Literature, Language and Cultural Studies
ISSN Print: 3079-5095
ISSN Online: 3079-5109
https://doi.org/10.63313/LLCS.9123

A Study on Translation Strategies of Three-character Phrases in the Government Work Report

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How to cite this paper: Zhong, Q. (2026). A Study on Translation Strategies of Three-character Phrases in the Government Work Report. *Literature, Language and Cultural Studies*, 4(1), 19-34. ISSN Print: 3079-5095; ISSN Online: 3079-5109.
https://doi.org/10.63313/LLCS.9123
Published: 2026-01-13

Abstract

As a kind of idiom and a special language symbol, the difficulty of translation in Chinese three-character phrase is self-evident. In this study, the original text of the Government Work Report (hereinafter referred to as the GWR) from 2020 to 2022 and the official English translation are used as the corpus to classify the three-character phrases and explore their translation strategies under the guidance of Reception Aesthetics theory. It is found that in the GWRs of recent 3 years, there are mainly four types of three-character phrases: verb-object three-character phrases, modifier-modified three-character phrases, derivative three-character phrases and other types of three-character phrases; On the basis of being faithful to the original text, the translator takes into account the readers' acceptance as much as possible, and adopts two translation strategies: literal translation and liberal translation. This study aims to provide certain references for translators and later scholars.

Keywords

Government Work Report (GWR); Reception Aesthetics Theory; Three-character Phrase; Translation Strategy

1. Introduction

Since the beginning of the 21st century, China has been increasingly active on the international stage and has gradually stepped into the center of the world stage, attracting more and more attention. In order to better understand China, people around the world have paid great attention to the GWR. This requires us to attach importance to the English translation of the GWR, strengthen international publicity and make full use of the translated version to promote international communication. The official translation of the GWR is highly respected because it is faithful to the original text and accurately conveys the information of the original text. The translation of three-character phrases in the GWR is also worth our attention. As a kind of idiom, three-character phrases are a kind of special language symbols, and

implicit expression of the real meaning of human beings. The three-character phrases are a kind of language vocabulary with distinctive features in form and a special lexical phenomenon. Their appearance is the result of the long-term development and use of Chinese.

Compared with other phrases, when translators encounter three-character phrases in translation, they can find it more difficult to understand and the difficulty of translation will also rise because, first of all, they need to have a correct understanding of the meaning of the phrases. After fully understanding the connotation of the phrases, they not only need to accurately convey the original meaning, but also let the target language readers feel the vivid language expression and avoid far-fetched language. Due to its unique linguistic phenomenon, the translation of the three-character phrase has become a difficulty in the translation of GWR by China Foreign Languages Publishing Administration. The quality of translation directly affects the impression of foreign readers on China. The official translation gives a detailed interpretation of the meaning of words in three-character phrases, and properly handles the relationship between Chinese and English. While retaining the connotation of Chinese culture, it enables English readers from different cultural backgrounds around the world to understand these phrases as accurately and naturally as they read the source language.

2. Application of Reception Aesthetics Theory into Translation

After conducting a search on CNKI, it is apparent that there have been numerous studies on the application of Reception Aesthetics theory in translation. However, the majority of these studies have focused on literary translation. Nonetheless, there have been studies that have applied this theory to other forms of translation, including advertising language, film title, poetry, and subtitle translation.

Zhang Xiaoping (2002) discussed cultural differences in literary translation from the perspective of reception, and believed that translators should consider readers' receptivity and take readers as the center in translation, so as to achieve the purpose of cultural transplantation and communication on the basis of correct translation. Sun Shufen (2007) introduced the relationship between Reception Aesthetics theory and literary translation. Based on the interpretation of the meaning of text by the Reception Aesthetics theory and the understanding of the reader-centered position, she explained that literary translation took readers' reading and creative interpretation as the meaning of text, forming a paradigm of reader-centered theory, and analyzed the influence and role of receivers in literary translation from the perspective of translators and target language readers. Starting from the Reception Aesthetics theory, Men Dongmei (2016) emphasized that the translation of children's literature should fully consider the thinking ability and understanding of children from the perspective of children, which reflected the reader-centered principle of this theory.

