

A Study on the English Translation of Metaphors in Political Texts from the Perspective of Conceptual Metaphor Theory

-- Taking the Government Work Reports from 2023 to 2025 as a case

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Abstract: Distinct disparities in thinking modes and cultural cognitive schemas between China and Western countries often produce cognitive mapping bias, cultural connotation loss and high comprehension barriers in translating concept-laden metaphors embedded in Chinese political texts. Previous studies mostly rely on outdated corpora and seldom interpret cognitive motivations behind metaphor translation strategies, and few research combine political equivalent translation requirements with conceptual metaphor cognitive mechanisms. Taking the official Chinese texts and authoritative English translations of Government Work Reports (2023-2025) as a closed corpus, this paper draws on Conceptual Metaphor Theory proposed by Lakoff and Johnson. Combined with literature review, corpus-based statistics, comparative analysis as well as induction and deduction, this study sorts out four high-frequency metaphor categories: journey, construction, war and mechanical metaphors. It further explores applicable contexts, communicative effects and cognitive mechanisms of three major strategies: metaphor retention, metaphor replacement and metaphor omission. Findings show that translators' strategic choices are conditioned by two core factors: the overlap of source-target cognitive schemas and the principle of political equivalence. Metaphors rooted in shared cross-cultural bodily experience tend to be retained, while culture-specific Chinese metaphors prone to misunderstanding are replaced or omitted. This research expands interdisciplinary analytical scope and provides theoretical and practical references for official document translation and the international communication of Chinese governance discourse.

Keywords: Conceptual Metaphor, Metaphor Translation, Government Work Report, Political Text, Political Equivalence.

1. Introduction

Against the overlapping backdrop of global shifts unseen in a century and a new round of technological revolution, competition for international discourse power intensifies, and accurate, effective cross-cultural political communication underpins global governance. As a core tool for political discourse construction, conceptual metaphors convey national development philosophies via cognitive mapping^[12]. Metaphor is not merely decorative rhetoric in political documents; it shapes public perception, frames policy narratives and delivers implicit ideological orientations^{[2][3]}. Unilateralism and stereotyped western narratives create persistent cognitive barriers between China and foreign countries, so China's ideas require high-quality English translations to gain worldwide recognition and reduce external misreading. As a blueprint for national governance, the English translation of metaphors in Reports on the Work of the Government directly shapes China's international communication and overseas audience's cognition of Chinese-style modernization.

China prioritizes boosting international communication capacity in the new era. The transition period 2023-2025 between national five-year plans generates numerous distinctive metaphors embodying Chinese modernization. These metaphors are deeply rooted in Chinese social practice and cultural traditions rather than universal political expressions. Nevertheless, Sino-Western gaps in cognition and culture trigger two major translation obstacles: biased conceptual mapping and lost cultural connotations^[1].

Mistranslation or improper handling of political metaphors may distort policy intentions, weaken persuasive force, or even cause unnecessary political misinterpretation. This thesis sorts out metaphors in three-year reports, analyzes their cognitive mapping mechanisms, evaluates existing translation approaches and discusses corresponding strategies. It responds to practical demands of political text translation and offers operable references for constructing internationally intelligible Chinese discourse.

Against the backdrop of frequent global cross-cultural communication yet persistent cognitive divides, this research adopts conceptual metaphor as an innovative perspective for studies on English translation of political texts. Theoretically, it fills the research gap in existing political discourse translation studies that neglect conceptual metaphors. From cognitive-linguistic perspectives, it multidimensionally analyzes metaphor cognition and transformation and proposes operable translation strategies, advancing the interdisciplinary integration of translation studies and cognitive linguistics^{[9][26]}. Practically, catering to national demands for international communication and independent discourse construction, it summarizes feasible metaphor translation strategies to help translators avoid mistranslation caused by cultural gaps, reduce international misunderstandings of China's policies and ease discourse deficit^[5]. It facilitates accurate global dissemination of China's governance philosophies and boosts the international acceptability of Chinese voices.

