

# The Heterogeneity of Form and Meaning in Chinese Political Discourse Chunk Constructions and its Interpretation in English Translation

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## Abstract

The trend of "Translating China" emphasizes the importance of understanding and disseminating the source language. This paper discusses the representation of spatial chunk construction sequences, such as the "4±0" chunk pattern, in political discourse and their heterogeneity in form and meaning, as well as the cognitive interpretation and processing paradigms of translators under the theory of spatial-temporal thinking differences between English and Chinese. The study finds that: 1) The "4±0" chunk pattern and its chunk construction sequences both exhibit strong spatial characteristics in their chunk-like and discrete features; 2) The preference for semantic pairing within the "4±0" chunk pattern is driven by the spatial preferences in Chinese, leading to differences in semantic background; 3) The strong spatial thinking in Chinese influences the dynamic pairing of chunks in the "4±0" sequences, resulting in significant heterogeneity of form and meaning, which creates translation bottlenecks; 4) The spatial-temporal differences between English and Chinese drive the deep interpretation and reprocessing of micro-macro semantic logic within and between chunks in the source language, while constraining the representation of temporal characteristics in the target language translation.

## Keywords

Chunk-construction in Chinese political discourse; heterogeneity of form and meaning; intra-chunk and inter-chunk sense relation; spatiality; temporality.

## 1. Introduction

China, as an emerging power, has entered the international spotlight, shifting the focus from "translating the world" to "translating China" (Huang Youyi, 2021). Studies on political discourse are burgeoning, with scholars from a macro perspective studying the international dissemination of Chinese political discourse, the construction of political discourse systems, and translation standards for political terminologies (Yang Ping, 2017; Hu Kaibao, 2019; Hu Anjiang, 2020). How to effectively disseminate Chinese political discourse has gained academic attention, making translation principles and strategies a research hotspot (Wang Kefei, 2010; Huang Youyi, 2015; Lin Rong & Lin Dajin, 2016; Yang Wangping, 2018). This stage has seen scholars focusing on individual "keywords" or "signature terms," (Yang Mingxing, 2008; Zhu Chunshen & Zhang Junfeng, 2011; Yang Mingxing, 2016). However, these studies do not systematically explore political discourse. Driven by this, some scholars have pointed out that "chunk constructions" are a linguistic feature of Chinese political discourse and have explored their representations and translations (Liu Shaolong & Wang Liuqi, 2021; Cao Huan & Liu Shaolong, 2021; Liu Shaolong et al., 2021).

The comparative study of political discourse translation has traditionally focused on bilingual cultural differences, such as the widely accepted difference between "hypotaxis" and "parataxis," with few in-depth philosophical or cognitive inquiries and an insufficiently comprehensive examination of political discourse. Wang Wenbin (2019) discussed the spatial-temporal differences between English and Chinese, following which scholars conducted empirical explorations of characteristic chunk discourse based on this theory (Cao Huan et al., 2024; Cao Huan et al., 2023; Liu Shaolong et al., 2021). Given this background, this study aims to explore the heterogeneity in form and meaning of chunk constructions (sequences) in Chinese political discourse and to reveal the cognitive generation paths, interpretation paradigms, and underlying deep thinking differences through comparative analysis of Chinese source language and English translation. This provides insights and paradigms for language cognition thinking, practical operations, and research in translation.

## 2. Theoretical Foundation and Research Content

### 2.1. Theoretical Foundation

The empirical translation process, due to its dynamic and complex nature, has always been a focus of academic attention. In the last century, scholars from China and abroad noted the distinction between the hypotaxis and parataxis of Chinese and English. Following this, there have been in-depth studies focusing on literary texts, both ancient and modern Chinese, with significant results (Ni Baoyuan, 1987; Fang Mengzhi, 1997). However, these studies primarily observed and described differences at the ontological level of language, such as words and sentences, without examining underlying cognitive and thinking drivers.

Translation is not only an interlingual interaction between source and target languages; it is an exchange between different cultures and a collision of ethnic thinking behind languages. From a bottom-up perspective, language hierarchy can deconstruct from phonemes and morphemes to sentences and discourse, while from a top-down perspective, thinking shapes cognitive worldviews and language processing paradigms. English and Chinese word origins, morpheme constructions, phrases, sentences, and discourse levels all exhibit differences in cognition and thinking between the two cultures and nations (Wang Wenbin 2019). Based on English-Chinese spatial-temporal differences, there have been in-depth studies on the representation of these differences (Wang Wenbin & Zhao Chaoyong, 2016; Wang Wenbin, 2019; Zhao Yizhe & Wang Wenbin, 2020); however, these have primarily focused on idioms, literary texts, and their translations. Therefore, this study, while continuing to use the theory of English-Chinese spatial-temporal differences as an explanatory framework, focuses on Chinese political texts and their chunk discourse and target English translation.

### 2.2. Research Content

This study finds that the chunky construction representations in political discourse have clear highlights and distinctive features, especially the frequency characteristics of the "4±0" pattern (Cao Huan et al., 2024; Cao Huan et al., 2023; Liu Shaolong & Wang Liuqi, 2021; Cao Huan & Liu Shaolong, 2021). These constructions, with high appearance and usage frequency, exhibit varying degrees of schematicity and form as pre-fabricated language modules. Goldberg (1995: 4) introduced the concept of constructionality, noting that constructional language integrates form and meaning, and later defined it as a form-function pair (Goldberg, 2003 & 2006). This study focuses on such Chinese chunk constructions, which, in addition to having the characteristics of structured pre-fabrication, holistic retrieval, mediation, synchronicity, hierarchy, and dynamism, also exhibit idiomaticity, chunk-like features, and variability (Cao Huan & Liu Shaolong 2021).