Xie Hua (2000) chose the translation of advertising language as his research object, discussed the influence of Reception Aesthetics theory on advertising language translation from the perspective of translators and target language readers, and advocated that in the process of advertising language translation, readers should be regarded as the subject and their initiative and receptivity should be grasped to achieve better translation. Peng Xiaoxi (2007) explained the translation of film titles from the perspective of audience's expectation, aesthetic distance as well as receptiveness, and truly realized that audience's reading and acceptance of film titles is a kind of creative aesthetic behavior. Guan Zhenbin (2009), on the basis of the Reception Aesthetics theory, appreciated the translation of poetry, believing that many uncertain points and meaning gaps in poetry enable the recipients to develop associations, and the horizon of expectation makes these associations different, so that different readers gave different translations. Guided by Reception Aesthetics theory, Zhang Xiaoshi and Gao Mei (2019) analyzed documentary subtitle translation from the perspectives of expectation horizon, aesthetic distance and visual integration, and provided a new perspective for documentary subtitle translation when considering the audience's acceptance of subtitles.

From these research results, it can be found that relevant studies have explored the translation of various texts from several main ideas of Reception Aesthetics theory, but no matter which idea they start from, they will eventually highlight the centrality of the receivers. This is also a major contribution of Reception Aesthetics theory, which establishes the central position of target language readers. According to Jauss (1989), the traditional external research (author-centered theory) and internal research (text-centered theory) of literary works cut the connection between literary works and readers without considering the active participation of readers. However, as a matter of fact, works are eager to be read by readers and seek dialogue with them. As Reception Aesthetics puts the relationship between works and readers in the primary position of literary research and fully acknowledges the creative role of readers in the meaning and aesthetic value of works, the trend of literary research has undergone fundamental changes (Cao Yinghua, 2003). Reception Aesthetics theory not only expands the space of literary studies, but also brings a profound ideological revolution to literary translation studies, changes the traditional view of translation and provides a brand new theoretical perspective and research methods for translation studies (Ma Xiao, 2000).

Due to psychological conditions, social environment and other factors, readers have different understandings of the same problem. In this case, for translators, it is necessary to take into account the acceptability of readers to a great extent. If we blindly emphasize the main position of translators and ignore the needs of target readers, the quality of translation will be greatly impaired. Although Reception Aesthetics initially appeared with the translation of literary works as the main

object, its appearance also played a role in the translation of other kinds of texts. For English-Chinese translation, the English culture in the translation is relatively massive, which is easy for Chinese readers to understand and receive. However, for Chinese-English translation of political texts, because the language is full of Chinese cultural characteristics and the overall acceptance level of foreign readers to Chinese culture is not as good as the overall acceptance level of Chinese readers to foreign culture, when translating Chinese into English, we should pay special attention to the use of Reception Aesthetics theory, put the target language readers in the central position, so that foreign readers can have a more correct and profound understanding of Chinese culture.

3. Quantitative Distribution and Structure Classification of Chinese Three-character Phrases in the GWR from 2020 to 2022

This chapter is divided into three parts. The first part gives a detailed statistic on three-character phrases appearing in the GWR from 2020 to 2022. The second part, based on the previous scholars' research, discusses the classification of these three-character phrases.

3.1. Quantitative Distribution of Three-character Phrases

Reviewing the GWRs over the years, it can be found that the number of three-character phrases is particularly large. Taking the GWR from 2020 to 2022 as the research corpus, this paper makes a statistical analysis of three-character phrases in the GWRs of these 3 years. It can be found that there are 122 three-character phrases in the 2020 GWR. In the 2021 GWR, there are 130 three-character phrases. In the 2022 GWR, there are 166 three-character phrases. A total of 418 three-character phrases in these 3 years. After removing the same phrases, it finds a total of 222 different three-character phrases. According to the statistical results, the occurrence frequency of three-character phrases is high but their repetition rate is also high. Additionally, in GWRs of the same year or different years, the translation of the same three-character phrase is not identical. The following will make a detailed exploration of the classification of three-character phrase in the GWRs of 2020, 2021 and 2022 based on the research of previous scholars.

