

Russian Translation Analysis of Current Affairs Buzzwords in Chinese

Jing Ma, Qian Tan

Jilin University, Changchun 130012, China

Abstract: Chinese current affairs hot words embody the unique events, things or phenomena in China in a certain period of time. They have distinct characteristics of the times and unique language expressions in Chinese, involving economy, culture, social life and other aspects. They play a unique and important role in the publicity work. They are the specific expressions of China's reports and national policies that can convey China's national conditions, cultural traditions and current social conditions to other countries. These buzzwords usually contain certain cultural significance, with authority and seriousness, which is the focus and difficulty of translation. If translated improperly, it is easy to cause problems such as inaccurate semantic expression, violation of target language expression habits and cultural norms, resulting in misunderstanding of domestic culture. This paper aims to analyze the representative Chinese current affairs buzzwords, summarize the corresponding relationship between Chinese and Russian languages and relevant translation experience.

Keywords: Current affairs buzzwords in Chinese; Russian translation; Translation experience

1. Concept and classification of current affairs buzzwords in Chinese

Current affairs refers to domestic and international major events that take place in a certain period of time. The hot words of current affairs are the buzzwords related to these events, which can reflect the issues and things that people generally pay attention to in a country or region at a time.

By analyzing a large number of current affairs buzzwords in Chinese in recent years, the author summarizes some words according to common characteristics, such as: general words containing numbers ("Double subtraction", "The five-sphere integrated plan"); words containing colors (Ecological red lines, "Green" waters and green mountains are as valuable as mountains of gold and silver, "green" in the "Five concepts for development"); abbreviated words; words from traditional idioms (gnaw "hard bone", "iron rice bowl"), etc. Different types of words have relatively fixed Russian translation methods to achieve more accurate publicity of the country's line and let the world understand China better. In view of the fact that the generation of hot words in current affairs is based on a certain social background, it is necessary to avoid incomprehensible translation and express the meaning of the original language as relevantly as possible.

The hot words of current affairs in Chinese are affected by many factors when translated into Russian. The two languages belong to different language families and are restricted by the national history and culture, people's social life and customs. At the same time, most of these words have both Chinese traditional characteristics and characteristics of the times. They are an important source for readers at home and abroad to understand China's current guidelines. How to translate them into Russian reasonably becomes a major issue.

2. Analysis of translation examples

2.1 General words containing numbers

Such words are usually explained after the surface meaning is translated or directly interpreted in detail. For example, "Four Confidences" is translated into: Четыре уверенности (уверенность в выбранном пути развития, уверенность в теории, уверенность в режиме, уверенность в культуре), that is, the four confidences are pointed out in brackets. Similar hot

words are: “The five-sphere integrated plan”—Пятиединое строительство (Общая схема, объединяющая в единое целое экономическое, политическое, культурное, социальное и экоцивилизационное строительство). In some specific cases, if the conciseness of the translation is pursued, then only need to retain the general part, such as “Double subtraction”—«Два сокращения».

2.2 Words containing colors

When translating words with color, it is important to pay attention to the specific meaning of the color. Direct translation into corresponding words may cause inaccuracy and difficulty in understanding. For example, there are many kinds of translation of the color “green” in the sentence “ ‘Green’ waters and green mountains are as valuable as mountains of gold and silver.” Some of them are directly translated into зелёные (green) or изумрудные (verdurous), while others are translated into прозрачные or чистые (clean) and покрытые буйной растительностью (covered with vegetation). In Chinese, “green” can be used as “clear” to describe water, and “green mountain” also refers to “lush” mountain, but there is no such correspondence in Russian. The word голубые (light blue) is often used to describe the clear water, while the word зелёные (green) — the dirty water, so the first translation may cause ambiguity. Similarly, the “green” in the “Five concepts for development” mostly refers to “sustainable development”. Therefore, when translated into Russian, the same root word “экологичность” (ecology) is used.

