Review Article

Analyzing the Differences between Static English and Dynamic Chinese in the Government Work Report

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Abstract: As China's international status has improved significantly, political texts such as the Government Work Report have attracted more and more global readers' attention. But this kind of texts has the Chinese language features, especially dynamic verbs of Chinese language. This article analyzes the English translation of verbs in the Government Work Report from 2018 to 2020 so as to figure out the differences between English and Chinese. By analyzing the development of static and dynamic languages and their differences, the article aims to provide some translation strategies for better mastering the two languages and further improving translation level.
Keywords: Government Work Report, dynamic verbs, contrastive study of Chinese and English, translation strategies.

INTRODUCTION

The theory of static-orientation of English language and dynamic-orientation of Chinese language has been put forward by many domestic cross-disciplinary scholars after years of effortlessly analyzing the differences between this two languages. To be specific, the "static" and "dynamic" mentioned linguistically refer to static language and dynamic language, which respectively bear the meaning of a high-frequency of using verbs instead of others like nouns, prepositions and conjunctions; and a low-frequency of that. In short, Chinese is dynamic language and tends to use verbs to express; English is static language, with static representation, having a tendency to use fewer verbs and search for other ways to express the meaning of a physical action.

Professor Shuneng Lian (1993), in his book *A comparative study of English and Chinese*, enumerates the multiple expressions of static English and dynamic Chinese. The static tendency of English can be summarized as follows: (1) nominalization; (2) the use of nouns instead of verbs as agent subjects; (3) the use of nouns instead of adjectives in English titles; (4) the extensive use of adjectives, adverbs and prepositions; (5) the extensive use of weak verbs and grammaticalized verbs. The dynamic tendency of Chinese can be summarized as: (1) verb conjunction; (2) verb or verb phrase can be used as any component of a sentence; (3) verbial repetition or reduplication; (4) the use of strong verbs. This article mainly analyzes several examples in which Chinese is used as a dynamic language by taking some excerpts from 2018 to 2020 Government Work Report. Guided by reader-centered theory, it has also deducted some translation strategies which can help us better understand the two languages and make our translation more idiomatic and expressive.

REASEARCH ON DYNAMIC AND STATIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ENGLISH AND CHINESE

The Chinese language master Mr. Chao Yuanren once said, "The so-called linguistic theory is actually the comparison of languages, which is the scientific conclusion drawn from comprehensively comparative studies of different nationalities in the world". English is one of the most widely used languages in the world, a full contrastive study of the similarities and differences between English and Chinese is of great significance for China to expand its international saying and go global. Nowadays, studying differences between this two languages has been systematized in China.

The representative scholars of linguistic study on English and Chinese include Pan Wenguo, Lian Shuneng, Zhao Shikai and Liu Miqing. Shi Wei (2008) makes a detailed study on the static and dynamic comparison and translation of English and Chinese sentences; Bao Caixia (2003) elaborates on the treatment of verbs in Chinese-English translation; Yu Jialou, Hu Kaibao (1997) and others have conducted thorough analysis of both dynamic and static sentences. These studies have fully demonstrated the static and dynamic features of English and Chinese. By summarizing the dynamic and static regularity of the two languages and presuming audience to be native English readers, we are allowed to see identical embodiment of Chinese verbs in Government Work Reports.

SEVERAL CASES OF SERIAL VERB IN GOVERNMENT WORK REPORT
Multiple Strong Verbs Used Together

Strong verbs can be defined as verbs with strong purposes or emotions, used to describe specific actions or behaviors like reform, support, purchase, etc. The opposite is weak verbs, that are, words have weak emotions or behaviors which seem to be more abstract, like make, have, etc. Chinese tends to use verbs from which gets its feature of dynamic. The more typical is that it's fond of using a large number of strong verbs. In the Government Work Report, there are several applications of strong or weak verbs. By comparing self-translation with official translation, the differences between Chinese and English can be elucidated specifically.