Table 1. Quantitative Distribution of Three-character Phrases in the GWR

GWR	Three-character Phrases
2020 GWR	122
2021 GWR	130
2022 GWR	166
Total	418
Total (removing the same phrases)	222

3.2. Structure Classification of Three-character Phrases

Chinese three-character phrases have their own characteristics. As an idiom, they exist in our daily life in large numbers. Through the analysis of previous studies on Chinese three-character phrases, it can be found that scholars have carried out some research on the three-character phrase, but there is almost no research on the three-character phrase in the GWR. Scholars mainly study the source, form, meaning and internal structure of the idioms of the three-character phrase. Their research on the three-character phrase varies, but the most common research is to classify and analyze the internal structure of three-character phrases from the semantic perspective.

Liu Shuzhen (2007) categorized three-character phrases into verb-object structure, modifier-modified structure and subject-predicate structure. Similar to Liu Shuzhen (2007), Ma Li Jun and Zhang Jijia (2011) classified three-character idiomatic expressions from semantic properties and their relationships, mainly dividing them into verb-object structure and modifier-modified structure. Zhang Xin (2012) divided these three-character phrases into six categories: modifier-modified structure, verb-object structure, subject-predicate structure, associative structure, middle-complement structure and object-verb structure, which is more detailed than the classification of the above four scholars. Fu Ting (2013) also classified the internal structure of Chinese three-character phrases by taking modern Chinese dictionary as the corpus, but she also discussed the internal structure and syllables of three-character phrases and their relationship with traditional culture.

Guo Zhen (2017) analyzed the three-character structure idiomatic expressions from three aspects: structural features, pragmatic features and rhetorical features. In the structural features, they are mainly divided into narrated object structure and modifier-modified structure. She highlighted three pragmatic characteristics: derogatory color, concise integrity, and colloquial language, often using metaphor, metonymy, exaggeration, and homophonic devices. In addition, scholars Chen Changxue and Zhang Dabin (2019) explored the translation techniques of Chinese three-character phrases and divided them into six common structures, including verb-object structure, modifier-modified structure, derivative structure, verb-complement structure, parallel structure and subject-predicate structure. Based on the previous scholars' research and the three-character phrases in the GWR, the author divides the three-character phrases in the GWR into verb-object three-character phrases, modifier-modified three-character phrases, derivative three-character phrases and other types of three-character phrases, and then studies their translation strategies respectively.

3.2.1. Verb-object Three-character Phrases

For Chinese, the verb-object three-character case is relatively simple, and most of the phrases can be understood based on our current knowledge, but we need to pay more attention to English translation. A study of the GWR in the past 3 years shows

that verb-object three-character phrase appears more frequently, usually in the form of "verb plus object" of "1 plus 2", and most of these phrases contain positive meanings, such as “稳就业”,“保民生”,“调结构”,“反腐败”,“抓发展”in the 2020 GWR,“减费用”,“反垄断”,“解民忧”,“纾民困”in the 2021 GWR,“跨周期”,“推改革”,“过难关”,“补短板”,“办实事”in the 2022 GWR. Some of these phrases can be found in English, and some need to be explained, otherwise it is easy to cause misunderstanding. The correct translation of these phrases will help the readers of the target language to correctly understand the connotation of the phrases.

Table 2. Chinese-English Glossary of Verb-object Three-character Phrases

抓春耕	keep up with the spring farming schedule	解民忧	resolve the difficulties of our people
稳就业	stabilize employment/maintain stable employment	纾民困	resolve the difficulties of our people
保民生	ensure living standards/ensure people's wellbeing/ensure public wellbeing/basic living needs meet basic living needs	稳地价	keep the prices of land stable/keep land costs stable
促消费	stimulate consumption/boost consumption	稳房价	keep the prices of housing stable/keep housing prices stable
有决心	have the resolve	稳预期	keep market expectations stable
有能力	have the ability	多增收	earn higher incomes
长技能	improve their skills	有奔头	embrace a brighter future/bright prospects
促增收	promote income growth	跨周期	make cross-cyclical adjustments
惠民生	benefit the people	逆周期	make counter-cyclical adjustments
调结构	facilitate structural adjustments/promote structural adjustment	稳外贸	ensure stable performance in foreign trade
增后劲	enhance the sustainability of growth	稳外资	ensure stable performance in foreign investment
保就业	ensure employment/job security	稳出口	maintain steady growth in exports
保运转	ensure normal operations	防风险	guard against risks
有收入	have income	稳增长	keep growth stable
促改革	make opening up a catalyst for reform	推改革	carry out reform
促发展	make opening up a catalyst for development	过难关	get through challenging times
抓发展	pursue development/promote development	补短板	shore up weak links
反腐败	fight corruption	稳订单	receive orders
开好局	set the stage	稳生产	maintain production
起好步	set the stage	降成本	help lower costs
减环节	reduce the procedures	提效率	raise efficiency
减材料	reduce the documents	察实情	understand the realities
减时限	reduce the time	办实事	take specific steps
减费用	reduce the expenses	求实效	deliver solid outcomes
反垄断	step up efforts against business monopolies/take action against business monopolies	有作为	yield good return

