

# A Study on C-E Translation of Terms with Chinese Characteristics from the Perspective of Culture Translation Theory

## A Case Study of “Government Work Report (2022)”

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### ABSTRACT

From the perspective of cultural translation, this thesis will take the vocabulary with Chinese characteristics in the “Government Work Report (2022)” as the research object, and use research methods such as literature review method and exemplification to divide vocabulary with Chinese characteristic into three categories: abbreviations, expression with new concept as well as idiom and allusions. Typical cases of each category are selected to study and analyse the translation strategies and methods of vocabulary with Chinese characteristic from the two aspects: the retention of cultural image and the substitution of cultural image. This study hopes to answer two questions: (1) How translators adopt appropriate translation strategies to address the cultural functional equivalence of the source language and the target language? (2) What is the scope of application of different translation methods in the translation process? It has certain reference for the translation of vocabulary with Chinese characteristic in the later direction of cultural translation.

**Keywords:** *Expression with Chinese characteristics, Translation strategy, “Government Work Report (2022)”, Cultural translation theory.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

As China continues to promote reform and opening-up, China's economy, comprehensive national strength and international status continue to improve. However, the differences between China and the West hinder the West's further understanding of China. Therefore, it has become more and more important to tell China's story well, and establish a good image of China. To tell Chinese stories well and carry out international exchanges, correct and appropriate translation is required. Moreover, culture is the basis of translation, and good cultural communication requires translators to strive to achieve cultural function equivalence between the source language and the target language. Therefore, from the perspective of cultural translation, it is necessary to study the expression with Chinese characteristics.

The “Government Work Report” is an official political document, and an important official channel for the international community to understand China's basic national conditions and basic policies. It directly effects the international community's understanding of China's ideas and policies to Correctly understand and translate the expression with Chinese characteristics in the “Government Work Report”, and it plays an important role in China's culture promotion towards the world. From the perspective of cultural translation, this thesis will focus on the research and analysis of translation strategies and methods of expression with Chinese characteristics, taking the typical cases in the “Government Work Report (2022)” as the research data, hoping to bring some help to related translation and research in the future.

## **1.2 Objectives of the Study**

This thesis classifies the expression with Chinese characteristics in the “Government Work Report (2022)” based on Susan Bassnett’s cultural translation theory and Aixelá’s translation strategies of culture-specific items. The typical cases are selected, and their features are analysed. Then the scope of application of the translation strategy is summarized based on their features and the translator’s translation methods used in the report, and the English translation methods of the characteristic vocabulary in the “Government Work Report(2022)” is studied by analysing the examples of expression with Chinese characteristics, so as to conclude that the translator mainly adopts the two translation principles of retention of culture and replacement of culture in the face of different types of expression with Chinese characteristics, consciously chooses the translation strategies to realize the cultural function equivalence of the source language and the target language. Thus, the feasibility of cultural translation theory in guiding the Chinese-English translation of expression with Chinese characteristics is demonstrated.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Previous Studies of Expression with Chinese Characteristics**

Expression with Chinese characteristics is an important part of condensing Chinese culture and building a Chinese discourse system, and plays a major role in promoting the realization of Chinese culture to the realization of the strategic goal of the world. The basis for understanding Chinese characteristic vocabulary lies in understanding their definitions and characteristics, and classifying different words according to their different features.