Table 1: Source text 1

ST 1	dàn lǐ shùn chén jiāng jūn gāng zhí bù ā <sup>①</sup> , yì shēng yōu guó yōu mǐn <sup>②</sup> , zhuī qiú zhèng yì <sup>③</sup> , jǐ chù nì jìng <sup>④</sup> ér wú huǐ wú yuàn <sup>⑤</sup> . (People's Daily, 2001)
Pinyin	
Meaning	However, General Li Shunqin is straightforward and unyielding <sup>①</sup> , his whole life worrying about the country and its people <sup>②</sup> , pursuing justice <sup>③</sup> , and facing adversity <sup>④</sup> without regret or resentment <sup>⑤</sup> .

Table 2: Source text 2

ST 2	xǔ xǔ duō duō <sup>①</sup> / wú yuàn wú huǐ <sup>②</sup> , qīng qíng fèng xiàn <sup>③</sup> de wú míng yīng xióng <sup>④</sup> , tā men yǐ pǔ tōng rén de píng fán shū xiě le bù píng fán de rén shēng. (Xi Jinping's New Year's Address, 2020)
Pinyin	
Meaning	Many <sup>①</sup> unsung heroes <sup>④</sup> , without complaint or regret <sup>②</sup> , dedicate themselves <sup>③</sup> , using their ordinary lives to write the extraordinary.

Table 3: Source text 3

ST 3	guǎng dà rén mín qún zhòng <sup>①</sup> jiān chí ài guó fèng xiàn <sup>②</sup> , wú yuàn wú huǐ <sup>③</sup> , ràng wǒ gǎn dào qiān qiān wàn wàn <sup>④</sup> pǔ tōng rén zuì wěi dà, tóng shí ràng wǒ gǎn dào xìng fú dōu shì fèn dòu chū lái de . (Xi Jinping's New Year's Address, 2018)
Pinyin	
Meaning	The masses <sup>①</sup> adhere to patriotic dedication <sup>②</sup> , and without complaint or regret <sup>③</sup> , making me realize how ordinary people are the greatest, and happiness is earned through struggle.

In just three short Chinese sentences from source text (ST) examples 1 to 3, a total of 13 four-character chunk constructions are identified (as underlined), highlighting the significant role chunk constructions play in the generation and construction of Chinese political language. These four-character constructions are often structurally and semantically stable idiomatic expressions, concise yet rich in expression, multifunctional, and having both word-like and sentence-like characteristics. Though their forms are uniform, presenting a "2+2" rhythmic pattern and a laid-out narration that progresses chunk by chunk, they show diversity in semantic structure. Some are nominalizations, like "wú míng yīng xióng" and "qīng qíng fèng xiàn"; others have verb-object structure, like "zhuī qiú zhèng yì"; and still others have paired structure, like "yōu guó yōu mǐn" and "qiān qiān wàn wàn".

Chinese space-oriented thinking preferences lead to language encoding in spatial aggregate relationships, with words and sentences unified in meaning, forming a pronounced chunk-structure and discretization. Taking the example of "without complaint or regret" and "without regret or complaint," based on binary opposition, we can parse out the paired components "without complaint (wú yuàn)" and "without regret (wú huǐ)." No morphological means or connectors are used; structure is guided by meaning, with interchangeable internal constituents, exhibiting non-linear spatial characteristics of dispersed yet cohesive form.

In contrast, English emphasizes the integrity of language forms and structures, using various morphological means for explicit linking and conveying meaning through form, leaning towards time-oriented thinking. Due to English-Chinese language differences, translation requires understanding the semantic logic of the source language and constructing cognition in the target language. Compared to Chinese, English favors lexical and morphological means, connecting and extending hierarchical components, that is, time-oriented language encoding. Translations 2 and 3 corresponding to examples 2 and 3, both conveying "without complaint or regret," exhibit flexibility in the positioning of "complaint" and "regret" in the English translation, adapting to the source language's discreteness and reversibility. Moreover, lexical grammatical means such as "with neither... nor..." and "without... or..." are used to manifest the semantic relations of the source language and link them into a one-dimensional linear frame, reflecting the temporal encoding preference of English.

Table 4: Target text 2 and target text 3

TT 2	Numerous unsung heroes, with neither complaint nor regret, work with dedication. They are ordinary people living extraordinary lives.
TT 3	The people have made sacrifices for the good of the nation without regrets or complaints. I feel the millions of ordinary Chinese are the greatest, and I also feel that happiness is achieved through.

Driven by a spatial preference, Chinese language embodies the characteristics of being "dispersed in form but unified in spirit, concise in words but rich in purpose" (Wang Wenbin & Gao Jing, 2019), indicating its latent traits and heterogeneity in form and meaning. Zhao Yizhe and Wang Wenbin (2020) explored this from the perspective of four-character parallel couplet idioms in Chinese. After generative grammar, both construction grammar and cognitive grammar emphasize that semantic and pragmatic factors play important roles in language interpretation. Goldberg (1995: 6) points out that "subtle semantic and pragmatic factors are crucial for understanding the restrictions imposed by grammatical constructions." Based on this syntax-pragmatics blended view (Chen Manhua, 2009) and Chinese spatiality, this study aims to explore the "4±0" chunk constructions and chunk sequences, examining the cognitive generation in intra-chunk and inter-chunk pairing construction and English translation interpretation paradigms. The Chinese political discourse corpus selected for this study is clearly sourced, and the target translations are officially released (by national joint translation teams).

### 3. Inter-chunk Heterogeneity of Form and Meaning and its Interpretation in Translation

#### 3.1. Four-character Chunky constructions

The Chinese "four-character" chunk structure demonstrates an imbalance between form and meaning, due to key words carrying significant information and governing the assembly during formation, thus succinctly conveying intentions to achieve communicative purposes (Wang Wenbin, Liu Xinmiao 2020:25). The "4±0" chunks examined in this study also possess this characteristic. It has been noticed that in some four-character structures, the representation of form and meaning is non-homogeneous, with somewhat implicit semantics, making identification and understanding challenging, which is a difficulty in translation. In translation, it is inevitable that the translator needs to identify and reproduce the semantic logic within the source language chunks.