3.2.2. Modifier-modified Three-character Phrases

Liu Shuzhen (2007) believes that the first level of the three-character phrase is the modifier-modified relation, that is, the relation between morphemes with modification restriction and modifier-modified restriction, and the second level can be the orientation relation, association relation, verb-object relation, modifier-modified relation or other relations. As the most common three-character phrase in Chinese, it can be divided into two categories, one is "1 plus 2" structure and the other is "2 plus 1" structure. "1 plus 2" structures as “硬任务”,“新动

能”,“深加工”in the 2020 GWR, “双循环”,“高素质”,“不平衡”in the 2021 GWR,“全方位”,“多层次”,“高耗能”in the 2022 GWR. "2 plus 1" structures as “攻坚战”,“摘帽县”in the 2020 GWR,“贫困县”,“贫困村”in the 2021 GWR, “任务重”,“挑战多”in the 2022 GWR. In the GWR of the past 3 years, this kind of phrases appear especially frequently. Compared with the first structure, the translation of the modifier-modified three-character phrase will be more difficult.

Table 3. Chinese-English Glossary of Modifier-modified Three-character Phrases

攻坚战	critical battles	零就业	zero-employment
共同体	community	再就业	find work
总体战	an all-out people’s war	大规模	large-scale
阻击战	an all-out people’s war	能消费	have the ability to spend
负增长	negative growth	愿消费	have the willingness to spend
产业链	industrial chains	能发展	develop
供应链	supply chains	非农化	for purposes other than agriculture
不担当	reluctant to take on responsibility/fail to fulfill their responsibilities/shirk their responsibilities	非粮化	for purposes other than specifically grain production
不作为	unwilling to perform their duties/unwilling to carry out their duties/fail to do their jobs	不平衡	imbalances
不会为	unable to perform their duties	不充分	inadequacies
乱作为	behave irresponsibly	不合理	unjustified
非急需	non-essential	乱收费	arbitrary charges
非刚性	non-obligatory	乱罚款	arbitrary fines
硬任务	an obligatory task	乱摊派	arbitrary quotas
增值税	VAT	不善为	unable to carry out their duties
好就业	secure jobs	贫困县	counties facing difficulty
新动能	new drivers	贫困村	villages facing difficulty
创业板	ChiNext stock market	排放量	the discharge
多层次	multi-tiered/multi-level	新变化	new changes
高质量	high-quality	保卫战	keep the skies blue, water clear, and land pollution-free
大保护	well-coordinated	常见病	common illness
摘帽县	counties that have recently eliminated poverty	慢性病	chronic diseases
能打工	have a job	可持续	sustainable
深加工	intensive processing	任务重	heavy tasks
中国梦	the Chinese Dream	挑战多	many challenges
米袋子	rice bag	高水平	high-standard
菜篮子	vegetable basket	全方位	comprehensive
正增长	growth	全链条	all stages/the entire chain
新成就	a new achievement	全领域	all sectors
新征程	a new journey	多渠道	multiple channels
新优势	new strengths	新业态	new forms
新发展	new development	新模式	new models
大循环	domestic circulation	无障碍	barrier-free
双循环	domestic circulation and international circulation	深层次	in-depth
引力场	magnet	高耗能	energy-intensive
高标准	high-quality/high-standard	高排放	high emissions
黑土地	chernozem soils	低水平	backward production capacity
新格局	a new stage/a new phase	敢担当	readily take responsibility
新突破	breakthroughs	善作为	ably perform their duties
高素质	top-performing		

