

Survey of Explicitation Strategies in Chinese-English Translation of Political Texts of Contemporary Chinese Government

CHENG HU^{[a].*}

^[a]Department of Foreign Languages, Binzhou University, Binzhou, China.

*Corresponding author.

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Abstract

Nowadays as China plays a more and more important role in the world, the exact conveying of “big country image” to the world is urgently put into agenda. In the process of political communication, political texts translation is of vital importance. It not only matters the interpretation of a country’s management concepts, foreign policies and political opinions, but also concerns with a country’s overall capacity and international status. Excellent political translation can contribute to forming a good country image internationally and can minimize the misunderstandings among countries. By proper political translation, countries can solve disputes through friendly negotiation and increase cultural exchanges. And China will embrace the “Chinese dream” and realize the goal of developing into a harmonious society. Nevertheless, many translation problems still exist in the political translation because of the differences in language use and culture, religion and geography. Many political translation texts only focus on the word-for-word equivalence, which brings many misunderstandings in the international communication. Explicitation strategies are urgently needed in political translation in order to clearly convey the meaning to readers and minimize the disputes occurred in translation.

In this paper, the researcher analyzes the *Report on the Work of the Government Delivered at the Second Session of the Twelfth National Peoples Congress on March 5,*

2014 and some of Chinese leaders’ important speech texts carefully. Through detailed examination of their English version, the researcher aims to find out the frequency, use and acceptance degree of explicitation strategies. On the basis of systematic knowledge of explicitation strategies, an agreement will be expected to be reached between explicitation strategies and political translation. Our final goal is to translate Chinese political texts in authentic English and change the previous obscure translation. In this paper, the researcher selects some texts as cases to study, and finally grasps the overall rules of explicitation strategies application. These rules of explicitation strategies will be put into future translation practices.

Key words: Explicitation strategies; Political texts; Translation; Application

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INTRODUCTION

China is now playing an increasingly remarkable role on the international stage. What China says or does attracts the attention from the whole world all the time. Political texts are reckoned as an effective media to enhance mutual understanding and foster bilateral communication between China and other countries. Therefore, great efforts should be put into the translation of political texts. However, due to the differences in cultural background, in grammar and in social recognition, there are a number of barriers to the successful communication. English is a language that concentrates on hypotaxis and using its form to express its meanings, which makes it possible to embody the direct logical relationship by explicit correlatives. While Chinese is mainly paratactic, which means that the logic meaning

of a group of sentences is not merely presented by using connectives. Instead, it is conveyed through the whole context. Chinese language attaches much importance to covert coherence and contextual meaning. So in the practice of rendering Chinese into English, we have to pay much more attention to the explicitation strategies. In this research, we are firstly required to study the definition of explicitation and know it well, then examine its application in political texts through case study. Political texts are often referred to political documents, political articles or political essays. But here in this paper we choose the relatively super-ordinate name “political texts” to refer to a more generic term, which consists of political essays, documents and speeches. After the close analysis of translation texts, a law should be concluded and be used to conduct translation practices.

1. LITERATURE REVIEW ON

Explicitation, namely, making implicit information in the source text explicit in the target text. It is a strategy which is often used for translation of political texts. Translation of political texts demands a high standard of accuracy and readability, so it is quite necessary to emphasize on the importance of the application of explicitation strategies into political translation.

1.1 The Origin and Development of Explicitation Strategies

1.1.1 Origin and Definition of Explicitation Strategies

The concept of explicitation is pioneered by Vinay and Darbelnet. In 1958, Vinay and Darbelnet, in their research of comparing the stylistics of French and English, created the term “explicitation” to the translation field. They consider explicitation as a stylistic translation technique which means making the implicit information in the source language explicit in the target language.

Baker (2000) defines explicitation as “make the implicit information of the text explicit”. The purpose of explicitation is to express the original message more clearly and exactly. Additionally, Baker reveals that explicitation is a universal character of translation;

Klaudy & Karoly (2005) referred to the definition of explicitation in a more refined way: explicitation takes place when one source language unit of a more general meaning is replaced by several target language units with a more specific meaning; the complex meaning of a source language word is distributed over several words in the target language; new meaningful elements appear in the target language texts; one sentence in the source language is divided into two or several sentences in the target language; or, when source language phrases are extended or elevated into clauses in the target language, etc. This definition is much more exact totally.

