transfer, where lexical choices directly affect

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the accuracy of scientific communication (Susanthi, 2023; Pradiptha & Hasibuan, 2026). Under Newmark's (1988) text typology, medical literature is classified as informative text, requiring stylistic neutrality and objective factual presentation. Because medical terminology is a core component of English for Science and Technology, translators must preserve conceptual equivalence to ensure semantic precision and avoid professional misinterpretation.

This requirement becomes more challenging when terminology is presented outside a narrative framework. Newmark (1988) distinguishes translation methods, which apply to the text as a whole, from translation procedures, which operate on sentences and smaller lexical units. This distinction is particularly relevant to specialized glossaries because glossary entries function as isolated lexical items rather than components of continuous discourse. While general prose allows translators to rely on surrounding sentence context to clarify meaning, glossary translation provides no contextual support, requiring each translation procedure to preserve the conceptual meaning of an individual medical term independently. Unlike sentence-based translation, where surrounding words assist semantic interpretation, glossary translation depends entirely on the lexical characteristics of each entry when determining the most appropriate translation procedure.

Although several translation frameworks have been proposed, including those of Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) and Molina and Albir (2002), this study adopts Newmark's (1988) taxonomy because it provides a more detailed classification of lexical-level translation procedures. Since this research focuses on isolated glossary entries rather than connected discourse, Newmark's framework offers the most appropriate analytical basis for examining how individual medical terms are translated in the absence of contextual support.

The strategic choice between prioritizing source-text accuracy or target-reader accessibility varies significantly across translation genres. Technical translation heavily relies on literal accuracy to maintain terminological consistency across languages (Farahsani et al., 2022). Conversely, audiovisual and literary translation frequently employ pragmatic adaptations to bridge cultural gaps and accommodate broader, non-specialist audiences (Yesi et al., 2021; Virtianti et al., 2024; Frihatmawati et al., 2024). These differing approaches demonstrate that translation decisions are shaped by both the linguistic characteristics of the source text and the communicative needs of the intended readers.

Within medical translation, text genre also influences how translators balance these strategies. When medical terms appear in non-fiction books intended for laypersons, translators tend to prioritize readability by using everyday phrasing and functional equivalents (Putri, 2022). However, this reader-oriented approach is generally limited in official public health materials and internationally standardized medical terminology, such as the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) developed by the World Health Organization (WHO), where literal

and faithful translations are generally preferred to preserve standardized disease nomenclature across languages (World Health Organization, 2025; Pradiptha & Hasibuan, 2026). In addition, the structural complexity of medical vocabulary, which relies heavily on Greek and Latin roots, requires translators to analyze words morphologically before assigning target-language equivalents (Abdullah, 2025).

Despite these insights, current translation research contains a methodological gap. While previous studies have examined medical terms embedded within narrative prose or public health materials (Putri, 2022; Pradiptha & Hasibuan, 2026), research focusing specifically on isolated glossary entries remains limited. Existing studies also tend to combine diverse medical categories, such as anatomical terms, medical equipment, procedures, and diseases, within a single analysis (Abdullah, 2025). Consequently, limited attention has been given to how translation procedures operate when disease terminology is presented as standalone glossary entries, where contextual information is unavailable and each lexical item must independently preserve its conceptual meaning.

To address this empirical gap, this study analyzes 31 disease-related terms from the *Glossary of Medicine, Technology, and Sport* (2025) using Newmark's (1988) translation procedures. By examining these isolated lexical items, the study identifies the dominant translation procedures, maps their distribution, and investigates how glossary isolation influences translation decisions in rendering disease terminology into Indonesian. Beyond contributing to translation studies, this research also contributes to technical lexicography and terminology management by demonstrating how translation procedures help maintain terminological consistency while accommodating reader accessibility in specialized medical glossaries.

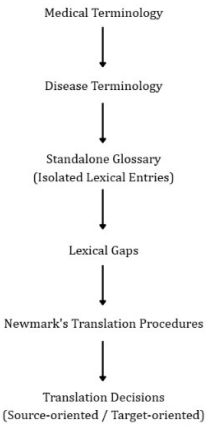

Figure 1. Conceptual Framework of the Study

Figure 1 illustrates the conceptual relationship underlying this study. Disease terminology extracted from a standalone glossary is analyzed through Newmark's

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translation procedures to examine how lexical gaps influence translation decisions in the absence of sentence context.