3.2.3. Derivative Three-character Phrases

The derivative three-character phrase is similar to that of the modifier-modified three-character phrase. It is particularly similar to the "2 plus 1" three-character phrases in the modifier-modified three-character phrase, that is, the two-character verb, noun, adjective root plus one single-character affix. This kind of phrases are also rarely seen in the GWR. The author classifies most of the "2 plus 1" phrases in the GWR as derivative three-character phrases. It can be found that these three-character phrases usually take “性”, “率”, “化”, “力”, “者”, “权”, “链” as the main affixes, such as “决定性”, “失业率”, “劳动力” in the 2020 GWR, “兜底性”, “石漠化”, “用能权” in the 2021 GWR, “集成化”, “拉动力”, “贡献者” in the 2022 GWR. Compared with the first two, the translation of this kind of phrases is relatively simple and has certain rules to follow.

Table 4. Chinese-English Glossary of Derivative Three-character Phrases

决定性	crucial/decisive	连续性	continuity/consistent
失业率	unemployment/unemployment rate	稳定性	consistency
制造业	manufacturing	制度性	systematic
服务业	services	流动性	liquidity
结构性	structural	杠杆率	leverage ratio
发生率	ratio	差异化	differentiated
治愈率	the cure rate	机械化	mechanization
病亡率	the mortality rate	专业化	specialized
现代化	modernization	荒漠化	desertification
一般性	general	石漠化	rocky desertification
系统性	systemic	用能权	energy use rights
普惠型	inclusive	入园率	enrollment ratio
精准性	targeted	常态化	routine/regular
市场化	market-based/market-oriented	针对性	targeted
生产性	work-based/producer	赤字率	deficit-to-GDP ratio
劳动者	people	保障性	government-subsidized
法治化	law-based	全球性	global
国际化	internationalized	输入性	imported
自主权	power	有效性	effective
竞争力	competitiveness	粗放型	extensive
多元化	diverse	集成化	integrated
城镇化	urbanization	约束力	constraints
劳动力	worker	透明度	transparency
社会化	commercial	规模化	on a large scale
自由化	liberalization	拉动力	driving
便利化	facilitation	消费者	consumer
信息化	information	平衡性	balanced
担当者	official	协调性	coordinated
履职者	official	城市群	city clusters
凝聚力	bond of attachment	都市圈	metropolitan areas
数字化	digital	便利化	simplify
智能化	smart/digitalization	减量化	reduce waste
战略性	strategic	资源化	boost recycling

历史性	historic	一体化	integration
创新型	innovator	适应性	adaptability
阶段性	in this period/temporary	内涵式	to its full potential
安全观	security	价值观	value
基础性	meet essential needs	群众性	public
兜底性	ensure basic living standards for people in difficulty	中国化	Chinese
老龄化	aging		

3.2.4. Other Types of Three-character Phrases

In addition to verb-object structure, modifier-modified structure and derivative structure, the three-character phrase also includes associative structure, middle complement structure, parallel structure, verb-complement structure and subject-predicate structure, etc. Through the research on the recent 3 years of GWR, it is obvious that compared with the above three types of structures, these types are less, such as “党中央”,“放管服”,“停车难”,“点对点”,“碳达峰”,“网上办”,“进得来”,“挺得住”.Therefore, this thesis makes a comprehensive description of these three types of phrases. However, in the process of translation, these structures of phrases have very Chinese characteristics and are difficult to translate. On the basis of correct translation, translators need to explain them in detail when necessary, put target readers in the first place, and stand in the perspective of target readers to avoid causing their misunderstanding.