Table 5: Source text 4 ①& ② and their target texts

ST 4 ① Pinyin	cù jìn nóng yè gāo zhì gāo xiào①, xiāng cūn yí jū yí yè②, nóng mǐn fù yù fù zú③. (Central Rural Work Conference, 2020)
TT 4①	Efforts must be made to promote the efficiency and quality of① the agricultural sector, make rural areas suitable to live and work in②, and ensure that farmers are affluent and well-off③, he told the meeting.
ST 4 ② Pinyin	jiān chí fáng zǐ shì yòng lái zhù de , bù shì yòng lái chǎo de dǐng wèi .....wán shàn biàn mǐn , wú zhàng ài shè shī , ràng chéng shì gèng yí yè yí jū①. (Government Work Report, 2020)
TT 4②	Acting on the principle that houses are for living in, not for speculation.....We will improve urban amenities and accessible facilities, and make our cities places that people enjoy living and working in①.

Table 6: Source text 5

ST 5	quán miàn jiā qiáng xīn shí dài wǒ jūn dǎng de lǐng dǎo hé dǎng de jiàn shè gōng zuò, ....., shì tuī jìn qiáng guó qiáng jūn <sup>①</sup> de bì rán yāo qiú. (Speech at the Central Military Commission Party-Building Meeting, 2018)
Pinyin	
Meaning	Strengthening the leadership and party-building work of the military in the new era is....., as well as an imperative requirement for strengthening a powerful country and military <sup>①</sup> .

ST 4 and 5 showcase five ABAC-type "2+2 rhythm" four-character chunks: gāo zhì/gāo xiào (high-quality/high-efficiency), fù yù/fù zú (wealthy/well-off), yí jū/yí yè (livable/workable), yí yè/yí jū (workable/livable), qiáng guó/qiáng jūn (powerful country/powerful military). Among them, gāo zhì/gāo xiào and fù yù/fù zú are clear in semantic representation, being NP and AP conjunction structures respectively, and quality/efficiency, wealthy/well-off' have balanced semantic status within the chunk, characterized by discrete and reversible semantic connections, making them easy to understand. The temporal linguistic predilection of the target language will adapt to the source language's preference for spatial dissociation, completing the conceptual linking, besides highlighting the semantics of 'quality', 'efficiency', 'wealthy', and 'well-off', it will also use lexical and formal means to complete semantic linking and continuation. In target text (TT) 4<sup>①</sup>, the translation "affluent and well-off" uses 'and' to connect the semantics of 'wealthy' and 'well-off'; in the translation "the efficiency and quality of", 'quality' and 'efficiency' are rendered with reverse directionality, accommodating the source language's spatial preference, and "the ... and ... of" represents the linear temporal line preference of the target language.

Another paired four-character chunk structure, "yí jū/yí yè" (livable/workable) and "yí yè/yí jū" (workable/livable) in ST 4<sup>①</sup> and 4<sup>②</sup> respectively, shares the same rhythm but with an inverted internal constituent order, showing a spatially dissociated structure. Under typological perspective, as an analytic language, Modern Chinese elements' order is directly associated with semantic relations. So, do these structures exhibit homogeneous representation as in the aforementioned example? Should the translations of 4<sup>①</sup> and 4<sup>②</sup> adhere to this discrete reversibility? Statistics from the BCC corpus reveal that "livable/workable" and "workable/livable" have frequencies of 205 and 58 respectively, with a proportion of about 4:1, showing a clear preference for the former. Clearly, simple structural form analysis cannot explain this linguistic phenomenon, and a deeper level of cognitive dissection is required.

China's philosophical meditations on ontology began with Laozi, whose Tao Te Ching states: "The Tao begets one, one begets two, two begets three, three begets all things." Laozi's philosophical consideration of the essence of 'Tao', 'existence', and 'non-existence', endowed Chinese philosophy with cosmological characteristics. From Laozi to subsequent philosophers such as Lao Zhuang and Wang Bi during the Wei and Jin dynasties, their philosophical explorations were, in fact, built on the 'Tao/Non-Existence – Existence' framework of 'Whole – Individual', which endowed the Han people with a philosophical worldview and methodology characterized by holistic thinking, thus shaping the preference for spatial thinking in the Chinese language. Humboldt (1996) in his book Introduction to Metaphysics demonstrated the philosophical content of 'Being' through language clarification, confirming the interrelation between philosophical thinking and human language. Thus, the spatial care for all things and exploration of the relationship between the whole and the individual in Chinese philosophical thought are inevitably implicit in Chinese language expression.

Then, which comes first, 'living' or 'working'? The common saying "Where there are green hills, one won't worry about firewood" emphasizes the importance of the whole; then there's "Establish a family first before starting a business," which places 'business' after 'home', a

spatial concept. Hence, for the Chinese people's thinking, 'living' should be the logical premise of 'working'. Thus, after securing a place to live and having means of life, one can then build and establish a career. What about the cognitive path for the less frequent "workable/livable"? Examining the context, they all appear in contexts like government investment inducement, industrial/commercial park positioning, new area planning, special town construction, etc. (as shown in TT 6), which need to attract investment, drive regional construction, establish complete living amenities, and entice people to settle down. Evidently, 'workable' is the precondition for cognition, only if 'workable', there can be 'livable', which coincides with the aforementioned holistic view.

