RESEARCH ARTICLE

A STUDY ON THE TRANSLATION OF DELIBERATE METAPHORS IN *XI JINPING IMPORTANT SPEECHES AT THE SECOND BELT AND ROAD FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION* BASED ON WMATRIX

MA JIAO[1], HUANGFU WEI[2]

[1]Master Candidate, School of Foreign Languages, North China Electric Power University, Beijing, China, E.mail address: MJ1777520@163.com
[2]Associate, School of Foreign Languages, North China Electric Power University, Beijing, China, E-mail address: mailtohf@163.com

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Abstract

Political speeches often use metaphors to express the speaker's attitudes to persuade their audience. Political discourse is rich in metaphors. Xi Jinping uses many metaphors close to people's lives to construct a symbolic political discourse system in his speeches. The translation of metaphors in political discourse is therefore particularly important. Based on the self-built Chinese-English parallel corpus of Xi's speeches, this paper uses the corpus analysis tool Wmatrix to analyze the deliberate metaphors in the corpus. On the basis of this, three methods of deliberate metaphor translation are identified by comparing the English translation.

Keywords : Wmatrix, deliberate metaphor, metaphor translation

Introduction

Since ancient times, politicians tended to use metaphors to highlight the local similarities between the source and target domains, and to connect political concepts with people's existing knowledge and experience (Thompson, 1996). This year marks the tenth anniversary of the construction of the Belt and Road. As of 6 January 2023, China has signed more than 200 cooperation documents with 151 countries and 32 international organizations to build the Belt and Road together. However, the translation of deliberate metaphors in Xi Jinping's speeches is undoubtedly a difficult task for translators. At the same time, it is also the key to the quality of the translation. Based on this, this paper identifies the deliberate metaphors in the Chinese and English parallel corpus of Xi Jinping's speeches by using the corpus analysis tool Wmatrix. On the

basis of this, the translation method of deliberate metaphor is summarized.

1. The Overview of Deliberate Metaphor Theory

1.1 Deliberate Metaphor Theory

Gerard Steen introduced the concept of Deliberate Metaphor (DM) in 2010 and founded Deliberate Metaphor Theory (DMT) in 2015. Unlike conceptual metaphor theory (CMT), DMT argues that humans do not always use metaphors unconsciously and that some metaphors are deliberately used for certain purposes in communication. Although metaphor is theoretically defined as a cross-domain mapping, in actual language use it does not mean that the processing of metaphor activates a cross-domain mapping, e.g. black horse, mountain ridge. Indeed CMT deepens the connotation of traditional rhetorical metaphors even further. It combines the latitudes of language

and thought, but the study of metaphor is still essentially a two-dimensional study. To address the paradox of metaphor in language and thought (metaphor in language but not in thought), Steen (2008) first proposed the inclusion of "communication" in the metaphorical model. Unlike metaphors in language and thought, metaphors in communication refer to the speaker's choice of a particular metaphor to express in a given context, and the intentional use of that metaphor to modulate the listener's attention to the source domain to create a cross-domain mapping. In other words, metaphor is not only a conceptual structure across conceptual domains but also a communicative tool that people use in communication.

Based on this, Steen (2008, 2010) constructed a new three-dimensional model of metaphor: the first linguistic latitude is the relationship between simile and metaphor, the second thinking latitude is the relationship between normal and novel metaphors, and the third communicative latitude is the relationship between deliberate and non-deliberate metaphors. The new model of metaphor consists of the symbolization of language, psychological thought, and interpersonal relationships. The three dimensions complement each other, which not only helps to analyze the details of the metaphor but also helps to grasp the overall pattern of the metaphor. In this new model of metaphor analysis, the linguistic form, conceptual structure, and communicative properties of metaphors form a three-dimensional complementary relationship. Metaphor analysis is not just from a cognitive linguistic or psychological perspective but is a new mode of discourse analysis.