Example 1:要用改革开放办法，稳就业、保民生、促消费、拉动市场、稳定增长，走出一条有效应对冲击、实现良性循环的新路子。（2020）

Version 1: We need to implement reform and opening up to stabilize employment, ensure people's wellbeing, stimulate consumption, energize the market, and achieve stable growth. We need to blaze a new path that can respond effectively to impacts and realize virtuous circulation.

Version 2: We need to pursue reform and opening up as a means to achieve employment stability, improvement in livelihood, market booming and growth steadiness. We need to blaze a new path that enables us to respond effectively to shocks and sustain a positive growth cycle.

As we can see, there are NINE verbs in just ONE short sentence. Among them, there are many strong verbs such as "stability", "protection" and "promotion". This kind of expressions is of great prevalence in Government Work Reports. This quite coincidences with the feature of multi-verb in Chinese. It is clear that they both reach faithfulness and smoothness by comparing the first self-translation version with the second official one. However, the first version chooses to maintain the strong verbs in the original text, using verbs such as "stimulate"and "energize" to keep it 'mighty and pushing'. While the second more persuasive version replaces "用"（literally conforms to "use" in English dictionary）with "pursue as a means to", from which we can find it transforming verbs to nouns or transitional verb phrases with less strength, and the use of "enable" is able to weaken the original text. Obviously, the first translation is not quite idiomatic in the context of English version. And a native English-speaking reader will be easily misconducted by such a strong tone.

Example 2:经过股份制改造的国有企业，经济效益持续回升，总体实力和整体素质明显提高，对整个国民经济的控制力、影响力和带动力不断增强。（2019）

Version 1: With ever rebounding economic returns as well as remarkably enhanced strength and improved quality, the restructured SOEs have played a bigger role in controlling, impacting and propelling the entire national economy.

Version 2: To date, most SOEs have been transformed into shareholding entities.Such transformation has enabled SOEs to continue to improve their performance and competitiveness, and to become more effective contributors to and drivers of the economy.

There are also several strong verbs in this sentence. It is worth noting that the words "control"and "influence", which are verb nouns in Chinese, may emphasize actions rather than express the denotative meaning of "force". For example, the lexical meaning of "impetus" refers to the function of turning something stronger. Therefore, it is easy for us to associate these words with the translation of the first version, that is, translating these words directly into strong verbs without transition. The

stacking of strong verbs like "control", "impact" and "propel" fails to meet the standard of English statics. The second translation is in line with Professor Lian Shuneng's summary of English statics: Agent subject uses nouns instead of verbs. Therefore, "控制力、影响力和带动力"can be translated as "contributors and drivers" with a more appropriate manner.

Two Verbs Conjugated and Juxtaposed

Example 3:积极参与全球治理体系建设和改革，推动构建人类命运共同体。（2020）

Version 1: China need to participate actively in the development and reform of global governance system, thus pushing forward to build a human community with a shared future.

Version 2: We played an active role in the development and reform of the global governance system, and promoted the building of a human community with a shared future.

In political and economic texts, such juxtaposed verb phrases as "推动构建" can be seen everywhere. For example: "加快建设", "统筹推进", "稳定运行" and so on. In the process of translation, most people will translate them into the first version as I have done. As a matter of fact, Skimming thoroughly the Government Work Report, we will find that the processing of "verb + the + noun + of" is much more common. How to judge the relationship between two verbs is especially important. "推动" and "构建" should be understood as "to push" the building of a shared community of human destiny. "To + verb" in translation is grammatically correct and logically permissive, but syntactically it fails to reflect the nominalization of "less verb, more noun" in English. So what exactly does nominalization mean?