2. Method

This study adopts a qualitative descriptive design supported by basic frequency analysis to investigate the translation procedures applied to disease nomenclature. The primary data source is the Medicine section of the *Glossary of Medicine, Technology, and Sport* (2025). This technical document was selected because it presents specialized medical terms in a non-narrative, standalone format. Unlike narrative prose found in novels or cinematic subtitles, a glossary isolates lexical items as independent entries. This format provides a relevant baseline for examining how semantic precision and conceptual equivalence are maintained at the purely lexical level without the support of surrounding sentence context.

Data collection was conducted through documentation and close textual examination to systematically identify the linguistic features within the corpus. The process involved reading the medical glossary and verifying that each English source term had a corresponding Indonesian translation. The entries were then filtered to isolate terms specifically representing diseases and medical conditions. A purposive sampling technique was applied to identify all glossary entries referring specifically to diseases and medical conditions. This process resulted in a final corpus of 31 disease terms, representing all disease-related entries available in the glossary, while terms related to anatomy, medical equipment, medical procedures, and other categories were excluded because they fell outside the scope of this study. The selected terms were then grouped based on their lexical forms and structural composition, distinguishing whether the entries functioned as single words, phrases, or acronyms.

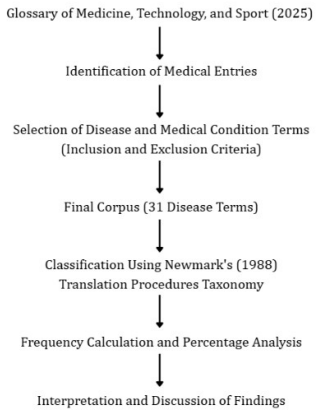

Figure 2. Research Procedure

The data analysis framework follows a qualitative descriptive approach combined with simple quantitative analysis. The analytical process was

operationalized through data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. During data reduction, the 31 terms were isolated and verified according to their structural characteristics. In the data display stage, Newmark's (1988) taxonomy of translation procedures was applied to classify the specific strategy used for each glossary entry, identifying occurrences of transference, naturalization, functional equivalent, through-translation, and couplets. To identify the dominant strategic patterns within the corpus, the frequency and percentage of each translation procedure were calculated relative to the total number of data items.

The classification of translation procedures was conducted by the researcher using Newmark's (1988) taxonomy. To maintain coding consistency, each glossary entry was examined repeatedly and compared with the operational definitions of the translation procedures before the final classification was assigned. In cases where an entry appeared to exhibit characteristics of more than one procedure, its linguistic features were carefully re-examined based on Newmark's definitions to determine the most appropriate classification. No specialized qualitative analysis software was used; the data were organized and classified manually in tabular form.

The finalized research findings are presented using a combination of statistical and narrative forms. The statistical presentation systematically displays the distribution, frequencies, and percentages of the translation procedures across the corpus. The narrative presentation consists of structured explanations that clarify the linguistic features and translation considerations underlying each procedural choice. This dual approach ensures that both the structural distribution and the qualitative nuances of rendering disease terminology within an isolated glossary environment are clearly illustrated. Because this study relied exclusively on a publicly available published glossary as its data source and did not involve human participants, personal data, or confidential information, ethical approval was not required.

3. Results

This chapter presents the data obtained from the *Glossary of Medicine, Technology, and Sport (2025)* and discusses the linguistic patterns found in the translations. The data consist of 31 terms referring to diseases and medical conditions rendered from English into Indonesian. The analysis focuses on how these terms are translated when presented as standalone entries without any surrounding sentence context. The findings indicate that while the translator frequently maintains the original medical nomenclature through borrowing and phonological adaptation, localized Indonesian terms are also used for conditions that are already widely known by the public. Table 1 presents the distribution, frequency, and percentage of the translation procedures identified within the corpus.