Scholarly research on conceptual metaphors in political texts has undergone a paradigm shift from rhetorical analysis

to cognitive interpretation. Richards (1965) broke the confines of traditional rhetoric^[20]; Lakoff and Johnson (1980) laid solid theoretical foundations^[12]; Kövecses (2002) defined metaphor as a core cognitive medium for humans to perceive the world^[11]. CharterisBlack (2011) identified prevalent metaphors like “journey” and “disease” in Western political discourse^{[3][27]}, and critical metaphoranalysis scholars further examined how metaphors serve ideological framing in parliamentary debates and public speeches^{[4][7][8]}.

Domestic scholars advanced localized theoretical application (Hu Zhuanglin, 2004; Wang Yin, 2007)^{[9][23]}. They have proved that metaphors in Chinese official texts bear obvious nationalcultural marks different from western political rhetoric. Concerning metaphor translation, Newmark (1988) put forward semantic and communicative translation^[18]; Nida (1993) prioritized targetreaders' cognitive experience for functional equivalence^[19]. Chinese researchers summarized three strategies: retention, replacement and omission based on Chinese political texts (Dong Jiaqi, 2022; Wei Zaijiang, 2024)^{[5][25]}. Even so, many domestic studies stay at descriptive caselisting level and rarely dig into why translators pick certain strategies from the cognitive dimension^[24]. Prior studies also suffer from outdated corpora and fragmentedstrategy analysis lacking integrated verification of cognitive adaptation and political equivalence. This paper adopts 2023-2025 Reports on the Work of the Government as corpus to explore translation strategies and cognitive motivations of political metaphors.

This paper adopts multiple research methods. Literature research sorts out domestic and foreign theoretical findings. Corpus analysis screens and classifies highfrequency political metaphors from authentic official bilingual texts. Comparative analysis compares sourcetext metaphors and targettext translations from cognitiveadaptation, culturaltransformation and politicalequivalence dimensions. Inductivedeductive method summarizes translation rules and deduces underlying cognitiveoperation mechanisms.

2. Theoretical Framework

2.1. Conceptual Metaphor Theory

As an essential cornerstone of cognitive linguistics, Conceptual Metaphor Theory has a long historical origin. Aristotle viewed metaphor merely as a rhetorical device for expressive effects. Richards (1965) put forward the interaction theory, breaking the traditional lexicalreplacement view^[20]. Lakoff and Johnson (1980) formally proposed Conceptual Metaphor Theory in *Metaphors We Live By*^[12]. They argued that metaphor is essentially a deep cognitive mechanism for human thinking, with linguistic metaphor as its superficial manifestation.

2.1.1. Definition of Conceptual Metaphor

Conceptual Metaphor Theory holds that the essence of metaphor is to understand and experience one kind of thing in terms of another. Metaphor pervades daily language, thought and action. The ordinary conceptual system governing human thinking and acting is fundamentally metaphorical (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980)^[12]. Crossdomain mapping is rooted in human bodily experience, reflecting experientialphilosophy propositions^[25]. For instance, the conceptual metaphor ARGUMENT IS WAR generates daily expressions such as “His views are indefensible”. It should be noted that conceptual metaphor is not confined to literary works; it is widely embedded in institutional discourse, news reports and

official documents, shaping people’s understanding of abstract social and political concepts^{[3][15]}.

2.1.2. Working Mechanism of Conceptual Metaphor

The core working mechanism of conceptual metaphor lies in systematic crossdomain mapping: projecting structural frameworks and inferential patterns from concrete familiar source domain onto abstract unfamiliar target domain (Lakoff & Turner, 1989)^{[13][14]}. Mappings feature systematicity, directionality and embodiment.

Take Life is a journey for illustration.

Table 1. Mapping Relations of “Life Is a Journey”.