Table 7: Source text 6 ①&amp; ② and their target texts

ST 6 ①	qīng dǎo zhōng dé shēng tài yuán fā zhǎn dìng wèi wéi“dǎ zào yǐ gāo duān zhì zào yè wéi hé xīn .....yí yè yí jū①, kě chí xù fā zhǎn de guó jì hé zuò yuán qū”. (People's Daily, 2011.09.18)
Pinyin	
Meaning	Qingdao Sino-German Ecopark's development is positioned to "create an international cooperation park centered on high-end manufacturing.....which is workable and livable①, and has sustainable development."
ST 6 ②	jiāng “bì guì yuán kē jì xiǎo zhèn” dǎ zào chéng “yǐ rén wéi běn, chǎn chéng róng hé, yí yè yí jū, shè huì xìng shū niǔ xíng de shuāng chuàng xīn shè qū”. (People's Daily, 2016.08.16)
Pinyin	
Meaning	To build "Evergrande Technology Town" into "a two-innovation community with human-oriented, integrated production and city development, that is workable and livable①, and serves as a social hub."

### 3.2. Interpretation of Heterogeneity of Form and Meaning in Translation

Therefore, returning to the context of TT 4, compared to TT 4①, TT 4② requires more consideration. This chunk structure lists 'workable' first, reflecting the spatial and reversible dissociation characteristics of the Chinese language. However, in terms of the overall context, the government emphasizes the attribute of housing and designates it as for 'living', not 'speculating', highlighting the vision for the construction of public service facilities. Thus, the semantic logic of this chunk is implicitly embedded in the Chinese people's philosophy of spatial thinking, which can be restored in the target language translation.

In TT 4① and TT 4②, the translation paths for the two examples differ. ① translates the structure into a verb phrase 'make rural areas suitable to live and work in' embedded in the predicate of the main clause, while ② translates it as a relative clause 'that people enjoy living and working in' modifying the antecedent 'places'. Additionally, both make use of lexical (and) and grammatical means (that clause, etc.) to highlight the linear temporal line characteristic of continuity in the target translation, conforming to its temporal preference. However, semantically, the two are consistent, despite structural differences, the translation focuses on "...live and work in," consistently highlighting the original deep philosophical view and national thinking motivation.

Additionally, the “qiáng guó/qiáng jūn” (powerful country/powerful military) four-character structure in TT 5 is also a '2+2 rhythm' chunk and conjunctive structure. As previously stated, the source language greatly prefers spatial structures, with their form being dissociated and reversible, therefore “qiáng guó/qiáng jūn” chunk structures are predictable. Verification in the BCC corpus indeed confirms the existence of the structure “qiáng jūn/qiáng guó”, however, there's a particularly notable frequency difference. “qiáng guó/qiáng jūn” appears 153 times, whereas “qiáng jūn/qiáng guó” appears only 10 times, a ratio of about 15:1, with a significant advantage for the former. What drives this cognitive preference of frequency difference? Can semantics accommodate the form, hence being translated as a conjunctive structure?

Humboldt (2010:52-54) once pointed out that language is the basis for interpreting the development process of the spirit, and its occurrence is attributed to the intellectual

characteristics of ethnic groups. And these intellectual characteristics are implicit in the structure of each language. If 'living' and 'working' clarify the Chinese people's philosophical pursuit of survival and development, then 'country' and 'military' reflect the Chinese people's philosophical perception of the state and the overall situation. Influenced by Chinese philosophical thought, such as "unity of man and nature," "man and heaven of one kind," and "communication between man and heaven," the Han people prefer comprehensive speculation, signifying the cognitive recognition that the whole takes precedence over the individual, which also precisely explains the collectivism cultural preference of the Han people. Returning to the corpus, the phrase 'powerful military/powerful country' always appears in military contexts, such as discussions about military missions, military historical merits, troop construction, etc. (as shown in TT 7), focusing on military service to the country, reflecting the path of discourse generation driven by semantic situational differences.

Table 8: Source text 7 ①& ②

ST 7 ①	bù yí yàng de nián dài, yí yàng de fèng xiàn. bù yí yàng de shì jì, yí yàng de chuán chéng . bù biàn de, shì háng kōng rén shǒu hù jiā yuán, qiáng jūn qiáng guó de chǐ zǐ qíng huái hé bù lǎo zhōng chéng. (People's Daily, 2012.12.10)
Pinyin	
Meaning	Different eras, the same dedication. Different deeds, the same inheritance. Unchanged is the loyalty and fidelity of airmen to guard their homeland and strengthen the military and the country.
ST 7 ②	gù běn qīng yuán, yuán mèng qiáng guó de jīn tiān, jūn rén dān fù zhe yǒu bié yú yǐ wǎng rèn hé shí qī de tè shū shǐ mìng: qiáng jūn qiáng guó. (People's Daily Overseas Edition, 2017.07.29)
Pinyin	
Meaning	In today's age of solidifying foundation and fulfilling the dream of a powerful country, military personnel bear a particular mission distinct from any previous period: to strengthen the military and build a strong country.

Based on the analysis, the relationship of the state to the troops, the country to the soldiers, is that of the collective to the individual, emphasizing a collective concept, reflecting the spatial thinking preference of Chinese philosophy. Therefore, the formal juxtaposition of 'powerful country/powerful military' should not presuppose a semantic juxtaposition, as it is implicitly driven by the national thinking motivated by the relationship between the whole and the individual. Accordingly, when translating into the target language, it cannot be simply translated sequentially, the deep meaning must be excavated for identification and restructuring.

Table 9: Source text 5 and target text 5

ST 5	quán miàn jiā qiáng xīn shí dài wǒ jūn dǎng de lǐng dǎo hé dǎng de jiàn shè gōng zuò, ....., shì tuī jìn qiáng guó qiáng jūn① de bì rán yāo qiú. (Speech at the Central Military Commission Party-Building Meeting, 2018)
Pinyin	
TT 5	Strengthening the Party's leadership and organizations in the military in the new era is a prerequisite for implementing the great new project of strengthening the Party, and for building a strong country with a strong military. ①.

