

Research on Translation Strategies for Chinese-Style Political Vocabulary——A Case Study of Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization

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Abstract

As China's national power and status rise, people around the world pay more and more attention to its national policies. In that case, it is more and more important to translate Chinese political texts correctly and disseminate correct policies. As the core of the text, political featured word needs to be translated appropriately by translators. This article discusses the characteristics and challenges of translating Chinese political word in Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization by analyzing the Chinese political word in the text. The article describes the timely, numerical and cultural characteristics of political word with Chinese characteristics, and analyses the translation methods for different conditions through specific cases, hoping to help readers translate political texts better.

Keywords

Chinese political word; translation strategy; digital expression; cultural heritage; political connotation

1. Introduction

Jin Shenghua wrote in his book A Long Bridge: "Translation is like a bridge with a very different climate and landscape at either side of it." In the dissemination of literature and culture, the translator acts like a bricklayer, building a bridge between two different cultures to connect them. Translation, as a crucial means of spreading local culture, is also an indispensable part of political and cultural exchanges be-

tween China and foreign countries. In recent years, with China's significantly enhanced international discourse power, its policy propositions and political stance have attracted growing global attention. Chinese-style political vocabulary, serving as an important window for the overseas world to understand China, continuously conveys the distinct voice of China in the new era. Through the correct translation of these terms, a real ideal of China can be presented to the world. These translations require not only precise linguistic conversion between Chinese and foreign languages but also careful consideration of their political connotations and cultural background. As the translation of Chinese characteristic vocabulary spans multiple domestic and international fields, its accuracy and appropriateness have become core issues urgently needing resolution in current research.

2. Characteristics of the Chinese-Style Socialist Language System

Firstly, from a linguistic typology perspective, Chinese belongs to the Sino-Tibetan language family, while English belongs to the Indo-European language family. The Sino-Tibetan language family emphasizes conciseness, tonal variation, and relatively simple grammatical rules, whereas the Indo-European language family exhibits a more systematic grammar and vocabulary structure through complex inflectional changes and polysyllabic construction. Secondly, Chinese-style political vocabulary has a short development history, emerging alongside revolutionary culture and flourishing due to its profound historical heritage.[1] This is fundamentally different from English, whose political language developed robustly after the Renaissance and has been continuously refined over time and historical events. Furthermore, China's political system differs fundamentally from those of Western countries. China's political system originates from the Sinicization of Marxism, combined with the influence of traditional Chinese culture, giving it distinct Chinese characteristics, while Western systems advocate for the separation and balance of powers, such as the trias politica. In the last, China is a socialist country, whereas English-speaking countries are capitalist countries, representing an essential distinction between the two. The differences in linguistic typology lead to distinct linguistic features between Chinese and English, and different political systems determine divergent social characteristics and political thinking modes between China and English-speaking countries. Therefore, the Chinese-style socialist language is fundamentally distinct from Western languages, having developed within a unique Chinese environment.

Chinese-style political vocabulary mainly exhibits the following characteristics:

First, Timeliness[2]. Chinese-style political vocabulary possesses distinct epochal characteristics, closely reflecting the political needs and social development trends of the nation in different historical periods. These terms are often proposed under specific historical backgrounds, possessing strong timeliness, and keeping pace with the times to accurately express the themes of the era. For example, "Xi Jinping

Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era" proposed at the 19th CPC National Congress represents a new chapter in the development of the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, marking China's entry into a new era and outlining new historical tasks and political directions. Similarly, other political terms like "Comprehensively Deepening Reforms" and "Innovation-Driven Development" emerged in response to specific historical conditions, meeting the needs of social development at the time and driving the transformation of the nation's politics and economy. These politically relevant and timely terms not only respond to major domestic and international challenges but also stimulate societal attention and support for the nation's future development.

