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Abstract
With the rapid development of Chinese economy and noticeable improvement of national power, China’s international status and world influence have been steadily improving these years, which attracts the attention of more and more foreigners who want to have a better understanding of China. The annual Report on the Work of Government (RWG) is the most authoritative document which introduces the latest Chinese national conditions and next development directions. Under the guidance of Verschueren’s Adaptation Theory, the choice of words, phrases, in the process of translating RWG, should be paid more attention to so that the translated text can realize a perfect adaptation. This thesis concentrates on the analysis of the translation of the Report based on the Adaptation Theory. The author mainly discusses the linguistic choices from the perspective of communicative context. Through the detailed analysis, the author believes that Adaptation Theory has powerful explanation in translating political documents. The choice of accurate words, appropriate phrases can be well explained within the theoretical framework of adaptation in the process of translation.

Keywords


This chapter will give an overview of the RWG and analyze the language features of the RWG. In this way, we can have a general understanding of RWG and make enough preparation for further research.

1.1. Brief Understanding of the Report

Usually, every year, the State Council sets up a working group for drafting the RWG. The main members of this group consist of workers of Research Office of the State Council. In addition, experts and scholars of some relative departments are also invited to take part in the work. To begin with, the group members must come together to study the spirit of the central government and know about the requirements from the Premier. After that, the group will begin to do research in different ways and receive different opinions from all sides. Under such a basis, the draft report can be formed. However, the first draft requires amendments and discussions many times.

The content of RWG is usually composed of the overview of the both achievements and drawbacks of the past year or the past five years and new goals or plans for the next year or the next five years, covering all aspects of development of China including politics, economy, agriculture, education, health care, foreign affairs and so on.

As for the function of RWG, it reports the government performance and the plans, which is to be delivered to the deputies of the People's Congress for discussion and approval. When the report is passed, the plans mentioned in RWG can be considered as the general guidelines for the central government as well as local governments. Meanwhile, it is an authoritative information source about the government work and policies. From the international aspect, it
can serve as an important channel for the outside world to realize which direction the government is going to.

1.2. Language Features of the Report

1.2.1. Formal Diction

RWG is written for the Premier or the head of a local government. Thus, it really requires a formal language style which can improve its solemnity and authority. In this way, the language of RWG is different from oral languages or speeches, and it always uses formal words, political terms instead of colloquial language or slang. For instance, in the report on the work of government, we can often see many formal words like “审议” (invite comments), “偿债” (debt repayment), “结构性减税” (structural tax reductions), and “转移支付” (transfer payment), and also many other political terms, such as “四个自信” (Four-Pronged Comprehensive), “八项规定” (eight-point decision), “三严三实” (Three Stricts and Three Honests), “四风” (formalism, bureaucratism, hedonism, and extravagance), and “一带一路” (the Belt and the Road Initiative).

1.2.2. Chinese Culture-loaded Terms

A large number of Chinese culture-loaded terms are often used in RWG, which make the RWG authentic and unique. Those terms include Chinese idioms, abbreviations, poems and allegories which are closely related to certain economic, scientific and historical fields, such as “深港通” (Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect), “制度笼子” (institutional constraints), “双随机, 一公开” (an oversight model drawing on random inspections by randomly selected law enforcement officers or inspectors and requiring the prompt release of results) and “互联网+” (Internet Plus)

1.2.3. Four-character Phrases and Parallel Sentences

Four-character phrases are concise in content, symmetric in form and catchy in sound. For instance, there are such four-character phrases as “简政放权” (streamline administration), “廉洁履职” (Government duties are performed with integrity), “脱贫攻坚” (combat poverty) and “重拳治理” (take strong measures against...). Parallel sentences are used to develop a catchy rhythm.

Original text: 打造众创、众包、众扶、众筹平台
Translation: Platform will be created for crowd innovation, crowd support, crowdsourcing, and crowdfunding.

Original text: 创新发展一批，重组整合一批，清理退出一批
Translation: Some will be developed through innovation, others will be reorganized or merged, and still others will exit the market

Original text: 去产能，去杠杆，降成本，补短板
Translation: We should cut overcapacity and excess inventory, de-leverage, reduce costs, and strengthen points of weakness)

Using Four-character phrases and parallel sentences can be helpful to strengthen mood and rallying point of the RWG. Therefore, translators should fully consider these special patterns and provide a more successful translation version.