The translation does not display the conjunctive structure of 'a powerful country and a strong military' but instead uses the prepositional phrase 'with a strong military' following 'a strong country,' as the complement of the head noun 'country' ([NP[Det a][Adj strong][N country][PP[P with] [NP[Det a][Adj strong][N military]]]]), visually presenting the relationship between the state and the military as the whole and the individual. Besides this example, verification has been conducted, and it was discovered that this structure frequently appears in political discourse, while syntactic function varies in specific contexts, target translations differ slightly, though consistently aligning with the Han people's holistic worldview spatial thinking preference, keeping the core NP (a strong country with a strong military) unchanged.

As seen, the source language's four-character structure maintains a non-homogeneous correspondence between form and semantics. During the translation process, it is not only important to focus on the source language's spatially driven dissociated and reversible distribution of formal elements but also to explore the semantic cognition that lies hidden beneath these drives, to resolve the tension between the "brevity of form" and the "limitless content."

#### 4. Intra-chunk Heterogeneity of Form and Meaning and its Interpretation in Translation

##### 4.1. Three-character Chunky Construction Sequences

Apart from the "4±0" chunk structure, the chunky discrete structuring under the spatial characteristics of the Chinese language are also manifested in multiple chunky compound construction sequences, such as "pair format," "triple X format," "multiple X format," etc. (Cao Huan et al. 2023; Cao Huan, Liu Shaolong 2021, Liu Shaolong, Wang Liupi 2021). The following uses as an example the speech from President Xi Jinping's 2021 New Year's address to explain further. The sentence "xīn nián jiāng zhì, wéi yuàn (shān hé jǐn xiù), (guó tài mǐn ān) ! wéi yuàn (hé shùn zhì xiáng), (xìng fú měi mǎn) (Meaning: As the New Year dawns, may the scenery be splendid, and the nation flourish and its people live in peace! May harmony bring prosperity, and happiness be fulfilled!)" contains two "pairing-four" (4+4/4+4, 2×(4+4)) compound constructions: "shān hé jǐn xiù /guó tài mǐn ān" (4+4) and "hé shùn zhì xiáng/xìng fú měi mǎn" (4+4). Another example sentence will be "yì guó liǎng zhì 'wán quán xíng de tōng, bàn dé dào, dé rén xīn" ('One country, two systems' is totally workable, viable, and popular)" contains a "triple-three" (3+3+3, 3×3) compound construction.

These multiple chunky compound construction sequences are also characteristic highlights of Chinese political discourse, emphasizing the strong spatial representational traits of Chinese, generated by the spatial aggregation between words, simplifying complexity, and forming sentences with intent. However, at first glance, these multiple chunky compound constructions seem neatly formed; upon closer inspection of their internal structures, they do not entirely correspond homogeneously. For instance, the "triple-three" format: xíng de tōng / bàn dé dào / dé rén xīn" though formally a neat "triple rhyming pattern," at a deeper level consists of two complement phrases structures and one object phrase structure, with semantic progression and causality between the chunks. Therefore, regarding the "4±0" multiple chunky compound constructions, the translation process must necessarily be based on the identification and interpretation within each chunk, and also explore the semantic and pragmatic construction relations between the chunks. In the examples below, the circle numbers in the source text mark the sequences of chunky constructions, while in the translations, the circle numbers mark the corresponding numbered translations of the source chunky constructions.

Table 10: Source text 8 and target text 8

ST 8	jiān chí shuō shí huà ①, móu shí shì ②, chū shí zhāo ③, qiú shí xiào ④.....yǐ dǐng
Pinyin	dǐng zǐ jīng shén zuò shí zuò xī zuò hǎo gè xiàng gōng zuò . (Xi Jinping's report at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, 2017.10.18)
TT 8	We should be open and frank①, take effective measures③to address real issues②, and seek good outcomes④....We should have the perseverance to hammer away until a task is done, and make concrete, meticulous, and effective efforts in all our work.

ST 8 presents a "quadruple-three" (3+3+3+3, 4×3) compound construction sequence "shuō shí huà ①/móu shí shì ②/chū shí zhāo ③/qiú shí xiào ④" with each sub-chunk in a three-rhythm pattern, unified in formal representation and cognitively accommodating the "4±0" memory



limit, discrete and symmetrical progression by chunk, reflecting the source language's "spatiality" preference. At the same time, each sub-chunk is a verb-object structure. Does that suggest homogeneity of semantic and pragmatic meaning with form? Cognitive grammar and construction grammar both emphasize the factors of semantics and pragmatics (Langacker, 2004; Fillmore et al, 1988), and constructionist theory also points out the importance of paying attention to subtle aspects of understanding events and states of affairs (Goldberg, 1995&2003). Therefore, a deep exploration reveals that "speaking truthful words" and "implementing practical solutions" are means, while "seeking practical matters" and "achieving practical results" are the ends, that is, ①means+②ends+③means+④ends. Thus, English translation should not be restricted by form while neglecting the semantic and pragmatic relations between the chunks.

TT 8 uses four target language chunks corresponding to the "quadruple-three" compound construction sequence of four three-character chunks in ST 8, sequentially corresponding to the source chunks ①③②④, and to some extent complying with the spatial characteristics of the source language's chunky discreteness, achieving cognitive reduction. That is: be open and frank (shuō shí huà), take effective measures (chū shí zhāo), address real issues (móu shí shì), seek good outcomes (qiú shí xiào ). However, the target language English has a "temporality" preference, employing grammatical and lexical forms such as "we," "to," and "and" to achieve connectivity and continuation, in stark contrast to the source language's spatial preference for discontinuous form and continuous meaning. "We" accentuates the prominence of the subject implicit in the source language, "to" reveals the purposive semantics and pragmatics of the source chunk sequence, and "and" connects the two ends of the source chunk sequence.