#### **2.1.1 The Definition and Feature of Expression with Chinese Characteristics**

Vocabulary with Chinese characteristics refers to words and expressions with Chinese characteristics, containing rich Chinese cultural elements. (Tang, 2022). Chinese characteristic vocabulary is usually bred in China’s unique historical and cultural background, embodies China’s way of thinking and national character, and is closely related to the latest development of Chinese society. Lu (2020) believes that the expression of Chinese characteristics is a special

linguistic phenomenon of Chinese culture, and it is an expression of China’s current unique historical and cultural connotations. Referring to the above viewpoints, this thesis will define expressions with Chinese characteristics as words or phrases that can reflect the political, economic, cultural, and other development of China in a specific period. In the context of Chinese history and culture, it is a unique linguistic phenomenon, expressed through bilingual communication or foreign exchanges, and exists in comparison with ordinary expressions and foreign language expressions. (Zhang, 2021)

#### **2.1.2 The Classification of Expression with Chinese Characteristic**

The translator Guo (2003) roughly divided the vocabulary with Chinese characteristics in the “Government Work Report” into three categories: numerical abbreviations with Chinese characteristics, four-character structures with Chinese characteristics, and words with Chinese characteristics of the times. The concept of cultural exclusivity proposed by Aixelá in “Culture-specific Items”, that is, culture-loaded words, is basically consistent with the concept of cultural vocabulary with Chinese characteristics. Aixelá (1996) divides culture-specific items into two main categories: proper nouns and general vocabulary. Since this division is too general and not very targeted, Wang (2020) further subdivided the second type of general vocabulary into abbreviation, idioms, allusions, and metaphors by analysing and comparing the “Government Work Reports” from 2016 to 2020, to further analyse the features of different cultural vocabulary categories and summarize their cultural correspondence and applicable translation strategies in the translation process.

### **2.2 Previous Studies of the Translation of Expressions with Chinese Characteristics**

In the field of Chinese-English translation of political texts, some professors and scholars in China have studied the translation of political words with Chinese characteristics from different angles according to different translation theories, and achieved good results. The whole can be divided into two aspects: translation theory and the translation strategy of Chinese characteristic vocabularies.

Song and Xiong (2020) based on the theory of naturalized alienation, proposed that the translation of expressions with the characteristics of the times is mainly alienation, while for four-character cases and numerical abbreviations, naturalization is the mainstay. It effectively makes up for the shortcomings of the original research in the focus of naturalization and alienation. Ye (2020) analyses adaptive transformation from the perspective of ecological translation theory, mainly from the three dimensions in which translators play a central role in translation. Liu (2020) analyses the Chinese characteristics in the "Government Work Report" from the perspective of functional equivalence theory, to demonstrate the guiding significance of equivalence theory in its English translation. Tian (2020) focuses on the four-character structure in Chinese vocabulary, studies the translation of the "Government Work Report" from the perspective of teleology, and proposes that translators in political translations mostly use the literal translation method.

In addition, there are scholars who mainly study the translation methods and strategies of characteristic words. Zhou (2021) divides Chinese vocabulary into four-character idioms, era neologisms, number abbreviations, and regional abbreviations, and discusses the specific applications of literal translation, subtraction, interpretation, paraphrasing and footnotes in the translation of characteristic vocabulary. Wang (2020) studies the cultural correspondence and translation strategies of proper nouns, idiom allusions, figurative words, and lexical abbreviations with Chinese characteristics. Zhou (2020) proposed that in addition to traditional paraphrasing and literal translation, translation methods such as enlargement, conversion, and omission can also be used.

To conclude, in the field of English translation of Chinese characteristic words, the current research mostly studies the translation methods in the lexical areas under the guidance of teleological and functional equivalent translation theory, but studies on translation strategy in the perspective of cultural translation theory is not enough and there is room for further study. From the perspective of cultural correspondence, this thesis will select typical cases of featured vocabulary in the "Government Work Report" (2022), analyse their translation features and methods, hoping to provide new directions and ideas for translation research in related aspects in the future.

### 3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

#### 3.1 *Language, Culture and Translation*

Culture is a specific social phenomenon that was created by people in the development of life from generation to generation. It is embodied in various aspects such as geography, lifestyle, national character, traditional customs, and values. However, due to regional differences, different cultures have emerged between different ethnic groups, and cultural differences have emerged.