Source Domain (journey)	Mappin g	Target Domain (life)
Traveler	→	Individual human being
Starting point of journey	→	Birth
Path / road	→	Growth process
Crossroads	→	Major life choices
Fellow travelers	→	Companions, friends
Obstacles on the road	→	Setbacks and hardships
Destination	→	Death

Listeners automatically reason via the journey schema, so utterances such as “He has just set off” require no extra explanation. Based on mental space theory, Fauconnier & Turner (1998) further proposed the conceptual blending theory describing four space integration networks, which explains the dynamic meaning construction process when two different conceptual domains interact in translation activities^{[6][10]}.

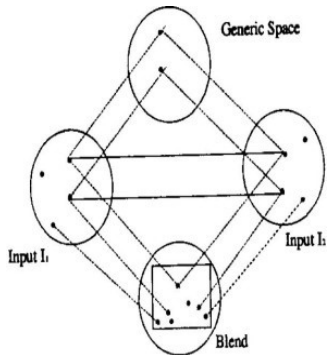


Figure 1. Mapping Model of the Four Spaces in Conceptual Blending Theory (Fauconnier, 1997: 151)

2.1.3. Metaphor Types in Reports on the Work of the Government

Lakoff and Johnson (1980) categorized conceptual metaphors into structural metaphors, orientational metaphors and ontological metaphors^[12]. Structural metaphors dominate government work report discourse. This paper selects four high frequency types for analysis: journey metaphors (political goals as travels), construction metaphors (national undertakings as architecture projects), war metaphors (arduous national tasks as military campaigns), and Chinese specific mechanical metaphors (state governance as operating machinery). Different metaphor types carry distinct pragmatic functions: some highlight progressive development, some emphasize systematic construction, others stress hardship and determination in tackling difficulties^{[17][28]}.

2.1.4. Common Translation Strategies of Conceptual Metaphors in Political Texts

Besides three classic metaphor processing approaches,

political text translation cannot ignore the special restraint of political equivalence principle.

Different from general literary translation, political document translation requires not only semantic similarity but also accurate transmission of policy standpoints, value orientation and official attitudes. Any metaphor handling method shall not alter the original political implication. This principle will run through all case analysis in chapter three.

Metaphor retention preserves original metaphorical images. It is feasible when Chinese English share universal cognitive commonalities (Sun Libing, 2018)^{[21][22]}. Retention helps maintain source text rhetorical force and cultural characteristics under the premise of no misunderstanding risk.

Metaphor replacement substitutes source language vehicles with target culture conventional counterparts, to avoid incomprehension caused by divergent cultural images (Wang Zhirong, 2023)^[24]. Replacement reconstructs cross domain mapping inside target language cognitive framework without changing core political propositions.

Metaphor omission abandons metaphorical vehicles and paraphrases plain literal meaning. This strategy applies to culture loaded metaphors without target language conceptual equivalents^[16]. Omission sacrifices figurative effect to guarantee information accuracy and readability for overseas receivers.

3. Analysis of English Translation Strategies for Political Metaphors

3.1. English Translation Strategies of Journey Metaphors

3.1.1. Metaphor Retention

Example 1:

Source text: 以习近平同志为核心的党中央团结带领全国各族人民迎难而上。(2023, P1)

Target text: The Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core brought together the Chinese people of all ethnic groups and led them in meeting difficulties head on. (2023, P1)

In this example, “led them in meeting difficulties head on” forms a typical journey metaphor. “Led” activates the “leader as guide” mapping, while “meeting difficulties head on” maps onto a traveler advancing through obstacles. The target domain is the Party’s political practice of leading the people through risks, while the source domain is “progressing through adversity”, emphasizing directionality and resilience. The translator adopts the corresponding English idiom “meet difficulties head on”, which shares the same journey metaphor logic of confronting obstacles directly. By retaining this metaphor, the translation faithfully reproduces the political meaning of Party leadership and people’s agency^[17].

