



EORTC QLQ Fall Meeting Southampton Nov. 2006

**Translation and Cultural Adaptation
Special Interest Group (TCA-SIG)
within
ISOQOL**

Report on the Lisbon Oct. 2006 Meeting



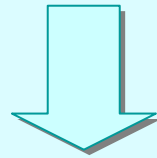
Context of TCA SIG's Work

- Different methodologies to achieve equivalence between source and target version of instrument
- Almost all involve the following elements:
 - *Definition of concepts of original instrument*
 - *Translation from source language into target language*
 - *Translation from target language into source language*
 - *Acceptability test of formulations used in target language*
 - *Comparison across source and target versions of language and psychometric components*
 - *Documentation of process*



Context of TCA SIG's Work

- All methodologies reveal problematic situations requiring solutions during cultural adaptation process



- Creation of TCA SIG in 2004
 - *Launched on 18 October 2004 in Hong Kong*
 - *Chaired by Katrin Conway and Donald Patrick*
 - *36 members*



TCA SIG objectives

- To identify and advance research in different areas of interest to all parties involved in the field of Translation and Cross-cultural Adaption;
- To ensure that cross-cultural issues receive sufficient visibility within ISOQOL's annual conferences



3 subgroups:

Review problematic situations to identify patterns and propose solutions

- **1st Subgroup:** leader Catherine Acquadro (caquadro@mapi.fr)
Objective: creation of a list of good practices for questionnaire developers based on the review of common translation difficulties and proposed solutions of how to avoid them
- **2nd Subgroup:** leader Sonya Eremenco (s-eremenco@northwestern.edu)
Objective: collection and review of existing classifications of equivalences and applications through concrete examples
- **3rd Subgroup:** leader Mona Martin (martin@hrainc.net)
Objective: identification of research agenda for development and comparison of methodologies in the field of translation and cross-cultural research



Subgroup 1: Common translation difficulties

- Collection of translation difficulty examples
- Review of examples and categorisation
- Recommendations / next steps



Subgroup 1: Common translation difficulties

- Examples collected by 4 teams of researchers in Germany, India, Italy and Russia

= same family of languages (Indo-European),
different branches



Subgroup 1: Common translation difficulties

Translating US incontinence questionnaire into German

- Original: «Incontinence is always on my mind»
«Extremely, quite a bit, moderately, a little bit, not at all»
- Issue: No German equivalent for idiomatic expression
- Solution: Use of frequency adverb in German sentence
(incontinence constantly occupies my mind) awkward in context
of response scale



Subgroup 2: Equivalences

Research Questions

Given the importance of response scales in PRO measurement:

- Are there different translations in the same languages of the same response scales?
- If yes, are there means of evaluating which is the optimal translation, and
- Should we move towards the establishment of official sets of translations per type of response scales?



Subgroup 2: Equivalences

Methods

- Creation of a database of response choices across languages
 - 5 point intensity scale:
 - *FACIT (Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy)*
 - *MSAS (Memorial Symptom Assessment Scale)*
 - Q-LES-Q (Quality of Life Enjoyment and Satisfaction Questionnaire): 2 different scales
 - *5 point frequency scale*
 - *5 point quality scale*
- Comparison of translations



Subgroup 2: Equivalences

Conclusions

- Type of scale matters:
 - *Frequency had more identical matches*
 - *Intensity had few*
 - *Quality had almost none, but not due to the scale itself, but mismatch with question*
- Same translation in different location on the scale may lead to measurement problems, unpoolable data