In fact, language is embedded in culture, belongs to a part of culture, and it is the carrier of culture. However, language is not the same as culture (Bassnett, 2013). Translation is easy to misunderstand in large part because translators ignore the cultural connotations behind language during the translation process. Language reflects culture, involves rich cultural connotations, and is constrained by culture. So, the fundamental problem of translation is not linguistic differences, but cultural differences. Translation considering cultural context is a kind of intercultural communication, in which the translator has a full understanding of the cultural phenomenon of national cultural differences or conflicts, and adapts with an inclusive attitude on this basis.

Bassnett's view of cultural translation points to new research directions. She believes that translation is a dynamic process. "The basic unit of translation is culture." she said. (Bassnett, 2004:10). The emergence of the cultural school has shifted translation study from a single strategic use and text conversion to a more comprehensive and systematic cultural context, fully considering the acceptance of the target language audience, and linking culture, language, and translation, rather than language conversion in isolation. As translators are in the translation process, if they ignore the cultural context and simply ignore the language conversion, it is likely to lead to misunderstandings. And such misunderstandings, if generated in commercial activities or even in the diplomatic work of countries, can lead to serious consequences. Therefore, in the translation process, when facing two different languages and cultures, translators should fully consider their cultural background.

### **3.2 Susan Bassnett's Cultural Translation Theory**

In the 1980s, the study of translation ushered in a new development: the cultural theory of translation. British scholar and translator Susan Bassnett is one of the representatives of the cultural translation school. Different from the traditional linguistic research direction, she considered translation and target language culture, translation history as well as translation and poetics into the scope of translation studies. She advocates that translators need to pay attention to the historical and cultural background behind the text, and study how to adopt appropriate translation strategies so that the translation can be accepted by the target language system, and the cultural function equivalence between the source language and the target language can be realized. (Chen, 2019)

With the in-depth study of cultural translation, Bassnett's view of cultural translation has gradually matured. In 1990, Susan Bassnett published the book "Translation, History and Culture", which formally and systematically summarized the theory of "cultural translation theory" and formally proposed the "cultural turn" for the first time, marking the cultural school of Western translation theory (Bassnett & Andr e 1990). In this book, the core points of her "cultural translation theory" are as follows:

Firstly, translation not only has the function of bilingual communication, but also a kind of cross-cultural communication, which refers to the communication between different cultures, not just the reorganization and decoding of languages.

Translation should take culture as the unit, but it should not be limited to the areas of linguistic research; Translation should not only focus on the description of the source language, but ignore the cultural functional equivalence between the source language and the target language; she said that a language is only an interpretation of another language, so only complete equivalence is impossible. She believes that translation is a dynamic process whose real purpose is to achieve a cultural turn. Therefore, Bassnett pays more attention to the cultural functions of the original language and the target language. Translation should not only consider the acceptance of the readers from target language, but also pay attention to the cultural function of the original language.

In addition, Translation should meet the cultural needs of different periods and the needs of different

groups of specific cultures. Therefore, to achieve the goal of cultural equivalence, the most important thing is to choose the appropriate translation strategies and principles, so that the cognitive effect of the target language readers in their cultural background is the same as that of the original language readers in the original language (Liu, 2017).

In conclusion, according to the theory of cultural translation concept, the focus of translation is on cultural exchange, thus the cultural function equivalence between the target language and the target language must be considered. Therefore, the translators should give full play to the subjective initiative of the translator and choose according to the background of the times and the cultural needs of specific groups.

### **3.3 Translation Principles and Methods of Culture-specific Items**

Vocabulary with Chinese characteristics contains rich cultural connotations of the Chinese nation, and is essentially a kind of cultural exclusive item. The Spanish scholar Aixel a put forward the concept of "cultural specific item" and defined it as a special cultural item in the source language, which either cannot find a corresponding item in the target language, or can only find different In-text texts. Then there will be problems when these items are converted from the cultural functions and connotations of the source language to the target language." However, some scholars in my country regard culturally specific items as textual items that cause translation difficulties. There is a lack of corresponding cultural images and corresponding expressions in language and target language. The essence of culturally specific items is how to deal with the phenomenon of cultural default (Wang, 1997).

