

## Models of Knowledge Translation

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**Abstract:** *The purpose of this paper is to present some conceptual models for the knowledge translation process in its extended semantic dimension. Knowledge translation is usually understood through its primary meaning of translating from one language into another language. However, knowledge translation is a concept with a larger semantic universe that has been used in the last years in many research domains, especially in healthcare systems. The basic idea is to maximize the knowledge transfer between a sender and a receiver understanding the knowledge deficit and the absorptive capacity of the receiver. The method used in this paper is a functional analysis of different types of knowledge transfer and of searching for their critical elements. Based on this functional analysis, the paper presents a series of knowledge translation models and some basic competencies needed for the people who initiate knowledge translation. Findings show the complexity of the expert knowledge translation and the need to transform the direct linear process into a series of several processes linked in a cascade. For each sequence, there is a smaller knowledge deficit than the initial one, such that the absorptive capacity of the receiver can accept it.*

**Keywords:** absorptive capacity; knowledge; knowledge dynamics; knowledge deficit; knowledge translation; expert knowledge translation model.

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### Introduction

*Knowledge translation* is a generic process we can find in almost all communications when the source and the target or the sender and the receiver of the messages have significant differences between their semantic universes. Thus, the translation process should not be considered identical to a communication one. A translation process implies communication between two actors, but communication does not necessarily imply a knowledge translation. The communication associated with knowledge translation is totally different from the mathematical communication theory created by Claude Shannon (1948). For Shannon, messages sent along a communication channel have no meaning. They are only groups of electrical signals without any attached semantics (Bratianu & Bejinaru, 2023). From the knowledge management perspective, communication is based on messages with meanings for both the sender and the receiver. Also, the communication process, and thus the translation process, implies data, information, knowledge, and knowledge dynamics (Bratianu, 2023).

Recently, *knowledge translation* received some extended interpretations and has been used as a research topic in the healthcare systems literature (Cobianchi, Dal Mas & Angelos, 2021; Dal Mas et al., 2020). It is considered as the process able to bridge the gap between research and practice in the healthcare systems (CIHR, 2004, 2016). Although it is a rather large semantic extension, the concept stimulated a lot of research and publications in the last few years. However, we consider that knowledge translation should be adequately understood, defined, and used. From this point of view, the literature shows an important gap, and the purpose of this paper is to reduce it by

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### How to cite

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