

A Contrastive Analysis of Lexical Features of Government Work Report for 2020 and Its Translation—From the Perspective of Halliday's Three Meta-Functions Theory

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Abstract—The translation of government work report (GWR) should not only be faithful to the spirit of the original text, but also close to the stylistic features of target language and the context. These features correspond to the Ideational, Interpersonal and Textual functions of Three Meta-functions Theory, which is of great research value in the current circumstance beset by COVID-19. Taking 2020 GWR as the research material due to its special social environment, this paper makes a systematic comparative study of lexical features between the source text and its English translation based on three meta-functions theory. Through quantitative statistics and qualitative text analysis, the realization and distribution of three meta-functions in the source text and its translation are discussed. At the same time, the reasons for the equivalence and non-equivalence between two texts are explored to summarize corresponding modification suggestions and translation strategies. Through comparative analysis, it is found that for ideational process, the discrepancy is significant in terms of material and relational processes between the source text and its translation. For interpersonal function, the source text mainly uses modal operators of high value while the translation the median. And for textual function, there were many additions of first-person plural pronouns in translation due to its writing habits. These findings can help better understand the language mechanism and connotation of the translation of GWR, thus enriching their research perspective to some extent.

Index Terms—systemic functional grammar, three meta-functions theory, government work report, translation

I. INTRODUCTION

With the enhancement of national power and the improvement of international status, China is attracting more and more attention in the international arena. China's need to forge ahead to the world increases and there is also a growing desire of other countries to better understand China. China's report on the work of the government is an official document of the Government of the People's Republic of China, and it is an authoritative way for the outside world to understand the nation's situation and political ideas. As a turning point for China's development, the year of 2020 witnessed the nation's weal and woe in different aspects. Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, China's economic, cultural, political and international relations had been affected to various degrees. Therefore, the Government Work Report (GWR) for 2020 had provoked considerable discussion as soon as it was released, which summarized and reported the latest situation of China to the outside world. In addition to the regular contents of economic construction, reform and development, a considerable part of the work report was devoted to reviewing and deploying the epidemic prevention and control. At the same time, affected by the epidemic, the world was in turbulence likewise. As a result, it was high time that the government conveyed certain information to stabilize China's image and position in the world.

Systemic-functional grammar represented by Halliday consists of two interrelated parts: systemic grammar and functional grammar. They are closely related to the changes of social environment. According to systemic-functional linguistics, the use of language must be analyzed in a specific context. People use different languages in different situations for specific purposes. Its core is the meta-function theory of language, that is, language is essentially a systematic network composed of different semantics, which is mainly manifested in three meta-functions: ideational function, interpersonal function and textual function. They are widely used in discourse analysis and literature analysis. The realization of ideational function mainly includes transitivity and voice, interpersonal functions are reflected through mood and modality, and theme-rheme structure and cohesion system are used to reflect textual function.

GWR and its English translation (E-GWR), as important political documents concerning national affairs, are used on such highly formal occasions as the People's Congress. In this context, its contents are finalized after careful consideration and repeated revisions. Due to its political nature, every sentence and word of the translation of the report have an accurate definition, which should not only reflect the content of the original text accurately, but also conform to the style of the target language. Therefore, the vocabulary adopted in the English translation is of great research significance. The government work report, as a special style of government external publicity documents, and the

special social environment in which the COVID-19 epidemic is rampant worldwide from 2019 to 2020, make the meta-functions theory very practical in the study of English translation of the GWR 2020.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. *Researches on Three Meta-Functions Theory*

Three Meta-functions theory is an important part of Halliday's systemic functional linguistic school. After a period of development, it has finally formed into a systematic linguistic theory which now includes three variants: ideational, interpersonal and textual functions (Hu, 2017). Many scholars have since conducted further researches based on this theoretical framework, including extending or refining its theoretical content, combining it with other theories of systemic functional linguistics, applying it to other fields and so on. Martin, a well-known systemic functional linguist abroad, further interpreted Halliday's meta-function theory and combined it with language education (Yang, 2010). Researchers also apply the theory to news reports, business communication, advertising, or making discourse analysis studies based on the theory, especially discourse analysis and research on text effect of political speeches or narrative fictions (Feng, 2004). From the domestic point of view, English-Chinese translation is the main research field of meta-function theory.