Up to now, regarding the definition of “explicitation”, scholars have not yet reached an agreement. In general

terms, explicitation is regarded as “the technique of making explicit in the target text information that is implicit in the source text”.

1.1.2 Development of Explicitation Strategies

The first systematic research of explicitation is carried out by Blum-Kulka (1986). She furthers the research to a discourse level on which explicitation is related to shifts of cohesion and coherence (overt and covert textual markers) in translation. She proposes an explicitation hypothesis according to which, instead of any specific differences between particular languages, it is the translation process itself that is responsible for explicitation and the process of interpreting performed by the translator on the source text might lead to a TL text which is more redundant than the SL text. This redundancy can be expressed by a rise on a level of cohesive explicitness in the TT and the TT may be longer in length.

With the purpose of testing Blum-Kulka’s explicitation hypothesis, Overas (1998) compiled the English Norwegian Parallel Corpus. Overas found a tendency toward explicitation in the bi-directional translations in view of the fact that the number of grammatical and lexical devices in both translated English and translated Norwegian increased copiously and conspicuously.

Vilma Papai (2004) found evidence to support the hypothesis of explicitation in translated Finnish and Hungarian texts, adding valuable data on two non-Indo-European languages of translation to the growing list of studies. Papai adopted both manual and automated methods of perusal to identify “optional addition” of various words in her small Hungarian corpus, achieved the preliminary finding that in general, translated texts showed a “higher level of explicitness” than non-translated texts.

Ewa Gumul (2006) researched the explicitation in simultaneous interpreting and the analysis of both product and process data indicate that the vast majority of explicitation shifts in simultaneous interpreting are not attributable to the interpreters’ conscious strategic behavior but a by-product of language mediation, evidence of explicitation’s subliminal character.

As the explicitation theory is very popular in translation field, several domestic scholars have published papers introducing corpus-based explicitation translation studies. In 1999, Qiao Haiqing, in his prescriptive framework, first brought up the idea of “explicit translation”: Translation technique that can contribute to the smooth expression of the original thought. He claims that “some sense latent in the understructure has to be manifested in an explicit way in the target language and manifested element may be a word, a compound word, a phrase or a clause.” His notion of explicit translation can be easily related to explicitation. Wang Kefei discovered that the translated texts contained more words than the original texts regardless of the translation direction.

1.1.3 Theoretical and Practical Significance of Explicitation Strategies

For a long time, translation has been focusing on the original texts. The argument between “free translation” and “literal translation”, “alike in spirit” and “alike in appearance” reaches no agreement. Though translators tend to adopt literal translation method, sometimes literal translation can not well represent the implicit meaning thoroughly. We must reproduce the meaning by using explicitation strategies. And the introduction of explicitation strategies into translation field provides a new horizon for translators. It serves as a theoretical support for making implicit meanings explicit.

Explicit translation can help us to break up the chains in the source texts, and make the translation texts more acceptable to the target readers. Take the translation of “台独势力” for example, the literal translation of this word is “Taiwan independence forces”, however, that does not well describe the equivalent meaning in Chinese. Taiwan, instead of an independent part, is a province in China. But “Independence” should be used to indicate countries with sovereignty. Hence we have to use the explicitation strategies to paraphrase the word. The implicit meaning of the word is that some bad guys deny the history and attempt to break the unity of China. Some scholars choose “secession” to replace “independence”. But if we want to state the meaning more clearly, “the enemies who attempt to separate Taiwan from China” would be a better choice.

1.2 Introductions to Translation of Political Texts

1.2.1 Characteristic of Political Texts

Political affairs are subtle and sensitive, and consequently sentences and phrases should be given the most careful consideration. The tones of the political texts, which are different from science essays and literary works, should be very firm, exact and concise to fit in the political occasions. Therefore translation of these texts should emphasize on avoiding ambiguity or the damage of the benefits of the state.

Chinese political texts are of their own national and cultural characteristics. Word and phrases are reasonable, formal and precise, and the translation of them is not as flexible as that of literary and science works. Every expression has a faithful translation leaving little room for the translator’s creativity or romance. What’s more, some terms, such as “盘活存量, 用好增量”, “整顿四风”, “纪委” don’t exist in English speaking countries. Consequently, there are no corresponding expressions in English. Therefore, political texts translation creates some expressions that can fully convey the original meaning and sound idiomatic in English.

1.2.2 Importance of the Translation of Political Texts

Translation of political texts is reckoned as an effective way to enhance mutual understanding and foster bilateral communication between China and other countries.

