Translation at Cochrane & the role of volunteers

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Translations Co-ordinator, Cochrane

Knowledge Translation webinar: Motivating, Managing and Training Volunteers

29 August 2019

Trusted evidence.
Informed decisions.
Better health.
Our vision is a world of improved health where decisions about health and health care are informed by high-quality and up-to-date synthesised research evidence.

Why translate Cochrane evidence?

• The vast majority of people do not speak English as first language, or at all, and even second language speakers prefer to read in their own language.

• If Cochrane Reviews & derived products are only available in English, it limits their potential to inform global health decision-making.
Our translation strategy

Sustainable approaches to translation led by local Cochrane offices (e.g. volunteer translators, machine translation)

Central support & infrastructure to facilitate high quality translation and accessible publication
How and what do we translate?

- 16 local Cochrane groups manage translations in their language, including 1,000+ volunteer translators
- Teams translate Plain Language Summaries of our Reviews, sometimes Abstracts, and other materials
- Work is managed and done on Memsource, a translation management software
- Translations are published on cochrane.org and the Cochrane Library
  - More than 28,000 PLS / Abstract translations published
  - 80% of cochrane.org users access translations
砂糖入り飲料の摂取量を減らす:効果的な方法

砂糖入り飲料はどのような飲み物か

砂糖入り飲料とは、冷たいか温かいかに関係なく砂糖を添加した飲み物のことであり。典型的な砂糖入り飲料には、ダイエット飲料ではない清涼飲料、普通のソーダ水、スポーツドリンク、栄養ドリンク（エネルギードリンク）、果汁飲料、砂糖入り飲料水、砂糖入り紅茶・コーヒー飲料などがある。

砂糖入り飲料が健康に関する重要なテーマである理由

砂糖入り飲料を大量に飲む人はしばしば体重増加がみられることを研究が示している。砂糖入り飲料を大量に摂取すると、糖尿病、心疾患、虫歯になる危険も高くなる。このため、医師らは子どもから十代の青年さらに大人も含め、砂糖入り飲料の摂取を控えることを推奨している。健康的な飲み物選びを支援するために、政府、企業、学校、各種職場がさまざまな対策を講じてきた。

本レビューの目的

人々の砂糖入り飲料の摂取量を低下させて健康改善を促すにあたって、これに求められる各努力に効果があったものを見い出し、それらを完善する方法を列入検討する。
Intervenciones ambientales para reducir el consumo de bebidas azucaradas y sus efectos en la salud

Resumen

Antecedentes
El consumo frecuente de cantidades excesivas de bebidas azucaradas (SSB) es un factor de riesgo de obesidad, diabetes tipo 2, enfermedades cardiovasculares y caries dental. Se sugirieron las intervenciones ambientales, es decir, las intervenciones que afectan el ambiente físico o social en que se eligen las bebidas, como una manera de reducir el consumo de SSB.

Objetivos
Evaluar los efectos de las intervenciones ambientales (excepto los impuestos) sobre el consumo de bebidas azucaradas y leche azucarada, las mediciones antropométricas relacionadas con la dieta y los resultados sanitarios, y sobre cualquier tipo de consecuencia o resultado adverso no previstos.

Métodos de búsqueda
Se realizaron búsquedas en 11 bases de datos regionales, especializadas y generales desde el comienzo hasta el 24 de enero de 2019.
What are the main challenges of our translation teams?

- Lack of funding and resources for translation
- There are many Cochrane Reviews, and they are continuously updated as well
- Topics and content are very specialised
- Language used in Plain Language Summaries is often not really plain
Volunteers at Cochrane

- Translation is one of many task volunteers do in Cochrane
- People sign-up via http://join.cochrane.org
- Rewards and expectations are defined as part of Cochrane’s membership scheme
Volunteer translators: induction and incentives

- Interested people complete a test translation and agree to translator terms
- There are no specific requirements and volunteers can mostly choose which Reviews they want to translate
- Each team has its own induction process and materials
- Incentives include:
  - The translator’s name is acknowledge with the published translations
  - Certificates or references
  - Full, free access to Cochrane Interactive Learning
  - Volunteers become Cochrane members by completing a certain number of translations within 12 months
Become a translator

All items marked with * are required.

Thanks for your interest in becoming a Cochrane translator. Please select your language from the drop down list below and answer the following questions.