One of the major features of contemporary Western translation theory is the use of linguistic theory to solve problems in translation, and nowadays, meta-function theory has also been widely used in translation research (Liu & Wen, 2006). Hatim and Mason (1997) studied three meta-functions analysis of language as a part of context analysis in translation, they believe that three meta-functions are important parts of discourse analysis, which involves readers in the reconstruction of the environment. Munday (2001) demonstrated especially the application of three meta-functions in literary translation, which contributed to the application of meta-function theory in the field of translation quality evaluation. In China, the study of translation through meta-function theory is divided according to different types of texts, including adopting the theory in practice on English news reports translation, analyzing English business contracts and making a conclusion of the faithful, accurate and unified translation standards of English business contracts from meta-function theory perspective, as well as other analyses for poetry, advertising, film and television works. All of these studies provide a new perspective for translation studies, thus broadening the way of thinking in translation.

B. *Researches on the English Translation of Government Work Reports*

GWRs cover the country's politics, economy, science and technology, culture and other aspects. As official documents and important channel for the country's publicity to the outside world, it is the most authoritative way for other countries to understand China's national conditions, guidelines, policies and political stance. With the increasing influence of China, the Chinese government's publicity documents have attracted much attention. How to improve the quality of the E-GWR and enhance the effectiveness of its publicity to the outside world has become a matter of theoretical and practical significance.

(a). *Linguistic Research of Government Work Reports*

The development of modern linguistics has a profound impact on translation studies. With the help of linguistic achievements, researchers began to explore translation studies theoretically. They think that we can get the equivalence between the two languages by means of language contrast and semantic analysis, and reveal the rules behind them. Therefore, many scholars focus on exploring the linguistic level of translation, mainly with the help of translation equivalence theories proposed by the West scholars based on linguistic studies and the essence of translation. In recent years, the development of corpus linguistics provides a large number of materials and research perspectives for the study of report translation. Based on the corpus approach, scholars explore the features of the English version of the report, such as vocabulary, sentence, cohesion etc, giving suggestions on translation strategies. Zhu (2011) found a significant increase in the plural form of first person pronouns in E-GWRs from 2000 to 2009 through a corpus-based study. Hu and Tian (2018) used corpus method and critical discourse analysis theory to compare E-GWRS of 2000-2016 with America's State of the Union Address to analyze reports' linguistic features and text effects. However, these studies are all discussions on the linguistic level, which are mainly confined in the texts and ignore the extra-textual factors, it's not comprehensive enough if we do not take the factors as politics, economy, culture and ideology that restrict translation into consideration from macro perspectives. And according to systemic functional linguistics, context is an essential part of a text.

(b). *Cultural and Social Research of Government Work Reports*

At the end of the 20th century, western scholars Bassnett and Lefevere (1996) proposed a cultural turn in translation studies, which made a breakthrough in the linguistic level and began to incorporate the extra-textual factors into the research horizon. After that, scholars began to examine the translation of reports from the outside of the text, and deeply explore the external factors that affect the translation of reports, so as to promote a more comprehensive and in-depth study of the translation of reports. Cheng (2003) proposed that "Politics should be emphasized in the translation of political articles". Huang ((2004) proposed the principle of "Three Closeness" in the translation of foreign publicity from a macro perspective, he also believed that the mainstream ideology of the translator's time dominates the whole

process of publicity translation. In addition, Wu and Zhao (2013) explored the readers' acceptance of the 2011 E-GWR, and the results showed that the translation is close to the English language style, but there still exists some problems. This stage of research focuses on the social, cultural, ideological factors, audiences and other factors that affect report translation, making up for the deficiency of early linguistic studies of translation, promoting the development of report translation studies.

(c). *Researches on the Lexical Features of Government Work Reports*

At the end of the 20th century, western scholars Bassnett and Lefevere (1996) proposed a cultural turn in translation studies, which made a breakthrough in the linguistic level and began to incorporate the extra-textual factors into the research horizon. In addition to the above overall researches on the English translation of reports, with the continuous strengthening of China's foreign publicity, the research on E-GWRs, especially the English translation of words with Chinese characteristics, is also increasing. Li and Hu (2017) took the English version of the report from 2000 to 2014 as an example to investigate the theme words and their collocations in the E-GWR.