Therefore, the rendering into English of Chinese political texts becomes an absolutely important task. It can offer foreigners correct perceptions about China and ensure successful and smooth information channeling and exchanges between China and the rest of the world. In contrast to the other genres, political texts translations lay far more emphasis on information transmission than on aesthetic effect. Political text translation is a cross-culture, cross-language communication which should respect the target linguistic habits and rules to achieve the purpose of publicizing China and get westerners know China better so as to increase its influence worldwide.

1.2.3 Common Mistakes About Translation of Political Texts

1.2.3.1 Word-to-Word Translation and Translationese

Example: “包容性增长” was translated into “tolerant growth”. This translation may lead to misunderstandings for foreigners. They may misunderstand that China’s growth is excessive and need other countries’ tolerance. The argument is totally different from what we want to express. Actually our implied meaning is that China’s development will benefit the world. So the proper translation should be “inclusive growth”.

1.2.3.2 Excessive Paraphrasing

Examples: “差额选举” was translated by some people into “the practice of nominating a large number of candidates than the number of posts to be filled”. In the perspective of translation of publicizing abroad, this translation is so long and goes against with preciseness. To realize the equivalence in style, we can translate it into “competitive election”. For “害群之马”, version one is “black sheep”; version two is “a particular horse among a sheet of horse”, usually refers to the one who does not obey his master’s orders; it can also be a bad guy in a team. For “下岗工人”, version one is “laid-off worker”; version two is “the workers who lose their jobs during certain period of time or cause of kind of reasons”. There is no doubt that in the two above examples most people prefer to version one. Explicitation is totally different from excessive paraphrasing. Here are some famous expressions with Chinese characteristics. We use the explicitation strategies in translation: “科教兴国战略” “the strategy of developing the country by relying on science and education”; “党内民主” “intra-Party democracy”; “符合党心民心” “accord with / echo the aspirations of the Party members and the people”; “党风廉政建设” “build a fine Party culture and keep its organizations clean”.

The studies of explicitation strategies are popular both at home and abroad, but the researchers abroad focus more on theory and some of its practices are of little connection with Chinese characteristics. Researchers at home begin to apply explicitation into literary translation, interpretation and diplomatic speeches, etc.. Very few researchers pay attention to the translation of political

texts. Many political translation texts are still at the word-for-word level. As the task of political translation is of vital importance ahead of us, in this research we try to seize the characteristics of political texts and translate them using the methods of explicitation.

2. PRINCIPLES OF EXPLICITATION STRATEGIES IN TRANSLATION OF POLITICAL TEXTS

2.1 The Loyalty Principle

In translation of political texts, faithfulness is of first priority. The slightest carelessness will cause severe consequences. The translation texts should fully replay the original meaning and be the similar in styles with the original. To realize the loyalty rule, we should firstly notice the differences in the social and cultural practices among eastern and western countries. The different ideologies hidden behind the language should be translated to obey the loyalty rule. Secondly, different translators have different linguistic styles and understandings. We should keep a reasonable mind to avoid the misunderstandings.

2.2 The Clarity Principle

Good political translation texts should be precise in words and without ambiguity. In political texts, every word has a specific meaning which can not be replaced at random. For example, in 1997 when Hong Kong returned to the motherland, China and UK issued an official document. In Chinese we say “联合声明”, in English many words, such as, “statement”, “resolution-decision” had the similar meaning. But this was not a simple or common agreement, to clarify the meaning and underline the seriousness; they chose “joint declaration” at last. Thus, to avoid ambiguity we can not replace the specific words with words that had similar meaning. There are many other examples, in Chinese when we say “问题” to refer to “matter”, people often translate it into “problem” or “question”. But in the sentence “中国的发展是个大问题”, we can not translate it into “China’s economy is a big problem”, which will leave a bad impression on foreigners. The implied meaning here should be translated into “issue”.

2.3 The Smoothness Principle

By using explicitation strategies, we can find sentences more expressive. For example, “要提倡顾全大局”, the translation is “we should advocate the spirit of taking the whole situation into consideration.” By adding the category word “the spirit of”, the sentence is more smooth.

2.4 The Compromise Principle

Sometimes, to fully convey the implied meaning, we have to adopt adding strategies. In Chinese, the personal

pronouns and connectives are often omitted, but in English, we must add that to make a complete sentence. We should notice that English use more passive voices, more pronouns, more structural connectives, totally different from Chinese.

