Training Translators for a Multi Country Study: Lessons Learned

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Outline

- Training translators to implement TRAPD for comparative studies (i.e. team or committee approach)
- What the literature says
- The multi country study
- Full translation and assessment plan
- Organizing the effort and best order of actions
- Integrating prior translations
- Documentation: who does it and what exactly?
- Webinar remote trainings: Content and Issues
- Software training and Translation training
- Major issues for future efforts
Literature Review

- ESS Guidelines for different rounds (e.g. Round 3 and Round 6)
- Michigan’s Cross-Cultural Survey Guidelines
- GESIS Summer Institute Translation Courses
- Harkness & Schoua-Glusberg AAPOR survey translation short course (2005)
- Villar & Schoua-Glusberg AAPOR Webinar on Survey Translation (2014)
Summary of Tips/Guidelines

- Recruiting and hiring covered more than training

- The CCSG and the ESS recommend briefing or training translators on specifics of questionnaire translation

- The trainings mentioned (short courses, webinars, GESIS trainings) implement those tips or guidelines in similar ways but perhaps with different emphasis
The Study

- First – a disclaimer
- A total of 6 languages in different countries
- Adult and minors as survey participants
Full Translation and Assessment Plan for the Study

- Translatability assessment
- QxQ specifications for translators
- Team/Committee translation approach
- Subject matter expert review
- Verification
- Pretesting questions
- Throughout: use of translation mgmt software

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Order of Actions by Different Actors

- There must be training before recruiting translators
- Coordinator for each country or language needs to understand all aspects of process (i.e. be trained) before anything starts
Integrating Prior Translations

- Keep in mind not always for similar audience
- Keep in mind not always well translated items
- If translators need to integrate them, they should be provided upfront to each individual translator
Documentation: Who and What?

- Training stressed documentation at every step (individual vs. committee documentation)
- Document (D-D-D-D = Doubts, Disagreements, Decisions)
- Examples provided to a team on what to document and what not to document.
Webinar Remote Trainings

- distill and simplify / not duplicate / not call things different
- background introduction and participation
- remember you are not training survey experienced folks (jargon)
Webinar remote trainings: Content and Issues

- Webinar format
- Content covered
- Trained translators from different countries in same sessions (limits examples)
- Access issues to software and recordings / Technical difficulties
Software training and Translation training

- When working with translation management software 2 types of training are needed
- Both sets of trainers should attend
- Both sets of trainers need to learn what the others are training on
- Who trains first?
- Solving technical glitches in advance
Major Issues for Future Efforts

- Planning and coordination across tasks
- Scheduling of tasks
- Order of trainings
- What do translators receive in advance?
Thanks for your attention!

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