2.1. Adaptation to Physical World

Temporal deixis and spatial deixis are most visible ways of anchoring language choices into a physical world. (Verschueren 2000: 95) According to Verschueren, the dimension of time and
location is always reflected in linguistic choice during the process of language use. Physical world refers to the geographical and natural environment where people in different areas with different physical features may have different means of thinking and using language. In the English translation of RWG we can find that translators use a lot of proper methods to make adaptation to the physical world of the target language, which produces an acceptable text to the target readers. The following examples can be used to illustrate it.

Original text: “一带一路”建设成效显现，国际产能合作步伐加快，高铁，核电等中国装备走出去取得突破性进展。
Translation: Progress was made in the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative, the pace of our industrial-capacity cooperation with other countries was stepped up, and breakthroughs were made in China’s export of high-speed railway and nuclear power equipment.

According to Verschueren (2000), spatial concepts are the core to human thinking to some degree. In the source text, “一带一路” refers to the “Silk Road Economic Belt” and “21st Century Maritime Silk Road” for short and it is proven as a platform for regional cooperation by means of the bilateral and multilateral mechanisms existing between China and relevant countries. Here, the translator did not translate “一带一路” into “One Belt and One Road” or “The Belt and Road Initiative” but “the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative” because many foreign readers might hear of the phrase “一带一路” for the first time and could not comprehend its internal meaning. In this way, the translator provided the full name of “一带一路” rather than its abbreviation. Therefore, the English readers will gain a right understanding of the original meaning of the policy of Chinese government.

2.2. Adaptation to Social World

According to Verschueren (2000), there is no principled limit to the range of social factors that linguistic choices are interadaptable with. Most of them have to do with the properties of social settings or institutions (Verschueren 2000: 91). Language as a special way of communication can reflect customs, cultures as well as social norms in the society. Translation can be commonly regarded as an inter-lingual communication, which is related to different societies and cultures. In translation, we should remember that there are various social factors in two different languages when we make choices to adapt to the social world. Therefore, translators should pay attention to the social background of the target language and choose the most proper words or phrases in the process of translating the RWG, which can reduce the misunderstanding and facilitate efficient communication with the rest of the world. The following part is going to choose some examples to illustrate the adaptation to the social world in translation.

Original text: 继续扩大重点高校面向贫困地区农村招生规模，落实和完善农民工随迁子女在当地就学和升学考试政策。
Translation: We will continue to help see the increased enrollment of students from poor rural areas into key colleges, and improve and implement policies enabling children who live with their migrant worker parents to go to secondary school or take college entrance exams in their city of residence.

In example, “农民工” refers to a special group appearing in a special historical period in China. With the increasing number of migrant workers, many social problems related to their living condition, social status and social welfare also arise. In the text, we find that the education problem of children of migrant workers has attracted public attention, and education inequality has become a prominent issue in China. Western developed countries have perfect social welfare and public education. They do not have such problems. In the process of translation, if
the translator did not add “who live with their migrant worker parents” in detail, the readers in the west may not have a better comprehension of the problem of education inequality.

Original text: 我们深入开展“三严三实”专题教育，锲而不舍落实党中央八项规定精神，坚决纠正“四风”，严格执行国务院“约法三章”。

Translation: The campaign to build understanding of the Three Stricts and Three Honests was intensified, the CPC Central Committee’s eight-point decision on improving Party and government conduct continued to be implemented, action was taken against formalism, bureaucratism, hedonism, and extravagance, and rigorous efforts were made to carry out the State Council’s three-point decision on curbing government spending.

In this paragraph, “三严三实” is translated as “Three Stricts and Three Honests”, which can provide western readers a clearer concept. Besides, “四风” has been translated as formalism, bureaucratism, hedonism, and extravagance, which supplies the potential readers more specific content of “four values”. What’s more, about the “约法三章”, if the translator did not explain the problem “curbing government spending” in detail, the target readers may not comprehend this policy.

By making such an adaptation to social world in translation, the target readers can fully understand the conditions of China and look forward to paying more attention to the Chinese future development.

### 2.3. Adaptation to Mental World

Verschueren claims that “Verbal interaction is no doubt communication from mind to mind” (2000: 87). The mental world mainly refers to the inner world of the speakers and the listeners, which could show both personality, emotions or intentions. It is very important to understand the mental world of the author of the original text and to correctly convey the special feeling to the readers of the target language in the process of translation. Furthermore, it is necessary to explain the mental world of the potential readers, which enables them to have a better understanding of the particular message. Therefore, all the items of mental world should be taken into consideration in translation.