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ISSN 2548-4192 (Online)

Table 1.Distribution of Translation Procedures in Disease Terminology

Translation Procedure	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Naturalization	14	45.16%
Transference	6	19.35%
Functional Equivalent	6	19.35%
Through-Translation (Calque)	3	9.68%
Couplets	2	6.45%
Total	31	100%

As indicated in Table 1, Naturalization constitutes the dominant strategy, accounting for 45.16% of the analyzed terms. This is followed by Transference and Functional Equivalent, which occur at the same rate as 19.35% each. Through-Translation appears less frequently at 9.68%, while Couplets represent the smallest portion of the corpus at 6.45%.

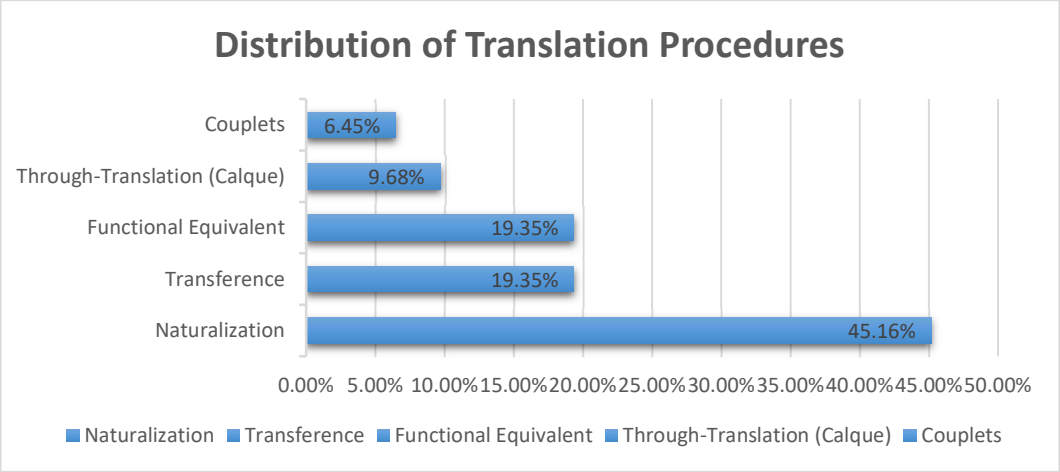

Figure 3. Distribution of Translation Procedures

Figure 3 presents the same distribution in graphical form, illustrating the clear predominance of Naturalization over the other procedures. The visual distribution also shows that Couplets are used only in a limited number of cases, suggesting that multiple procedures are combined only when a single procedure cannot adequately convey the medical concept.

Table 2. Disease Terms, Indonesian Equivalents, and Identified Translation Procedures

No.	Source Term	Indonesian Equivalent	Translation Procedure
1	Abortion	Aborsi	Naturalization
2	Abscess	Abses	Naturalization
3	AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)	AIDS (sindrom defisiensi imun dapatan)	Couplets
4	Albino	Albino	Transference
5	Allergy	Alergi	Naturalization
6	Amenorrhea	Amenore	Naturalization
7	Anemia	Anemia	Transference
8	Arthritis	Artritis	Naturalization
9	Asthma	Asma	Naturalization
10	Autoimmune disease	Penyakit autoimun	Through-Translation
11	Bronchitis	Bronkitis	Naturalization
12	Cancer	Kanker	Naturalization
13	Coma	Koma	Naturalization
14	Delusion	Delusi	Naturalization
15	Diabetes	Diabetes	Transference
16	Epidemic	Epidemi	Naturalization
17	Epilepsy	Epilepsi	Naturalization
18	GERD	Penyakit Asam Lambung	Couplets
19	Hallucinations	Halusinasi	Naturalization
20	Keloid	Keloid	Transference
21	Major depressive disorder	Gangguan depresi mayor	Through-Translation
22	Obesity	Kegemukan	Functional Equivalent
23	Overweight	Kegemukan	Functional Equivalent
24	Palsy	Kelumpuhan	Functional Equivalent
25	Sleep Paralysis	Ketindihan	Functional Equivalent
26	Stress	Stres	Naturalization
27	Stroke	Stroke	Transference
28	Tumor	Tumor	Transference

ISSN 2338-4778 (Print)
ISSN 2548-4192 (Online)