Previous studies have shown that most of the scholars choose E-GWRs of several consecutive years, and use case analysis or quantitative analysis to make a diachronic comparison of a certain category of vocabulary and summarize its English translation methods and rules, or analyze the translation strategies of vocabulary from a theoretical point of view. Few articles have systematically studied the vocabulary used in the E-GWR based on theoretical frameworks of linguistics, especially the meta-function theory. Therefore, it is of great practical value to make a study of E-GWR for 2020 based on Halliday's meta-function theory and take the social context into consideration, by which the equivalence and non-equivalence between two texts can be explored to summarize corresponding modification suggestions and translation strategies.

III. METHODOLOGY

A. *Research Questions*

This paper attempts to study the lexical features of GWR for 2020 and its translation from the perspective of Halliday's Meta-functions theory. The author will focus on the following questions:

- (1) What are the lexical features of GWR for 2020 and its translation according to three meta-functions?
- (2) What are the similarities and differences between the original text and its translation if there are, and how can we evaluate these changes according to three meta-functions and context?
- (3) What specific translation suggestions and strategies of GWR can we summarize based on the above contrastive analysis?

B. *Research Materials*

GWR belongs to political discourse and has distinct characteristics. From the perspective of content, the report involves the summary of the work of the government in the past year and the deployment of the work in the next year as well as the government's own construction, whose wording is undoubtedly rigorous, accurate and standardized. As for the form, it is read out by the Premier of the State Council at the National People's Congress, the main participants are whole Chinese people as well as foreign governments. In terms of formality, the Report is a very official document. The English translation of the report should not only be faithful to the spirit of the original text, but also have stylistic features similar to the original text as far as possible. Meanwhile, these features correspond to the ideational, interpersonal and textual functions of meta-function theory, which is of great research value. This study takes the latest English version of the GWR 2020 issued by Xinhua News Agency as the data, discusses the application of ideational, interpersonal and textual function in report's translation from the lexical level, as well as the text effect with the use of these words, so as to help readers better understand the language mechanism and connotation of the translation of the report and enrich its research perspectives.

What's more, GWR for 2020 is quite different from those of previous years in that the year's National People's Congress (NPC) and Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPC) sessions were held under the special circumstances when the COVID-19 epidemic in China is under effective control and the global epidemic continues to spread, which entails great concern. This is not only a summary of China's national economy and people's livelihood in the past year, but also related to China's international situation in the context of the increasing serious global epidemic and the increasingly international suppression of China by developed countries. It reflects the "context" that systemic functional linguistics emphasizes, so the study is quite feasible. The texts adopted in this paper are two versions of GWR for 2020, with the Chinese source text of 10346 words and its English translation of 8808 words.

C. *Research Procedure*

The whole paper mainly adopts qualitative and quantitative methods. According to the content of the report, the whole text is divided into three parts for vocabulary classification and data collection. To analyze the lexical features of texts from the perspective of three meta-functions, firstly, the vocabulary is classified according to the transitivity system, mood and modality system, thematic structure and cohesion system which indicate three functions respectively to collect lexical distribution data, and tables will be drawn to make the data more lucid. Then the data in the table are

contrasted and analyzed to obtain the general rule. Here a forum is adopted to calculate whether the discrepancy between the source language and the translation is significant. With the combination of meta-function theory and specific contexts, the paper compares the original text and the translation of the report in the form of specific cases, and evaluates the rationality of the deletion and retention of the translation from original text in the lexical level. Finally, based on the above analysis and evaluation, the author summarizes the opinions on the revision of the English translation of the government work report and the translation strategies.