1.2 Deliberate Metaphor and Non-Deliberate Metaphor

Steen points out that NDM is a linguistic metaphor that does not activate cross-domain mapping. For both sides of communication, the recognition of NDM does not require additional cognitive effort. Unlike NDM, which focus on attention, DM occurs when the structure activated by the metaphorical expression which suggests that the hearer has to temporarily shift from the target

domain to the source domain (Steen, 2015). To distinguish between NDM and DM requires clarifying whether cross-domain mapping activated by metaphor is intentional or unintentional. If it is deliberate on the part of the speaker, it causes the listener to notice features of the source domain and thus compare. And then the listener will make comparisons in the target domain to arrive at the best interpretation of the metaphor. Thus, DM draws compulsory attention, forcing listeners to consciously compare and map across domains (Steen, 2011). Meanwhile, NDM is not presented as a metaphor to the listener, as such expressions are commonplace and do not attract the listener's attention.

1.3 Deliberate Metaphor Recognition

At present, cognitive linguists have not yet developed a complete procedure for identifying metaphors from the corpus. The identification of metaphors is mostly based on the intuition of scholars, but this method is influenced by subjective factors. In addition, it can become time-consuming when the corpus is large. The result is that it is also hard to agree on the results of metaphor research across researchers. With the development of metaphor theory, the methods of identifying metaphors are also being innovated.

The Metaphor Identification Procedure (MIP) developed by the Pragglejazm Group (2007) and the Metaphor Identification Procedure at Vrije University of Amsterdam (MIPVU) proposed by Steen et al. are the most representative.

(1) The recognition steps of MIP

① Read the text to grasp the general meaning of the text;

② Targeting vocabulary units ;

③ a. Grasp the context meaning of the vocabulary; determine whether it has a more basic meaning.

b. Compare the contextual meaning of the lexical unit with its basic meaning.

c. If there is a gap between the basic meaning and its contextual meaning, the lexical unit can be identified as a metaphorical unit.

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(2) The recognition steps of MIPVU

MIPVU is a further refinement of MIP and is dedicated to solving the problem of metaphor recognition in real contexts of discourse.

① Targeting inconsistent lexical units; determining whether the lexical unit can be used as a metaphor flag (MFlag);

② Delineate invisible metaphorical lexical units.

③ Marking MFlag, e.g. like, than, etc.; and real words with comparative meanings such as compare, similar, etc.

The metaphor recognition program MIPVU proposed by Steen et al. (2010) is used to find metaphor-related words in any discourse. However, the recognition of metaphors by MIPVU remains at the language level. Reijnierse et al. (2018) propose an alternative recognition procedure: Deliberate Metaphor Identification Procedure, (DMIP) for identifying potentially deliberate metaphors in communication.

(3) The recognition steps of DMIP

① Read the whole text to get a general idea of the text;

② Use MIPVU to find all metaphorical lexical units;

③ Check the first metaphor-recognized word (MRW);

④ Determine whether the source domain of the MRW is part of the denotative meaning of the discourse.

   a. If "yes", mark the MRW as possibly deliberate and proceed to step 5.
   b. If "No", mark the MRW as non-deliberate and go to step 6.
   c. In case of doubt, mark the MRW as possibly deliberate and add the code WIDLII (Steen et al., 2010). Then, continue with step 5.

⑤ If the MRW was coded as possibly deliberate in step 4, describe how the source domain of the MRW is part of the denotative meaning of the discourse;

⑥ Look at the next MRW.

2. Wmatrix-Based Metaphor Recognition

The research corpus of this paper is built on Xi Jinping Important Speeches at the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. This study adopts the methods of qualitative and quantitative analysis to study the Chinese-English translation of deliberate metaphors in speeches. The research process is as follows: firstly, the metaphor identification procedure (DMIP) proposed by Reijnierse et al. was used to exhaustively identify metaphors from speech. To provide a more comprehensive analysis of metaphors, the identified metaphors were first qualitatively analyzed on a cognitive level based on conceptual metaphor theory. After that, according to the three-dimensional metaphor model built by Steen (2010), the metaphors in the speech were divided into two categories, deliberate metaphors, and non-deliberate metaphors, by taking the communicative latitude as the criterion. Finally, by comparing and analyzing the English translation, the Chinese-English translation method of deliberate metaphors in the speeches was summarized. In this way, the metaphor identification that fully combines quantitative and qualitative methods is more credible.

2.1 Target Domain-led Metaphor Recognition

The steps of the target domain-led metaphor identification process are as follows: setting the target domain; identifying the metaphor-recognized words(MRW); determining the source domain.

