



# Invisible Labor in Global Knowledge Translation

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# Framing the Questions

**Who sustains global knowledge translation?**

**Is translation merely dissemination — or co-creation?**

**What are the ethical limits of volunteerism?**

**How can partnerships become more equitable?**

# Cochrane: Global evidence, local languages

Cochrane aims for evidence equity through multilingual translations.

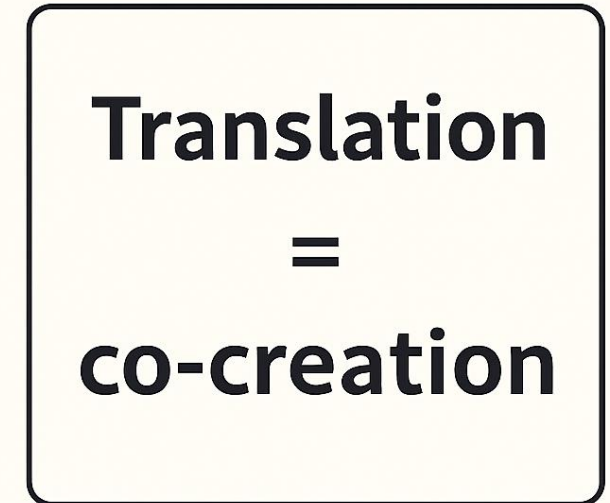
Yet power and labour remain unequally distributed.



# Knowledge translation $\neq$ dissemination

Translation is not just dissemination.

It is a co-creative act shaping local meaning  
and use.



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# Cochrane Malaysia experience

Since 2015: 4,000+ Malay translations, mostly by volunteers.

Visible impact, invisible labour.