Vocabularies with Chinese characteristics are rich in cultural images, some of which are common in Chinese and English, and similar alternative expressions can be found in the translation process. The scholars call this situation partial cultural default, but there are also some cultural images that are unique for China, for which there is no corresponding expression in the English language system, this is a cultural complete default. To convey Chinese culture to English readers more accurately and naturally and minimize misunderstandings, it is necessary to study the strategy of cultural image retention and substitution, and think about how to achieve the cultural

function equivalence of the source language and the target language in the process of translation. (Bassnett & André 2001).

From the perspective of cultural default, the research method of this thesis divides the translation of vocabulary with Chinese characteristics in the “Government Work Report (2022)” into two cases: the retention of cultural imagery and replacement of culture. Divide the vocabulary with Chinese characteristics in the report into categories, select typical examples of each category and analyse their adaptable translation methods.

#### **4. CASE STUDY OF TRANSLATING EXPRESSION WITH CHARACTERISTICS IN “GOVERNMENT WORK REPORT (2022)”**

From the perspective of cultural default, the research method of this thesis divides the translation of vocabulary with Chinese characteristics in the “Government Work Report (2022)” into two cases: retention of culture and replacement of culture. Divide the vocabulary with Chinese characteristics in the report into three categories--expression with politics and economy, abbreviations, idioms, and allusions, as well as expression with politics and economy. Select typical examples of each category and analyse their translation methods, hoping to provide some inspiration and help for translators in the future.

##### **4.1 Focusing on Retention of Culture**

When there is a cultural default between the original language and the translated language, that is, the cultural image contained in the cultural load words of the original text, and it is difficult to find similar cultural alternatives in the cultural background of the translated language, then the translator needs to give full play to his initiative and creativity, and reasonably retain or remove the cultural image, so as to achieve the purpose of understanding and achieving cultural function equivalence by the reader of the translated language. Next, this chapter will analyse the translators' retention of cultural imagery in the original language when translating the characteristic vocabulary in the “Government Work Report (2022)”.

##### **4.1.1 The Translation Strategies and Methods of Expressions of Abbreviations**

Abbreviation is one of the most distinctive vocabulary categories, including numerical abbreviations and word acronyms, which are mostly used to describe policies and systems in the “Government Work Report (2022)”, whose format is concise and neat. When translating such expressions, translators usually retain the cultural imagery of the original text and adopt a translation strategy of non-cultural translation and in-text explanations. There are examples taken from the “Government Work Report (2022)” as follows.

Example 1:

ST: “放管服”改革取得新进展。(in Chinese)

TT: New gains were made in the reform to streamline administration and delegate power, improve regulation, and upgrade services.

Analysis: “放管服” is a typical word acronym with Chinese characteristics. It is a major measure to deepen the reform of the administrative system after the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, and has unique Chinese characteristics. In the process of English translation, the translator adopts the strategy of free translation. Although the format and structure of the abbreviation is not retained, the cultural connotation of the original text is successfully conveyed so that the target language readers can understand the complete meaning of the abbreviation during the reading process.

Example 2:

ST: 我们要继续全面准确、坚定不移贯彻“一国两制”的方针。(in Chinese)

TT: We will maintain our firm commitment to the letter and spirit of the policy of One Country, Two Systems.

Analysis: “一国两制” is the abbreviation of “one country, two systems”, which belongs to the abbreviation with number and contains China's unique national conditions. It means that under the premise of adhering to only one China, Chinese mainland adhere to the socialist system, while Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan can retain the original capitalist system. This unique Chinese cultural vocabulary related to national conditions cannot find the corresponding cultural image in the English language system, so the translator adopted

literal translation method, retaining the original cultural imagery, and promoting the dissemination of China's political development concepts and achievements.