IV. CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF GWR FOR 2020 BASED ON THREE-META FUNCTIONS

A. Ideational Function

The legitimacy of a text being a translation depends largely on the match of the ideational meanings between two texts (Bell, 1991), so this part mainly focuses on the transitivity system of the source language and target language, which accounts for the major resources of construing the ideational function. Process is the core concept of transitivity system, including six processes introduced in the previous part. The distribution of these processes is shown in the following table:

TABLE 1
THE DISTRIBUTION OF SIX PROCESSES

	Material		Relational		Mental		Behavioral		Verbal		Existential		Total
	Frequency	Ratio(%)	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency
Chinese	1014	86.3	93	7.9	24	2.1	35	3.1	5	0.4	4	0.3	1175
English	1330	86.2	145	9.4	30	1.9	21	1.4	8	0.5	9	0.5	1543
Significance	0.000		0.000		0.150		0.211		0.254		0.088		0.000

According to Table 1, apparently in the two texts, material processes account for the majority, and are often marked by verbs. The messages of material process are often conveyed when talking about government's actions, achievements, and goals.

China was at a critical juncture when this report was produced and delivered, the annual NPC and CPPCC sessions were held under the special circumstances when the COVID-19 epidemic in China is under effective control and the global epidemic continues to spread, also a moderately prosperous society will soon be fully built. As a result, the great efforts we have made in response to combating COVID-19 and arrangements for the future priorities are especially stressed.

And due to the impact of the epidemic, employment and people's livelihood have become important contents of development. Hence, a large number of verbal clauses indicated by high proportion of material processes can demonstrate the positive role of the government in promoting the national economy and people's livelihood, in addition to the government's determination to redouble efforts to restore nation's livelihood in the following years.

(a). Material Process

Material processes, as Halliday (2004) proposes, is the "process of doing", and they "express the notion that some entity 'does' something—which may be done 'to' some other entity". This process typically has a participant (the Actor) that performs the action and another participant (the Goal) that affected by the action.

The distributions of material processes on the whole in both texts are very similar and both account for a large proportion. Due to the impact of the epidemic, employment and people's livelihood have become important contents of development. Hence, a large number of verbal clauses indicated by a high proportion of material processes can vividly show the proactive role the government has played in facilitating the economy and improving people's well-being, in addition to the government's determination to redouble efforts to restore nation's livelihood in the following years.

When the significance value is less than 0.05, the discrepancy between the source text and the translation is significant, hence the significance value in Table 1 indicates a significant discrepancy between two texts—English has significantly more material processes than Chinese. Some omissions and additions of material processes can be found in the translation, with additions account for more proportions, here are some examples:

(1) ST: 粮食产量实现“十二连增”，居民消费价格涨幅保持较低水平。

TT: Food crop production increased for the 12th year in a row. Consumer prices grew slowly.

(2) ST: 中国特色大国外交成果丰硕。

TT: We achieved fruitful outcomes in pursuing China's major country diplomacy.

The translator finds that the Chinese text is redundant with the expression of “实现‘十二连增’”, so he dealt it with a noun-to-verb change in which a material process is added in the translation. And in the second example, material process is employed due to the addition of subject “we”.

There are also many omissions, mainly some four-word expressions with repeated use of verbs that can't be translated with English equivalent perfectly, which can be shown in the following examples:

(3) ST: 这些政策使几亿人受益, 及时有效促进了保供稳价和复工复产。

TT: These policies have benefited hundreds of millions of people, and ensured stable supplies and prices and the resumption of work and production in a timely and effective way.

(4) ST: 我们一定要努力改进工作, 切实履行职责, 尽心竭力不辜负人民的期待。

TT: We must strive to improve our work and fulfill our responsibilities and make every effort to live up to the people's expectations. (from *Report on the Work of the Government*, published on May 22, 2020)

We can see that in both examples, the source text uses four-word expressions with repeated use of verbs, which actually express the same meaning. So in the translation, two verbs are translated into one to make the article more concise.

(b). Relational Process

Relational process is represented by predicators, telling the relation between different entities or the feature and classification of an entity. It is the most direct way to make assessment and judgement (Hodge & Kress, 1917). This process is mainly adopted to review the achievement the nation has made, and to illustrate current situations, difficulties, and also the targets the government is expected to achieve in the future.

In the following examples, messages conveyed by the source texts are introducing the future objectives of the government.

(5) ST: “六保”是今年“六稳”工作的着力点。

TT: We must focus on maintaining security in the six areas in order to ensure stability on the six fronts.