Second, Digital Nature. Another prominent feature of Chinese-style political vocabulary is its digital expression. Many political concepts are expressed in numerical form, making them more concise, clear, and easier to disseminate and remember. For instance, strategies like the "Five-Sphere Integrated Plan," the "Four-Pronged Comprehensive Strategy," and the "two unswerving efforts" use concise combinations of numbers and keywords to lend greater generality and systematicity to complex political concepts, effectively enhancing the expressive efficiency of political language. This digital expression method not only facilitates understanding and implementation by officials and the public but also makes policy execution and supervision clearer. Moreover, such digital vocabulary summarizes specific work directions and priorities in a succinct manner, facilitating implementation and inspection, thereby significantly improving the operability and effectiveness of policies.

Third, Cultural Nature. Chinese-style political vocabulary is deeply connected to China's historical culture. Many political terms embody the unique connotations of traditional Chinese culture. These terms are not only manifestations of political ideas but also represent the inheritance of China's profound culture. For example, the "Belt and Road" initiative both inherits the ancient Silk Road and infuses contemporary significance. Additionally, due to the vastness and rich connotations of the Chinese language, many terms employ vivid imagery and precise completeness through puns. For instance: the expression "enlivening what should be enlivened and regulating what should be regulated" visually embodies the flexibility and standardization within the socialist system with Chinese characteristics. It emphasizes ensuring social order stability while promoting economic development. This expression aligns well with the "doctrine of the mean" (Zhongyong) in Chinese cultural thought, highlighting the profound influence of traditional Chinese culture. Chinese-style political vocabulary holds substantive significance not only at theoretical and policy levels but also deeply reflects China's social value system and cultural identity, enhancing cultural confidence in policies and social recognition.

3. Literature Review

In recent years, several scholars have conducted research on the translation of Chi-

nese-style political vocabulary, but these studies have often been confined to specific linguistic perspectives. For example, Zhu Yaowu[3] limited his research on translating Chinese-style political vocabulary to the perspective of linguistic power. Although the author proposed corresponding translation methods based on different characteristics such as political fidelity, target language conventions, and implicit information, the research materials used were outdated, and the perspective was narrow. Furthermore, other translators cannot immediately analyze the linguistic power category of Chinese political vocabulary.[4] Therefore, this paper adopts a more direct lexical analysis, classifying and analyzing vocabulary based directly on its literal semantics.

4. Analysis of Typical Vocabulary Translation in Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization

Chinese characters have been a systematic script since the Shang Dynasty around the 16th century BC. Accompanying the continuous changes of dynasties and historical development, they possess profound connotations, characterized by high conciseness and rhetorical sophistication, which is particularly prominent in political texts. Conciseness refers to the ability of Chinese characters to convey rich meanings through simple forms and brief expressions. For example, ancient imperial decrees and political edicts often used concise language, expressing complex political intentions and strategic thoughts in the briefest sentences. Rhetorical sophistication refers to the artistic embodiment of Chinese characters in linguistic expression. In political texts, rhetorical devices often serve to enhance expressive effect and the impact of the writing. Through rhetorical devices such as metaphors, parallelism, and antithesis, political documents not only convey specific policy content but also move readers and elicit resonance. For instance, in Mao Zedong's *The Fundamental Problems of Hunan Construction*, it states: "我们的力量在于人民，我们的道路是人民的道路，人民的力量大无穷。" ("Our strength lies in the people, our path is the people's path, the people's strength is boundless.") This sentence structure repeatedly emphasizes the "people's" strength using parallel rhetoric, strengthening the rhythmic sense of the language and embedding the political concept deeply in people's minds, enhancing its appeal. Therefore, when translating political texts and characteristic terms, translators must understand the main idea the original text intends to convey and choose appropriate translation methods for suitable translation.

Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization is an important document adopted at the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee on July 18, 2024. It expounds on the great significance and overall re-

quirements, overall layout, and key tasks of further comprehensively deepening reforms and advancing Chinese modernization. Both in terms of timeliness and importance, this document covers China's primary political objectives in recent years. Therefore, this paper uses it as an example to analyze typical proper terms within it.

