The Explicitation of Implicit Logic in the Translation of Chinese-English Political Texts

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Abstract: Logical connection is a vital method of discourse connection. On the one hand, as a paratactic language, Chinese is marked by implicit logic, with an emphasis on implicit coherence. On the other hand, as a hypotactic language, English is characteristic of explicit logic, with a focus on explicit coherence. This shows a stark difference between Chinese and English in terms of logical connection. Therefore, the explicitation of logic is an indispensable part in the Chinese-English translation of political texts.

Keywords: Political Texts; Implicit logic; Explicitation

1. Foreword

As China witnesses its prosperity and the rise in its international status on its way towards rejuvenation, the international community holds increasing expectations for more voices of China and put more focuses on its deeds. At the same time, a Chinese president once said that efforts must done at a faster pace to strengthen international communication capacity, so that China's stories can be told well and its messages spread far and wide. Like a bond connecting China and the world, the translation of political texts transcends language barriers and cultural limitations and gives a detailed account of China's policies.

Expressions are fixed, rigorous and formal in the translation of political texts. Political texts are a reflection of a country's political attitude, language style, image, and foreign policies [1]. That requires translators, when translating political texts, to do everything they can to know correct expressions of words with distinctive features and to ensure that political and cultural meanings are conveyed accurately. In addition, they must pay attention to the balance of languages to ensure the accuracy and correctness of the translated texts.

Taking various Chinese political texts as examples, this paper analyses the explicitation and implicitation of logic, compares the differences between Chinese and English in logic expression, and proposes main strategies of explicitation applied in the translation of the Chinese-English translation of political texts. Hopefully, it can offer enlightenment for the Chinese-English translation of political texts.

2. The Explicitation and Implicitation of Logical Connection

In *Cohesion in English*, M.A.K.Halliday and Ruqaiya Hasan defined connection as semantic relations that exist in and determine the discourse, and established five types of ties: reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction, and lexical cohesion [2]. Among them，the lexical cohesion refers to relations, in line with the logic, between clauses, sentences and paragraphs. Under the influence of the research results of M.A.K.Halliday and Ruqaiya Hasan, Hu Zhuanglin expanded the concept of logical connection, adding that the logical concept in the discourse relates to the relations between adjacent sentences (sense-group). Through the application of connecting words, people can understand semantic relations between sentences and even predict the semantic meanings of subsequent sentences logically from the preceding sentences [3].

According to linking semantics, Halliday and Hasan divided conjunctions into four types, namely additive, adversative, causal and temporal. Furthermore, the conjunctions were grouped into

elaboration, extension, enhancement based on abstract logical semantics in Halliday's *An Introduction to Functional Grammar* [4].

Connection is like an explicit network in discourse level, and word choices and grammar methods lead to the coherent logic and smooth style of the context. Logical connection refers to discourse markers of logical relationships between sentences and paragraphs in discourse. As one of the methods to establish discourse cohesion, it includes explicit and implicit connections [5].

3. The Importance of Explicitation of Implicit Logic in Political Texts

The translation of political texts is a solemn political task. It is an authoritative source for all countries and their people to know their national conditions, principles and policies, political system and stand. It also helps to shape a country's image and increase its international leverage.

To translate Chinese political texts into English, to begin with, explicitation of implicit logic contributes to better understanding of inner structures and meanings of Chinese political texts. At the same time, it allows translators to explain Chinese political texts in a more correct way to avoid misconception and misunderstanding. Secondly, this method promotes stronger political communication and persuasion. As Chinese political texts are marked by complex logic and reasoning processes, communication with English readers or audiences can be made more accessible and effective with the help of explicitation of implicit logic. In addition, this translation strategy helps to enhance political consensus and cooperation. Finally, it enables both sides to better understand other's views and stand, thus increasing mutual understanding and collaboration.

In conclusion, explicitation of implicit logic in political texts is essential to building up political consensus. In the translation practice of political texts, we need to analyze and decode the political texts and grasp their inner logic and meanings, so as to better convey their textual meanings.

The following paragraphs will analyze the logic within words, sentences, and between sentences, classify and elaborate various ways of logical explicitation one by one.

4. Strategies for Translating Chinese-English Political Texts

4.1 Addition

4.1.1 Addition of Contrastive Conjunctions

Example 1:

TT: Although this is an era fraught with challenges, it is also an era brimming with hope.

"Challenges" and "hopes" are used to describe different features of the times in the source text, and although it doesn't have contrastive connectors, the Chinese sentence is expressed smoothly. The Chinese readers can easily understand the implicit logic hidden in the sentence. The two words, "Challenges" and "hope", carry a meaning of contrast. It is a point needs to be noticed in translation. In the target text, the connecting word, "although", is added to demonstrate the implicit logic between "challenges" and "hope".