For example:

要全面正确贯彻党的民族政策, 坚持和完善民族区域自治制度, 促进民族团结进步、共同繁荣发展. 认真落实中央支持少数民族和民族地区发展的政策措施. 扶持人口较少民族发展, 继续实施兴边富民行动. 保护和发

展少数民族优秀传统文化.
We will conscientiously carry out the central leadership’s policies and measures for supporting the development of ethnic minorities and ethnic minority areas. We will support the growth of ethnic groups with small populations and continue to implement programs to boost development of border regions and improve the lives of people there. We will protect and develop the fine cultural traditions of ethnic minorities. (*Report on the Work of the Government Delivered at the Second Session of the Twelfth National Peoples Congress on March 5, 2014*)

In the Chinese version, the subject is omitted but we Chinese people know the subject “we” here. If we add the subject in Chinese version, it will sound strange. But when we translate it into English, we must add “we” to make a complete sentence. Given the difference in grammar between English and Chinese, we have to make adjustments to follow the target readers’ language habits.

3. PRACTICAL OPERATIONS OF EXPLICITATION STRATEGIES IN TRANSLATION OF POLITICAL TEXTS

In this part of the researcher mainly selects the *Report on the Work of the Government Delivered at the Second Session of the Twelfth National Peoples Congress on March 5, 2014* and some of Xi Jinping and Li Keqiang’s important speech texts to do case study. The four strategies below are commonly used, and there are still some other strategies we have not talked about yet. In the translation practice, we can not only use single strategies, instead, we should employ as many strategies as possible to realize the equivalence between the source text and target text to the maximum extent.

3.1 Addition

Example 1:

面对世界经济复苏艰难、国内经济下行压力加大、自然灾害频发、多重矛盾交织的复杂形势, 全国各族人民在以习近平同志为总书记的党中央领导下, 从容应对挑战, 奋力攻坚克难, 圆满实现全年经济社会发展主要预期目标, 改革开放和社会主义现代化建设取得令人瞩目的重大成就.

We faced a complex environment: the world economic recovery was difficult. In China, downward pressure

on the economy increased, natural disasters occurred frequently, and there was an array of interrelated problems. However, the people of all of China's ethnic groups, under the leadership of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) with Comrade Xi Jinping as General Secretary, confidently met all challenges, strove to overcome difficulties, fully attained the main targets for economic and social development for the year, and made impressive achievements in reform and opening up and in the socialist modernization drive. (*Report on the Work of the Government Delivered at the Second Session of the Twelfth National Peoples Congress on March 5, 2014*)

A complete structure is very important in English, and the missing of some structural words may be regarded as errors. But in Chinese we focus more on the meaning rather than on the structure or form. So in the process of translating Chinese into English, we should add some structural words to make the meaning complete and explicit.

Example 2: 过去一年, 困难比预料的多, 结果比预想的好。

In the last year, we met more difficulties but delivered a better performance than expected.

In the Chinese version, although no explicit word is used, there is a comparison or a transition between the first half and the second half of the sentence. We Chinese people can easily understand the relation in the sentence. But when we translate it into English, we must add a word "but" to make implied meaning explicit.

3.2 Paraphrase

For some words with Chinese characteristics, there are no equivalent expressions in English. Great attention should be paid to these words. Firstly, we should know their exact meaning in Chinese, because only on the basis of exact understanding can we find proper words in English to explain them. Secondly, people need to be familiar with the cultural differences to avoid unpleasant misunderstandings. Thirdly and most importantly, we should try our best to make the meaning explicit and well conveyed. Word-for-word translation is inadvisable here.

Some examples about the translation of words with Chinese characteristics are as follows:

Example 3: 扩大“营改增”试点。

The pilot project to replace business tax with value-added tax (VAT) was expanded.

Example 4: 结构调整取得积极成效. 粮食产量超过1.2万亿斤, 实现“十连增”。

Progress was achieved in adjusting the economic structure. Grain output exceeded 600 million metric tons, increasing for the tenth consecutive year.

Example 5: 社会政策要托底。

Social policies should meet people's basic needs.

Example 6: 让市场吃了“定心丸”。

All these efforts reassured the market.

Example 7: 积极盘活存量、用好增量。

We made good use of both existing and additional monetary and financial resources.

Example 8: 发挥好政府投资“四两拨千斤”的带动作用。

We hope that such government investment will attract more investment in these areas from other sources.