#### 4.2. Four-character Chunky Construction Sequences

ST 9 and ST 8 share similarities and differences. At first glance, “yǐ shǐ wéi jiàn/kāi chuàng wèi lái /mái tóu kǔ gàn/yǒng yì qián xíng” (learn from history/create a future//work hard/forgo ahead) form a united sequence of four chunks, with each chunk in a four-rhythm pattern, which may seem like a "quadruple-four" style. However, due to punctuation differences, it is actually a "double-double-four" (4+4/4+4, 2×(4+4)) compound construction sequence, which accommodates the "4±0" cognitive memory limit while expanding discretely and progressing chunk by chunk. Additionally, in ST 9's "double-double-four" compound chunky sequence, there are also relationships between means and ends regarding semantic and pragmatic use between chunks, similar to Example 8 but also different. In ST 9, "learn from history," "work hard," "forge ahead" are all means, with semantic progression; while "create a future" is the end, that is, ①means+②ends//③means+④means. The chunky constructions in the source text do not correspond word-for-word in form and semantics, displaying non-homogeneous representation; the translated text has undergone identification and corresponding transformation during reconstruction.

Table 11: Source text 9 and target text 9

ST 9	dǎng zhōng yāng hào zhào .....yǐ shǐ wéi jiàn ①, kāi chuàng wèi lái ②, mái tóu kǔ gàn ③, yǒng yì qián xíng ④, wéi shí xiàn dì èr gè bǎi nián fèn dòu mù biāo , shí xiàn zhōng huá mín zú wěi dà fù xīng de zhōng guó mèng ér bú xiè fèn dòu . (Communiqué of the Sixth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China)
Pinyin	
TT 9	The Central Committee calls upon... We will learn from history①, work hard③, forge ahead ④for a better future②, and make tireless efforts to realize the Second Centenary Goal and the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

TT 9, with four chunky constructions in sequence, corresponds respectively to the source language chunks ①③④②, complying with the spatial characteristics of the source language

and simultaneously highlighting the target language's preference for one-dimensional linear temporality. "We will" makes explicit the implicit subject and tense in the source language's spatial characteristics. At the same time, the three target language chunk constructions "learn from history," "work hard," and "forge ahead" correspond to the three four-character chunks in the source language, that is, TT 9's ①③④, demonstrating the textual identification and reconstruction of the semantic and pragmatic use between chunks in the source language's chunky sequence. In addition, the use of the preposition "for" connects "a better future," expressing the purpose in the context and corresponding to the second four-character chunk in ST 9, further revealing and highlighting the identification and interpretation of non-homogeneity between form and semantics and pragmatics of the source language's united chunky sequence.

Beyond the "double-double-four" compound chunky sequence, the spatial characteristics of the Chinese language's chunk discrete structuring naturally also suggest "X-four" compound chunky sequence paradigms. Let's observe two "five-four" compound chunky sequence examples.

Table 12: Source text 10 and target text 10

ST 10	wǒ mén yīng gāi xié shǒu tuī dòng gòu jiàn rén lèi mìng yùn gòng tóng tǐ, gòng tóng jiàn shè chí jiǔ hé píng ①, pǔ biàn ān quán ②, gòng tóng fán róng ③, kāi fàng bāo róng ④, qīng jié měi lì ⑤ de shì jiè . (Speech by Xi Jinping at the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Restoration of the Lawful Seat of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations, 2021.10.25)
TT10	We should jointly promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, and work together to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful ④+⑤ world that enjoys lasting peace ①, universal security ② and common prosperity ③.

Table 13: Source text 11 and target text 11

ST 11	xīn de zhēng chéng shàng, wǒ mén bì xū .....quán miàn tuī jìn zhèng zhì jiàn jūn ①, gǎi gé qiáng jūn ②, kē jì qiáng jūn ③, rén cái qiáng jūn ④, yī fǎ zhì jūn ⑤, .....hàn wèi guó jiā zhǔ quán, ān quán, fā zhǎn lì yì! (Speech by Xi Jinping at the Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Founding of the Communist Party of China)
TT 11	On the journey ahead...We will take comprehensive measures to enhance the political loyalty of the armed forces ①, to strengthen them through reform and technology ②/③ and the training of competent personnel ④, and to run them in accordance with the law ⑤....safeguarding our national sovereignty, security, and development interests.

ST 10 and ST 11 each present a "five-four" compound chunky sequence, with each sequence consisting of five four-character chunky constructions in arrangement, namely "chí jiǔ hé píng ①/pǔ biàn ān quán ②/gòng tóng fán róng ③/kāi fàng bāo róng ④/qīng jié měi lì ⑤" (lasting peace/universal security/common prosperity/openness and inclusiveness/clean and beautiful) and "zhèng zhì jiàn jūn ①/gǎi gé qiáng jūn ②/kē jì qiáng jūn ③/rén cái qiáng jūn ④/yī fǎ zhì jūn ⑤" (political construction/reform and strengthen/enhance with science and technology/with talented individuals/govern by law). In summary, under the strong spatial representation of the source language, its flexibility in construction methods allows for expressions that may lack full syntactic forms. However, as long as semantics are coherent, the expressions are considered valid, thus manifesting strong endogenous characteristics. Constructionist theory emphasizes the importance of understanding subtle aspects, which

point to semantic and pragmatic factors that pure syntax cannot highlight (Goldberg, 2003:3). So, do the chunks of these four-character chunk construction sequences have subtle aspects?