(6) ST: 积极的财政政策要更加积极有为。

TT: We will pursue a more proactive and impactful fiscal policy.

(7) ST: 稳健的货币政策要更加灵活适度。

TT: We will pursue a prudent monetary policy in a more flexible and appropriate way.

Here, relational processes are replaced by material processes in translation to make these measures more concrete. Otherwise, English readers may find it redundant and abstract as “..... is the point of” or “..... should be more proactive and impactful”.

According to Table 1, the discrepancy between two texts is significant and relational processes take a greater proportion in the translated text than that in the source text, which can be ascribed to the strategy the translators take due to the structural differences between two languages. In the following two examples, relational processes are added in the E-GWR to make sentences more authentic and fluent.

(8) ST: 在肯定成绩的同时, 我们也清醒看到面临的困难和问题。

TT: While recognizing our achievements, we are also keenly aware of the difficulties and problems we face.

(9) ST: 政府工作存在不足, 形式主义、官僚主义仍较突出, 少数干部不作为、不会为。

TT: There is still room for improvement in the work of government. Pointless formalities and bureaucracy remain an acute issue. A small number of officials shirk their duties or are incapable of fulfilling them. (ibid)

As we know, the linguistic style of political documents is formal and concise, so it's quite difficult for English readers who are not familiar with Chinese to understand these political discourse or reports, and corresponding adjustment should be made to make them more lucid. “不会为” as a word with Chinese characteristic can be regarded as an adjective which describes some incapable government officials and can be translated as “are unable to” as a relational process. Hence the logic relation is more explicit by referring to these officials with the addition of an attributive process.

(c). Mental Process

Mental process is something related to one's inner feelings or imagination, which is realized by using typical words as “believe”, “want” and other expressions with emotional color. In the report, when the speaker wants to build a closer connection with the audience or calls for common and active actions from them, mental processes are often used. Examples can be found in the following texts:

(10) ST: 我代表国务院, 向.....表示诚挚感谢! 向.....表示诚挚感谢! 向.....表示诚挚感谢!

TT: On behalf of the State Council, I express sincere gratitude to I express heartfelt appreciation to I also express sincere thanks to

Here the translation remains mental process to present the original political norms, but employs different adjectives and nouns to enrich the text and make the emotion more abundant. As a result, the cohesion of the Chinese people in fighting with the epidemic and our determination to get all countries together against COVID-19 has been fully reflected.

(11) ST: 只要我们始终与人民群众同甘共苦、奋力前行, 中国人民追求美好生活的愿望一定能实现。

TT: As long as we stand together with the people through good times and bad and continue to forge ahead, we can surely fulfill the desires of the Chinese people for a better life. (ibid)

The source text adopts rather colloquial language to bring the message closer to the audience. Here mental processes are employed because certain emotions need to be aroused from the audience so as to build their confidence and determination. While in the translation, it turns into behavioral process and the original meaning and intention can't be

fully expressed. As a result, the translation is unable to restore the message that the nation will always be with his people and encourage them to keep fighting. By this example, we can find that when formal and official documents as GWR is translated, more detailed and emotional analysis should be made in its translation in accordance with meta-function theory to embellish the text.

(d). *Behavioral Process*

Behavioral process is the process of behaving, such as breathing, sighing and laughing, and this is the most difficult

One to define in all these six processes for the reason that it has both the characteristics of the material processes and mental processes (Halliday, 2004). In most cases, there is only one participant in behavioral processes called the “Behaver”, who is typically a living being with awareness.

From Table 1, it is also found that behavioral process is applied more frequently in Chinese texts than in its translation. With the careful analysis of the two texts, this phenomenon can be ascribed to the use of rhetorical devices as metaphor and personification in the original text. Chinese is of long history and rich connotation, rhetoric can often be found in our daily life or literary works to make the language more vivid, and official government speeches are no exception. The use of rhetorical devices can not only elicit a closer conversation between the government and the people, but make the proposals more understandable. While in the translation, the use of behavioral process has been reduced. For rhetorical devices, literal translation is not suitable, even may cause misunderstanding. Here are some examples:

(12) ST: 要大力提质增效, 各项支出务必精打细算, 一定要把每一笔钱都用在刀刃上、紧要处。

TT: We will see that funds are put to better and more effective use;

(13) ST: 14 亿中国人的饭碗, 我们有能力也务必牢牢端在自己手中。

TT: It is imperative, and it is well within our ability, to ensure the food supply for 1.4 billion Chinese people through our own efforts.