Example 2:

TT: Despite repeated warnings, pointless formalities, bureaucratism, hedonism, and extravagance persisted in some localities and departments.

In the source text, "despite repeated warnings" means "issued-repeatedly orders to prohibit something do not bring about desirable results", and this Chinese sentence implies a meaning of contrast. The translators thus need to make the contrastive meaning explicit in the process of translation. The use of "despite" in the target text expresses faithfully how hard the Chinese government tries to curb these four undesirable practices.

Example 3:

TT: "A new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation is well under way, and a significant shift is taking place in the international balance of power, presenting China with new strategic opportunities in pursuing development. At the same time, however, the once-in-a-century pandemic has had far-reaching effect;a backlash against globalization is rising."

In the source text, the first three sentences are coherent in semantic level and belong to the same sense group. Sentence A and sentence B describe the international environment China faces, while the sentence C, the result of sentence A and sentence B, sums up what opportunities China's development encounters in such an environment. Sentence D and sentence E describe a different international environment and carry an opposite meaning compared with the first three sentences. Therefore, the explicitation strategy must be adopted to show the implicit logic in translating the source text. The use of "however"in the target text connects the two different sense groups and indicates the differences in the two environments. The explicitation of implicit logic is achieved in the interaction between the source language and the target language.

4.1.2 Addition of Causal Conjunctions

Example 1:

TT: We will provide education and guidance aimed at strengthening the vigilance of Party members and officials <u>so that</u> they have no desire to engage in corruption and <u>so</u> they live and work with honesty and integrity.

In the source text, sentence A and sentence B are the reasons of sentence C and sentence D, while the first two sentences are the results of the last two sentences. There are no logical conjunctions in the source text, but the logic of the Chinese text is implicit. Therefore, the translation must be done based on the the structure of causal relation. Without logical connections in the target text, the target audiences are confused about why the the quality of the members and officials can be enhanced. To eliminate that confusion, "so that" is used in the target text to connect these sentences and show that it's what education leads to better quality. The implicit logic between these four sentences is shown in the target text through the explicitation strategy.

Example 2:

TT: Various "black swan" and "gray rhino" events may occur at any time. We must, <u>therefore,</u> be more mindful of potential dangers.

In the source text, the first sentence describes situation Chinese government faces, and the last sentence gives an account of what responses the Chinese government make under such a circumstance. The logical relation is implicit in the Chinese sentence. Therefore, the explicitation strategy must be adopted during the translation for fear that target audiences should not know why the Chinese government must be more mindful of potential dangers.

4.1.3 Addition of Conjunctions of Purpose

Example 1:

TT: We will raise total factor productivity, make China's industrial and supply chains more resilient and secure, and promote integrated urban-rural development and coordinated regional development, <u>so as to</u> effectively upgrade and appropriately expand China's economic output.

The sentences in the source text have a loose structure, and no logical connections are present between different sentences. An in-depth analysis of the source text reveals that the sentence D is the purpose of the first three sentences. In the target text, therefore, "so as to", an infinitive phrase, is used for combination of these four sentences to make the target language hypotactic. It conforms to the principle of discourse coherence.

Example 2:

TT: We deepened reform and opening up across the board <u>in an effort to</u> create a new pattern of development.

In the source text, "deepened reform and opening up" is the action, while "create a new pattern of development" is the purpose. In this way, the implicit logic in the source text is clearly expressed. "In an effort to", a preposition phrase, is used to achieve explicitation of implicit logic in the target text. It thus makes the target text explicit logically.

Example 3:

TT: <u>In order to</u> enhance China's innovation capacity, we will move faster to launch a number of major national projects that are of strategic, big-picture, and long-term importance.

The last sentence is the purpose of the action in the the first sentence in the source text. This is its

the implicit logic. Consequently, "in order to", a infinitive phrase, is used in the target text to connect these two sentences logically, thus achieving the explicitation of implicit logic.

4.1.4 Addition of General Words

Example 1:

TT: In the face of turbulent developments in Hong Kong, the central government exercised its overall jurisdiction over the special administrative region as prescribed by China's Constitution and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The Law on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region was formulated and put into effect, ensuring that Hong Kong is administered by patriots. Thanks to these moves, order has been restored in Hong Kong, marking a major turn for the better in the region.

Example 2:

TT: we have put our national interests first, focused on internal political concerns, and maintained firm strategic resolve. We have shown a fighting spirit and a firm determination to never yield to coercive power. Throughout these endeavors, we have safeguarded China's dignity and core interests and kept ourselves well-positioned for pursuing development and ensuring security.