4.1. Proper Terms Using Metaphor

Political texts often feature proper Terms employing metaphorical techniques with symbolic meanings. For example: "敢于突进深水区，敢于啃硬骨头，敢于涉险滩。" ("Dare to advance into deep waters, dare to gnaw at hard bones, dare to traverse dangerous shoals.") This sentence vividly depicts courage and determination in facing challenges through lively metaphors. The official translation is: "We have dared to brave uncharted waters, grapple with tough problems, and navigate potential dangers." The terms "deep waters" ("深水区"), "hard bones" ("硬骨头"), and "dangerous shoals" ("险滩") are not translated literally but are skillfully transformed into equally symbolic expressions in English.

Firstly, the three characteristic nouns. "Deep waters" ("深水区") is translated as "uncharted waters." This translation preserves the implied nature of the unknown and challenging associated with "深水区," emphasizing entering a domain without a clear path, aligning with the metaphorical meaning of confronting unknown and complex situations. "Hard bones" ("硬骨头") is translated as "tough problems," directly converting it into "difficult problems." This captures the image of difficulty and hardship conveyed by "硬骨头" while accurately transmitting the necessity of solving hard challenges. "Dangerous shoals" ("险滩") is translated as "potential dangers," effectively conveying the implied potential hazards of "险滩."

Secondly, the pairing of the three verbs is also very appropriate. "Dare to advance" ("敢于突进"), "dare to gnaw at" ("敢于啃"), and "dare to traverse" ("敢于涉") in Chinese express attitudes of proactive, firm, and resolute action. The English translations "brave," "grapple with," and "navigate" correspond cleverly, conveying similar emotional and action intentions. "Brave" (courageously face) emphasizes the difficulty and uncertainty of the challenge, echoing the determination in "敢于突进," and demonstrates the courage to confront difficulties. "Grapple" (wrestle) precisely converts the sense of "gnawing at hard bones," highlighting the arduous process requiring great effort to solve difficult problems. "Navigate" (sail through, steer) resonates with the action "涉" (traverse) in "涉险滩," emphasizing the action of cautious and precise maneuvering through difficulties.

Therefore, when dealing with such metaphorical proper nouns, it is necessary to understand the context and adopt the method of free translation. This translation not only accurately conveys the meaning of the Chinese metaphors but also preserves their imagery and strong dynamism, enabling target-language readers to understand and feel the same determination and courage. By appropriately transforming the metaphors, the translation maintains linguistic conciseness while more

effectively conveying the text's embedded emotions and ideas, enhancing expressive power.[5]

4.2. Digital Abbreviations

The use of digital abbreviations is highly frequent in government documents, such as "五位一体" (Five-Sphere Integrated Plan) and "四个全面" (Four-Pronged Comprehensive Strategy). These terms possess high generality and rigor. Through just a few characters, they can summarize the intended meaning, while the omission of words and introduction of numbers make the textual language structure more compact, thus lending the article's language a more formal tone. However, most of these digital abbreviations specifically refer to policies. Therefore, to ensure readers accurately understand the meaning of these policies, in official documents, if such terms appear for the first time, they are often explained in the translation or footnotes. For example, "五位一体" is translated in a footnote on page 4 of the translation as 'The Five-Sphere Plan is to promote coordinated economic, political, cultural, social, and ecological advancement.' Within the main text, the abbreviation "Five-Sphere Integrated Plan" is used instead of the full expression. Furthermore, there is the experience of the "千万工程" (Ten Million Project). To avoid ambiguity and ensure readers understand its connotative meaning, the translation supplements the missing contextual information, explaining that "千万工程" refers to a specific case, translating it as 'the experience gained from the Green Rural Revival Program in Zhejiang Province'. A simple translation like "Ten Million Project" experience could cause reader confusion; readers unfamiliar with past Chinese policies would not understand the specific project it refers to. The official translation specifically explains the project represented by "千万工程," facilitating readers' connection to the "Thousand Villages Demonstration and Ten Thousand Villages Remediation" project in Zhejiang Province since 2003. If needed, readers can seek further information. Therefore, when translating characteristic vocabulary of the digital abbreviation type, translators need to understand what these abbreviated expressions specifically point to and selectively supplement explanations either in the main text or in footnotes.