29	Wart	Kutil	Functional Equivalent
30	Yaws	Puru / Frambusia tropika	Functional Equivalent
31	Yellow Fever (An American Plague)	Demam kuning	Through-Translation

Table 2 presents the complete dataset analyzed in this study by listing each English disease term, its Indonesian equivalent, and the corresponding translation procedure identified according to Newmark's (1988) taxonomy. The data also reveal patterns according to lexical form, suggesting that lexical categories influence the selection of translation procedures. Most single-word disease terms are translated through Naturalization and Transference, whereas multi-word expressions are more frequently rendered through Through-Translation or Functional Equivalent. Acronyms are represented by Couplets, reflecting the combination of more than one translation procedure within a single lexical unit.

Although some entries exhibit characteristics of more than one translation procedure, each term was assigned a single dominant procedure based on the procedure that most strongly influenced the overall translation according to Newmark's (1988) taxonomy. For example, the translation of GERD combines multiple procedures but was classified as a Couplet because its Indonesian rendering integrates more than one complementary translation procedures within a single lexical unit.

4. Discussion

The findings show that the translation procedures identified in this study were applied according to the characteristics of each disease term rather than randomly. The choice of procedure was influenced by the availability of Indonesian equivalents, the lexical form of the terms, and the need to preserve the meaning of medical terminology. The following discussion relates these findings to Newmark's (1988) theory and previous studies on medical translation.

a. Naturalization

As the most dominant procedure identified in the corpus (45.16%), naturalization reflects the translator's preference for preserving internationally standardized medical terminology while adapting it to Indonesian orthographic conventions. This tendency becomes apparent in several lexical items, including *Abortion → Aborsi*, *Abscess → Abses*, and *Allergy → Alergi*. The nominal suffix "-tion" in *Abortion* is orthographically adapted into "-si", the double consonant "ss" in Abscess is simplified into a single "s", and the word ending "-gy" in Allergy is adjusted to "-gi". Entries such as *Amenorrhea → Amenore* and *Arthritis → Artritis* demonstrate a deliberate structural simplification where complex digraphs like

"rh" and silent letters like "h" are removed to fit standardized Indonesian pronunciation rules without altering the core semantic value of the medical terms.

The systematic reliance on this procedure within the glossary is dictated by both institutional regulations and linguistic necessity. From a structural standpoint, the modifications strictly follow the official guidelines for loanword adaptation (*Pedoman Umum Pembentukan Istilah*) managed by Badan Bahasa, which standardizes Latin Greek roots into predictable Indonesian spelling equivalents (Pradiptha & Hasibuan, 2026). This approach establishes a surface-structure constraint that circumvents phonetic barriers, allowing localized readers to process complex scientific labels easily without encountering foreign orthographic friction (Yesi et al., 2021).

From a functional perspective, medical terminology heavily relies on international loanwords because the target language frequently lacks direct native equivalents for highly specific medical concepts, making a complete translation into indigenous words highly impractical (Susanthi, 2023). This choice is driven by absolute lexical gaps rather than broad global alignments. Translators favor naturalization over pure transference because it resolves localized phonetic awkwardness while preventing semantic distortion (Farahsani et al., 2022). This procedure operates as a pragmatic strategy in standalone technical glossaries, ensuring that independent lexical units remain medically precise, highly recognizable, and fully integrated into Indonesian linguistic conventions (Yuan & Guo, 2022).

The dominance of Naturalization indicates that many disease terms in the glossary have become internationally recognized and do not have widely accepted Indonesian equivalents. Therefore, adapting the spelling to Indonesian orthographic conventions while maintaining the original form becomes the most appropriate strategy. This also supports consistency in medical communication, as many healthcare professionals, translators, and students are already familiar with these internationally standardized terms. In addition, the adapted forms are generally easier for Indonesian readers to recognize and pronounce without changing their original medical meaning.