Original text: 奋斗才能赢得未来。让我们更加紧密地团结在以习近平同志为总书记的党中央周围，凝心聚力，奋发进取努力完成今年经济社会发展目标任务。

Translation: Our future can be secured only through hard work. Let us rally closer around the CPC Central Committee headed by General Secretary Xi Jinping and, working together and remaining of one mind, strive to fulfill this year’s economic and social development tasks and targets.

In this example, some phrases like “凝心聚力” and “奋发进取” can express a kind of strong emotion to inspire Chinese people to work harder and to go forward continually. In the process of translation, the translator used “working together and remaining of one mind” and “strive to” to concisely convey the mental world of the speaker, which can ensure that the translated version also has such an emotional effect and it can also reflect the confidence of the Chinese as well. By doing this, the English translation precisely expresses the original meaning of the Report and and provides target readers the same emotional experience in their mental world.

Original text: 当前我国发展正处于这样一个关键时期，必须培育发展壮大新动能，加快发展新经济。要推动新技术、新产业、新业态加快成长，以体制机制创新促进分享经济发展，建设共享平台，做大高技术产业、现代服务业等新兴产业集群，打造动力强劲的新引擎。

Translation: This is the crucial period in which China currently finds itself, and during which we must build up powerful new drivers in order to accelerate the development of the new economy. We need to move faster to develop new technologies, industries, and forms of business, boost the development of a sharing economy through institutional innovation, create
sharing platforms, and develop emerging industry clusters such as high-tech and modern service industry clusters, thus creating strong new engines.

Verschueren has argued that specific motivations and intentions should be considered during the process of making choices (2000: 89). Therefore, similarly we should also take the intentions or motivations of Chinese government into account when translating the RWG. In this example, we find that “new economy” is used in the RWG for the first time. According to the description made by Premier Li, we can easily realize that under the background of new economy, every country in the world should follow the trend of new technology revolution, enhance mutual communication, learn from each other’s experience, and promote scientific and technological advancement. Thus, the translator used “accelerate”, “faster”, “boost” and “develop” to express the strong inspiration and confidence of China to seize the opportunity to keep up with the global trend.

Original text: 经济增长预期目标6.5%-7%，考虑了与全面建设小康社会目标相衔接，考虑了推进结构性改革的需要，也有利于稳定和引导市场预期。
Translation: In setting a projected growth rate of between 6.5% and 7%, we have to take into consideration the need to finish building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and the need to advance structural reform. It will also help guide market expectations and keep them stable.

Many foreign media surprisingly find that it is the first time for Chinese government to set such a growth rate of GPD publicly, which releases a positive economic signal to the international society and presents a determination to make contribution to the world economy. Therefore, the translator should fully comprehend the motivation of the Chinese government and convey it to the people in other countries.

3. Conclusion

This part is going to summarize the major findings in this thesis. Apart from this, it will further point out the limitations of the present study and then put forward some instructive suggestions for future study.

With the rapid development of Chinese economy, the international status of China has improved remarkably. More and more foreign countries want to better know about China in the background of globalization. The RWG is considered as the most authoritative information about China, which, on the one hand, looks back on the performance of our government in the past year or during past five years, on the other hand, makes policies and plans for future development in every walk of life. In order to let the outside world have a better understanding of the Report, translation plays a significant role in the cross-culture communication. The translation of the RWG provides the foreign countries with a general view of the new changes of modern China. Therefore, this thesis has studied the translation of the RWG from the perspective of Adaptation Theory proposed by Verschueren.

Under the guidance of Verschueren’s Adaptation Theory, the choice of words, phrases, in the process of translating RWG, should be paid more attention to so that the translated text can realize a perfect adaptation. This thesis concentrates on the analysis of the translation of the Report based on Adaptation Theory. The author discusses the linguistic choices from the perspective of communicative context. Through the detailed analysis, the author figures out that Adaptation Theory has powerful explanation in translating political documents. The choice of accurate words, appropriate phrases can be well explained within the theoretical framework of adaptation in the process of translation. There is no doubt that this thesis is far from perfect and there are still some limitations. On the one hand, the examples listed in this thesis are chosen just by author’s own comprehension so that the subjectivity always exists to some degree. On the other hand, the study only analyzes the language choices from the angle of
communicative contexts so that the analysis is relatively not comprehensive enough. Furthermore, in order to ensure the integrity of adaptive analysis, we can also analyze the language choice of RWG from other three angles: structural objects of adaptability, dynamics of adaptability, and salience of the adaptation process.

References