Research Article
The Structural Differences between English and Chinese and Their Embodiment in Translation– A Case Study of the Report on the 19th CPC National Congress

Shuya Feng
Graduate Student in School of Foreign languages, Campus of Henan University, NO.85 Road, Minglun District, Kaifeng, Henan, China

Abstract: With the development of globalization and China’s economy, China’s influence in the world is expanding, more and more people want to know about China. The government Work Report made a summary about the work and the success achieved and, at the same time, made corresponding arrangements for future social and economic development. Therefore, it has received worldwide attention. It is one of the important ways for the international community to know about China’s actual conditions. The government Work Report has great political significance, and the accuracy of translation is extremely high. Therefore, the translation of the Chinese government Work Report is particularly important. This thesis will make a case study of the report of the 19th CPC National Congress to make a brief analysis of the structural differences between Chinese and English. Making a comparison between English and Chinese in the form of sentences and analyzing the characteristics and rules of the two languages can help produce more accurate translation between English and Chinese.

Keywords: The 19th Congress Report; Translation; Character

INTRODUCTION
English and Chinese belong to different language families, after a long period of historical evolution; they have formed their own distinctive characteristics. Therefore, it is important to compare the similarities and differences between English and Chinese to achieve excellent translation. The history of civilization at home and abroad tells us that translation is a necessary tool for human beings to exchange ideas and feelings to promote the development of human civilization. Whether in East or West, the traditional translation theory always emphasize faithfulness, that is, faithfulness to the original text is the basic rule of translation. The methods and techniques of English-Chinese translation are based on the comparison between English and Chinese. The difference between Chinese and English in expressive method is that Chinese emphasize parataxis while English put emphasis on hypotaxis, in word order, the language components in Chinese are arranged according to the order from big concept to small, firstly, to the whole, then to the local part, while English is certainly not. We can see that while adhere to the principle of translation; we should pay more attention to the flexibility, because flexibility and principle are the two aspects of the language effect and the communication of the original meaning. If lacking of flexibility, translation will also damage the principle. Cultural translation should pay attention to flexibility, while the translation of professional and political terms should pay attention to principle. In the process of translation, the translator should grasp the differences of Chinese and English sentence patterns and translate according to the differences of lexical and syntactic patterns. In order to do a good job in translation, translators should be able to understand the differences between Chinese and English cultures, grasp the differences between Chinese and foreign people's thinking patterns, and translate languages on the basis of respecting the cultures of different countries. So that people can understand useful information through translation. Translation is an extremely complicated task. It is not only a language of artistic reproduction, but also has a strong scientific nature. As we know, the translation should be faithful to the original text. Although the translation of political documents for the sake of faithfulness is more stringent, this does not mean that it is only a strict translation in the literal sense. At the same time, the English translation of the government work report should adhere to the policy of combining domestication and alienation. Government work report is a political text and the embodiment of political authority. It has its own unique requirements as a window and medium for foreign countries to understand China.
THE CHARACTERISTICS AND DIFFERENCES OF CHINESE-ENGLISH STRUCTURE

1.1 The Respective Characteristics of Chinese and English Structure

English is a comprehensive language. It mainly "expresses" its linguistic meaning through its own the speech just see the single word “work”, but if we say “努力工作(work hard),找工作(to find jobs)”, that would be easier to see.

In English, more importance is given to the beginning of a sentence, while in Chinese the same importance is placed at the end. In English, the judgment or conclusion is usually put at the beginning, and the fact or the description is in the behind. The Chinese sentences usually flow from the cause to the result, from hypothesis to deduction.

Example 1
The visit gives me the opportunity which I have long sought, to see for myself the achievement of the Chinese people.
(http://www.sina.cn,2017.10.18）

Example 2
“China’s development will continue to offer opportunities to other countries. China will keep its door widely open and not close it; an open door allows other countries to access the Chinese market and China itself to integrate with the world”.（Ibid）

Example 3
His uncle cannot recognize him who left his hometown with his parents when he was three years old.

