

Analysis on the Translation of Conceptual Metaphors in the Report on the Work of the Government of 2021

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Abstract

In recent years, Chinese scholars have made many researches in-depth on conceptual metaphor and translation. Nowadays, people pay more and more attention to political life, and political texts have more important significance for people. So according to Lakoff's conceptual metaphor theory as the foundation, analyze the report on the work of the government which released in March 2021 for conceptual metaphor translation, to discuss the annual government work report in conceptual metaphor types and frequency, It also discusses the translation characteristics of relevant conceptual metaphors in English.

Keywords

Conceptual Metaphor; Translation; Report on the Work of the Government.

1. Introduction

With the publication of the book *Metaphors We Live By*, in which the authors of the book George Lakoff and Mark Johnson have put forward conceptual metaphor theory, people's perception of metaphor has changed[1]. The ancient Greek philosopher Plato believes that metaphor as a modifier language is only suitable for expressing emotions and cannot be used in some specific situations. It is not appropriate to use conceptual metaphors in situations such as political debates and scientific discourse. Formally speaking, the structure of metaphors is not complicated. A metaphor can be a phrase or a sentence. The basic structure is "A to B", for example: Time is money; Love is a rose. The former makes people feel the preciousness of time intuitively through the conceptual metaphor of time and money, while the latter compares love with roses. The similarity between the two is as follows: first, roses and love give people a feeling of beauty. The beautiful velvet-like petals, the symmetrical aesthetic composition, and the fragrance all give people pleasant sensory enjoyment from the aspects of touch, vision, smell, etc. The same is true for love. Secondly, although the rose is beautiful, it is thorny, and it can hurt people if you are not careful, and that could bring pain to people. The same is true for love. Together with the beautiful enjoyment, there are also painful dangers hidden. Both simple conceptual metaphors contain quite rich deep meanings. Therefore, the use of conceptual metaphor is more refined, and vivid. Because of this, conceptual metaphor is widely used in people's daily communication and expression. According to statistics from Lakoff & Johnson [1], about 70% of expressions in everyday (ordinary expressions) language are derived from metaphorical concepts. The metaphorical process is that people use one conceptual domain to understand the structure of another different conceptual domain. Therefore, conceptual metaphor is not only a linguistic expression tool, it also implies changes in people's way of thinking when they understand things.

As a tool for people to perceive the world, conceptual metaphor can not only help people observe the world better, but also create new meanings through the process of conceptual metaphor. The metaphorical expression of the same thing or phenomenon is different between different cultures. Through metaphors, people from different cultural backgrounds can better

understand the deep meaning of each other. In addition, the continuous updating of metaphors also enables the continuous updating of the expression of the same thing.

2. The Role of Conceptual Metaphor in Political Discourse

Like the universality of conceptual metaphors in daily life, there are also various conceptual metaphor expressions in political life. For Aristotle, politics is the supreme science. The interaction of humans trying to improve lives and create a better society is politics. Politics is firstly a social activity and two-way communication. Secondly, politics is formulated by people in the broadest sense. , Maintaining, and revising the general rules of their lives.

For Marx, politics is the concentrated expression of the economy. As a superstructure, politics is based on economy and is the sum of various social activities and social relations with political rights as the core. In today's society, politics plays an important role in people's lives. The formulation and implementation of new policies affect the vital interests of the masses of the people. Therefore, the stability and development of social order cannot be separated from politics. Therefore, in political activities, the ruler's use of political language to communicate with the people and the masses has become extremely important. Language is an important information communication tool, and the use of different expressions or rhetorical devices will have varying degrees of impact on the information recipients. In the process of transmitting political information, political rulers need to consider the acceptance of the broad masses of people and the way of thinking, in order to better promote the implementation of decision-making and achieve rule. It is often difficult for the broad masses of people to directly understand complex political events. Therefore, the use of conceptual metaphors can enable people to use their perceptions of other times in their lives to project on political events that are less exposed to them, which can not only deepen their understanding, but also Make the expression of political events more vivid and vivid, and improve the efficiency and quality of information transmission. Therefore, conceptual metaphor plays a very important role in political texts. Conceptual metaphors can build a bridge of communication between different cultures and make the communication between the sender and the receiver more efficient. For example, the use of conceptual metaphor in political texts will enable people to use familiar concepts to understand political concepts and make political problems. The expression is more simplified.

