Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. The error exemplifies the reading's point that AI translation can produce a fluent-sounding translation that is medically inaccurate in ways that change the meaning of the original. 'Have you had any strange accidents?' is not a semantic equivalent of 'Have you experienced any unusual bleeding?' — it could lead a patient to answer incorrectly, which directly affects the clinical picture the doctor uses for diagnosis and treatment. Medical translation is high-stakes precisely because these inaccuracies have real health consequences.

2. An obvious error — like random foreign words remaining untranslated — signals clearly that something is wrong. A fluent but inaccurate translation sounds right, which means neither the provider nor the patient has any reason to question it. The error passes undetected. This is specifically more dangerous because confidence in the translation substitutes for verification, and in medical contexts, that confidence can lead to clinical decisions based on incorrect patient information.

Multiple Choice

1. A

2. C

3. B

Matching

1-E, 2-C, 3-B, 4-A, 5-D

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) factual, 2) fluent, 3) draft

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: The gap is caused directly by the amount of available bilingual training data — languages like Spanish and Mandarin have enormous amounts of translated text to learn from, while minority, indigenous, and less-documented languages have much less. The people most affected are speakers of low-resource languages, often immigrant communities and indigenous language communities, who may rely on AI translation without realizing the output quality is substantially lower and who cannot independently verify accuracy.

Q2: The most dangerous failure modes are in high-stakes contexts where errors have real consequences: medical consultations and consent forms where inaccurate

translation of symptoms or risks affects diagnosis and care; legal documents where subtle errors can change rights and obligations; and safety instructions where a partially correct translation can still lead to injury. In all of these contexts, the reading recommends using certified professional human translators rather than AI tools.

Q3: Democratizing language access means removing the financial and practical barriers to basic communication across languages — something that previously required expensive human interpreters or was simply impossible for many people. The people who benefit most are immigrants navigating English-language systems, multilingual families trying to support children in school, small businesses communicating with international customers, and students accessing foreign-language research sources. The limitation is that this democratization is uneven — it works well for major world languages but much less well for speakers of less-documented languages who may most need it.