2.3 Words from traditional idioms

When translating such words, if there are corresponding equivalent words in Russian after literal translation and it will not cause difficulties in understanding, then this method is adopted. However, in most cases, there is a lack of such a corresponding and easy-to-understand word in the two languages. Therefore, it is necessary to first ensure that the meaning of the translation can be accurately conveyed. For example, as the name suggests, “iron rice bowl” refers to a very hard bowl that is difficult to break. In Chinese, “rice bowl” usually means a job, so “iron rice bowl” refers to a job with high stability, low risk and long duration. The job described like this is always pursued by most Chinese job seekers. Therefore, it is more appropriate to translate it into «профессия с гарантированной стабильной работой, а также стабильным доходом и льготами».

3. Experience in Russian translation of Chinese current affairs buzzwords

Translation is not just a word-for-word conversion, a more important factor is cultural difference. As a significant part of the language, vocabulary signifies something specific to a certain culture and reflects the unique way of activity of particular people, which has gradually accumulated over a long period of history and is different from that of other peoples. Therefore, when translating Chinese current affairs hot words into Russian, it is important to respect the original language as much as possible and to take into account Chinese expression habits and the cultural background of both countries. In addition, it is also important to pay attention to the lexical and syntactic correspondence in the structure, so as to comply with the language norms and expression habits.

Most scholars have summarized the basic translation techniques such as transliteration, literal translation and liberal translation for these current affairs buzzwords. Each approach has its own merits and desirability. The transliteration should be used for some terms that do not exist in the target language and have a strong national flavour.

When equivalents exist in the two languages, literal translation can be made on the basis of faithfulness to the original text, in which case it will not cause difficulties in understanding and will accurately convey the Chinese context. On the contrary, when there is no equivalent vocabulary in the source and target languages, in this case one should not stick to the form of expression in the original language, but use liberal translation to translate in a more comprehensible way.

From the point of view of domestication and foreignization, foreignization is more likely to promote Chinese national condition abroad in its original form and to preserve the uniqueness of Chinese expression. However, domestication may also be used in certain circumstances to ensure the fluency and readability of the translation. It is important to note that translation methods change with people’s level of awareness and social progress, and accordingly, the language itself is constantly enriched, and intercultural communication can to some extent fill the inequalities and gaps that exist in translation.

4. Conclusion

The proper translation of Chinese current affairs buzzwords can help export Chinese culture to the outside world and better present Chinese characteristics. At present, the relationship between China and Russia continues to advance, and Russia increasingly reports on hot topics in China. It is important for foreign propaganda work to ensure that Chinese national condi-

tions are not ambiguous and are correctly conveyed to the greatest extent, so it is of some theoretical and practical significance to study the Russian translation of Chinese current affairs hot words. When translating, it is important to choose a suitable way according to the characteristics of the word itself, and to consider how to achieve structural unity with the original text as far as possible while ensuring that the content corresponds.

References

- [1] Jiang Yaming. A Study on Language and Cultural Adaptation in Russian Translation of Political Vocabulary with Contemporary Chinese Characteristics [J]. Chinese Russian Teaching, 2021, 40 (03):51-59.
- [2] Piao Zhehao, Lin Lijuan, Yan Wenyong. Research on the Russian translation of Chinese new words based on bilingual news parallel corpus [J]. Journal of Yanshan University (Philosophy and Social Science), 2016, 17 (01):138-144.
- [3] Deng Kun. Russian translation techniques of words with Chinese characteristics [J]. Journal of Heilongjiang Vocational College of Ecological Engineering, 2015, 28 (06):159-160.
- [4] Yuan Hao. Research on Russian translation of political vocabulary with Chinese characteristics in the new era [D]. Tianjin Foreign Studies University, 2021.
- [5] Lv Hongzhou. From the perspective of translation semiotics, the strategy of Russian translation of central literature terms [J]. Journal of Tianjin Foreign Studies University, 2015, 22 (05):14-22.