In ST 10, while the five four-character chunks are all in a four-syllable rhythm, the chunks internally display two semantic logics: NP (①②③) and AP (④⑤). Microscopically, according to the XP rule, the two APs internally form a united, parallel structure, that is: AP (openness and inclusiveness/clean and beautiful) = AP (open/clean) + AP (inclusive/beautiful), with each parallel AP having only the central A (open/clean/inclusive/beautiful); the internals of the three NPs form a modifier-head logical structure, that is: NP (lasting peace/universal security/common prosperity) = A (lasting/universal/common) + N (peace/ security/prosperity). Macroscopically, the entire sequence of chunk constructions also form a united, parallel logic, with the three NPs (lasting peace, universal security, common prosperity) and the two APs (openness and inclusiveness, clean and beautiful) modifying the object "world" in the sentence together. The source language's emphasis on implicit coherence, unifying form with meaning, is evident.

So, can it be translated into target English by following the form? English typically places adjectives or noun phrases ahead of nouns for modification, but it is rare to see noun phrase groups modifying nouns, and parallel structure syntax only allows the parallelism of the same type. Clearly, the translation of this construction sequence requires a different approach. English often uses various formal means to link words, clauses, or sentences, emphasizing sentence form and structure integrity, which are driven by English's temporality preference (Wang Wenbin, 2019). Under the unity of construction rhythm, this construction sequence is subject to syntactic restrictions, and the understanding of these restrictions is undoubtedly closely related to subtle semantic and pragmatic factors. Consequently, during translation into the target language, the source language chunky constructions undergo semantic and pragmatic reconstruction

Looking again at ST 11, the five four-character combined chunky construction sequence goes as "zhèng zhì jiàn jūn ①/gǎi gé qiáng jūn ②/kē jì qiáng jūn ③/rén cái qiáng jūn ④/yī fǎ zhì jūn ⑤" (political construction/reform and strengthen/enhance with science and technology/with talented individuals/govern by law). The analytic characteristic of the Chinese language possesses an economical nature, meaning it can express limitless content using "the most economical and concise forms" (Dai Qingsha, 2017: 5). Each of these five chunky constructions is constrained by the limits of human cognitive memory, characterized by a four-syllable rhythm, with an internal "2+2" dual tone sequence structure. From the perspective of prosodic syntax, language sometimes sacrifices syntax and semantics to meet rhythmic needs (Feng Shengli, 2000:2). In this example, the second dual tone construction element in ①②③④⑤ is uniformly a verb-object format. However, the first dual tone construction elements vary, with ①②③④'s "zhèng zhì/gǎi gé /kē jì /rén cái" functioning as NPs and forming a subject-predicate structure within their respective chunk constructions; while ⑤'s "yī fǎ" is in the verb-object format, forming a bias-rectification structure with the second element of the chunk construction.

When prosody becomes a suppressive driving force within the construction structure, semantics often yields to rhythm (Liu Yumei, 2015: 57). In this combined construction sequence, relative to the form, the semantics of ①②③④⑤ are all latent. Among them, ⑤ is the clearest, meaning "to govern the army according to the law"; followed by ②③, which means "to strengthen the army through science, technology, and reform"; next is ④, which superficially could be interpreted homogenously with ②③ but actually means "to strengthen the army by cultivating talent". The most difficult to discern is ①, as "political" semantic range is too abstract and a sensitive word involving China in Western ideology, carelessness can lead to adverse communication effects. Reference to party-political documents reveals: "Political building of the army stems from the historical practice of Chinese revolution; the

implementation of revolutionary political work ensures our army is always a revolutionary armed force under the absolute leadership of the party, providing inexhaustible strength for our army to defeat powerful enemies and overcome daunting challenges, thus maintaining the innate nature and style of the people's army" (China Daily, 2015). Furthermore, when considering the accuracy of the external translation and the acceptability of the translator, ⑤ can be understood as "strengthening the absolute leadership of the party or reinforcing the army's loyalty to the party".

TT 11 shows that the target language uses three "to infinitive" constructions to a certain extent restoring the original five four-character combined chunky construction sequence. Meanwhile, due to the suppressive effect of the "to infinitive" construction in the target language and the influence of syntactic coordination, the four-character chunk constructions of the source language ①②③④⑤ are translated (or jointly translated) into verb-object structures, that is: "to enhance the political loyalty..., to strengthen them... , and to run them...". Among them, "to..., to... , and to..." are the formal means of continuity in the target language, reflecting the target language's linear temporal thinking preference, forming a stark contrast with the source language's scattered, parallel progression, spatial-thinking style.

As previously analyzed in the latent semantic analysis of the source language, the translation reconstructs and highlights the semantics and pragmatics of the five four-character chunk constructions, with "in accordance with the law" interpreting "yī fǎ "; "strengthen them through reform and technology and the training of competent personnel" collectively translates the ②③④ chunky constructions of the source language, combining "gǎi gé " and "kē jì " into one, and providing a more accurate explanation of the connotation of "rén cái ", "cultivating talent"; "enhance the political loyalty of the armed forces" accurately conveys the semantic connotation of "political building of the army", "increasing the army's loyalty". Thus, when translated into the target language, the heterogeneous representation of form and meaning determined by the genetic code of the source language goes through cognitive reprocessing and restructuring based on the semantic and pragmatic connotations.

### 4.3. Complex Composite Chunky Construction Sequences

In Chinese, aside from the combined chunky construction sequences composed of a certain number of characters as listed in examples 8-11, there are also more complex composite chunky construction sequences. ST 12 contains one such "double three+double four" (3+3/3+3/4+4) composite chunky construction sequence: "jùn qí yuán/hán qí lín" (①+②)// "yǎng zhèng qì /gù gēn běn"(③+④)// "qiè ér bù shě/jiǔ jiǔ wéi gōng"(⑤+⑥).

