

Comparing and adapting same-language versions of Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs)



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1. Introduction and aims

The increasing number of multinational clinical trials calls for accurate and relevant translations of patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs).

The present study reviews existing same-language versions in **English, Spanish, French** and **German** of the Diabetes Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire (DTSQ) and of the Well-Being Questionnaire (W-BQ12), both developed by Clare Bradley (Bradley and Lewis 1990; Bradley 1994; Riazi et al 2006) and linguistically validated for more than 100 specific countries.

The aim is to identify patterns of similarities/differences within/between languages for each of the questionnaires in order to inform future

3. Results & Discussion

In all four languages, differences are mainly semantic with several grammatical changes in **Spanish**.

In the DTSQ, items 4 (**convenience**) and 5 (**flexibility**) showed the most differences. See DTSQ Table 1 >

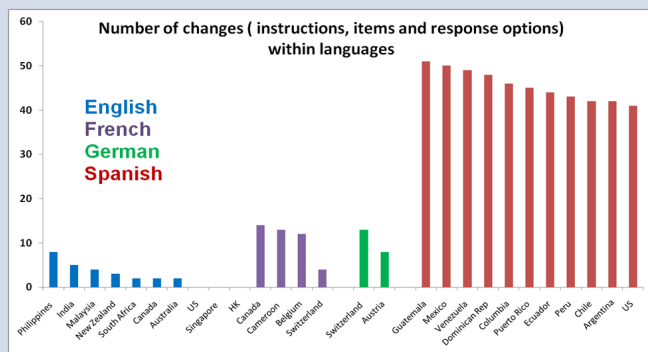
In the W-BQ12 major differences were noted in vocabulary describing **emotions**. See W-BQ12 Table 2 >

Unlike the Spanish DTSQ, where differences seem to depend on geographic distance (Felici et al. 2011), the English versions are more linked to the local culture. India, the Philippines and Malaysia account for more changes than other English-speaking countries.

Spanish adaptations required more changes than other language adaptations and the nature of the changes in the two questionnaires was identical (i.e. **Anglicisms, use of tense and repetitive sentence structure**).

Canadian French and French for Cameroon account in the DTSQ for the largest number of changes; the first because of Quebecois and its contact with US English, Cameroon because of social and educational issues.

While Swiss French is almost identical to French for France, we have an opposite trend in German, where the Swiss version differs markedly from the one used in Germany.



4. Conclusions

The comparison suggests the occurrence of common patterns of similarities/differences in same language adaptations. Consistent patterns include items' conceptual difficulties and the kind of variation (i.e. local culture in English, geographical distance in Spanish). In particular:

- Castilian Spanish is never suitable for Latin America, but within Latin America there are similarities of languages in geographically close countries.
- English differs the least of the four languages and differences relate more to colonization and culture than to geographic distance.
- German and French require intermediate adjustments with more substantial changes needed to French for Canada (US English influence) and German for Switzerland (influence of Romance languages).

These observations suggest the possibility of predicting differences and facilitating solutions in future adaptations.

References

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Access to Questionnaires

Visit www.healthpsychologyresearch.com or contact Clare Bradley, the copyright holder of the DTSQ and W-BQ12, at c.bradley@rhul.ac.uk.

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2. Methods

- Collect the existing DTSQ versions in English (12), Spanish (12), French (5) and German (3), as well as of the W-BQ12 versions in English (5), Spanish (5) and French (3).
- Count and analyse the linguistic differences in the instructions, the items and the response options on the basis of semantics, syntax, discourse and culture.

Differences within languages between countries (coloured text)		
UK	How convenient have you been finding your treatment to be recently?	How flexible have you been finding your treatment to be recently?
Malaysia	Same as UK	<i>How satisfied are you with the extent to which your treatment fits in with your daily life?</i>
Spain	Últimamente, ¿en qué medida considera Ud. que su tratamiento resulta fácil / cómodo?	Últimamente, ¿en qué medida considera que su tratamiento se adapta a su vida?
Mexico	<i>¿Qué tan práctico y cómodo ha estado encontrando su tratamiento recientemente?</i>	<i>Recientemente, ¿qué tan flexible ha sido su tratamiento para usted?</i>
France	Ces derniers temps, dans quelle mesure votre traitement vous convient-il ?	Quel est à votre avis le degré de souplesse de votre traitement?
Canada	<i>Dans quelle mesure avez-vous trouvé votre traitement commode récemment?</i>	<i>Dans quelle mesure avez-vous trouvé votre traitement flexible récemment?</i>
Germany	Wie praktisch/bequem finden Sie Ihre Behandlung in letzter Zeit?	Wie zufrieden sind Sie mit der Flexibilität Ihrer Behandlung in letzter Zeit?
Switzerland	Wie <i>einfach zu handhaben</i> finden Sie Ihre Behandlung in der letzten Zeit?	<i>Wie flexibel finden Sie Ihre Behandlung in der letzten Zeit?</i>

Differences within languages between countries (coloured text)	
UK	I feel downhearted and blue
India	I feel <i>sad and low</i>
Canada	I feel downhearted and <i>in low spirits</i>
Spain	A veces lloro o tengo ganas de llorar
Mexico	<i>Tengo ataques de llanto o siento</i> que quiero llorar
US	<i>Tengo episodios de llanto o siento</i> ganas de llorar
France	J'ai des crises de larmes ou je ressens l'envie de pleurer
Canada	J'ai des crises de larmes ou <i>j'ai</i> envie de pleurer