This sentence is made up of a main sentence, and an attributive clause that is connected by a relative pronoun “who”. In accord with the requirement of hypotaxis and parataxis. “Specifically speaking, English emphasizes hypotaxis, while Chinese emphasizes parataxis; hypotaxis is the connection of various components of a sentence in the use of linguistic forms, expressing its grammatical meaning and logical relations”. (Wang Wuxing 2003) Parataxis means no use of linguistic forms among the components of sentences, the grammatical meaning and logical relation of the sentences expressed through words, phrases, and the meaning of clauses.

Example 4
China's development still remains a great opportunity to other countries. China will keep its door widely open and not close it; an open door allows other countries to access the Chinese market and China itself to integrate with the world.
Therefore, only by fully understanding the differences between hypotaxis and parataxis can a translator successfully elect or ignore proper conjunctions.

Although the basic structure of English and Chinese are of the subject-predicate form, the method of sentence formation in English is very different from that of Chinese. English sentences emphasize hypotaxis through conjunctions such as and, but, or, that, when, who and so on, which connect the components of the sentence, and at the same time show the inner logical relations of the sentence.

The westerners are accustomed to giving priority to objective things. Therefore, English sentences mostly take the objective things as subjects, use the passive voice, and show the opinion of science, rationality toward things. In contrast, the Chinese people are accustomed to analyzing and researching things in the view of human beings. Therefore, Chinese sentences mostly use the active voice, and often take the living things as subjects.

The different thinking ways of both resulted in modifier confirmations such as time and destination. In English sentences, the rhetorical components of a central word are usually arranged in order from small to large, specific to general, local to global.

Example 5

It is a small, old-fashioned but important port. (Liu Wenjie 2002)

I saw the film on Tuesday evening last week. (Ibid)

Modifiers like small, old-fashioned, important in the first sentence are arranged from specific to abstract. Tuesday evening and last week in the second sentence is the time range from small to big. Chinese people’s mentality in researching and analyzing problems usually goes from big to small, integral to individual, general to special, overall to specific.

If the above sentences translated to Chinese, the translated version would be:

它是一个老式的小港,但很重要。

我上星期二晚上看过那部电影。

From the translation we can see the ranging order of Chinese modifiers was from big to small. In English, we used to expressing the concept of action with nouns, prepositions, infinitives and participles.

After an analysis of the sentence structure, it is not difficult to find that there is only one predicate in English sentences. By contrast, the Chinese sentences express the concept of action with verbs directly. That’s because the morphological changes of Chinese verbs are not as complicated as English verbs. It’s also very convenient to use. The same word may have different meanings in different periods, vocabulary should keep peace with society.

THE BASIC TECHNIQUES AND METHODS OF TRANSLATION

2.1 The Difficulties in Translation

In translation, the first difficulty is the understanding of the original text, which requires the translator to pay full attention to the characteristics of English. He should have a clear understanding of every word, every phrase, every sentence, and every passage instead of translating with only a hazy notion. Sometimes the same word expresses different concepts on different occasions; and the same concept can be expressed in different ways. Therefore, the translator must be identify and select the words carefully.

Since ancient times, there have been more and more jobs and subject fields. Every field of an industry has its own specialized knowledge. Even if a person learns translation very well, he cannot master everything while translating, let alone the ordinary people. The difficulties encountered in professional knowledge are unimaginable. Because the modern science and technology grows rapidly, lots of new words emerged, such as radar (雷达), laser (激光), missile (导弹), stereo-vision (立体电视), Dictaphone (电视电话), electronic computer (电子计算机), robot (机器人) and so on. According to the American encyclopedia published in 1975, now there are more than one million words in English in contrast with the total number of about 400,000 only a hundred years ago. These words inevitably involve the new knowledge of a particular subject. When encountering difficulties in translation, the translators must not be ashamed to ask for help, be it from professionals or from dictionaries and make clear the true meaning.

“There exists fundamental differences between the east and the west, we emphasize synthesis, induction, intimation, and implication; While the western people pay more attention to the analysis, the words are in the subtle twists, and always afraid of the description cannot understand by others,” (Zhang Chunbai 2003) These differences have exerted a profound influence on their respective language expressions, which has naturally brought huge obstacles in translation.