Example 2:

Source text: 我国经济波浪式发展、曲折式前进。(2024, P1)

Target text: China’s economy grew in a wave like fashion amid twists and turns. (2024, P3)

Here, economic development is conceptualized as a non linear journey. “Twists and turns” highlights the winding path, constructing the scenario that economic progress is not smooth. The translator uses “twists and turns”, a high frequency English journey metaphor for nonlinear processes. Its cognitive basis aligns perfectly with the Chinese “曲折”(winding), as both stem from human bodily perception of

physical roads^[25]. Instead of demetaphorized expressions like “developed with difficulties”, the translator retains this authentic English metaphor, faithfully reproducing source to target domain mapping.

3.1.2. Metaphor Replacement

Example 3:

Source text: ... 为全面建设社会主义现代化国家开好局起好步。(2023, P11)

Target text: These efforts will set the stage for building a modern socialist country in all respects. (2023, P34)

In the source text, “开好局起好步” functions as a typical journey metaphor, conceptualizing social progress as a trip where initial steps require steadiness and correct direction. Instead of literal translation, the translator employs the English arts metaphor “set the stage”, which denotes creating necessary conditions for future success. This metaphor replacement avoids semantic flattening and cultural barriers of direct translation^[24].

Example 4:

Source text: 加强矛盾纠纷排查化解, 推进信访工作法治化。(2025, P3)

Target text: We redoubled efforts to identify and defuse conflicts and disputes and put the handling of public complaints on a solid legal footing. (2025, P8)

Here, the high frequency political verb “推进”(advance) acts as a journey metaphor. Yet, the translation replaces this with the architecture metaphor “put ... on a solid legal footing.” This phrase draws on the source domain of building foundations and structural stability.

In English political discourse, this architectural framework better highlights structural, foundational, normative requirements of “legalization”^[21].

3.1.3. Metaphor Omission

Example 5:

Source text: 以改革开放办法推动经济爬坡过坎、持续前行。(2023, P4)

Target text: We pursued reform and opening up as a means to steer the economy through various trials and difficulties and sustain growth. (2023, P10)

In the source text, “经济爬坡过坎” functions as a journey metaphor, conceptualizing economic development as embodied experience of traversing rugged terrain^[25]. However, the translator employs a demetaphorized expression “steer the economy through various trials and difficulties”, rather than a literal translation. By replacing the source domain of physical travel with abstract noun phrase “trials and difficulties”, this approach avoids potential misinterpretations caused by cultural differences^[1].

Example 6:

Source text: 加强上下联动、横向协作, 促进政策从“最初一公里”到“最后一公里”衔接畅通。(2025, P5)

Target text: We will also strengthen coordination between the central and local governments and between relevant departments to ensure that the process of policy execution is seamless from the first mile to the last. (2025, P14)

In the original text, “from the first mile to the last mile” is a conventionalized journey metaphor in Chinese political discourse. Although translation retains surface form “from the first mile to the last”, this phrase has become a dead metaphor in English public service discourse. Target readers directly understand it as beginning end of a process, and source

domain travel imagery is suppressed. It counts as functional metaphor omission^[16].

To sum up journey metaphor processing: Retention applies when journey schema is shared crossculturally. Replacement happens when target language possesses more idiomatic nonjourney schemas for institutional affairs. Omission is adopted for highly localized Chinese political journey metaphors whose literal rendering would produce obscure expression. All three strategies keep consistent with political equivalence without weakening policy information^[24].

3.2. English Translation Strategies of Construction Metaphors

3.2.1. Metaphor Retention

Example 7:

Source text: 推动构建人类命运共同体。(2024, P3)

Target text: We promoted the building of a human community with a shared future. (2024, P9)

In the source text, “构建” (construct/build) functions as a structural metaphor, conceptualizing abstract vision “human community with a shared future” as erecting a grand stable edifice^[12]. The translation retains this metaphor through “promoted the building of...”, aligning with conventional construction metaphor in English political discourse^[3].