Example 3:

TT: We will continue the civic morality campaign, carry forward traditional Chinese virtues, foster stronger family ties, values, and traditions, and raise the intellectual and moral standards of minors. We will build public commitment to the greater good, public morality, and personal integrity. These efforts will help raise public moral standards and enhance public civility.

After research in Cambridge dictionary, the "moves" in the example 1, the "efforts" in the example 2, and "endeavors" in the example 3 mean respectively "an action taken to achieve something", an effort or attempt to do something, and "physical or mental activity needed to achieve something or an attempt to do something". The last sentences in the three examples are the results of the preceding sentences. For the purpose of explicitation of implicit logic, therefore, "Thanks to" and "Throughout" used in example 1 and example 2 are prepositions connecting the context, and the result relation is clearly expressed. In comparison, "efforts" functions as a subject. In addition, to avoid sentence redundancy, "moves", "endeavors", and "efforts" in the three target texts serve to summarize actions in these sentences.

4.2 Paraphrasing

Example 1:

TT: In responding to the sudden outbreak of Covid-19, we put the people and their lives above all else, worked to prevent both imported cases and domestic resurgences.

In the source text, "prevent both imported cases and domestic resurgences" means to prevent COVID-19 cases from the other other countries to cause a new round of COVID-19 epidemic, but the English readers may be confused about its meanings if it is translated into "prevent external defense input, internal defense rebound". Therefore, the explicitation strategy is adopted in the target text to express the inner meanings of "prevent both imported cases and domestic resurgences".

4.3 Division

Example 1:

TT: We took concrete steps to ensure that overdue housing projects were completed and delivered to meet people's basic living needs.

In the source text, there are only 14 Chinese characters, which are rather complex logically. "took concrete steps" is the action, " ensure that overdue housing projects were completed" the purpose 1, and "delivered to meet people's basic living needs" the purpose 2. Purpose 1 is the goal of action 1, while purpose 2 is the objective of purpose 1. Therefore, the sentence structure in the target text is: subject+verb+ infinitive of purpose+object clause+infinitive of purpose. The logic is thus explicit.

4.4 Combination

Example 1:

TT: In addition to its weak foundations and uneven development, China had long been plagued by poverty at a scale and a level of severity that has rarely been seen anywhere else in the world.

Though separated by a full stop, the two sentences in the source text are closely related semantically. The sentence B is a further explanation sentence A, indicating the how poverty-stricken China is. In English, the two sentences can be combined into one sentence. A analysis of the sentence structure of the target text shows that at the beginning of the text is the prepositional phrase, "in addition to", and the sentence structure of the main sentence is: subject+verb+object+object complement+subject clause. In addition, the object complement demonstrates the degree of poverty in China, which is line with the logical relation in the source text.

4.5 Logical Restructuring

Example 1:

TT: we encouraged them to create a brighter future by staying true to the Party's founding mission with greater resolve and purpose on the new journey ahead.

There are not explicit logical connections in the source text, but after analysis it is found that the logical structure in the example 1 is: manner 1+purpose 1. To achieve explicitation of implicit logic, the English sentence structure -- we do sth... by doing sth -- is used in the target text.

5. Conclusion

This paper takes various political texts as examples. The previous paragraphs have made a brief introduction of strategies for explicitation of implicit logic applied in related political texts. To make a clearer and more holistic understanding of these strategies, the translator tries to vary the difficult level of each strategy and sort it by the degree of difficulty, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: The Degree of difficulty of strategies for explicitation of implicit logic

Number	Strategies for Explicitation of Implicit Logic		Degree of Difficulty
1	Addition	Addition of Contrastive Conjunctions	1
		Addition of Causal Conjunctions	1
		Addition of Conjunctions of Purpose	2
		Addition of General Words	4
2	Division		3
3	Combination		3
4	Paraphrasing		4
5	Logical Restructuring		5

Note: the larger the degree of difficult is, the more difficult it is.

Translation is not only about the conversion of information, but also about that of thinking pattern. A good translation is by no means a word-for-word or sentence-for-sentence translation. Instead, it means that the translation of the original text follows an understanding of the text, an in-depth analysis of logical relation and then a correct expression the the content. However, mistranslation and dead translation are results of the mere translation of words or sentences without the consideration of logical relation in the source text.

Based on diverse Chinese political texts, this paper takes a analysis of different features of English and Chinese logical connections and provides strategies for Chinese-English translation of political texts. Its aim is to help translators grasp translation skills, improve the quality of political texts, and offer enlightenment for translation of Chinese-English political texts.

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