Subgroup 2: Equivalences

Research Proposal

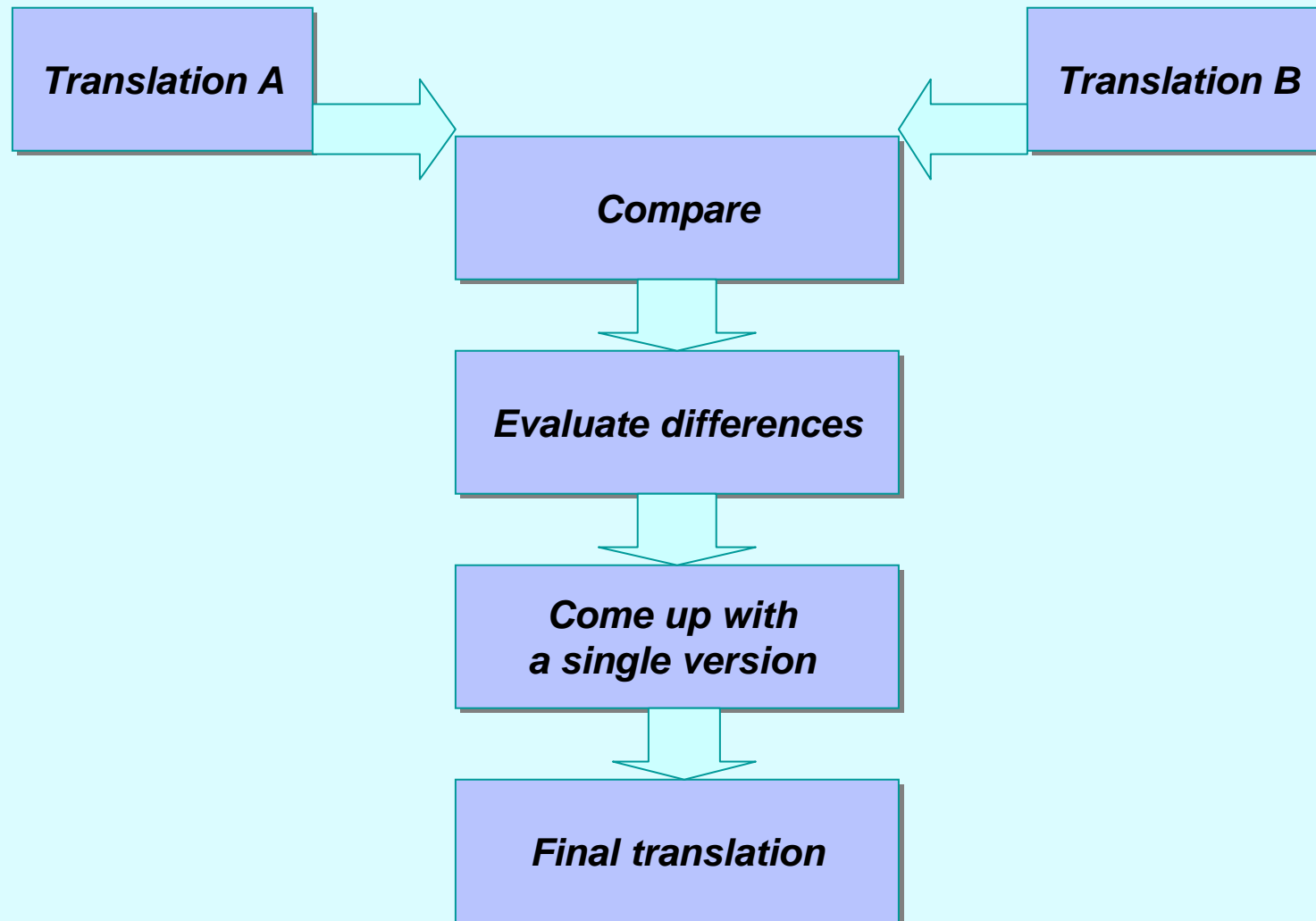
- Question: How do we decide what is the optimal rating scale translation when multiple options exist for each response choice?
- Assess equivalence qualitatively using cognitive debriefing or vignette approach:
 - *Linguistic*
 - *Conceptual*
- Assess using Q-SORT project (quantitative approach):
 - *All rating scale options are compiled from different sources*
 - *Mixed sample of patients and healthy population recruited*
 - *Present all options and ask patients to locate them on a 10 point scale or use VAS scale to locate problematic responses*
 - *Calculate median of each response to determine its location*
 - *Recommend translations located at the appropriate interval for the scale*
 - *Ex. 5 point scale = 0%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100%*
- Combine qualitative and quantitative approaches?