Example 9: 深入贯彻落实科学发展观, 要求我们始终坚持“一个中心、两个基本点”的基本路线。

To thoroughly apply the Scientific Outlook on Development, we must always adhere to the Party's basic line of taking economic development as the central task and upholding the Four Cardinal Principles and the reform and opening up policy, known as “one central task and two basic points.”

Example 10: “三通” (the resumption of direct links of mail, transport and trade), “三农” (agriculture, rural areas and farmers)

In the above examples, sometimes we need to make the words more concrete as in the translation of “三通”, “三农”, “营改增”, “十连增”, and sometimes we need to simplify the expression to convey the spirit of the source language as in the translation of “定心丸”, “四两拨千斤”. No matter which method we adopt, our goal is the same, which is to make the meaning more explicit and understandable.

3.3 Substitution

People tend to pay much more attention to the translation of Chinese words of which equivalence in English cannot be found and neglect the research on Chinese words which have several meanings or equivalent expressions in English. When one Chinese word has several meanings or equivalences in English, we should carefully examine the meaning in the context and choose a proper substitute for the Chinese word in English. Take “加强” for example, it has several equivalent meanings in English:

Example 11:

加强党的执政能力建设 strengthen the governance capability of the Party

同各国的交流合作广泛加强 enhance exchanges and cooperation with other countries in various fields

进一步加强港澳工作和对台工作 intensify the work related to Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan affairs

加强思想道德建设 cultivate ideals and ethics among people

加强党的建设 improve the building of the Party

加强战略思维, 树立世界眼光 develop a global and strategic perspective

加强文化建设 promote cultural development

加强公民意识教育 step up education about citizenship

Each word in political texts has a specific meaning. We should measure the word carefully and should not replace one word with another at random. Most importantly, these examples here well represent the function of explicitation.

Unlike word-for-word translation, explicitation strategies can illustrate the meaning more explicitly and concretely, and can minimize the obscurity in the sentence.

3.4 Repetition

Repetition is a typical and commonly-used strategy in explicitation.

Example 12: 实施知识产权战略. 充分利用国际科技资源. 进一步营造鼓励创新的环境, 培养造就世界一流科学家和科技领军人才, 使创新智慧竞相迸发、创新人才大量涌现.

We will implement the strategy for intellectual property rights. We will make the best use of international resources of science and technology. We will continue to create conditions conducive to innovation, train world-class scientists and leaders in scientific and technological research, inspire creative wisdom and bring forth large numbers of innovative personnel. (*Report on the Work of the Government Delivered at the Second Session of the Twelfth National Peoples Congress on March 5, 2014*)

The greatest difference lies between political translation and literary translation is that political translation requires much more strictness. Political texts concern the policy of a country and any careless mistake may result in deadly damage. We should be loyal to the original texts and avoid random omitting or adding. Every word added should bear thoughtful consideration. For some Chinese sentences which have no subjects like “实施知识产权战略”, usually there are two ways to translate them. The first way is to use passive voice and translate it into “the strategy will be implemented for intellectual property.” However, too many passive voices cannot show the strength of the sentence. On the basis of loyalty, we should try our best to underline the strength of a sentence. So we add “we will” in the texts to form parallelism to make the sentence more persuasive. It is a form of explicitation, and it will contribute to the fluent conveying of the implied meaning.

4. CASE STUDIES OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF EXPLICITATION IN TRANSLATION OF POLITICAL TEXTS

In the perspective of the origin reason of explicitation, it can be roughly classified into two categories: one is objective factors, such as the language habits, ways of thinking and cultural gaps; the other is the translators' subjective factors: the translator's own knowledge structure largely determines his/ her understanding of the source text. Here in this paper, we mainly classified in the view of the functions or roles that explicitation plays.

4.1 Explicitation of Grammar Roles

Chinese and English are different in words of collocations and syntactic operations. Chinese is accepted as hypotactic language, which means that the logical relationship between sentences and words is concealed by general

and abstract forms in Chinese; while English is parataxis, which requires direct or explicit form of language to express ideas. Thus, when we translate we should adopt explicitation strategies. Examples selected from the report give a detailed illustration.

Example 1: 只要经济在合理区间运行, 就集中精力抓住转方式调结构不放松, 保持宏观政策基本取向不动摇, 以增强市场信心、稳定社会预期.