(1) Setting the target domain

The corpus of this study was compared with the reference corpus, BNC Sample Spoken, using Wmatrix. After comparing the uploaded texts with the reference corpus, 262 thematic semantic domains were automatically generated with their corresponding usage frequencies and log-likelihood values. The top five key semantic domains were selected from the top ten key semantic domains, namely S8+ [Helping], S1.13+ [Participating], M3 [Vehicles, transport, land], A2.1+[Change], and M7 [Places], with S8+ indicating the main content of the study, i.e. "government helping".

Table 1 Selected Target Domains in Xi Jinping Important Speeches

No.	Semantic Tagging	O1	1%	O2	2%	Log-Likelihood Value	Ratio	Semantic
1	S8+	361	4.21	2020	0.21+	1438.86	4.36	Helping
2	S1.13+	101	1.18	660	0.07+	375.21	4.13	Participating
3	M3	146	1.70	2115	0.22+	341.51	2.98	Vehicles,transport,land
4	A2.1+	140	1.63	2031	0.21+	327.14	2.98	Change
5	M7	171	2.00	3261	0.33+	322.31	2.59	Places
6	I1.3-	52	0.61	237	0.02+	225.79	4.65	Cheap
7	Z99	177	2.07	5684	0.58+	192.89	1.84	Unmatched
8	Y2	58	0.68	480	0.05+	191.53	3.79	Information,technology and computing
9	B5	101	1.18	2080	0.21+	177.89	2.48	Clothes,personal belongings
10	S1.2.5+	34	0.40	119	0.01+	163.03	5.03	Tough/Strong

Note: O1 and O2 represent the frequency of the corresponding semantic domain in the self-constructed and reference corpora respectively; %1 and %2 represent the relative cooperation of the corresponding semantic domain in the self-constructed and reference corpora respectively; "+" in the semantic domain assignment column represents positive semantics, "-" represents negative semantics, and no additional symbols represent neutral semantic rhyme; "+" in the %2 columns represents that the semantic domain is used more frequently in the self-constructed corpus than in the reference corpus.

(2) Identifying metaphors

For the length of the study, this study takes the target domain S8+ [helping] as an example to illustrate the identifying process. Searching S8+ in the list of semantic domains generated above, we get 66 types of "helping", such as support, hands, boost, etc. The MRW in the index line of the class symbols related to "help" were then extracted by comparing the contextual and basic meanings of the word.

(3) Determining the source domain

Determine the semantic domain of the MRWs. The dominant source domain is inferred from the semantic domain of the MRWs. The mapping relationship between the source domain and the target domain in the political speeches is thus constructed.

Table 2 Source Domain 1

Semantic Tagging	Frequency	Semantic	MRWs
M3	120	Vehicles and transport on land	path(7),road(113)
Y2	44	Information technology and computing	connectivity(44)
O4.3	27	Colour and colour patterns	green (24),transparent(1),color(2)
S5+	27	Belonging to a group	bilateral(7),multilateralism(4),trilateral(1),multilateral(15)
S8	27	Helping	foster(4),boost(14),hands(3)

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A10+	19	Open/closed; Hiding/Hidden	opens(19)
M7	17	Places	platform (14), zones(3)
M1	16	Moving,coming and going	Explore(10),march forward(1),stood up(1),move forward(4)
X7+	14	Wanted	plan(14)
S3.1	12	Personal relationship	friends(7),partners(5)

2.2 Source Domain-led Metaphor Identification

(1) Determining source domains

In this study, a semantic domain was identified to be a candidate source domain if it met one of the following criteria (Krennmayr, 2011).

1. Complete deviation from the content of the thematic semantic domain (e.g., S9 [religion and the supernatural]), K4 [drama, theatre, and show business], A10-[closed, hidden];
2. With explicit source domain features: usually concrete, processional, familiar, and common semantic domains (e.g., M6 [location and direction], S7.3 [competition], W2 [light]);
3. Source domains that have been widely used in metaphor research (e.g., G3 [warfare,

defense, and army; weapons], I1.3 [money: cost and prices], I1.2 [money: debts]);

① Below the basic log-likelihood criterion: usually unable to fully describe the topic of the text (e.g. L2 [Living creatures: animals, birds, etc.], W4 [weather], M4 [sailing, swimming, etc.].