Here both of the original text uses metaphor to illustrate government’s action vividly. Both of them adopt behavioral process as “用在刀刃上”“端饭碗”, which are metaphors meaning “to use money where it is needed” and “to ensure food supply”. While in the translation, all rhetoric devices are abandoned and material processes are applied. As there is no identical expression in English, the translator abandons metaphor and uses material process to make the main message easy to understand for English readers. Although the translation become more accessible, part of the meaning and vividness of Chinese have been lost.

(14) ST: 中华儿女风雨同舟、守望相助, 筑起了抗击疫情的巍峨长城。

TT: Through all these efforts, we, all the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation, have stood together in the most trying of times and built a Great Wall of solidarity against the epidemic. (ibid)

Here the translator keeps behavioral process in E-GWR. “Stand together” here can show the efforts and determination Chinese people have made to fight against the epidemic, while the meaning of “风雨同舟” has not yet been expressed, which needs further embellishment.

(e). *Verbal Process*

Verbal process is the process of saying and usually includes a “Speaker” and a “Receiver” as well as the content. For example, in the sentence “I told him to throw the rubbish”, here “I” is the Speaker, “him” is the Receiver and “throw the rubbish” is the content.

Verbal process takes only a small proportion in both texts. They often appear in the beginning and ending parts of the report as the Prime Minister addresses his audience directly or to make a conclusion of his speech, such as “报告”“提出” in Chinese and “say” “tell” in English which indicate speech process. And it is found that these processes are most maintained in translation to achieve the same function.

(15) ST: 现在, 我代表国务院, 向大会报告政府工作。

TT: On behalf of the State Council, I will now report to you on the work of the government. (ibid)

This sentence appears at the beginning of the report, where the speaker signals to the audience and explains his purpose.

(f). *Existential Process*

Existential process is the process of existing, and in this process, This process is very easy to identify because it is often conveyed by “there be” sentence structure, or has verbs that are typically expressing the concept of coming into being such as “exist” or “become”.

As the data show, existential processes constitute the smallest part of the text in both languages. When the speaker wants to demonstrate country’s present situation the problems they are facing, this process is often applied. The following examples both show the condition of our nation, with one demonstrating severity of COVID-19 in our country, another showing our financial advantages.

(16) ST: 这次新冠肺炎疫情, 是新中国成立以来我国遭遇的传播速度最快、感染范围最广、防控难度最大的公共卫生事件。

TT: The covid-19 epidemic is the fastest spreading, most extensive, and most challenging public health

emergency China has encountered since the founding of the People's Republic.

(17) ST: 我国内需潜力大

TT: The potential of China's domestic demand is enormous.

There are some additions of existential process in the translation as follows, including “there be” structure with English characteristic.

(18) ST: 我国包括零工在内的灵活就业人员数以亿计

TT: There are several hundred million workers

(19) ST: 14 亿中国人的饭碗，我们有能力也务必牢牢端在自己手中。

TT: It is imperative, and it is well within our ability, to ensure the food supply for 1.4 billion Chinese people through our own efforts. (ibid)

B. Interpersonal Function

When it comes to interpersonal function, language is regarded as the media for language users to establish or maintain social relationships in different ways and deliver certain message at the same time. Speakers express their opinions, assessments and form different relationships with other people, during which the interpersonal function is realized (Hu, 2017). In this section, the way in which interpersonal function is achieved and its realization in the translation will be studied and analyzed.

As mentioned previously, interpersonal function is realized by mood and modality, and modality is the key part which can reveal the language users' willingness and the probability of their saying. Out of the consideration of feasibility, this study will only choose modal operators—one of the elements which constitute modality for study.

According to Halliday's division of modal operators, Hu (2008) made a corresponding distinction of modal operators, which was applied to Chinese GWR (C-GWR) in this study as follows and counted the frequency of their occurrence.