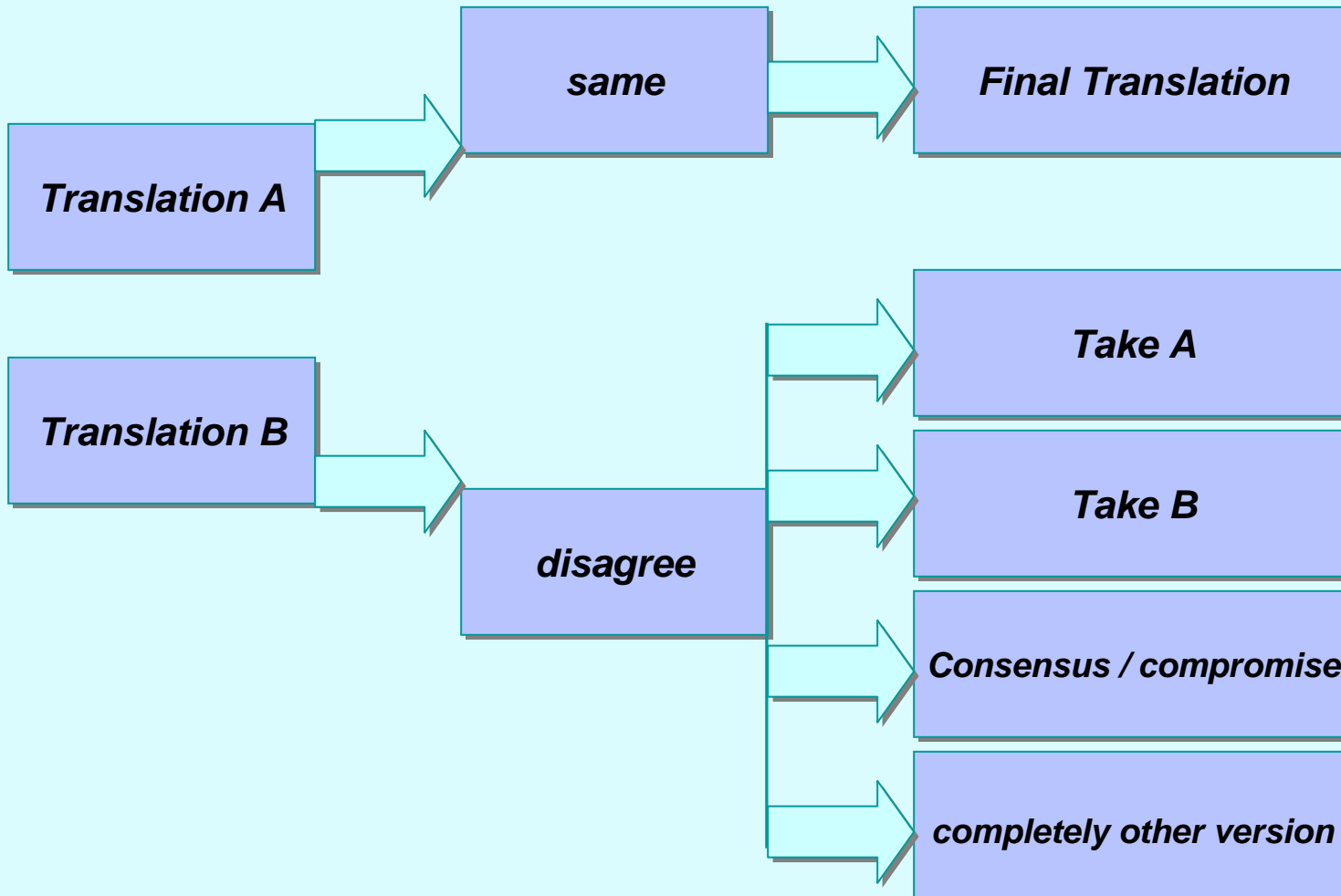


Subgroup 3: Methodologies

Four Work Groups:

1. *When should an original questionnaire and its translations be revised and updated?*
2. *Which aspect of the currently employed linguistic validation methodologies makes a difference?*
3. *What should be reported on a given linguistic validation and how should this be organized/presented?*
4. *What are the components of the «reconciliation» process?*







Who decides?

- Translation Coordinator / Agency alone
- Translation Coordinator / Agency in cooperation with Translators A and/or B
- Translation Coordinator / Agency in cooperation with a third party



Work Group Four

Focus: What are the components of the „reconciliation“ process? What are the criteria for decisions made at this point?

Initial Directions:

- Review the literature for evidences of methodological descriptions of the reconciliation process
- Interview researchers who use this step and obtain descriptions of what is done and what criteria are used for decision making
- Publication or presentation of a standardized definition of the reconciliation process