Table 5. Chinese-English Glossary of Other Types of Three-character Phrases

党中央	the Party Central Committee	网上办	be accessible online
供销社	supply and marketing cooperatives	掌上办	on cellphone applications
放管服	streamline administration and delegate power, improve regulation, and upgrade services	碳达峰	peak carbon dioxide emission
科创板	the Science and Technology Innovation Board/STAR Market	碳中和	carbon neutrality
后遗症	undesired consequences	一刀切	a one-size-fits-all approach
点对点	point-to-point	进得来	enter
停车难	the shortage of parking spaces	挺得住	stay afloat

4. Strategies for Translating Three-character Phrases in the GWR

Chinese three-character phrases are unique in their brevity and conciseness, and they often convey complex ideas and concepts. Translating these phrases into English can be challenging, as the meaning of the structure may not be immediately apparent to non-native speakers. Additionally, the cultural nuances and connotations associated with the structure must be taken into account. Based on the comparison between the official translation and the original text and guided by the Reception Aesthetics theory, this chapter firstly calculates the proportion of translation strategies adopted by the official translation. This paper mainly discusses the reader-centered principle of Reception Aesthetics theory, and literal translation and liberal translation can reflect the acceptability of target language readers to the greatest extent. Therefore, this paper analyzes translation strategies

from literal translation and liberal translation. Secondly, this chapter takes the GWR from 2020 to 2022 as the corpus, making use of the Reception Aesthetics theory to carry on the case analysis of the official English translation. Finally, the use of translation strategies is also evaluated.

4.1. Translation Strategies of Verb-object Three-character Phrases

Table 6. Distribution of Each Translation Strategy of Verb-object Three-character Phrases

Translation Strategies	Percentage
Literal Translation	68%
Liberal Translation	32%

4.1.1. Literal Translation

Eg 1：要用改革开放办法，稳就业、保民生、促消费，拉动市场、稳定增长。

We must pursue reform and opening up as a means to stabilize employment, ensure people's wellbeing, stimulate consumption, energize the market, and achieve stable growth.

The meaning of 稳就业 (stabilize employment), 保民生 (ensure people's wellbeing), and 促消费 (stimulate consumption) can be accurately translated into English verbs and nouns respectively. The translator has chosen to translate each Chinese verb and object separately, without causing confusion for the target readers. This approach ensures that the meaning of the original text is conveyed accurately in English.

Eg 2：深化"证照分离"改革，大力推进涉企审批减环节、减材料、减时限、减费用。

We will advance the reform for separating operating permits from business licenses, and devote major efforts to reducing the procedures, documents, time, and expenses required for government review of applications by enterprises.

The phrases 减环节, 减材料, 减时限 and 减费用 form a parallel structure of the verb-object type, consisting of three characters each. These phrases can be translated into "reducing the procedures, reducing the documents, reducing the time and reducing expenses" respectively. However, the translator recognizes the relationship between these phrases and opts for a more concise translation by rendering them as "streamlining". While this translation accurately conveys the intended meaning, it could be considered a liberal translation in terms of the relationship between the phrases. Although each individual phrase is translated literally, the use of "streamlining" as a catch-all term could be seen as a departure from the original text.

4.1.2. Liberal Translation

Eg 1：不误农时抓春耕。不懈推进脱贫攻坚。

We have kept up with the spring farming schedule, and continued the critical battle against poverty.

The concept of 抓春耕 may be readily understood by Chinese readers, but it can

pose a challenge for non-native speakers. A literal translation such as "catch the spring farming" may not accurately convey the intended meaning. Instead, the use of "keep up with", as suggested by the translator, is more appropriate for a foreign audience. Additionally, the translator has included the word "schedule" in the translation to ensure clarity and precision for the reader.

Eg 2：注重解民忧、纾民困，及时回应群众关切，持续改善人民生活。

We will, with a focus on resolving the difficulties of our people, respond promptly to public concerns and continue working to improve people's lives.

In the literal sense , the phrases 解民忧 and 纾民困 can be translated as "resolve the worries of people" and "relieve people's difficulties" respectively. However, it is also possible to convey the intended meaning through these literal translations. The translator, however, recognizes that these two three-character phrases have similar meanings, and thus opts for a more liberal translation by combining the two phrases. Both the literal and liberal approaches are acceptable to the target readers, but the latter is likely to be more impactful.

4.2. Translation Strategies of Modifier-modified Three-character Phrases

Table 7. Distribution of Each Translation Strategy of Modifier-modified Three-character Phrases

Translation Strategies	Percentage
Literal Translation	84.8%
Liberal Translation	15.2%

4.2.1. Literal Translation

Eg 1：支持农产品深加工。

Intensive processing of farm products will be encouraged.