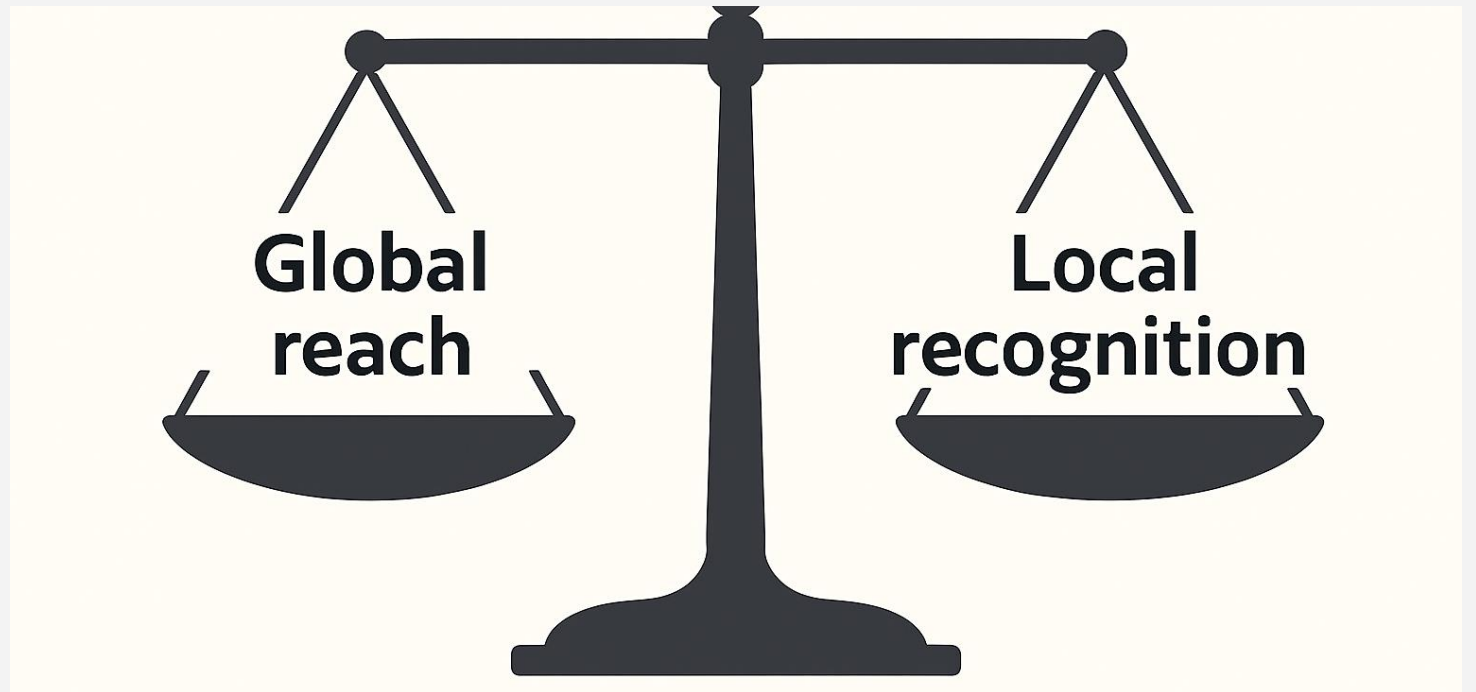


Page views of Cochrane Malay

Sasongko TH (2025) Bringing Evidence to Life. *Health Eval Promot*, 52(4): 619-623. <https://doi.org/10.7143/jhep.52.619>

# The paradox

**Global reach made possible by LMIC labour**  
**Local recognition and power remain marginal**



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# Labour ethics

When global systems rely on unpaid LMIC work, sustainability and fairness are at stake.

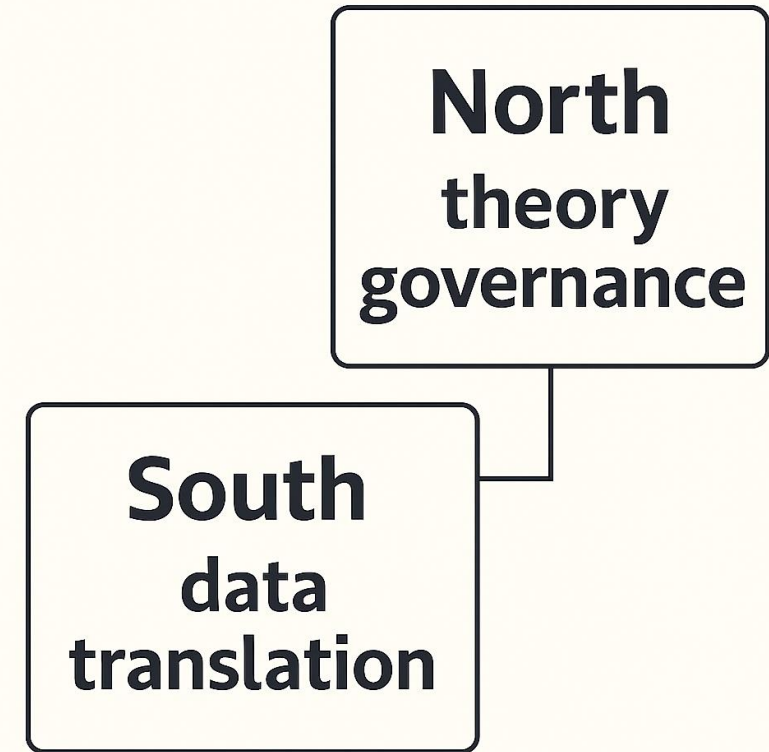


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# Epistemic injustice

**North defines expertise; South sustains global dissemination.**

**Translation mirrors dependency.**



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# Recognition gap

Thousands of hours of intellectual labour rarely earn authorship or academic credit.

## Nota terjemahan

Diterjemah oleh Yean Albert (Manipal Academy of Higher Education). Disunting oleh Shazlin Shahrudin (Universiti Sains Malaysia). Untuk sebarang pertanyaan berkaitan terjemahan ini sila hubungi [cochrane@rcsiucd.edu.my](mailto:cochrane@rcsiucd.edu.my)

## Petikan

Chong LY, Head K, Webster KE, Daw J, Strobel NA, Richmond PC, Snelling T, Bhutta MF, Schilder AGM, Brennan-Jones CG. Systemic antibiotics for chronic suppurative otitis media. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2025, Issue 6. Art. No.: CD013052. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD013052.pub3.

# Political economy of knowledge

Global division of labour:

South = data and language labour

North = theory and recognition.