Nominalization refers to the use of nouns or noun phrases to express information that originally belongs to verbs or verb phrases. Affixation serves as one of the most prevalent word-building methods in English. That is to say, many English nouns are formed from verbs with corresponding affixes such as -tion, -ty, -sion, -or; this provides some possibilities for nominalization in English. Since English does not like repetition, a string of verbs in a sentence will dazzle and baffle people to distinguish the real focus and strengthen the sentence's tone, which is not in line with the characteristics of English language. Therefore, nominalization is employed to realize a more cohesive sentence structure, well-arranged style and moderate order of primary information and secondary information in a sentence. On the contrary, verbs are frequently used in Chinese, especially strong verbs. In order to

highlight the authority and importance of a discourse, English as a static noun can be fully used in Chinese-English translation. When there are more than one verb in a Chinese sentence, all verbs can be treated by nominalization except the core verb which pillars the main meaning of whole sentence (Li La & Jia Xiaoqing, 2019). According to this strategy, the following sentences can be translated as follows:

Example 4:稳定支持基础研究应用和应用基础研究，引导企业增加研发投入。（2020）

Version: We will provide stable support for basic research and application-oriented basic research, and encourage enterprises to increase investment in R&D.

"稳定支持"here is treated in accordance with the principle of "adjective + noun", followed by a weaker verb to weaken the sentence, which is a strategic extension.

The Use of Verbs with "Chinese Characteristics"

When it comes to verbs with Chinese characteristics, it is an array of verbs that appears most frequently in political and economic texts. For example: development, construction, promotion, etc. The multiple occurrence of these words also reflects the tendency of repetition in Chinese language. This part mainly discusses how the two words "development" and "construction" embody the fact that Chinese belongs to dynamic language while English belongs to static language. The word "development" has found its counterpart in Chinese-English bilingual dictionary, that is, "development" as a noun, the verb is "to develop". But the word "发展" not only means "Things from small to large, from simple to complex, from low-level to high-level changes in the development of production", but also represents "The expansion of the scale of an organization". The broad meaning of this word also explains its highly frequent use. But looking back at the Government Work Report, we find that translating "发展" into "development" is much more common than that of "to develop", which will produce nothing but illusion that "发展" is always associated with "development". Similarly, the moment we translate "建设", the words like "building" or "construction" will firstly be conjured up in our mind. However, "建设"can also be translated as "development" in some cases.

Example 5:加快建设国家实验室，重组国家重点实验室体系，发展社会研发机构。（2020）

Version: We will accelerate the development of national laboratories, restructure

the system of key national laboratories and develop private R&D institutions.

The verb phrase "加快建设" has been translated into the structure of "verb + noun", which in line with idiomatic English expression. At the same time the word "建设"here is translated into "development".

Example 6: 打好军队建设发展"十三五"规划落实攻坚战，编制军队建设"十四五"规划。（2018）

Version: We will complete the crucial tasks laid down in the 13th five-year plan for the development of the armed forces and draw up the 14th five-year plan.

Here, "建设发展" is translated into "development", and the former verb "建设" is omitted because these two have the same meaning which conforms to repetition in Chinese in this case.

From these two examples, we can conclude that the verbs in Chinese can be used as any components in a sentence, and the two high-frequency words "发展" and "建设" are mostly translated into noun form, or integration of the meaning before and after the omission. It's a case-by-case basis. But it is worth affirming that words "发展" and "建设", whether being translated into "growth", "development", "construction" or "building", are in line with the English static multi-noun style, is worth putting into practice.

CONCLUSION

Through the analysis of above three typical cases, we can fully understand the dynamic nature of Chinese. The article highlights the fact that the author has taken into account the situation where target reader is considered to be native English readers, and has weighed the words applied in the translating versions, making every effort to realize accuracy in the process of using words and syntax by conforming to the static nature of English language. However, when looking for other parallel political texts, the author finds that many Chinese sentences

in the Government Work Report are still translated as strong verbs in English. There is no adjustment of sentence structure and the manifestation of logical relations. The author believes that the reason for this phenomenon is that the political text is so authoritative that the proper use of strong verbs will emphasize the seriousness of the translation, and the unadjusted sentences are mostly commitments or visions, or officially polite remarks and terms. Such unadjustment is also understandable.

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