TABLE 2
THE DISTRIBUTION OF MODAL OPERATORS OF THREE VALUES IN THE SOURCE TEXT

	Modal Operators	Frequency	Ratio (%)	
High	要	89	70.1	76.4
	必须	5	3.9	
	务必	3	2.4	
Median	愿	5	3.9	3.9
Low	能	15	11.8	19.7
	会	10	7.9	
Total		127	100.0	100.0

From Table 2, it is found that the high value operators account for the largest proportion. Modal operators have something to do with the probability of the saying and also reflect the attitude of the language user. As the official document of the nation, GWR summarizes the country's work of past year and makes plans and prospects for the next year and reports it to all the people. It must use formal words with firm attitude to show the audience that effective measures will taken by the government immediately to improve people's livelihood and help all aspects of the country recover from the impact of the epidemic. In this way, people will enhance their confidence and help build a reliable and efficient government image.

In the source text, high value modal operators often appear when referring to the problems which need to be settled and when setting the main targets for development. This shows to the audience the firm attitudes of the government to strictly implement the resolution. There are several examples,

(20) ST: 要努力把疫情造成的损失降到最低，努力完成今年经济社会发展目标任务。

TT: We must redouble our efforts to minimize the losses resulting from the virus

(21) ST: 要多措并举扩消费，适应群众多元化需求。

TT: We will apply a combination of measures to boost consumption

(22) ST: 要大幅提升防控能力，坚决防止疫情反弹，坚决守护人民健康。

TT: We need to greatly enhance our prevention and control capability, resolutely prevent a resurgence of covid-19

This study also made a table of modal operator distribution of E-GWR according to Halliday's division (Hu, 2008).

TABLE 3
THE DISTRIBUTION OF MODAL OPERATORS OF THREE VALUES IN THE TRANSLATION

	Modal Operators	Frequency	Ratio (%)	
High	Must	27	8.2	14.6
	Need	20	6.1	
	Have to	1	0.3	
Median	Will	247	75.3	78.6
	Should	10	3.0	
	Would	1	0.3	
Low	Can	19	5.8	6.7
	May	3	0.9	
Total		328	100.0	100.0

According to Table 3, we can find that the operators of median value account for the majority, which is different from the distribution of modal operators in the source text.

TABLE 4
THE SIGNIFICANCE VALUE BETWEEN TWO TEXTS

	High	Median	Low	Total
Chinese	97	5	25	127
English	48	258	22	328
Significance	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.000

As Table 4 shows, the discrepancies of modal operators of three values between two texts are all significant. The modal operators in translation are far more than the original text and those of median value account for the largest proportion, which means the translation of modal words isn't word-for-word.

Even without the data, we can find intuitively from the text the frequent use of modal operator "will", which leads to the high percentage of median value and the surge of modal operators in total. This study summarizes two main reasons. One is different Chinese modal operators as "要""会" are all translated into "will" as follows:

(23) ST: 中国致力于加强与各国经贸合作，实现互利共赢。

TT: China will continue to boost economic and trade cooperation with other countries to deliver mutual benefits.

(24) ST: 我们要坚持和完善民族区域自治制度

TT: We will uphold and improve the system of regional ethnic autonomy,

Although the word "要" in the source text is generally translated as "will", there is still a certain discrepancy in between as their different levels of value. The Chinese word "要" expresses determination with a firm tone, while the English modal operator "will" is much weaker. In this sense, more appropriate translations are needed to better convey the exact meaning of the original text.

Another is the addition of subjects in the translation. As Chinese political document always omits the subject to avoid repetition, which does not conform to English grammar, subjects must be added with auxiliary verbs following to produce complete sentences.

(25) ST: 努力稳定现有就业，积极增加新的就业，促进失业人员再就业。

TT: We will strive to keep existing jobs secure, work actively to create new ones, and help unemployed people find work.

(26) ST: 预计全年为企业新增减负超过 2.5 万亿元。

TT: We expect that these measures will see additional savings of more than 2.5 trillion yuan for enterprises throughout the year. (ibid)

We can see from the examples that subjects followed by auxiliary verbs are added in the translation to make complete sentences, which accounts for the high percentage of median value operators and the surge of modal operators in total.