This finding is also consistent with the use of internationally standardized medical terminology, such as the *International Classification of Diseases* (ICD) developed by the *World Health Organization* (WHO), where standardized disease terminology is used to promote consistency across languages and reduce ambiguity in professional communication. Therefore, the dominance of Naturalization reflects not only the translator's decision but also the broader practice of maintaining internationally recognized medical terminology.

b. Transference

The second most frequently identified procedure is Transference, accounting for 19.35% of the corpus. Unlike Naturalization, this procedure preserves the

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ISSN 2548-4192 (Online)

original orthographic form without modification, indicating that certain medical terms have already been fully accepted in Indonesian medical discourse. Examples include *Albino → Albino, Anemia → Anemia, Diabetes → Diabetes, Keloid → Keloid, Stroke → Stroke*, and *Tumor → Tumor*. These terms are retained intact because they have achieved a high degree of terminological standardization and are widely recognized within Indonesian medical discourse. Within a standalone glossary format, Naturalization and Transference together preserve the structural integrity of medical terminology, minimizing the potential for conceptual misunderstanding despite the absence of contextual support. This rigorous preservation of structural forms aligns with the need for high semantic precision in scientific translation, where lexical distortion can yield terminological ambiguity (Farhan, 2023).

From a structural perspective, this identical orthographic presentation stems from a specific graphemic alignment rather than phonetic imitation. This suggests that transference operates primarily at the orthographic level, as the Indonesian writing system can accommodate these lexical forms without requiring further modification (Valufi & Noverino, 2022). Although the oral pronunciation often diverges, such as when Stroke is pronounced with an Indonesian phonetic twist or when Anemia shifts its vocal stress, the visual representation remains completely unchanged.

In practical terms, retaining identical spellings helps maintain terminological consistency across medical references, reducing the possibility of terminological confusion between source and target languages (Susanthi, 2023). By keeping the written forms exactly the same, the translator ensures that the terms remain globally recognizable and easily retrievable within professional references. This preference for orthographic standardization is particularly important in glossary-based texts, where lexical items must function independently without contextual support (Farahsani et al., 2022).

The findings support previous studies reporting that source-oriented procedures are frequently used in medical translation to maintain terminological consistency (Farahsani et al., 2022; Susanthi, 2023). Since many medical terms have already been widely accepted in professional practice, retaining their original forms helps ensure consistency across medical references and facilitates communication among healthcare professionals who routinely use internationally recognized terminology.

c. Functional Equivalent

Unlike the two source-oriented procedures discussed previously, Functional Equivalent represents a target-oriented approach that prioritizes reader familiarity over formal correspondence. This procedure appears in 19.35% of the corpus and is primarily used for disease terms that already possess culturally established vernacular counterparts. Rather than preserving the source-language form, this procedure prioritizes reader accessibility by selecting target-language expressions that are already familiar to the public, an approach that is also

observed in reader-oriented medical translation (Putri, 2022).

A clear example of functional equivalence, which serves as a primary focal point of this corpus, is the translation of *Sleep Paralysis* into *Ketindihan*. Rather than naturalizing the term into *paralisis tidur* or using a literal phrase like *kelumpuhan tidur*, the translator chose a functional equivalent that maps a medical condition directly onto a localized cultural phenomenon. In Indonesian society, *Ketindihan* traditionally carries folkloric and supernatural connotations, where folk beliefs attribute the physical sensation of waking up unable to move to being pressed down by a mystical entity.

By deliberately inserting this vernacular term into a technical glossary, the translator prioritizes immediate public recognition and cultural familiarity over medical formality (Putri, 2022). This choice addresses a fundamental lexical gap in the target language, as Indonesian laypersons developed localized terminology for the physical experience long before modern medical explanations were introduced. When translating informative medical literature for a non-specialist audience, strict formal equivalence is often deprioritized in favor of communicative accessibility to avoid text alienation (Yuan & Guo, 2022). In standalone formats where no contextual sentences are available to explain the medical explanation of the condition, substituting specialized medical terms with culturally rooted equivalents serves as an effective pragmatic tool to prevent target-reader alienation (Pradiptha & Hasibuan, 2026). This reflects a pragmatic negotiation where the medical precision of standardized medical terminology is balanced against local experiential reality.