Example 3:

ST: 继续做好“六稳”、“六保”工作。(in Chinese)

TT: We must continue to ensure stability on six fronts and maintain security in six areas.

Analysis: “六稳” refers to the stability of six areas: employment, finance, foreign trade, foreign investment, investment, and expectations. The word “六保” means Protecting the six aspects of residents' employment, basic people's livelihood, market entities, food and energy security, industrial chain and supply chain stability, and grassroots operations. The translator adopted methods of literal translation plus explanation, retaining the format and main cultural imagery of these two words, while adding "areas" and "fronts" to supplement the information, indicating that the words “六稳” and “六保” are stability measures and safeguard measures taken for six fields and aspects respectively.

Example 4:

ST: 深刻认识“两个确立”的决定性意义。(in Chinese)

TT: We should acquire a deep understanding of the decisive significance of the establishment of both Comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the party Central Committee and in the party as a whole and the guiding role of Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New era.

Analysis: If the abbreviations are translated literally, the reader of the target language will be at a loss due to cultural nuance. Therefore, when translating this example, the author adopts the free translation method, and explains the specific meaning of these characteristic expressions in detail. After the translator taking the cultural orientation behind the original text in careful consideration, the format of abbreviations is appropriately abandoned to explain the cultural image of the original text, so that the readers of the target language can fully understand its meaning.

In conclusion, for the English translation of abbreviation, in order to convey the complete meaning of the vocabulary and achieve the purpose of cultural exchange, the translator uses the method of free translation, and appropriately abandons the

format of these expressions to retain and interpret the cultural image of the original text according to the understanding needs of the target language readers. Therefore, the translation achieves the purpose of cultural functional equivalence between the original language and the target language. On the other hand, for some abbreviations, the translator retains the original cultural images and formats, and adopts translation method of literal translation, to make the translation concise.

#### 4.1.2 Translation Strategies and Methods of Expressions of New Concept

With the development and progress of the country, new systems and policies are constantly updated. Most of these new concepts and vocabularies were created with the introduction of China's new major principles and policies, which is mostly related to Chinese politics and economy. Accurately understanding and translating these new concepts is important for English readers to understand the latest developments in China. Some examples in the “Government Work Report (2022)” will be selected for analysis below.

Example 5:

ST: 加快发展保障性租赁住房。(in Chinese)

TT: Government-subsidized rental housing was increased at a faster pace.

Analysis: This word uses methods of free translation plus explanation in the text. “保障性” means that the government provides subsidies to tenants through subsidies or subsidies. Therefore, the translator adds the subject of the government, explains its meaning. Correlated with the content and format of the Chinese language, and made appropriate explanations to make up for the cultural gap and help the target language readers understand.

Example 6:

ST: 坚定打赢脱贫攻坚战。(in Chinese)

TT: We will win the fight against poverty.

Analysis: The word “脱贫攻坚战” is a typical Chinese characteristic word, which is a necessary measure for China to achieve the goal of all-round moderate prosperity, and an important measure to solve the problem of poverty in China. The translator retains the original cultural imagery when translating the word. The word “战” mostly means “战争”, and the commonly translated as "war" or "battle", but it is not appropriate to use it here. The translator fully considered the cultural factors of the

original text, and found that the meaning of “战” here is not equivalent to the meaning of “war” that indicates violent conflicts between large areas or even countries, but should be Chinese people to fight for poverty alleviation, which is a positive expression. Therefore, the translator retains the cultural image of the original text, adopts the translation strategy of free translation, to avoid the misunderstanding of readers.

Example 7:

ST: 推动扫黑除恶常态化。(in Chinese)

TT: continue the ongoing efforts to combat organized crime and root out local criminal gangs.