3. Classification of Conceptual Metaphors

George Lakoff [1] divided metaphors into three categories, namely ontological metaphors, structural metaphors, and location metaphors. Among them, ontological metaphor means that metaphor regards abstract things as tangible things and turns abstract into the concrete. The Structural metaphor refers to a concept with a clear structure and a clear boundary to construct another concept with a structure that is not so clear or even lacks internal structure. Locational metaphors project spatial concepts on non-spatial concepts, such as: happy is up, sad is down. George Lakoff [1] divides metaphors into entity metaphors, structural metaphors and location metaphors. In recent years, domestic scholars have classified metaphors in government work reports based on Lakoff's metaphor theory. Huang Ya summarized the conceptual metaphors in the government work report from 1978 to 2011, and summarized ten types of metaphors[2]. Shi Lihua conducted a diachronic analysis of the metaphors of the Chinese government work report from 2010 to 2015[3]. Through classification analysis, they are divided into conceptual metaphors, interpersonal metaphors and textual metaphors. Liang Yafei divided metaphors into six categories in the analysis of metaphor in "Report on the Work of the Chinese Government (2007~2016)", and analyzed the relationship between each metaphor model and the government's concept of governance. [4]

4. Different Ways of Conceptual Metaphor Translation

Literal translation. Since human beings have the same non-cultural knowledge, different ethnic groups have similar cognitive abilities. If the cognitive methods of conceptual metaphors in both English and Chinese are the same, the use frequency and stylistic level of the conceptual metaphors in Chinese and English are the same. Literal translation can be used in translation. Through the literal translation method, target readers can fully understand the original thinking mode and expression characteristics, and it is also conducive to the penetration of the original text into the target text, so as to connect the cultural image connotation of the original text and the target text during the translation process. Especially in recent years, with the rapid development of China's economy, more and more foreign readers have begun to learn Chinese. By understanding the literally translated text, foreign readers can learn a little about Chinese knowledge, culture and ideology. However, the literal translation method must ensure that the image in the source language and the target language are exactly the same, otherwise the literal translation will become literal and cause misunderstanding.

Substitute translation method. Translation is never a direct lexical correspondence, which is caused by the different cognitive methods in Chinese and English. The culture of the Chinese nation contains the life experience and wisdom of the Chinese people, and the culture of the English nation reflects the religious thought, history, culture, values, and lifestyle of the English nation. When expressing the same concept, people in Chinese and Western cultures often use different conceptual metaphors, that is, use different source domains to represent the same destination domain. Therefore, the focus of translation should not be the language expression, but the reader's response to the translation, and this response should be compared with the possible response of the original reader to the original. When translating, it is necessary to convert the conceptual metaphors in the original text into the target language readers according to the usage habits of the target language, taking into account the cultural background and metaphor concepts of different nationalities. Familiar conceptual metaphors are more in line with the expression habits of the target language, enabling readers of the target language to understand the original content more accurately.

Translate conceptual metaphors into similes. As mentioned above, conceptual metaphor is composed of noumenon, vehicle body and conceptual metaphor, and there is no conceptual metaphor among them. In the process of translating conceptual metaphors, metaphors can be added to treat metaphors as similes. This translation strategy can not only retain the vivid images in the source language, but also avoid the sense of contradiction caused by the literal translation of metaphors, and the target language readers can also better understand the metaphors.

Free translation. When translating English conceptual metaphors into Chinese, it often retains the original image, while translating Chinese conceptual metaphors into English often uses substitution methods. This may be because Chinese readers are more willing to accept Western culture, while Western readers are not. Some conceptual metaphors may simply be "vocabulary blanks" in the target language, and they cannot be replaced with other foreign words in translation, otherwise it will bring a lot of harm: the original artistic conception is destroyed, and the exchange of Chinese and Western cultures is also affected. Therefore, many conceptual metaphors unique to Chinese culture can only be translated by free translation due to cultural differences.

The deletion method. Not all metaphors are meaningful. In political texts, metaphors may sometimes be used only to strengthen the tone and preserve the form. If the metaphor is redundant or meaningless, consider deleting it when translating.