The companion application of functional equivalence appears in the reduction of specialized weight distinctions, where both *Obesity* and *Overweight* are translated into the identical Indonesian term *Kegemukan*. In medical science, *obesity* and being *overweight* represent distinct diagnostic thresholds and BMI categories. However, by collapsing both terms into *Kegemukan*, the translator bypassed these precise medical boundaries in favor of a broad, functional synonym easily understood by laypersons (Putri, 2022). Although this simplifies public comprehension, such broad categorizations collapse diagnostic nuances, which could potentially introduce informational ambiguity if utilized in strict medical settings (Radetska, 2024).

This tendency to substitute technical medical terms with common vernacular equivalents is further exemplified in the rendering of *Palsy → Kelumpuhan, Wart → Kutil*, and *Yaws → Puru / Frambusia tropika*. In the case of *Palsy*, which scientifically refers to specific types of paralysis accompanied by involuntary tremors, the translator used the generalized functional equivalent *Kelumpuhan* to ensure instant public comprehension, while bypassing the complex neurological sub-types. Similarly, the specialized dermatological term *Wart* is mapped directly onto *Kutil*, utilizing a ubiquitous vernacular label that instantly resonates with lay readers rather than introducing a medical loanword.

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ISSN 2548-4192 (Online)

Instead of transferring the foreign nomenclature for *Yaws*, the translator utilized *Puru*, an established Indonesian folk term for the chronic bacterial infection. By providing a dual label that pairs the vernacular *Puru* with the formalized medical term *Frambusia tropika*, the glossary successfully bridges the gap between lay comprehension and medical accuracy (Susanthi, 2023).

The use of Functional Equivalent may also result in minor semantic loss or gain. For example, translating both *Obesity* and *Overweight* as *Kegemukan* reduces the distinction between two medically different conditions, resulting in a loss of diagnostic specificity. Conversely, translating *Sleep Paralysis* as *Ketindihan* increases cultural familiarity for Indonesian readers by using a widely recognized local expression, although some scientific precision may be simplified. These examples illustrate the trade-off between terminological accuracy and reader accessibility in glossary translation.

The use of Functional Equivalent in this study is broadly consistent with Molina and Albir's (2002) concept of adaptation, as both approaches prioritize expressions that are familiar to target readers while preserving the intended meaning. Although the two frameworks use different terminology and are not directly equivalent, they share the goal of improving reader accessibility without disregarding semantic accuracy.

d. Through-Translation (Calque)

Through-Translation represents 9.68% of the dataset and is primarily applied to compound medical terms whose semantic components can be translated directly while preserving their conceptual structure. Within this corpus, the procedure appears in entries such as *Autoimmune disease → Penyakit autoimun, Major depressive disorder → Gangguan depresi mayor,* and *Yellow Fever → Demam kuning.* In these instances, the translator performs a literal translation of each component within the phrase while adjusting the syntactic structure to match the modifier-head inversion in Indonesian grammar (Yudha, 2022). For example, *Autoimmune disease* is inverted so that the head noun disease precedes the modifier autoimmune in accordance with Indonesian syntactic structure.

In the case of *Yellow Fever,* the translator omitted the descriptive subtitle to maintain the concise format required in glossary entries. This omission reflects a genre-specific constraint, as secondary historical descriptors become structurally redundant within an isolated terminological index. By removing the literary subtitles and applying a direct literal translation to the primary phrase, the translation preserves the glossary's function as a rapid reference tool without compromising the semantic boundaries of the disease term.

This procedure ensures that complex compound medical concepts remain transparent and accurate when rendered into structurally equivalent Indonesian expressions (Yuan & Guo, 2022). The preference for calque in multi-word disease terminology indicates that semantic transparency remains important even in

specialized medical discourse. By translating each lexical component directly, the translator allows target readers to infer the conceptual structure of the disease without sacrificing terminological accuracy. Calques serve as an effective strategy in non-narrative frameworks because they maintain a high degree of formal correspondence while respecting target language syntax, thereby preserving the inner structural logic of compound scientific terms (Radetska, 2024).

e. Couplets

Newmark (1988) describes couplets as the combination of two translation procedures applied to a single translation unit. Although Couplets represent only 6.45% of the dataset, they illustrate how two translation procedures may be combined when a single procedure is insufficient to convey both the technical form and the semantic content of a medical term. Within this dataset, the application of couplets is explicitly demonstrated in the translation of *AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) into AIDS (sindrom defisiensi imun dapatan).* In this entry, the translator structurally combines Transference to retain the globally standardized acronym *AIDS* with Through-Translation (calque) to render its descriptive medical expansion inside the parentheses.