C. Textual Function

Textual function, as mentioned previously, is the situation in which language has a system to make the text a coherent and unified whole, and is realized by the thematic structure of the clause. Theme and rheme are the two elements that constitute the structure. The former serves as the topic of the sentence, and the latter refers to the content of the topic.

Mona Baker (1992) said, the thematic organization of the texts is especially relevant for the translation studies, which can lead to a more comprehensive awareness of the message the speaker would like to convey, and theme is the most important element as it serves as the start point of the message. Hence, the study will take theme as the subject to study how textual function is realized. And owing to the length of the article and my limited knowledge, this paper focuses on one type of theme—simple theme.

TABLE 5
THE DISTRIBUTION OF SIMPLE THEME AND MULTIPLE THEME

	Simple Theme		Multiple Theme		Total
	Frequency	Ratio (%)	Frequency	%	Frequency
Chinese	415	96.7	14	3.3	429
English	503	92.5	41	7.5	544
Significance	0.000		0.000		0.000

A simple theme is represented by one word or more than one word that can be deemed as one element, usually by pronoun or nominal group. After some detailed analyses, this study finds that the distribution of simple themes in the source text and its translation share some similarities—in both texts, pronouns serving as simple themes accounts for the largest proportion. As the work report is closely related to the public, the document needs to be illustrated in the first person plural noun “我们” (we) to take the audience into account.

According to the data, we can also find that the discrepancy of the simple theme distribution is significant—the number of simple themes has surged in E-GWR. This is largely due to the structural difference between the two languages. Chinese can put forward a topic with no subject, while English must use the subject at the beginning to make a sentence complete. And in most cases, the first-person pronoun “we” is added to make the translation more consistent with English pragmatic habits. Examples are as follows:

(27) ST: 坚定维护国家主权、安全、发展利益。

TT: We will firmly safeguard China's sovereignty, security, and development interests.

(28) ST: 今年要编制好“十四五”规划

TT: This year, we will formulate the 14th Five-Year Plan

(29) ST: 加强廉洁政府建设，坚决惩治腐败。

TT: We must redouble efforts to build a clean government and crack down on corruption. (ibid)

We can see that in the source texts, due to the language characteristics of Chinese, sentences all begin with verbs with no subjects, which is syntactically incorrect in English. Therefore, subjects must be added in the translation to make complete sentences, which leads to more number of simple themes in E-GWR.

V. CONCLUSION

By applying Halliday's three meta-functions theory into the study of GWR, this study reaches a more comprehensive and systemic understanding of how the original text convey the message and how they are faithfully represented in the translation, and also conclude some strategies which can be useful to translator and interpreters when translating these kinds of documents.

The first is that Ideational Function is mainly realized by transitivity which includes six processes. (1) As the most frequently used process, Material Process often occurs when the speaker expounds on the achievements the government has made in the previous year and the proposals for the next year. And this process is often applied in the translation for the same effect, but the discrepancy of its distribution is significant due to certain omissions and additions. (2) Relational Process ranks the second which is used to illustrate current situation and is added in the translation in accordance with English semantic use. (3) The discrepancy of Behavioral Process distribution isn't significant, but there are some reductions in E-GWR due to the differences of rhetorical devices between two languages. That leads to the loss of certain message of the original text and may need better consideration. (4) Mental and Verbal Processes serve for certain use both take a similar percentage in C-GWR and E-GWR. (5) Existential Process is rarely found in both texts, but there are a few additions in the translation for English stylistic concerns.

Then comes Interpersonal Function, of which this study explores the modal operators of modality system. It is found that the modal operators in translation are far more than those in the original text, and those of high value account for the most proportion in C-GWR while in E-GWR are those of median value. This study ascribes them to two reasons, one is that different Chinese modal operators are all translated into “will”, another is the addition of subjects followed by auxiliary verbs in the translation.

The last one is Textual Function, of which the simple theme of its thematic structure is studied. It is found that most of simple themes are represented by pronouns in both texts, but the quantity in the translation is larger than that in the original text due to the addition of the first-person pronoun “we” to make it be more consistent with English pragmatic habits.

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