5. The Report on the Work of the Government

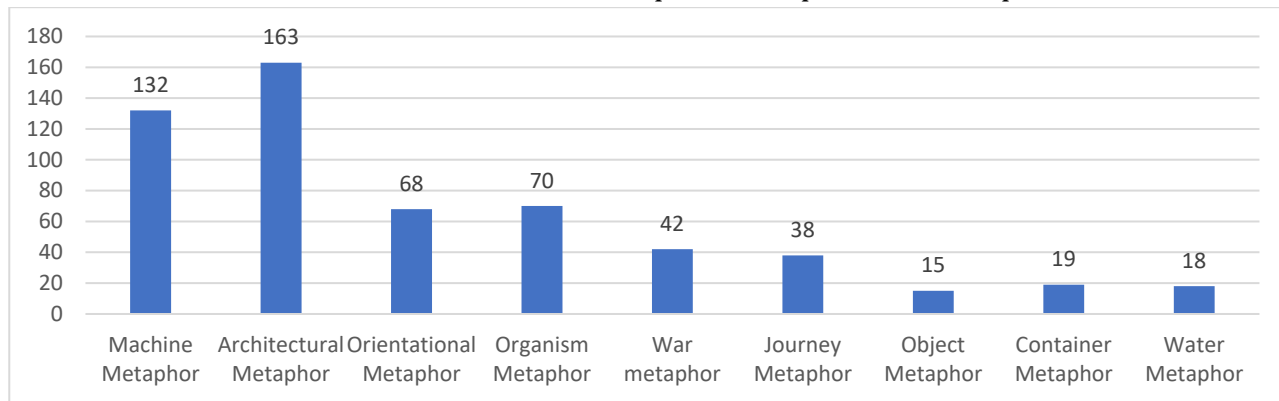
Political texts include government work reports, white papers and other types. As a kind of information texts, political texts have the most important role in transmitting the information. Among them, a government work report is a form of official document of the government of the People’s Republic of China. Governments at all levels must issue this to the presidium, deputies of the people’s congresses and members of the CPPCC at the local people’s congress meetings and political consultative meetings (two sessions) held each year. One report. Mainly review the work within a year, work arrangements for the year, and the government's self-construction, etc. Therefore, in the government work report, the importance of metaphor is self-evident. Zhang Pei once summarized metaphor. He believed that metaphor “has the affinity function of transforming differences into the same... even a nation, country or society maintains centripetal cohesion. , The only way to maintain stability and unity.” [5]

6. Analysis Method and Result

6.1. Corpus Sources and Analysis Results

First, in order to ensure the authenticity and reliability of the corpus studied in this article, the Chinese corpus for this analysis is selected from the Chinese Communist Party News Network, and the corresponding English corpus is selected from the English official website of Xinhua.com. Then use the corpus online automatic word segmentation and part-of-speech tagging, and the metaphorical expressions in the post-reading report are summarized in the following table according to the frequency of metaphor type keywords.

Table 1. Dominant conceptual metaphors in the report



As shown in the table above, the dominant types of conceptual metaphors that appear in the 2021 government work report are the above nine types. Among them, architectural metaphors and machine metaphors appear more frequently, and object metaphors appear the least frequently. The above nine kinds of metaphors have appeared in previous government work reports. Domestic scholar Huang Ya has done systematic research and analysis on government work reports from 1978 to 2011. Article research has shown that architectural metaphors appear most frequently in previous government work reports. Therefore, the following will mainly analyze the metaphor translation of the 2021 government work report from three types of architectural metaphors, machine metaphors and war metaphors.

6.2. Exemples of Different Types of Conceptual Metaphor Analysed

6.2.1. Architectural Metaphor

Goatly[6] believes that "society is architecture". Through architectural metaphors, people can visualize abstract concepts that appear in political texts into various buildings or parts of buildings that can be seen and touched in daily life, which is more convenient for people to understand, such as the following examples

①

OT: 坚持多边主义，推动构建人类命运共同体。 [7]

TT: We upheld multilateralism and endeavored to build a human community with a shared future. [8]

②

OT: 完善国家创新体系，加快构建以国家实验室为引领的战略科技力量，打好关键核心技术攻坚战.....[7]

TT: To improve China's innovation system, we will work faster to enhance our strategic scientific and technological capability underpinned by the development of national laboratories, strive to make major breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields...[8]

The word "construction" in the "building a community with a shared future for mankind" in example one shows the relationship between a community with a shared future for mankind and various countries. Just like building a tall building, the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind also requires everyone to work together. Efforts, and translated as build in the English text. Here the translator adopts the literal translation method, retaining the original meaning, and directly presents the metaphors in Chinese to the readers. The word "construction" in Example 2 is different. The word "construction" in the original Chinese text presents strategic technological power through architectural metaphors, but in English, the term "power" in the strategic technological power is translated into "capability" in English. Therefore, "construction" is translated as "enhance", which makes the collocation of verb and object more harmonious.