Due to the length of the study, the metaphor identification involved in this study is mainly based on the 12 semantic domains mentioned above.

(2) Obtaining the source domain vocabulary

After identifying the source domains, Wmatrix was used to obtain all the words in the semantic domain. Then follow DMIP to identify whether the source domain vocabulary is a metaphor or not. After the above steps, the MRWs in the source domain were presented.

Table 3 Source Domain 2

Source Tagging	Frequency	Semantic	MRW
G3	3	Warfare,defence,the army,weapon	forces（3）
I1.2	2	Money:debts	pay(1),spend(1)
K4	2	Drama,the theatre,and show business	play(1),player(1)
L2	2	Living creature:animal,birds	shoals(1),sow(1)
M4	12	Sailing,swimming	ship(1),flow(3),launch(4),launched(4)
M6	14	Location and direction	ahead(1),back(1),center(1),centered(1),centering(1), navigate(1),upstream(1),forth(2),forward(5)
W4	2	Weather	rain (1), shine(1)

3. Research Findings and Analysis
3.1 Classification of Metaphors in the Speeches
In this paper, a total of 348 metaphors were identified from the speeches. According to the

classification of conceptual metaphor theory, these metaphors are classified into three categories.

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Table 4 Statistics on the Metaphors in Xi Jinping Important Speeches

NO.	Type	Frequency	Proportion
1	Entity metaphor	24	6.90%
2	Structural metaphor	294	84.48%
3	Orientation metaphor	30	8.62%
Total		348	100%

Table 4 shows that structural metaphors appear the most frequently in the speeches, accounting for more than half of the total. Next are entity metaphors and orientation metaphors.

3.2 Classification of Deliberate Metaphors in the Speeches

CMT focuses on the automatic processing of metaphors with conventionalized unconscious involvement, thus ignoring deliberate metaphors that need to be processed (Sun Yi, 2020). Sun Yi and Chen Lang (2017) also point out that in addition to the existence of an overwhelming majority of unconscious metaphors in human conceptual systems, deliberate metaphors are equally pivotal. Clearly, the metaphors in Xi Jinping's speeches are a conscious use of language. Political metaphors have in common the use of concrete things to express abstract political concepts. Politicians are adept at using metaphors to highlight local similarities between the source and target domains to help audiences understand complex political concepts (Thompson, 1996). This is in line with the communicative dimension of deliberate metaphor. Therefore, the author divides metaphors in speeches into two categories, deliberate and non-deliberate metaphors. The difference between the two is whether the metaphor makes the listener consciously construct a cross-domain mapping.

In Steen's (2011) view, a metaphor can be regarded as deliberate when the listener has no choice but to analyze the target domain by treating the source domain as a separate conceptual domain. According to this principle, 36 deliberate metaphors and 312 non-deliberate metaphors were identified in this corpus, accounting for 10.34% and 89.66% of the total, respectively.

4. Translation Methods of Deliberate Metaphors in the Speeches

Through the comparative analysis with the English translation, this paper summarizes three translation methods of deliberate metaphors in the speeches.

Table 5 Statistics on the Translation Methods in Xi Jinping Important Speeches

NO.	Methods	Trait	Frequency	Proportion
1	Local Domain Mapping	M→M	27	75.00%
2	Domain-switching Mapping	M→M'	8	22.22%
3	De-domain mapping	M→∅	1	2.78%
Total			36	100%

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4.1 Local Domain Mapping

Local domain mapping is a translation method that uses the metaphors of the original text. Since there are shared features in the linguistic and cultural aspects of different countries. When the SLD and TLD have a high degree of overlap, and the same metaphor stimulates similar or even the same experiences of foreign readers. The translator may carry out native mapping.

Example 1:

无论是顺境还是逆境，无论前方是坦途还是荆棘，我们都要弘扬伙伴精神，不忘合作初心，坚定不移前进

But either in good times or bad, either on a smooth road or a thorny path,we will uphold the spirit of partnership, keep in mind what brought us together, and march forward without hesitation.

Example 2:

其次，要把绿色作为共建"一带一路"的底色，走清洁、低碳发展之路。

Second, we should take green as the base color in Belt and Road cooperation, and take a clean and low-carbon development path.