Example 8:

Source text: 毫不松懈巩固拓展脱贫攻坚成果。(2025, P10) Target text: We will keep working to consolidate and build on our achievements in poverty alleviation. (2025, P26)

In the original text, “巩固” (consolidate) is a high frequency policy term constituting typical architectural metaphor. It conceptualizes maintaining poverty alleviation results as reinforcing building foundations. The translation employs “consolidate”, retaining structural reinforcement source domain^[21].

3.2.2. Metaphor Replacement

Example 9:

Source text: 全面贯彻总体国家安全观，建设更高水平的平安中国。(2023, P13)

Target text: We should fully apply a holistic approach to national security and advance the Peaceful China Initiative to a higher level. (2023, P39)

In the source text, “建设” (build) functions as architectural metaphor. However, translation replaces it with journey metaphor “advance the Peaceful China Initiative”. Verb “advance” maps onto moving forward along a path, emphasizing directionality and phased goals^[17].

Example 10:

Source text: 深化教育科技人才综合改革，为现代化建设提供强大动力。(2024, P6)

Target text: ...so as to create a strong impetus for our modernization drive (2024, P18)

“现代化建设” constitutes architectural metaphor, conceptualizing national modernization as erecting grand structures. Translation shifts to journey metaphor “modernization drive”. The term “drive” conceptualizes process as purposeful continuous movement along a path^[24].

3.2.3. Metaphor Omission

Example 11:

Source text: 坚持农业农村优先发展，学习运用“千万工程”经验。(2025, P9)

Target text: Continuin to prioritize agricultural and rural development, we will learn from and apply the experience

gained from the Green Rural Revival Program in Zhejiang Province. (2025, P25)

The source term “千万工程” activates architectural metaphor. Translation omits metaphor imagery and adopts functional polycyname “Green Rural Revival Program”. This prevents cognitive barriers from Chinesespecific numerical symbolism^[1].

Example 12:

Source text: 深入实施“强基计划”和基础学科拔尖人才培养计划。(2023, P9)

Target text: We launched a plan that enables institutions of higher learning to recruit students who excel in basic academic disciplines... (2023, P25)

The source term “强基计划” relies on architectural metaphor “strengthening the foundation”. Translation omits metaphor and adopts descriptive functional explanation to clarify the specific talent recruitment policy^[5].

Construction metaphors highlight systematicness and solidity of national projects. In translation practice, retention enjoys high frequency, because “building / consolidate” also frequently occurs in western official documents^[3]. When Chinese specific project names carry heavy cultural connotation, translators tend to give up figurative images and choose explanatory nonmetaphor expression for the sake of policy intelligibility^[16].

3.3. English Translation Strategies of War Metaphors

3.3.1. Metaphor Retention

Example 13:

Source text: ...如期打赢脱贫攻坚战，如期全面建成小康社会。(2023, P2)

Target text: ...We both won the critical battle against poverty and finished building a moderately prosperous society in all respects as scheduled. (2023, P5)

The source phrase “打赢脱贫攻坚战” employs war metaphor conceptualizing poverty alleviation as military campaign. Translation retains metaphor via “won the critical battle against poverty”. “Battle against poverty” is deeply entrenched within Western political discourse^[3].

Example 14:

Source text: 开展扫黑除恶专项斗争，依法严惩黑恶势力及其“保护伞”。(2023, P10)

Target text: launched campaigns to combat organized crime and handed out severe punishments... (2023, P28)

“专项斗争” works as war metaphor framing crackdown on organized crime as systematic military operation. Translation preserves mapping by “launched campaigns to combat organized crime”. Words “campaign” and “combat” carry martial connotations^[21].