The comprehensive thinking manners of the Chinese people lead to a large number of topic sentences in Chinese, and the analytical thinking mode of the west lead to a large number of subject sentences in English. For example, “开车他没有经验; 婚姻的事我自己做主” . In English sentences, the subject is often in the main position. For example “Man proposes God disposes”, in which the subject is not the main themes and the real topic, is hidden in the predicate.

Language is not only the carrier of culture, but also its reflection. There are great differences between
English and Chinese in terms of lexical classification and syntax. These differences reflect the significant differences between the two cultures in terms of traditional values, religious beliefs and legal norms. Firstly, the westerners and easterners have opposite opinions toward life. The Chinese are used to talking with each other in a modest way, while the westerners are not. For example, when the Chinese people invite friends to have meals, they might say “饭菜不好，请多包涵”, simply in order to be polite and modest. However, if it is literally translated into “These dishes are not good. Please make do with them”, the Westerners would be offended because the host does not even bother to make a decent meal for the guests. On the contrary, the Westerners will say how delicious the food is that is made by them. Secondly, some animals represent different images in the two cultures, and become different symbols. For example, the lion is known as the king of beasts in the west. However, in the Chinese culture its counterpart is the tiger. Third, there are cultural gaps in the English and Chinese cultures. It is difficult to find an equivalent in English for the word “Yan Wang” in Chinese. The Chinese have a mixed feeling toward “a Wang”: On one hand, they respect him, because he is an immortal in charge of the book of life and death. On the other hand, they are afraid of him, because he represents death and punishment. There are words like “devil, demon, evil, Satan, wicked spirit” in English, but none of them can express the exact meaning of “Yan Wan” (Sun Zhili 2003).

2.2 The Basic Techniques of Translation

As a matter of fact, translation is a complex language application process as well as a regular language conversion process. Due to the differences between languages and cultures, the original text and the translation must have relative equivalence and semantic identity. The translation should be faithful to the original text and understandable to the reader. Chesterman (1997: 88) thinks that “Therefore, translation strategy is to regard translation as an action, and put it into a broader context of action theory”.

Example 6

Tom can be relied on. He eats no fish and plays the game.

The original text uses two set phrases “to eat no fish” and a “to play the game”. Due to the differences of the two cultures, a good translation should not render just the literal meaning of each word, because that would produce a version that is totally unreadable. “To eat no fish” means “loyalty”, and “to play the game” means “treat fairly” “integrity”. In this way, the translation is fluent and smooth.

It is not easy to master the skills of translation. We will met all kinds of obstacles. In addition, the translation demands that the translator know about all kinds of cultural knowledge. We can step up our efforts in gaining cultural knowledge by doing some translation exercises, contrasting, summarizing, and concluding the features of the two different cultures. When translating, there is one thing we need to pay attention to: translation needs to express the meaning of the whole sentence; during the process, we should not just transform the language structure. There are many methods in translation. Next, we mainly talk about word translation, supplementary, inverse translation, choice of meaning, extended meaning, positive and negative translation.

2.2.1 The Conversion of Translation

There are great differences both in language structure and expression manners. This demands us to change the part of speech of some words in the translation. Only by doing this can we make the translation fluently.

Example 7

The modern world is experiencing rapid development of science and technology.

Supplementary Method

In the English-Chinese translation, sometimes a translator needs to add some words according to the needs of meaning or syntax, so that the translation can express the idea of the context faithfully and smoothly. We can add words according to the meaning and rhetoric needs.

2.2.2 The Inversion of Translation

As to those English sentences with complex structure, we can translate the latter part of the sentence first, and then translate the sentence in reverse order.

1. Choice of meaning

Both English and Chinese have the phenomenon of polysemy. During the process of translation, we should first make the original sentence structure clear, and then select the meaning of the key words in the original sentence. We could begin from two aspects: One is to select and determine the meaning of the word according to the word category in the sentence; the second is to help and determine the meaning of the words according
2. Extended meaning

In the translation, sometimes we will meet some words that do not have proper meanings in the dictionary. If we translate the sentence word for word, the translation will be hard to understand, and cannot show the original mean exactly. We should take into consideration the context and the logical relationships, so we can start with the fundamental meaning of the word, make further extensions of the meaning, and then choose the appropriate Chinese words to express.