4.3. Omission of Function Words

Chinese characteristic terms often pair with function words, which is very common in government documents, especially when expressing policies, goals, or development directions. The use of function words can enhance the generality and abstractness of the language. For instance, expressions like "促进政务服务标准化、规范化、便利化" ("Promote the standardization, normalization, and facilitation of government services") use noun suffixes like "标准化" ("standardization"), "规范化" ("normalization"), and "便利化" ("facilitation") to convey government policy goals while emphasizing the direction and specific steps of reform.

During translation, the function word "化" (-ization, -ification) is often omitted first. "化" is a function word that converts a noun into an action or state, commonly used to express policy intentions. However, in English, this structure often appears redundant. Therefore, omitting "化" during translation makes the expression more concise and fluent. "便利化" ("facilitation") is translated as "accessible," directly describing the state of being made convenient, omitting the "-ization" aspect. Translations like this omission are not only concise and clear but also conform to English language conventions. Secondly, the nouns "标准" ("standard"), "规范" ("norm/procedure"), and "便利" ("convenience/access") are transformed into adjectives like "standardized," "procedure-based," and "accessible." In English, these adjectives can directly modify nouns (like "government services"), making the sentence structure more aligned with English expression habits. This translation approach is concise, precise, avoids the lengthy expression in Chinese, and ensures the clear transmission of policy objectives in English.

This translation method not only simplifies the sentence structure linguistically but also ensures that the concepts expressed in the Chinese original are accurately conveyed in English. The omission of function words and the adjectivization of nouns streamline the original culture, making the English translation more compliant with the grammatical norms and expression habits of the target language, while simultaneously maintaining the precision and conciseness of the policy content.[6]

4.4. Structural Vocabulary

In political articles, to clearly indicate the importance or function of policies, characteristic structural vocabulary like "整体" (overall/whole), "侧面" (aspect), and "外部" (external) is often used. These terms usually have clear concepts and are easy to understand. For example, terms like "内部改革" (internal reform) and "一体化管理" (integrated management), through literal translation, enable readers to quickly grasp their meanings and accurately convey policy intentions. The phrase "内部改革" expresses a series of changes and adjustments conducted internally within an organization, institution, or country, aimed at improving efficiency, optimizing management, or driving development. Since "内部" ("internal") itself has a clear referential role, and "改革" ("reform") is a universally understood concept in the international political context, translating it literally as "internal reform" is not only concise and clear but also directly conveys the object and direction of the reform targeted by the policy. "一体化管理" ("integrated management") is typically used to describe integrating different parts or levels of a management system into a unified, coordinated management system. It emphasizes unity and collaboration, aiming to break down barriers in information or action and enhance overall effectiveness. In English, "integrated" inherently carries the meaning of fusion and unity, and "management" is a common management term. Therefore, translating it literally as "integrated management" preserves the original meaning and achieves accurate transmission in

the target language. Thus, when translating such simple structural vocabulary, only a literal translation of their structural meaning is needed to clearly convey the intended message.

5. Conclusion

The translation of Chinese-style political vocabulary is not merely a process of linguistic conversion but also a bridge for the dissemination of culture and political concepts. Against the backdrop of Sino-foreign political and cultural exchange, translating these Chinese-characteristic terms requires both a deep understanding of the original language and its political connotations, and ensuring that China's policy intentions are conveyed precisely and effectively in the target language. Through the specific case analyses above, we can see that whether using literal or free translation, the work of translating these terms must pursue not only linguistic conciseness and fluency but also pay attention to the accuracy and appropriateness of the translated text. During the translation process, how to preserve the characteristics of Chinese political discourse and how to build effective communication bridges between different languages and cultures are key issues every translator must face. Additionally, the acceptability and comprehensibility of these translations to the reader must be considered. Only in this way can the true voice of China be conveyed and correct Chinese concepts be expressed.

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