Analysis: The phrase “扫黑除恶” means to fight against the criminal teams in China. If this term is directly translated as “cracking down evil forces”, “war on triads”, the translation of evil force and war may produce ambiguity and misunderstanding. Therefore, the translator should consider the cultural background of the target language readers and play his initiative. Here, the translator adopts the translation strategy of free translation, translating “black evil forces” into criminal gangs, and understands the case is a commendatory expression instead of derogatory one. And then he accurately translates its cultural image, to avoid misunderstanding caused by cultural differences.

In conclusion, when translating terms about economy and politics in the “Government Work Report (2022)”, the translator often adopts translation strategies such literal translation plus explanation to reasonably convey the cultural meaning of the original text. And make efforts to retain the indicated meaning of the original text and provide additional explanations for some culturally omitted parts. However, for some words that are easily misunderstood because of cultural differences, translators should fully consider the cultural background of the readers of the translated language, and adopt the translation method of free translation for some Chinese characteristic words to avoid misunderstanding by readers and achieve the cultural equivalence.

## 4.2 Focusing on Replacement of Culture

As the author mentions in their research methodology, Bassnett's theory of cultural translation includes the principle of taking the translator's initiative. In the “Government Work Report (2022)”, there are many vocabularies with Chinese, dominated by idiom, allusions, and some

cultural-loaded words. Some of these words have an equivalent expression in English, and some do not. In translation, even if the translator can reciprocate all the words of the original text, there is no guarantee that the translation will have the same effect on the target language readers as the native language does on the readers, who often tend to understand the text in their own cultural contexts. Therefore, in the translation process, the translator, based on his understanding of these terms, exerts his subjective initiative, and replaces the cultural imagery of the original text to achieve the goal of cultural functional equivalence.

### 4.2.1 Translation Strategies and Methods of Expressions of Idioms and Allusions

Idioms and allusions are unique cultural phenomena of the Chinese language, mostly derived from China's unique historical and cultural background, containing rich traditional Chinese culture, and are partially vacant in English, and it is difficult for English readers to understand the deep cultural connotation. Therefore, translator should choose the appropriate translation strategy based on cultural vacancies. Through the study of the “Government Work Report (2022)”, the author find that translator mostly adopts the methods of free translation and explanation, and replaces the cultural image with expression and cultural image familiar to readers.

Example 8:

ST: 坚决反对敷衍应对，推诿扯皮。(in Chinese)

TT: We will firmly oppose perfunctory attitudes and buck passing in government.

Analysis: “推诿扯皮” is a term with Chinese characteristics, which means that people shirk their responsibilities to each other and argue needlessly. The translator here uses method of free translation, finding similar expression in English, namely the slang word “pass the buck”, to replace the cultural meaning of Chinese words. “Pass the buck” originally was a table rule in English, and “buck” was responsible for the hunting knife carried by the person who dealt the cards. “Buck passing” is passing on the responsibility of dealing cards to others. Later, through development, this slang term gradually evolved into a meaning of shirking responsibility, like the cultural meaning of the original word in Chinese, so the translator adopted the translation strategy of replacement of cultural image and free translation method.

Example 9:

ST: 促进人民安居乐业, 社会安定有序。(in Chinese)

TT: We will work to ensure that our people enjoy peace and contentment in work and life and that there is stability and order in society.

Analysis: The idiom “安居乐业” comes from the traditional historical allusions of the Han Chinese people, which means that people live in peace and happily engage in their profession. This idiom is mostly used to describe good social governance, production and life and ideological conditions tend to be stable. There is no corresponding cultural image in English, so here the translator adopts the strategy of free translation, and translates it into "enjoy peace and contentment in work and life", making the idiom easy to understand.

Example 10:

ST: 为企业雪中送炭, 助企业焕发生机。(in Chinese)

TT: in order to provide enterprises with timely assistance and help them generate fresh vitality.