THE TRANSLATION OF GOVERNMENT WORK REPORT

3.1 The Characteristic of Government Work Report Translation

The Government Work Report deals with important aspects of national policy principles and interests. Most of the political papers are clear and lively, reflecting the characteristics of meaning and reasoning (Cheng ZhaoWei 2007). The report is a summary of the work done by the Chinese government. As a typical political text, the Government Work Report is very specific, with a rigorous writing style and a good logic.

Example 8

“新时代我国社会主要矛盾为人民日益增长的美好生活需要 和不平衡不充分的发展之间的矛盾”.

(http://www.sina.cn,2017.1018)

The translation: The principal contradiction in the new area is the contradiction between unbalanced and inadequate development and people’s ever-growing needs for a better life.

Example 9

中国共产党的初心和使命, 就是为中国人民谋幸福,为中华民族谋复兴. (Ibid)

The translation: The original aspiration and the mission of Chinese Communists are to seek happiness and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation.

In addition, new words and expressions are emerging in China. With the emergence of new things, new policies have been introduced, and there will be many new political words in each period (Huang Zhending 2007). They will appear in all kinds of political texts in time. In the 19th congress report, there are new terms like “一带一路”，“人类命运共同体”，“总体国家安全观”，“大道之行，天下为公”，“打虎、拍蝇、猎狐”，“文化软实力” and so on. These are not only popular words used very frequently, but they all have typical Chinese characteristics. In the 19th Congress report, the word “坚持” appeared many times.

Example 10

坚持党对一切工作的领导、坚持以人民为中心、坚持全面深化改革、坚持人民当家作主、坚持总体国家安全观。 (Ibid)

The phrases mentioned above are respectively translated into “Ensuring party leadership over all work” “Committing to a people-centered approach” “Continuing to comprehensively deepen reform” “Seeing that people run the country” “pursuing a holistic approach to national security”. Of course, in order to avoid the repetition of English words, translators should choose different words to express meanings according to the specific context.

Lastly, the sentences in the Work Report are mostly complex, most of which are of parallel structures.

Example 11

“坚持房子是用来住的，不是用来炒的定位，加快建立多主体供给、多渠道保障、租购并举的住房制度，让全体人民住有所居”(Ibid)

“We must not forget that housing is for living in, not speculation. With this in mind, we will move faster to put in place a housing system that ensures supply through multiple sources, provides housing support through multiple channels, and encourages both housing purchase and renting. This will make us better placed to meet the housing needs of all of our people.”(Ibid)

As a matter of fact, the Chinese emphasize parataxis, which relies more on the connection of semantics and less on connectives. The function of the subject is also relatively weak in Chinese, so it is common of a complex sentence with no subject to be used in Chinese. Comparatively speaking, English is a grammatical language, which emphasizes the “conformation” and the subject-predicate sequence. The relationship between sentences is manifested through the distinctive grammatical means. Therefore in translation, the subject is indispensable, and the original sentence should be rearranged to avoid long and cumbersome translation.

3.2 Translation principles of government report

The Chinese and English people have different cultural background values and ways of thinking, so their aesthetic views of language is not the same. (Yuan Xiaoning 2005: 75-78) The Chinese expressions tend to over-modify the rhetoric, and the English expressions tend to be concise and clear. In Chinese-English translation, especially in the translation of government report, we should fully take into account the differences; make corresponding adjustments, so that the reader can be smoothly absorbed by the English translation of
message content. In combination with the characteristics of the above-mentioned political texts, the following principles should be followed in translation. The Work Report of the government is concerned with the policy of state administration, which would allow no room for negligence. Therefore, “The translation must accurately reflect the original text and should not deviate from the original meaning, nor distort the original meaning.” (Wang Nongsheng 2004:56-59) As mentioned above, the translation of political texts is highly objective, and arbitrary additions or deletions or freedom of creativity is not allowed. Of course, there are some specific translation strategies, which will be discussed later. The translator’s own requirements are also inevitable. Cheng Zhenqiu once said, “The comrades engaged in the translation of political articles should be both politically and politically sensitive.” (Wang Zhi 2003) It can be seen that when translating political texts, the quality of the translation is closely related to the translator’s own attitude, experience, knowledge and specific political sensitivity.