**Language** *
- Select -

**Do you have any experience in translation or communications?** *
- Yes
- No

**Do you have any experience in health or science?** *
- Yes
- No

**Please translate the text below into the language you selected above:**
The review authors searched the medical literature to determine how effective and safe corticosteroids are for treating brain injury. They focused their search on randomised controlled trials in which one group of people received a medical treatment (corticosteroids) and was compared with a similar group who received a different treatment or no treatment other than standard care. The review authors found 20 of these studies with 12,303 participants. When the review was first done the results of the research were inconclusive. A new large study with about 80% of the total participants was completed by the time of the 2006 update of this review. This study, called CRASH, showed a significant increase in number of deaths in patients given steroids compared with patients who received no treatment. The significant increase in deaths with steroids suggests that steroids should no longer be routinely used in people with traumatic head injury.
Translator agreement

Version 1 (version history)

All translators of Cochrane content (including, but not limited to, all types of Cochrane Reviews and protocols for Cochrane Reviews, Cochrane Podcasts, content on Cochrane.org, blogshots of Cochrane Reviews and special collections of Cochrane Reviews) agree to the following:

1. **Language:** Cochrane content will be translated accurately.
2. **Originality:** Upon submitting each completed translation to Cochrane, the translator represents and warrants that the translation (or any part of it) is original.
3. **Readability:** With reference to the Cochrane Style Manual for Cochrane Reviews, the completed translation should be written in clear, simple language so that it can be understood by the broad and international readership of Cochrane. Simplicity and clarity are vital to readability. Complex or ambiguous expressions should be avoided or reformulated to promote readability.
4. **Translator status:** Cochrane translators are volunteers unless otherwise agreed. Volunteer translators are not employees of Cochrane. Therefore, Cochrane will make no payments to volunteer translators.
5. **Ownership and copyright:** Translators (volunteer or otherwise) irrevocably grant and assign to Cochrane all Rights in the completed translations free from any restrictions and limitations. The copyright for all completed translations produced under this agreement shall belong to Cochrane at all times. Cochrane shall exclusively own in perpetuity all now known or hereafter existing rights of every nature worldwide pertaining to such completed translations in, or as part of, any version of Cochrane’s publications.
6. **Modifications:** The completed translations may be edited or modified after submission of the completed translations to Cochrane.
7. **Attribution:** Cochrane will use best efforts to attribute each translation to the translator(s).
8. **Updates:** These terms and conditions may be updated from time to time, and translators will be notified of any updates by email.
Вмешательства на уровне окружающей среды по сокращению потребления сахаросодержащих напитков и их воздействия на здоровье

Abstract

Available in Deutsch Español Français 日本語 Polski Português Русский

Porter: Зиганшина Лилия Евгеньевна. Редактирование: Юдина Екатерина Викторовна. Координация проекта по переводу на русский язык Cochrane Russia - Cochrane Россия на базе Казанского федерального университета. По вопросам, связанным с этим переводом, пожалуйста, обращайтесь к нам по адресу: cochrane.russia.kpfu@gmail.com; cochraneanru.ru.

Background

Frequent consumption of excess amounts of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB) is a risk factor for obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and dental caries. Environmental interventions, i.e. interventions that alter the physical or social environment in which individuals make beverage choices, have been advocated as a means to reduce the consumption of SSB.

Objectives

To assess the effects of environmental interventions (excluding taxation) on the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and sugar-sweetened milk, diet-related anthropometric measures and health outcomes, and on any reported unintended consequences or adverse outcomes.

Search methods
Cochrane

University and professional collaborations

- Collaborations with local medical schools, foreign language or translation departments → translation becomes a task of University courses
- Collaborations with medical journals or associations → they contribute translations and receive permission to publish these in their journals or distribute them through their channels

→ Learning for the students
→ Increased capacity for translation
→ New audiences
How do we control quality

- At least 2 workflow steps done by 2 people (usually translation & editing)
- Editing and sign-off is done by content experts, usually experienced Cochrane contributors
- A named person and team sign off on each translation
- Glossaries help with consistency of methodological and medical terms and phrases
Motivating, Managing, and Training Volunteers: A Case Study from Cochrane

Dr. Patrick Cadwell
patrick.cadwell@dcu.ie

Dublin City University SALIS | CTTS

INTERACT
The International Network on Crisis Translation
Translation and Interpreting in Recent Crises

- Turkey (Bulut and Kurultay 2001)
- Haiti (Lewis, Munro, and Vogel 2011)
- New Zealand (Wylie 2012)
- Japan (Cadwell and O’Brien 2016)
- Kenya (Moser-Mercer et al. 2014)
- Italy (Filmer and Federici 2018)
- Greece (Ghandour-Demiri 2017)
- Bangladesh (Hasan 2017)
This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 734211.
Research with Cochrane

Research with Cochrane

Observations about crisis translation and interpreting:

- Ad hoc
- Uncoordinated
- Voluntary
- Local groups, no formal training

@CrisisTrans

This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 734211.
Case Study

• Why use a model of translation largely based on volunteer contributions?

• Who volunteers to translate and what skills do they require?

• How are volunteer translators supported?
First Lesson Learned

• Advocacy is an important motivating factor for volunteer translators
Second Lesson Learned

- Feedback is important for training and motivating volunteer translators.
Third Lesson Learned

• Motivating and supporting project managers is important to volunteer translation success
Recommendations

• Further standardization and automation of the administrative and evaluative steps
  • Translation quality assessment framework
  • Feedback through tracked changes

• Facilitating knowledge sharing
  • Peer mentoring / training

• Ensure sustainability of translation project manager role
What Next?