A closer examination of the translated expansion, *sindrom defisiensi imun dapatan*, shows how the calque procedure is applied to each lexical component of the source phrase. The noun *syndrome* is rendered as *sindrom*, *deficiency* as *defisiensi*, *immune* as *imun*, and *acquired* as *dapatan*. Rather than replacing the specialized medical terminology with more general expressions, the translator preserves the technical structure of the original phrase while adapting it to Indonesian lexical conventions. This combination of Transference and Through-Translation enables the acronym to remain internationally recognizable while simultaneously providing an explicit explanation of the underlying medical concept represented by the acronym.

Similarly, the translation of *GERD* into *Penyakit Asam Lambung* also illustrates the application of a couplet. Rather than retaining the technical acronym or rendering it as the literal equivalent *penyakit refluks gastroesofageal*, the translator combines a Functional Equivalent with a descriptive target-language expression that is more familiar to Indonesian readers. Structurally, the translation shifts from the anatomical expression *gastroesophageal reflux* to a symptom-oriented expression centered on *asam lambung*. The addition of the generic classifier *penyakit* further identifies the term as a disease entity within the glossary. This contrast with the translation of *AIDS* demonstrates that couplets may depart from strict formal correspondence when a more accessible target-language expression better serves the communicative needs of non-specialist readers. By combining multiple procedures, the translator preserves the essential medical concept while improving comprehensibility, ensuring that condensed medical shorthand remains understandable within a standalone glossary environment (Yuan & Guo, 2022).

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The findings also show that some medical terms cannot be adequately translated using a single procedure. In such cases, combining two procedures enables translators to preserve technical accuracy while improving comprehensibility, particularly when translating acronyms or highly specialized medical terminology. Beyond the discussion of individual translation procedures, the findings of this study also provide several practical implications for medical translation. The findings of this study may serve as useful references for professional translators working with medical texts, particularly when selecting appropriate procedures for translating disease terminology.

Despite these contributions, this study has several limitations that should be considered when interpreting the findings. This study is limited to 31 disease-related terms taken from one glossary. Therefore, the findings cannot represent all categories of medical terminology. Different translation patterns may be found in other categories, such as anatomy, pharmacology, medical equipment, or diagnostic procedures, which have different linguistic characteristics. Therefore, the findings should be interpreted within the scope of disease terminology analyzed in this study.

5. Conclusion

This study evaluated the translation procedures applied to a selective dataset of thirty-one medical terms within the *Glossary of Medicine, Technology, and Sport (2025)* to examine how disease terminology is managed in a non-narrative structure. The findings indicate that the presence or absence of existing target-language equivalents plays an important role in determining the choice of translation procedures. For medical conditions that exhibit highly visible physical symptoms or carry historical, localized cultural significance, the data show a tendency toward target-oriented strategies such as Functional Equivalent.

In cases where no widely recognized indigenous equivalent is available, the dominance of Naturalization, together with Transference, Through-Translation, and Couplets, indicates that preserving internationally standardized medical terminology is prioritized over creating new target-language expressions. By adapting foreign medical terms to Indonesian orthographic conventions while maintaining their original concepts, these procedures enable readers to recognize specialized terminology more easily without compromising scientific accuracy. Consequently, even without contextual support, glossary users can understand specialized medical concepts more consistently while maintaining terminological accuracy.

Overall, the distribution of these five procedures illustrates a pragmatic negotiation in technical lexicography. The translation of standalone disease terms does not adhere to a single rigid method; rather, it adapts dynamically based on whether a medical concept can be mapped onto an existing localized reality or must be structurally integrated as a new technical loanword.

Since this study focused on a limited corpus of 31 disease-related terms, future studies are encouraged to analyze a broader range of medical terminology to obtain more comprehensive findings. Future researchers may also investigate the application of different translation theories or evaluate translation quality through aspects such as accuracy, acceptability, and readability. These approaches are expected to provide deeper insights into the translation of specialized terminology and support the development of more effective translation strategies.

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