3.3 Translation strategies of political texts

English translation should avoid the repetition typical in the Chinese language. In terms of words, Chinese tends to be elegant and English tends to be objective.

Example 12

坚持聚精会神搞建设，一心一意谋发展。
The translation: Concentrate on construction and development.

The translation: Improve the basic economic system and the modern market system.

“聚精会神” have a close meaning with “一心一意”, which should be translated as “concentrate on”; “完善” with “健全” should be translated as “improve”; the repetition in Chinese can make the text match the pace of the work, which can not only enhance the overall style sense, but also play a cohesive and coherent role, and it is necessary to pay attention to the updating of the translation method.

Example 13

全面建设小康社会

The translation: to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

We should fully understand the meaning of “全面” and “小康”. “全面” should be translate into “across the country”, “小康” used to mean that the economy is relatively developed. To build a well-off society in an all-round way refers to a well-off society with a high level of economic and political culture that benefits over a billion people. So it should be translated into “to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects”.

The translation of “a well-off society” here is more appropriate, which means to build a moderately prosperous society in all aspects.

The Chinese words are luxuriant and beautiful, and the English is simple and lively. (Du Sutao 2008: 223-225) This is due to language differences. In the report, we can find that the Chinese language shows an obvious preference to all kinds of modifiers and repetition. The translation of government work reports into English is particularly important.

Example 14

民主法制建设取得新进步。

The translation: Progress was made in democracy and the legal system

There are a lot of strong and redundant modifiers in Chinese, such as “new progress”. (Zhang Jipei 2001: 21-24) This kind of words makes perfect sense in Chinese and is intended to strengthen the tone. If it is translated word for word into English, the readers will be baffled, because progress alone means something new, and they usually do not modify it with “new”. In addition, the enhancement and improvement in the example are close in meaning, so the two words can be combined and translated into “improve”.

CONCLUSION

In today’s highly developed global integration, there is no doubt that the need for foreign publicity is becoming more and more prominent. China is the largest developing country in the world, so its national policy will attract people from home and abroad. Therefore, as the main form of political discourse in the national political propaganda, the importance of translation is self-evident. We can see that the quality of translation is not only related to the translator’s knowledge, skills and proficiency, but also to the environment and cultural background of his life. To make the country in the world fully understand the government Work Report, translators should consider the cultural difference and diversity carefully in order to retain the elements of Chinese characteristics properly while translating. Of course, the translator should have a broader vision. From the macro perspective, translation not only happens on the linguistic level, but also on the cultural level. In a word, it is necessary to recognize the characteristics of such texts and make a solid preparation before translating. A translator should be faithful and accurate, conform to the thinking logic of the target language, and strive to provide the most acceptable translation for foreign readers, so as to maximize the development of China’s propaganda work.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

7. 新华网，习近平十九大报告 http://www.sina.cn, 2017.10.18
9. 刘文捷. 翻译入门（英译汉）[M]. 北京：外语教学与研究出版社，2002
10. 张春柏. 英汉汉英翻译教程[M]. 北京：高等教育出版社，2003
11. 桂乾元. 翻译学导论[M]. 上海：外语教育出版社，2004
12. 孙致礼. 新编英汉翻译教程[M]. 上海：外语教育出版社，2003
13. 奈达. 西方翻译史话[J]. 中国翻译，1983，(3)
14. 成昭伟. 新英汉翻译实务[M]. 北京：国防工业出版社，2007(4)
15. 黄振定. 英汉互译实践教程[M]. 长沙：湖南人民出版社，2007(8)
18. 刘治. 大学汉英翻译教程[M]. 济南：山东大学出版社，2003(8)