Eg 2：推动线上线下消费深度融合，促进生活服务消费恢复，发展消费新业态新模式。

We will strive for in-depth integration of online and offline consumption, promote recovery in consumption of consumer services, and foster new forms and models of consumer spending.

The three-character phrases in the above three sentences lack profound significance and fail to exhibit the distinctive cultural traits of China. The translator has opted for a literal translation, which is concise, clear and comprehensive, and can well achieve the translation purpose, so that it can be understood by the target readers.

Eg 3：各方面要共同努力，装满"米袋子"、充实"菜篮子"，把 14 亿多中国人的饭碗牢牢端在自己手中。

Everyone must work together to ensure that the country's "rice bag" and "vegetable basket" are well-filled, and that we have a secure food supply for more than 1.4 billion Chinese people.

The translator's literal translation of 米袋子 and 菜篮子 as "rice bag" and

"vegetable basket" may lead to a misunderstanding for readers. As Chinese speakers, we understand that 米袋子 refers to food security, and 菜篮子 refers to vegetable supply. Therefore, to accurately convey their intended meaning, these phrases should be translated with flexibility and contextualization, linking their literal and metaphorical meanings.

4.2.2. Liberal Translation

Eg 1：脱贫是全面建成小康社会必须完成的硬任务。

Eliminating poverty is an obligatory task we must complete in order to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

The term "hard task" is a literal translation of 硬任务; however, it only conveys the difficulty of the task. To emphasize the urgency and necessity of completing the task, the translator has used "obligatory" to modify "task". This modification conveys a sense of urgency and impresses upon readers that the task must be completed. As a result, the target audience is better able to appreciate the importance of the task.

Eg 2：要严控非税收入不合理增长，严厉整治乱收费、乱罚款、乱摊派，不得扰民渔利。

Unjustified growth in non-tax government revenue will be strictly checked, tough steps will be taken to end arbitrary charges, fines, and quotas, and no action that seeks to make gains at the expense of our people and businesses will be tolerated.

The term 乱摊派 is not only challenging for non-native speakers, but also for native Chinese speakers to comprehend fully. Once the translator grasps the three-character phrase, they utilize their linguistic knowledge to identify the appropriate English equivalent and provide a clear and concise explanation of the term. This approach prevents any potential mistranslation resulting from a lack of understanding.

4.3. Translation Strategies of Derivative Three-character Phrases

Table 8. Distribution of Each Translation Strategy of Derivative Three-character Phrases

Translation Strategies	Percentage
Literal Translation	96.2%
Liberal Translation	3.8%

4.3.1. Literal Translation

Eg 1：以公正监管维护公平竞争，持续打造市场化、法治化、国际化营商环境。

We will conduct impartial regulation to ensure fair competition, and make sustained efforts to create a market-oriented, law-based, and internationalized business environment.

Eg 2：继续执行制度性减税政策，延长小规模纳税人增值税优惠等部分阶段性政策执行期限，实施新的结构性减税举措，对冲部分政策调整带来的影响。

We will continue to implement systematic tax cut policies, extend the duration of several temporary policies such as VAT relief for small-scale taxpayers, and adopt

new policies on structural tax reductions to offset the impact of some policy adjustments.

The examples above demonstrate that when translating derivative three-character phrases, the translator often opts for adjective or noun structures, using concise language to convey meaning. These phrases are straightforward and do not significantly alter the original meaning through different expressions. As a result, the translator's primary goal is to remain faithful to the original translation, thereby achieving a successful outcome for the target readers.

4.3.2. Liberal Translation

Eg 1：扶持适度规模经营主体，加强农户社会化服务。

We will support the development of appropriately scaled agricultural operations, and improve commercial services for farmers.

The term 社会化 can be literally translated as "social", but in certain contexts, it may be more appropriate to translate it as "commercial". This is because using "social" may lead to confusion among readers who may interpret it as farmers becoming more sociable, rather than a reference to economic activities. A liberal translation approach can effectively address this semantic asymmetry, facilitating smoother communication of information.

