



CASE STUDY: CLINICAL ASSESSMENTS

Brief

One of our clients, based in the USA, produced a battery of tests aimed at testing the levels of cognition amongst patients with schizophrenia. This is a unique project which has major sponsorship from both a government body and interested commercial parties.

This client was looking for a translation partner who understood what needed to be adapted and localised to ensure the tests were meaningful in the target market.

As a result of our expertise in the area of translation and adaptation of clinical assessments, Comms Multilingual was selected for the language adaptation part of this project.

Preparation is Key

In order to ensure the success of such a translation and adaptation project, we believe that the work carried out prior to the start of the project is absolutely vital.

In this case, localisation and adaptation were deemed to be required during initial analysis of the text. As an example, one of the assessments in the battery contained word lists. One of the birds in the word list was a bluebird.

A bluebird is meaningful to people in North America, but doesn't really mean anything to people outside. It was very important to find an equivalent bird to a bluebird that people could relate to in different countries.

Otherwise, when asked to recall a list of words containing "bluebird", people would have a lower chance of recalling this as it meant nothing to them. This would have an effect on the results obtained.



Translation and Adaptation

Once the adaptation and localisation process steps were complete, we started the translation.

The teams selected for this project were chosen for their expertise in the translation and adaptation of this type of material. They were qualified and experienced translators who also possessed qualifications and practical experience in clinical psychology.

We carried out the initial translation into the four languages and then the translations were sent to independent proofreaders/editors for quality checking purposes.

The next step was the back translation process, where the translated text is translated back into the original language (in this case, English).

This is an important part of our whole quality control process and is vital for projects such as these. The back translation was carried out by a native English speaker and proofread/edited by a second linguist.

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We really appreciate all you do for us. This past year has been a challenge with all of our linguistic needs and we are grateful for your assistance.

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Quality Control

We then moved on to the quality control phase, where expert reviewers carried out a thorough review of the translation.

We went through various rounds of changes with the schizophrenia battery experts. There had been suggestions and changes coming from a variety of different sources in each language and there were several different documents to be reviewed.

In order to ensure that the same words were translated consistently throughout, we created a final glossary of terms in each language. We then carried out a consistency check of the vocabulary on all the documents.

DTP and Typesetting

Our client used their own typesetters to set the translated text into the final file format ready for use.

Since our multilingual DTP operators had not in this instance typeset the text, we then reviewed the final PDF documents to ensure that all the characters displayed correctly, that all the translated text had been included and that words were hyphenated correctly.

Result

Since the initial project, Comms has been commissioned to localise, adapt and translate this battery into a number of other languages.

The battery is now being successfully used in a variety of different countries around the world to help in the diagnosis and therefore treatment of people with schizophrenia.