As the economic performance remained within the proper range, we concentrated our efforts on improving the growth model and making structural adjustments by unswervingly following the underlying principles of our macro-control policy. This enhanced public confidence in the market and kept expectations stable. (*Report on the Work of the Government Delivered at the Second Session of the Twelfth National People's Congress on March 5, 2014*)

In this example, “we” and “this” are added for grammatical reasons. It can well embody the grammar roles of explicitation strategies.

4.2 Explicitation of Meaning Roles

According to the Skopos theory and text typology put forward by Christian Nord, it is required that translation should be purpose-oriented. Ambiguity and confusion are not allowed and translators should try their best to better achieve this purpose.

Example 2: 反腐败要老虎、苍蝇一起打.

In fighting corruption, we should go after both tigers and flies, that is, both the high and low-ranking officials who have benefited from graft.

Example 3: 踏石留印, 抓铁有痕.

Step onto the stone and you should leave your footprint on it; clutch a piece of iron and you should leave your handprint on it. This means one should take forceful steps and deliver tangible results.

According to the function of different text types, there are mainly three text types, including informative, expressive and operative; political text is of an informative type and its translation should not only fully convey the original referential or conceptual content, but also should be clear and plain prose, free of redundancy, and if necessary, explicitation of the original can be a good choice. The target text can be longer in its length and more clear in logic and acceptable with explicitation.

In the above mentioned examples, by explicitation we can exactly deliver the implied meaning to target readers. Even it is the first time for the reader to read about Chinese culture, he/she will not get so puzzled.

4.3 Explicitation of Cultural Information

According to Li Changshuan, “Translation is a cross-cultural and cross-historical communicative activity; in order to make target readers understand the original, it is necessary to explicitate the implied meaning in an explicit way” (Li, 2004). Due to different customs growing in different social backgrounds, it is hard to convey some information to the western readers. For example:

Example 4: 坚持走以人为本、四化同步、优化布局、生态文明、传承文化的新型城镇化道路。

This new type of urbanization should have the following features: putting people first; integrating the development of industrialization, IT application, urbanization and agricultural modernization; improving the spatial layout; protecting the ecological environment; and carrying forward Chinese culture. (*Report on the Work of the Government Delivered at the Second Session of the Twelfth National Peoples Congress on March 5, 2014*)

For the Chinese readers, they can easily activate background knowledge to catch the meaning of 四化同步; yet, it is a stumbling block for foreign readers without rich background knowledge about China. While an exact explanation of it can make it much easier for foreign readers to know what it refers to and gain a deep understanding of China. Therefore, in the translation of political texts, it's usually impossible for translators to give a completely faithful translation within these socio-cultural constraints, and explicitation translation of the original is totally necessary to minimize the difficulty in reading for most receptors.

China has a long history and owns many words with Chinese characteristics. These words should be translated by explicitation methods to fully convey the meaning.

Examples 5:

扭转政令不通的“堰塞湖”现象。

Address the issue of “Barrier Lake” which blocks the smooth implementation of government decisions.

The translation of cultural information can help to realize the communication between target culture and source culture, and both cultures may grow stronger and adapt new cultures in a new historical period. Furthermore, most target readers, even less educated target readers can understand and get enriched by it. Therefore, explicitation of cultural information will benefit both Chinese and western cultures.

CONCLUSION

The translation of political texts is very important and thus the standard is very strict. Some implied meanings must be translated explicitly. The translated texts should be concise, precise and expressive. By adopting the explicitation strategies, we can manipulate the targeted text more readable. Explicitation strategies can minimize the misunderstandings in the process of cultural exchanges. We can use addition, paraphrasing, substitution, repetition to realize explicitation. These methods are common used in translators' daily practices. In the political translation, translators should use these methods to eradicate the ambiguity and cultural gap. The previous method of word-for-word translation is not advisable.

However, we should properly control the degree of explicitation and avoid over-explicitation. Explicitation can well embody the subjectivity of translators, but the

overuse of it may lead translators' arbitrary manipulation of the source text and may deprive the reasoning right and interests of readers. For instance, someone once translated “American dream” into “美式的自由民主之梦”, this explicitation is just like watering one's grass after a good rain because it underestimates the background knowledge of target readers.

Political translation can contribute to the communication of different ideologies and values but its difficulty roots in that the translators must not only keep the original seriousness and accuracy of the texts, but also show the Chinese culture in them well. Explicitation strategies break up the source texts-oriented chain and begin to properly employ subjectivity to seek for more authentic translation versions based on the criteria of faithfulness, expressiveness and elegance.

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