6.2.2. War Metaphor

War metaphors contain many elements, such as battlefields, army, strategy, weapons, etc. They are also commonly used in political texts, and are often used to express goals that require a lot of effort. Due to special national conditions and policies, our country often uses the origin domain interpretation of "war" in terms of economic development, policy adjustment, and striving for a certain goal. Liang Yafei believes that "Nowadays, military terminology is not only used in military operations, but also in non-military situations, such as daily language and formal occasions in writing, because people will experience in one area of life to experience other areas The experience of war." [4]The origin domain of war contains a series of elements of war, such as victory, defeat, army, battlefield, etc. It is one side who wants to destroy the other side for a certain purpose. This concept is applied to government policies. For example, political activity is a war, the political circle is the battlefield, the policy promulgated by the government is a weapon, and the person who implements the policy is a participant in the war, which will "contaminate" this "enemy" Swept away.

③

OT: 在全球主要经济体中唯一实现经济正增长，脱贫攻坚战取得全面胜利， [7]

TT: We achieved major strategic success in our response to Covid-19 and China was the world's only major economy to achieve growth. We attained a complete victory in the fight against poverty.,[8]

④

OT: 改革科技重大专项实施方式, 推广“揭榜挂帅”等机制。[7]

TT: reform the way that major science and technology programs are implemented, and extend mechanisms, such as the open competition mechanism to select the best candidates to undertake key research projects, to more areas.[8]

The expression of "the fight against poverty" in Example 3 vividly shows the difficulty and importance of a comprehensive poverty alleviation, and clearly expresses the importance of comprehensive poverty alleviation. The two words "victory" and "fight" in the translation directly translate the Chinese words. The metaphor is simple and easy to understand and adds a sense of picture to the English translation. In Example 4, the term "revealing the rankings and putting in command" is old. In short, it means that whoever has the ability will do it. Nowadays, the term mostly refers to a new type of scientific research organization model, which lists scientific research projects that need to be tackled, so that people with abilities can openly compete and overcome technical problems. The "the open competition mechanism" in the English translation directly expresses the core of the "open competition mechanism" and makes it clear to English readers.

6.2.3. Machine Metaphor

The development of a country is like a precision machine, which requires not only precision parts, but also careful manipulation to operate. Macro-control, specific implementation, and innovation drive in policies are all common machine metaphors in political texts.

⑤

OT: 国内疫情防控仍有薄弱环节, 经济恢复基础尚不牢固, 居民消费仍受制约, 投资增长后劲不足.....[7]

TT: Domestically, there are still weak links in our work to control Covid-19. The foundation for achieving our country's economic recovery needs to be further consolidated, impediments to consumer spending remain, and investment growth lacks *sustainability*. [8]

⑥

OT: 经济运行总体平稳, 经济结构持续优化, 国内生产总值从不到70万亿元增加到超过100万亿元。[7]

TT: The economy *performed* stably overall, and its structure was continuously improved. GDP increased from less than 70 trillion yuan to over 100 trillion yuan.[8]

⑦

OT: 经济增速、就业、物价等预期目标, 体现了保持经济运行在合理区间的要求, 与今后目标平稳衔接, 有利于实现可持续健康发展。[7]

TT: A target of over 6 percent will enable all of us to devote full energy to promoting reform, innovation, and high-quality development. The projected targets for growth, employment, and CPI should keep the economy *performing* within the appropriate range.[8]

The more direct meaning of "投资增长后劲不足" in Example 5 means that the subsequent investment has not been maintained at the same level, which is the term sustainability. in the translation. In addition, in Example 6 and Example 7, the word "运行" in the Chinese text embodies the relationship between the action of operation and the subject "economy". The economy is likened to a machine, which vividly presents the different states of economic development, but There is no literal translation in the translation, but "perform" is used to express the same meaning from different dimensions.