Table 14: Source text 12 and target text 12

ST 12	yíng zào liáng hǎo zhèng zhì shēng tài .....bì xū zuò wéi dǎng de zhèng zhì jiàn shè de jī chǔ xìng, jīng cháng xìng gōng zuò, jùn qí yuán ①, hán qí lín ②, yǎng zhèng qì ③, gù gēn běn ④, qiè ér bù shě ⑤, jiǔ jiǔ wéi gōng ⑥. (Speech by Xi Jinping at the sixth collective learning session of the 19th CPC Central Politburo, June 29, 2018)
TT 12	Fostering a healthy political environment...must be made a basic and regular activity in reinforcing our Party's political foundations. Like tending the natural environment byclearing up the sources of waterways①and cultivating forests②, we need to make long, tenacious efforts⑤+⑥to foster political integrity③and build a strong foundation④.

Such sentence combinations exceed the principle of semantic composition, representing a higher-level metaphorical technique characterized by an incompleteness in language forms where words or phrases allow for the omission of some structural components, thereby

combining and leaping to convey meaning directly (Yuan Yulin, 2017: 171). The construction elements within this composite chunky construction sequence, despite differences in complexity, regulatory level, schematization, and fixation, are all "form-meaning pairing bodies", demonstrating a highly generalized economic characteristic of language. Due to rhythmic repression, language must sacrifice syntax and semantics in real-life experiences. For this composite sequence, since the source-language's spatial preference opts for meaning to govern form, the semantic-pragmatic logic in the chunk construction sequence is not manifested, and the heterogeneous representation of form and meaning is prominent, creating difficulties in interpretation. Moreover, the latent rhetorical figures in this example make the interpretation even more challenging.

Language expression is the result of categorizing cognitive processing based on human experience and perception, and rhetorical figures in language are likewise the result of such cognitive processing, "all rhetorical figures are results of cognitive processing" (Wang Yin, 2010:47-48). In Example 12, the discussed point is "creating a sound political ecology", which is an abstract concept. The speaker uses the metaphor of "nature/environmental ecology" for explanation. Under the cognitive linguistics paradigm, humans use experiences from one domain to comprehend perceptions in another domain, considered a metaphor. This cognitive mechanism helps construct linguistic concepts, extend semantics, thereby forming a linguistic polysemous network.

In the corpus, "source" and "forest" are categories within the natural ecology metaphor, hence, the "double three" (①+②//③+④) construction element sequence's concealed semantic-pragmatic logic should be understood as: "Just like the construction of a natural ecology, political ecology construction also requires dredging sources and nurturing forests, thereby fostering political integrity and solidifying foundations", that is: ①+② are metaphorical rhetorical constructions, ③+④ imply purpose and result.

Furthermore, the "double four" (persisting without wavering/making long-term efforts) construction element sequence also exhibits the source language's sparing use of formal means, the semantically led, spatially non-linear preference. ⑤ and ⑥ are high regularity solid four-character chunky constructions, which form a semantic repetition in the entire combination construction sequence, assuming the semantic logic of "means/method", meaning: through the efforts of "persisting without wavering, making long-term efforts", the purpose of "fostering political integrity, solidifying foundations" is achieved.

Based on the latent semantic-pragmatic analysis of Example 12's source language, the spatial characteristic of chunk dissonance is evident. The translation uses the target language constructions to explain the chunk structures of the source language, to some extent reflecting the adaptation to the chunk characteristics of the source language. Meanwhile, the translation corresponds respectively to the source language ①②⑤+⑥③④ in turn, reflecting the chunk configuration's discrete arrangement and the heterogeneous representation of form and meaning in the source language. In TT 12, the bold italicized phrases highlight the continuity means driven by the temporal preference of the target language. These lexical, morphological, and syntactic tools not only highlight the metaphors in the source language, "Like tending the natural environment"; but also display the "means/method" of the semantic logic, "by clearing up the sources of waterways① and cultivating forests②"; as well as clarify the semantic "purpose", "to foster political integrity③ and build a strong foundation④". In addition, "we need to" is the re-presentation of the source language's latent subject. Thus, the "form-meaning unity" temporal preference of the translation's genetic language is vividly displayed.

In summary, the combined chunky construction sequences and their composite sequences that emerge in the source language fully embody the driving force of Chinese spatial-national thinking on language. From the perspective of cognitive construction grammar, whether it is "couple-pair style", "multiple-X style", or other paradigms, the heterogeneous correspondence

between form and meaning is more pronounced, constituting cognitive interpretation barriers in the English translation process.

## 5. Conclusion

Based on the analysis above, it can be seen that the chunky construction and (composite) combined chunky construction sequences in Chinese political discourse are distinguishing features, constituting a high-altitude difficulty in translation. This paper has explained and described the chunk dissonance spatial characteristics of Chinese characteristic discourse and the high-level English translations' linear temporal characteristics from the theoretical perspective of differences in English and Chinese spatial-temporal features. Additionally, under the cognitive construction grammar view, the spatial characteristics of the source language predict clear heterogeneous representations between the form and meaning within the chunky constructions and across the (composite) combined chunky construction sequences, marking the focus and difficulty of source language understanding and target language reconstruction.

This study, based on the corpus, has extracted chunky constructions and (composite) combined chunky construction sequences of different complexities and provided a construction theory explanation and paradigm description for characteristic discourse from the strong spatial theoretical perspective of the Chinese language. In the translation process, from the strong temporal theoretical dimension of the target translation language, a theoretical analysis of the cognitive reconstruction of the source language's semantic-pragmatic discernment and the target language has been performed, and a theoretical description of the processed paradigm of the translation. These aspects have made breakthroughs in originality and have achieved certain academic discoveries in bilingual discernment and resolving cross-linguistic contradictions..

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