3.3.2. Metaphor Replacement

Example 15:

Source text: 出台实施稳经济一揽子政策和接续措施，部署稳住经济大盘工作。(2023, P1)

Target text: We unveiled and implemented a full range of policies and follow up measures to stabilize the economy. We formulated plans for the task of ensuring overall economic stability. (2023, P2)

In source text, “部署” (deploy) is war metaphor conceptualizing macroeconomic governance as military deployment. Translation replaces it with architectural planning metaphor “formulated plans for...”, downplaying

adversarial military tones^[24].

Example 16:

Source text: 全面部署推进新型工业化。出台稳定工业经济运行、支持先进制造业举措。(2024, P2)

Target text: We adopted an overarching plan to advance new industrialization. We took measures to ensure the stable performance of the industrial sector and support advanced manufacturing. (2024, P5)

“全面部署” activates war metaphor framing industrialization as military operation. Translation shifts to architectural blueprint metaphor “adopted an overarching plan”. It avoids coercive connotations brought by literal “deployment”^[17].

3.3.3. Metaphor Omission

Example 17:

Source text: 深化科技评价、科技奖励、科研项目和经费管理制度改革，健全“揭榜挂帅”机制。(2024, P7)

Target text: further reform the appraisal and reward systems for scientific and technological advances and the management system for research projects and funding, and improve the open competition mechanism for selecting the best candidates to lead research projects. (2024, P19)

“揭榜挂帅” originates from ancient Chinese military allusion. Translation completely discards war source domain and adopts functional plain language description. Literal translation would produce heavy comprehension barriers for foreign audiences^[1].

Example 18:

Source text: 全国各族人民砥砺奋进、攻坚克难。(2025, P1) Target text: we, the Chinese people of all ethnic groups, have overcome difficulties and continued to forge ahead. (2025, P1)

Idiom “攻坚克难” constitutes war metaphor meaning “storming fortifications”. Translation simplifies it to “overcome difficulties”, stripping military imagery and retaining only abstract core meaning^[16].

War metaphors in Chinese political discourse reflect the spirit of fighting hardships. Yet western readers may easily associate military vehicles with confrontation and hostility^[3]. Therefore translators will deliberately replace or omit some culturally unique war metaphors, unless the “campaign against social problems” metaphor already exists in target language public discourse. Such processing balances rhetorical passion and overseas audience's cognitive acceptance^[25].

3.4. English Translation Strategies of Mechanical Metaphors

3.4.1. Metaphor Retention

Example 19:

Source text: 深化教育科技人才综合改革，为现代化建设提供强大动力。(2024, P6)

Target text: ...so as to create a strong impetus for our modernization drive (2024, P18)

It uses mechanical metaphor viewing reform as energy supply for machinery. “Impetus” plus “drive” retains mechanical cognitive framework of external energy input for system acceleration^[24].

Example 20:

Source text: 畅通货币政策传导机制，避免资金沉淀空转。(2024, P5)

Target text: We should improve the monetary policy

transmission mechanism to prevent funds from sitting idle or simply circulating within the financial sector. (2024, P14)

Two mechanical metaphors concur: “传导机制” (transmission mechanism) and “空转” (engine idling). Translation fully keeps mechanical source domain via “transmission mechanism” and “simply circulating”^[17].

Metaphor Replacement

Example 21:

Source text: 开展重点产业强链补链行动。启动一批产业基础再造工程。(2023, P6)

Target text: We worked to shore up weak links in the industrial and supply chains of key industries. A number of industrial foundation reengineering projects were launched. (2023, P17)

Source “启动” activates mechanical metaphor (starting machine). Translation switches to construction metaphor framework “projects were launched”, focusing on systematic planned tasks^[21].