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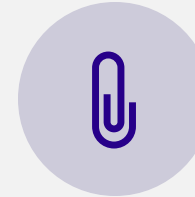
# Ethical questions



**What counts as partnership?**



**Is translation technical or creative?**



**How can labour and authorship be redistributed?**

# From critique to tools



Translation Equity  
Assessment Tool (TEAT):



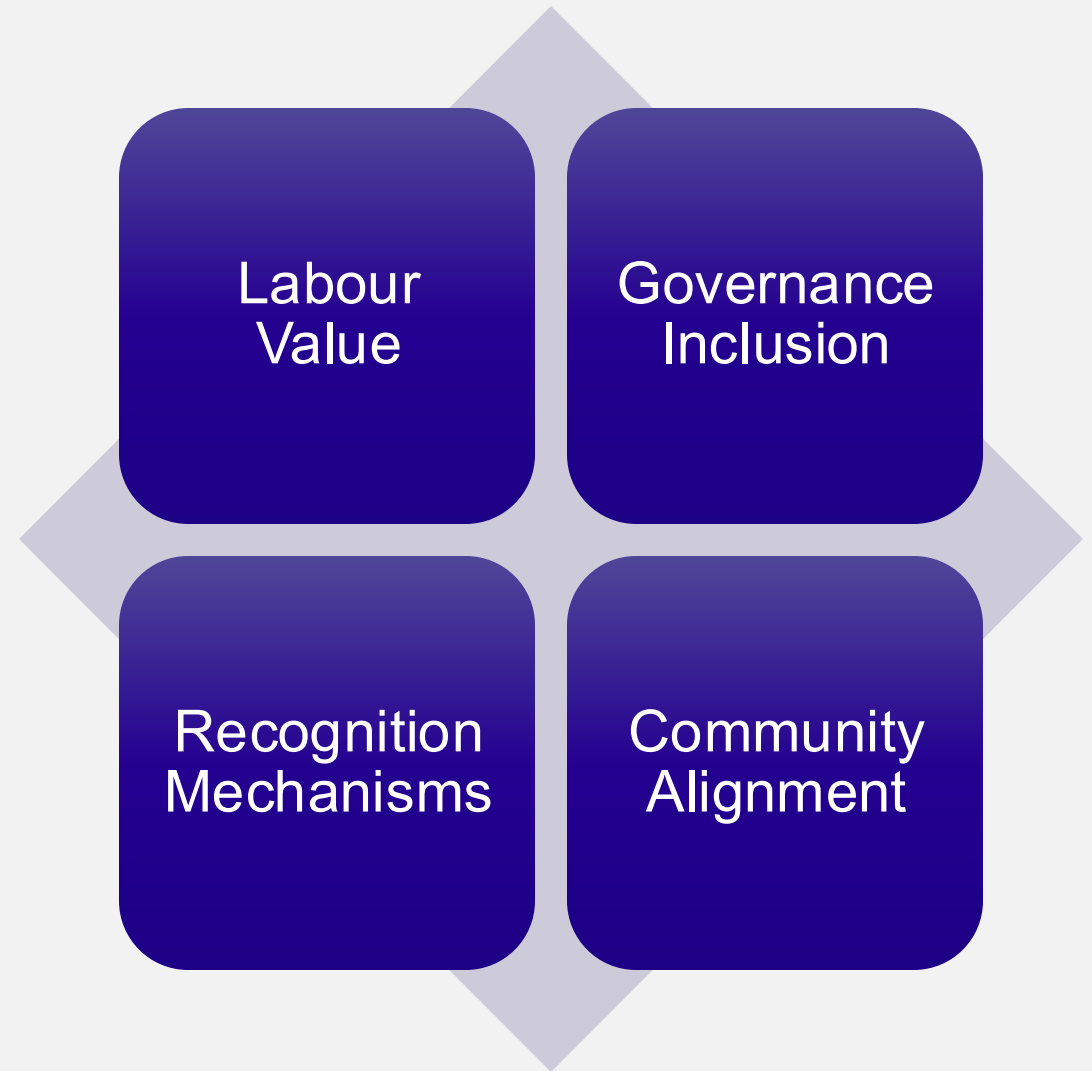
Assess equity in translation  
partnerships.



# TEAT



# TEAT dimensions



# Towards resilient partnerships

Resilience is ethical:

Acknowledging interdependence, redistributing governance and sustaining dignity in labor.



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# From dependency to autonomy

**Toward LMIC-led ecosystems:**

**Embed translation within local research pipelines and foster South–South collaboration.**



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# Closing

**Global partnerships must not reproduce the very inequities they seek to address**



# Thank you.

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