• Co-authored conference presentation: *EST 2019*

• Co-authored book chapter: *Management and Training of Linguistic Volunteers*

@CrisisTrans
Thank You

patrick.cadwell@dcu.ie
Reference List


Capacity building for knowledge translation: a survey about characteristics and motivation of volunteer translators of Cochrane plain language summaries

Presenter:
Prof. Livia Puljak, MD, PhD
Catholic University of Croatia

Cochrane Learning Live
August 29, 2019
Cochrane Croatia: translations

• Translating plain language summaries
• Since 2013
• **Challenges:**
  – Many individuals sign up for volunteers
    • But many never translate anything
    • Some become very active, and then stop

• **Questions:**
  – Who are our volunteers?
  – What is their motivation?
  – How can we motivate them to translate or translate more?
So, let’s do a formal study

• We did what we know best – research
• Survey of all individuals who have ever volunteered to be Cochrane Croatia translators
• 28 items
• Conducted in November-December 2017
• Via SurveyMonkey
Results: who are our translators?

• 176 individuals contacted
• 106 responses (60% response rate)
• Participants characteristics:
  – Majority were women
  – Majority had university degrees
  – Majority were medical doctors
  – Almost all were „lay translators” – few were professional translators
  – The majority indicated that they did not participate in other translation activities
  – Half of them participated in other unrelated volunteer activities
How did they get involved with our translation project?

- Friends/colleagues (37%)
- University lectures (29%)
- From the Cochrane Croatia website (18%)
- From the Cochrane Croatia’s Facebook page (14%)

- The majority signed up for participation in translations before 2017
Their motivation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons for joining*</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributing to the community</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>72.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning new and useful information</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>72.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest in topics from the field</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>68.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving translation skills and knowledge of English language</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>48.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field of research / work matches translation topics</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>43.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helpful in job search / useful in CV</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>35.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skipped question</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What could motivate them to translate or translate more?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Values</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suggested incentives for increasing translation productivity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feedback on the quality of translations</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>52.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reminders</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>47.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop for translators</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>32.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook or similar group for exchange of experiences</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>24.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skipped question</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How could we improve translators’ experience?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Values</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Suggested interventions for improvement of translation experience</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops and webinars, introductory videos</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reminders</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various incentives (ranking, payment, credit for extracurricular activity)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groups for exchanging experiences</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glossary, detailed instructions on grammar and terminology, professional language editing</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (feedback, more assigned PLSs, practice PLSs, simplifying the translation platform etc.)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skipped question</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>63.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What do they like the best about their volunteering experience with us?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Values</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best experiences gained from participating in the translation project**</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New and useful knowledge and information</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellent communication with the translation project manager</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal satisfaction gained from participating</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving translation skills and expanding vocabulary</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>57.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skipped question</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What we could improve?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Values</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worst experiences with the translation project**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No bad experiences</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>24.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long wait between being assigned new PLSs</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems with the translation platform</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfaction with translations done by other volunteers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insecurity about the quality of translations</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skipped question</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>59.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The study results were recently published.
Follow-up research idea

• When asked what could motivate them to translate more Cochrane PLSs, or to start translating if they did not translate anything yet, the most common answers were:
  – feedback about translation quality
  – Reminders
  – workshop for translators
  – and Facebook group for translators
Let’s test reminders

• Implementation of these ideas: time, personnel, or technology constraints
• We thought that perhaps reminders could be most effective
• And that they could be implemented in Memsource
• So we conducted RCT to test whether reminders would be effective in yielding more translations
• The study was completed in the end of June
• We are now analyzing results
Evidence-based volunteer translations

• It is difficult to find and retain volunteers
• With formal studies, we can find out more about our volunteers
• And how to motivate them
• Find out the most effective interventions
• And improve our translation projects, increase volunteer satisfaction and translate more
Many thanks to my coauthors, Ms. Dalibora Behmen, and Prof. Ana Marušić

Questions, comments, compliments:
Livia Puljak: livia.puljak@unicath.hr
What are the challenges with volunteers?

• Translation requires many skills: language, methods, health, attention to detail, software use, etc.

• Most translators have a health background, few a translation background, but usually only one or the other

• Volunteers stop after one translation, or are generally struggling to contribute on a regular basis, and select ‘random’ topics

• Involving volunteers requires more management and editing time
What can we do better?

- Clearer expectations and better training for volunteers
- Better support for translation project managers
- Systematic feedback to volunteers
- Creating translator communities
- Better / more automated, systematic rewards?
- Offer other options for non-native English speakers to get involved
- To be continued…
Thank you!

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