Analysis: “雪中送炭” means to send charcoal for fire to people who are frozen in heavy snow to keep them warm, which is an expression of care. It is said to come from allusions to the Song Dynasty, recorded in the story of Emperor Taizong of Song who showed compassion for the people in the Great Cold Heaven and sent people to send money and charcoal. Later, it was often quoted in the poetry of poets of various dynasties. This idiom is gradually used as a metaphor for giving timely help to people in difficult times. In the report, the translator fully considers the cultural connotation and figurative meaning behind the original text, adopts the translation method of free translation, and uses non-cultural items to replace specific cultural items. Translating this idiom as "provide enterprises with timely assistance", which enables English readers to understand the cultural connotation of the idiom despite cultural differences.

Example 11:

ST: “放水养鱼”, 涵养税源。(in Chinese)

TT: nurture business growth and cultivate sources of tax revenue

Analysis: “放水养鱼” means if you want to get fish, you must raise fish and let the fish reproduce, so that people can get fish for a long time. Later, the term was extended to mean that if one wants to reap long-term benefits, one must invest. If this word is translated literally, it will not achieve the

purpose of cultural exchange, because the original text here is intended to convey a meaning that has nothing to do with fish and water. Therefore, the translator adopts the translation method of free translation, considering the cultural background of China, explaining the extended meaning of this saying, and replacing the cultural image "water and fish" in the original text, so that readers can understand the cultural meaning behind this saying.

In conclusion, when translating Chinese idioms and allusions in English, if the translator simply translates the cultural imagery of the original text, the reader of the translated language will not be able to understand the true meaning of such idioms and allusions, because such words are rich in cultural imagery, and most of them have a connotative meaning. Therefore, translator mostly adopts the translation strategy of replacing cultural imagery, and flexibly adopts the translation method of free translation under the premise of fully considering cultural factors to achieve cultural equivalence and cultural exchange.

## 5. CONCLUSION

### 5.1 Findings of the Study

Based on Bassnett's theory of cultural translation, this thesis argues that cultural translation theory is a practical translation theory for translating expressions with Chinese characteristics, and the core of the theory is to achieve the cultural function equivalence between the original language and the translated language, and realize the purpose of cultural dissemination and communication.

First, translation is a kind of cross-cultural communication, which needs to fully consider the cultural background of the original language and the target language. In the translation process, whether the cultural function equivalence of the original language and the target language has been achieved is an important criterion for judging the translation. Cultural translation theory emphasizes the importance of cultural factors in the translation process. Especially for expressions with strong Chinese cultural connotations and imagery such as words with Chinese characteristics, it is more important to reconsider the cultural backgrounds of both sides. Using the “Government Work Report (2022)” as the research material, this thesis finds that translators not only pursue linguistic parity in the translation process, but also attach more importance to achieving cultural equivalence.



Secondly, this thesis classifies the characteristic vocabulary in the "Government Work Report (2022)" and analyses their translation strategies with examples. In the case study, this thesis classifies expressions with Chinese characteristics in the study object, including acronyms, political economy vocabulary, and idioms and allusions. Through in-depth analysis, it is found that the abbreviations and vocabularies with economy and politics, and translator mainly adopts the strategy of cultural retention, and in the translation process, the translator chooses the translation method of free translation or literal translation plus explanation, explains the cultural connotation of the vocabulary, and appropriately remove the format of original text to retain the cultural image of the original text. However, Idioms, allusions and other words with rich cultural connotations with Chinese characteristics are generally difficult to find the corresponding cultural images and expressions in the English language system, so the translator exerts creativity and initiative to appropriately replace the cultural images in the original text, and mainly adopts the method of free translation, replacing or interpreting the original cultural images with expressions familiar to the readers of the translated language.

In conclusion, the thesis further demonstrates the feasibility of cultural translation theory to guide translation research. But in the translation process, translators still adhere to the principle of equal cultural functions, analyse specific problems, and fully consider the cultural connotation of the original text and the translated text. Choose the right translation strategy to translate. This thesis hopes to provide some ideas and help for translation research in related directions in the future.

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