Example 3:

唯有风雨兼程，才能无愧于人民重托，才能让我们的人民过上幸福生活。

We can only forge ahead, rain or shine, in order to live up to the trust of our people and deliver on the promise for a better life.

Xi Jinping used three metaphors "cooperation is the journey", "cooperation is the colour" and "cooperation is the weather" to describe the topic. The conceptual mapping process is SLD (journey) → TLD (cooperation), SLD (color) → TLD (cooperation), SLD (weather) → TLD (cooperation). In the cross-domain mapping process, the translator has chosen to map both SLD and TLD to the TLD. This is because both English and Chinese people are drawing on journey, color, and weather experiences to conceptualize cooperation.

When the translated language readers can understand the conceptual mapping based on a common cognitive base, the translator can adopt the native domain mapping to achieve the most desirable translation effect.

4.2 Domain-switching Mapping

In contrast to the retain metaphor, the substitution metaphor refers to a translation approach that uses another metaphor to express the mapping. For the same abstract concept, people in different countries may adopt different mappings. So it is better to replace the original SLD with a concept rooted in the TLD.

Example 4:

在世界经济增长充满不稳定不确定的大背景下，大家都希望结伴前行。

Facing instability and uncertainty in global economic growth, we all want to join hands with each other to move forward.

Example 5:

坚持一切合作都在阳光下运作，共同以零容忍打击腐败。

In pursuing Belt and Road cooperation, everything should be done in a transparent way, and we should have zero tolerance for corruption.

Example 6:

尽管成就辉煌，但前方还有一座座山峰需要翻越，还有一个个险滩等待跋涉。

However, we are keenly aware that with all we have achieved, there are still many mountains to scale and many shoals to navigate.

"Joining hands" (SLD) maps "multinational cooperation" (TLD). In the process of cross-domain mapping, the translator chooses to replace the original SLD with "join hands" by mobilizing different lexical resources. This is because of the difference in the objectives of Chinese and Western diplomacy. Western diplomacy is known for its pragmatism, which means all cooperation starts with interests. So when the overlap between SLD and TLD is low, the

same metaphor does not stimulate the same or similar associations between the source and translated readers. The translator can achieve the best translation effect by mobilizing different lexical units.

4.3 De-domain Mapping

De-domain mapping means that the translator removes metaphor in the process of cross-domain mapping. When the SLD and TLD do not overlap or have a low degree of overlap. Therefore, the same concept does not lead to a reciprocal cognitive experience for the target language reader, the translator may choose to de-domain the mapping.

Example 7:

我相信，只要大家齐心协力、守望相助，即使相隔**万水千山**，也一定能够走出一条互利共赢的康庄大道。

I am confident that as we work closely together, we will transcend <u>geographical distance</u> and embark on a path of win-win cooperation.

The phrase "万水千山" comes from a seven-line poem by Mao Zedong entitled "Seven Rhymes: The Long March." It describes the countless mountains and waters, implying that the journey is long and difficult. The conceptual mapping process is SLD (万水千山) → TLD (Geographical Distance). The translator chooses to de-domain the mapping, mobilizing the lexical resources of the translated language to reduce the cognitive effort of the target language readers. When a concept in the SLD does not inspire experience in the target language reader, the translator may choose to de-domain the concept.

Conclusion

This paper used the corpus analysis tool Wmatrix to identify the deliberate metaphors in the corpus. On this basis, a detailed analysis of the metaphors in the speeches and their translation methods was conducted in comparison with the English translation. The main findings are as follows: Firstly, there are 348 metaphors in Xi Jinping's speeches, of which 36 are deliberate metaphors.

Secondly, the translators mainly adopt three translation methods for the deliberate metaphors, namely source-domain mapping, domain-switch mapping, and de-domain mapping. Through the flexible use of these three translation methods, the original metaphors achieve a good translation effect. The translation of political metaphors is related to the image of national leaders and governments and the construction of the international discourse. Translators should use translation methods flexibly in the process of translation to help readers in the target domain reduce cognitive difficulties. Therefore, more and more countries and international organizations can approve and participate in the Belt and Road construction.

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About the corresponding author: Ma Jiao was born in Wu Hu, a southern city in China. She received the B.S. degree in English from Huai Nan Normal University, Huai Nan, China, in 2020. Now she studies English language and literature at North China Electric Power University. Her research area is translation of English literary works.