Example 22:

Source text: 创新投融资体制机制，预算内投资引导和撬动社会投资成倍增加 (2023, P7) Target text: Innovations were made in investment and financing systems and mechanisms, and nongovernmental investment increased several times over under the guidance and drive of central government budgetary investment. (2023, P19)

Verb “撬动” (prying lever) draws on mechanical lever metaphor. Translation replaces mechanical force imagery with journey metaphor noun “drive”, emphasizing continuous causal thrust rather than mechanical leverage risks^[24].

3.4.2. Metaphor Omission

Example 23:

Source text: 着力扩大国内需求，推动经济实现良性循环。(2024, P7)

Target text: Expanding domestic demand and promoting sound economic flows. (2024, P20)

In macroeconomic context, “良性循环” is mechanical metaphor of self-looping machine system. Translation abandons cycle machinery imagery and uses plain functional description “sound economic flows”^[16].

Example 24:

Source text: 提升处置效能，牢牢守住不发生系统性风险的底线。(2024, P9)

Target text: We must boost our capacity for addressing major risks to see that no systemic risks arise. (2024, P25)

“处置效能” conceptualizes governance as precision machine performance. Translation omits mechanical imagery and shifts to capability focused expression “boost our capacity for addressing major risks”^[5].

Mechanical metaphors originate from Chinese industrial and administrative experience. Part of these technical metaphors can find counterparts in international economic discourse and thus be retained^[11]. For those administrative

concept mechanical metaphors without corresponding cognitive schema in English, translators tend to abandon mechanical source domain and turn to capability oriented plain statement, avoiding obscure technical metaphor reading burden for foreign receivers^[1].

4. Conclusion

4.1. Major Findings

Based on systematic analysis of metaphor translation

strategies in Government Work Reports (2023-2025), this study yields three major findings.

First, translators' selection of translation strategies fundamentally depends on compatibility of cultural cognitive models between source and target domains. When source imagery aligns with target language cognitive schemas, metaphor retention effectively conveys original political resolve¹. When metaphors carry heavy cultural loads and may trigger ambiguity, metaphor replacement or omission becomes necessary for crosscultural adaptation. Political metaphor translation is essentially crosscultural adjustment of cognitive frameworks rather than mere linguistic correspondence, and all strategy choices must operate under the constraint of political equivalence principle.

Second, strategy application follows functional adaptability principles. Metaphors based on universal bodily experience (journey metaphors) or collective national image concepts (construction metaphors) are more likely to be retained to preserve discourse uniqueness. For ideologically distinct or culture specific metaphors (war metaphors, mechanical metaphors), translators flexibly adopt replacement or omission to guarantee accuracy and international acceptability. No single strategy is universally superior; the official translator adopts mixed flexible modes instead of rigid one size fits all rules.

Third, this paper empirically validates differentiated functions of three strategies under the joint constraints of "political equivalence" and "communicative effectiveness". Retention reinforces source culture cognitive independence; replacement achieves semantic equivalence via cognitive framework shifting; omission guarantees readability through nonmetaphorical paraphrasing. Collectively they constitute a dynamic strategy system serving China's international translation objectives. Such practical experience can offer enlightenment for other official political document translation activities.

4.2. Limitations and Prospects

This research bears several limitations. The corpus is confined to Government Work Reports only, excluding press conferences, white papers and diplomatic speeches. This paper focuses on textual output without investigating translators' subjective decisionmaking or realworld target audience reception. Besides, analytical perspectives are mainly rooted in Conceptual Metaphor Theory, insufficiently incorporating ideology and international relation factors.

Future research can be expanded in multiple directions. Researchers may collect more diversified political discourse corpora and carry out empirical investigations such as questionnaires and interviews to explore translators' real world balancing of political accuracy and communicative effectiveness. More interdisciplinary integration with Critical Discourse Analysis, Corpus Linguistics or Reception Aesthetics can build multi dimensional analytical models. Furthermore, natural language processing technology may support automatic metaphor identification for large scale political texts. Exploring how metaphor translation facilitates Chinese discourse international communication will remain a valuable research mission in the context of Chinese culture "Going Global".

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