6.2.4. Water Metaphor

Water is the source of life and the substance on which all living things live. The pivotal role of water in the world of life determines its status in human cognitive activities. In Chinese political discourse, discourse communicators often use currents to frame the political issues they want to express, thus forming a number of basic metaphors with “water” as the source domain.

⑧

OT: “天问一号”、“嫦娥五号”、“奋斗者”号等突破性成果不断**涌现**。 [7]

TT: Last year saw a *stream* of scientific and technological breakthroughs, like the Tianwen-1 Mars mission, the Chang'e-5 lunar mission, and the Fendouzhe (Striver) deep-sea manned submersible.[8]

⑨

OT: 一年来的工作殊为不易。各地区各部门顾全大局、尽责担当，上亿市场主体在应对冲击中展现出坚强韧性，广大人民群众勤劳付出、共克时艰，诠释了百折不挠的民族精神，彰显了人民是真正的英雄，这是我们战胜一切困难挑战的力量**源泉**。 [7]

TT: This is *the well of strength* that enables us to rise to every challenge and overcome every difficulty.[8]

The word “涌现” in Example 1 expresses the number of breakthrough results, as unstoppable as the spouting spring water. The term “力量源泉” in the second example expresses our national spirit as a source, which is the reason why we have overcome all difficulties and challenges. Both examples use literal translation, which is simple and clear.

6.2.5. Organism Metaphor

The all-encompassing human life can be summed up in two aspects: organic and inorganic. Lakoff & Johnson believe that metaphors are based on experience, and the relevance of daily life will lead us to basic metaphors. Human beings express their cognition of the world through associations that are originally unrelated. This is the cognitive basis of metaphor. Therefore, the two aspects of life, organic creatures have become an inexhaustible source of human cognition of the world. A large number of conceptual metaphors were born on this basis, such as prosperity and shrinkage, cultivation and transfer, shackles and ties, all are Life behaviors or living objects are used as metaphors for the status and trends of social culture or political economy in political discourse. Metaphors from everyday language are often the most convincing, because “everyday language itself is the embodiment of the consistency of the thought community”, the use of everyday language can more stimulate the emotional resonance of the object of dissemination, and thus help promote the speaker and the listener Recognition between. On the other hand, the great influence of metaphor comes from its manipulation of the subconscious. The more difficult it is for people to recognize the metaphor, the deeper the metaphor, the easier it is to be accepted by others, and the greater the influence. From this point of view, it comes from everyday life. The conceptual metaphor of language has unparalleled advantages.

⑩

OT: 创新型国家建设成果**丰硕**，在载人航天、探月工程、深海工程、超级计算、量子信息等领域取得一批重大科技成果。 [7]

TT: was accomplished toward making China a country of innovators, with major advances in manned spaceflight, lunar exploration, deep-sea engineering, supercomputing, quantum information, and other areas.[8]

⑪

OT: 坚持把发展经济着力点放在实体经济上, 推进产业基础高级化、产业链现代化, 保持制造业比重基本稳定, 改造提升传统产业, 发展壮大战略性新兴产业, 促进服务业繁荣发展。[7]

TT: In pursuing economic growth, we will continue to prioritize the development of the real economy, upgrade the industrial base, modernize industrial chains, and keep the share of manufacturing in the economy basically stable. We will transform and upgrade traditional industries, strengthen strategic emerging industries, and promote the vigorous development of the service sector.[8]

The word "丰硕" in Example 1 makes readers associate the construction of an innovative country with plants. Many goals have been continuously achieved along the road to the construction of an innovative country, just as the same fruit tree bears many fruits, which makes people happy. The term "壮大" in the second example even links the development of strategic emerging industries with the growth of people. The continuous development of emerging strategic industries is just like the growth of human beings. The translation of the two sentences did not adopt the method of literal translation, but adopted the technique of free translation to retain the deep meaning of metaphor.

7. Conclusion

The application of conceptual metaphors in political texts enables the masses of the people to have a more intuitive understanding of political events, and promotes the efficiency and quality of information transmission of political allegories. The use of certain conceptual metaphors also makes political texts more vivid, and makes it easier for information to spread among the people. Based on the theoretical basis of conceptual metaphor, the above classifies the types of conceptual metaphors in the 2021 government work report, and analyzes some examples of different types in Chinese and English. However, due to limited ability and time, further improvement is needed.

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