Eg 2：坚持尽力而为、量力而行，加强普惠性、基础性、兜底性民生建设，制定促进共同富裕行动纲要，让发展成果更多更公平惠及全体人民。

We will do everything within our capacity to improve the wellbeing of our people, and ensure that public services are inclusive, meet essential needs, and ensure basic living standards for people in difficulty. An action plan will be adopted to promote common prosperity to see that our people share more fully and fairly in the gains of development.

The term 基础性 can be translated either literally or liberally, with no significant difference in meaning. However, the translator has chosen to use a liberal translation to ensure greater clarity. Meanwhile, 兜底性 is a unique three-character phrase that cannot be translated literally without losing its meaning. The translator has therefore taken care to extract the underlying connotations of these terms and express them appropriately in English. This approach not only aligns with Chinese expression habits but also ensures that the target readers can understand the intended meaning.

4.4. Translation Strategies of Other Types of Three-character Phrases

Table 9. Distribution of Each Translation Strategy of Other Types of Three-character Phrases

Translation Strategies	Percentage
Literal Translation	57.1%
Liberal Translation	42.9%

4.4.1. Literal Translation

Eg 1：以习近平同志为核心的党中央团结带领全国各族人民攻坚克难，完成全年主要目标任务。

The Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core rallied the Chinese people and led them in surmounting difficulties and accomplishing the year's main targets and tasks.

Eg 2：设立科创板。

The Science and Technology Innovation Board, or STAR Market, was established.

Compared to other three-character structures, this particular type of structure is less common in the GWR. When encountering terminology in the above examples, it is generally recommended to use a literal translation in order to fully convey the original meaning.

4.4.2. Liberal Translation

Eg 1：“放管服”改革纵深推进。

Reforms to streamline administration and delegate power, improve regulation, and upgrade services were steadily advanced.

放管服 is a three-character phrase in parallel structure, which is difficult to translate even for Chinese people. Without understanding the underlying meaning, a literal translation of the surface meaning can leave readers feeling confused. In the GWR, the translator provides a qualitative understanding of the definition of this type of the three-character phrase. By recognizing the parallel structure of this phrase, the translator separately translates each word, resulting in a more effective translation.

Eg 2：防止政策执行“一刀切”、层层加码，持续为基层减负。

We will avoid a one-size-fits-all approach, refrain from making local governments take excessive policy steps, and continue easing the burdens on those working on the ground.

This term 一刀切 has Chinese characteristics. What it really means is to deal with a problem in the same way regardless of the actual situation. To take it literally will be to deviate greatly from its real meaning. The translator understands its metaphorical meaning and uses the method of liberal translation to translate this term into "a one-size-fits-all approach", which conveys its connotation correctly.

5. Conclusion

The study of the GWR from 2020 to 2022 has revealed a significant number of three-character phrases in the GWR. A total of 418 three-character phrases in these 3 years. After removing the same phrases, it finds a total of 222 different three-character phrases. However, due to linguistic and cultural differences, these features are difficult to convey accurately in translation, leading to a loss of information. Reception Aesthetics theory provides theoretical guidance for translation strategies.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the research on translation of the GWRs. As for three-character phrases, literal translation remains the primary method, while liberal translation is less common. This is particularly evident in the case of derivative three-character phrases, where literal translation accounts for 96.2% and liberal translation for only 3.8%. Literal translation accounts for 80.8% of political terminology translation, while liberal translation accounts for 19.2%. Additionally, there are issues with translator consistency. Although highly competent, translators produce different translations of same three-character phrase from year to year. The inconsistency in the translated version of the same phrase is worthy of attention and should be dealt with appropriately through some necessary ways, such as establishing a bilingual corpus of professional terms. At the same time, translators need to constantly improve the reader-centered awareness, do a better job in translating publicity documents, and make them play a role in international communication, so as to tell Chinese stories well.

In a word, in most cases, when translating the GWRs, translators have paid attention to the needs of target language readers and correctly used translation strategies that will not cause misunderstanding. However, there are some deficiencies in cases where phrases require detailed explanation, and translators only use literal translation, which may not accurately convey connotations and can lead to some misunderstanding. Therefore, translators should learn to be flexible and make good use of translation, remaining loyal to the original text while conveying its meaning accurately.

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