

Does Conceptual Integration Theory Work? A Case Study of the English Translation of Culture-Loaded Terms in Chinese Government Work Report*

Guobing Liu

Faculty of International Studies, Henan Normal University, Xinxiang, China

Qianwen Jiao

Faculty of International Studies, Henan Normal University, Xinxiang, China

Abstract—Currently, the emphasis of research on culture-loaded terminology in the Chinese Government Work Report lies in developing translation strategies, with limited analysis of the cognitive process that translators undergo during the translation process. However, Conceptual Integration Theory has gained significant attention in recent years for its effectiveness in analyzing cognitive activities. This paper employs the Conceptual Integration Theory as a theoretical framework to analyze culture-loaded terms in the Chinese Government Work Report. This analysis involves the use of the conceptual integration network, including generic space, cross-space mapping, selective projection, blending, and emergent structure, as well as the construction of mental spaces. It has been found: (1) Translators utilized four mental spaces, namely the original terms space, translator space, generic space, and translation space. Through cross-space mapping, the original terms space and translator space projected a shared, abstract structure and organization into the generic space. The elements of the original terms space and translator space were then projected into the translation space within the constraints of the generic space. (2) The simplex network is unsuitable for translating these terms, while the other three conceptual integration networks do. Translating these terms with a mirror network is deemed to be the simplest method, while the two-scope network is the most complex. This paper aims to illustrate the thinking process of translators and offer suggestions for translating these terms.

Index Terms—culture-loaded terms, the Government Work Report, English translation strategies, Conceptual Integration Theory, cognitive process

I. INTRODUCTION

The Government Work Report provides a comprehensive review of the government's achievements over the past year, ongoing efforts, and future prospects. Its English version serves as a valuable tool for the international community to gain insight into China's national conditions and major policies. As a result, the translation of this report is essential in showcasing China's national image, conveying its ideological values, and bolstering global confidence in its social development. Given the widespread use of culture-loaded terms in the report, their accurate translation holds significant influence.

The existing research on the Government Work Report can be categorized into three types. The first category pertains to the investigation of translation strategies and techniques, while the second category focuses on the impact of report translation. The third category centers on the language characteristics of the Government Work Report. However, only a small number of scholars have analyzed the cognitive process of translators during the translation process.

This paper aims to outline translators' dynamic cognitive process during the translation of these selected terms. It will detail the integration of the four mental spaces to produce a widely accepted and comparatively optimal translation, and also discuss the selection of an appropriate network for different terms. Terms involved in this paper are selected from the Chinese Government Work Report and its corresponding English version, which were sourced from the Xinhua News Agency website (www.xinhuanet.com).

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. General Introduction to Culture-Loaded Terms

* This research was supported by the Academic Degrees & Graduate Education Reform Project of Henan Province (2021SJGLX056Y), The Soft Science Research Program of Henan Province (222400410043) and the Project of Teaching Reform of Higher Education in Henan (2021SJGLX107).

The translation of the Government Work Report is a crucial undertaking, as it represents the foremost political document issued by the Chinese government (Hu, 2018). The translation of numerous culture-loaded terms presents a challenge, which will be the subject of analysis in this paper, along with suggestions for improving the translation process. To effectively analyze the translation of these terms, it is imperative to first comprehend their concepts and characteristics.

(a). *Concept of Culture-Loaded Terms*

Previous studies have presented varying definitions of these terms, and a standard concept is yet to be established. Xie (2016) has observed that culture-loaded terms comprise diverse expressions featuring Chinese characteristics that have developed within the context of China's unique historical background. Xie has classified these terms into three categories: traditional Chinese culture terms, economic and political reform terms, and grassroots culture terms. Meanwhile, Liu (2017) has argued that, in comparison to borrowed words and frequently used words, culture-loaded terms are a unique phenomenon in our society.

This study introduces a fresh term concept that aligns with the research objectives. The concept describes culture-loaded terms as expressions generated within China's distinctive social milieu, which mirror the country's existing political, economic, social, cultural, and diplomatic circumstances, as well as policy initiatives.

(b). *Features of Culture-Loaded Terms*

As a unique linguistic phenomenon, this kind of term has its characteristics.

The first characteristic of these terms is their broad scope, as they pertain to various areas of Chinese society, including politics, economics, and culture, thereby reflecting the progress of China in diverse domains. During specific historical periods, these terms have reflected people's ideologies and values concentratedly.

The second characteristic of these terms is their strong contemporary nature. As society develops, people's ways of thinking also transform, which is reflected in the language and the emergence of new terms. These expressions are closely tied to China's special social period and serve as a representation of the country's cultural and societal customs.

The third characteristic of these terms is their distinctive cultural connotation. These expressions reflect China's exceptional modes of thinking and national culture, which are rooted in significant social and historical origins.

It was only in 2007 that investigations into the translation of culture-loaded terms in political publicity texts (Xing & Gan, 2014). At the time, the number of scholars working in this area was relatively small, and their research was confined to a limited scope. In recent years, the volume of research in this field has gradually expanded. Scholars have largely approached the study of term translation from three angles: translation, language, and culture. Although studies have been conducted on all three aspects, research on form translation has been the most widespread, while studies on the other two have been relatively rare. Moreover, cognitive processes have scarcely been explored (Li, 2011).

B. *Development of Conceptual Integration Theory*

Falconer introduced the concept of Mental Space in 1985, describing it as a "small concept package." According to him, the study of the cognitive domains formed by people during prolonged conversations or listening is crucial for understanding meaning. In the 1990s, Falconer further proposed the Conceptual Integration Theory. Since the beginning of the 21st century, there have been significant advancements in both Mental Space Theory and Conceptual Integration Theory in two aspects (Yang, 2022). Firstly, the research on the internal structure of the theory has continued to grow more in-depth. Secondly, the theory has been applied more extensively.

(a). *Mental Space Theory*

Falconer introduced the concept of Mental Space Theory, which suggests that language functions as a guide for constructing meaning, directing people to produce meaning through high-level and intricate mental operations, behaviors, or communication, which are essential components of human cognition.

The concept of concept packages, according to Fauconnier, is constructed by individuals during communication and thinking to achieve a precise understanding. It serves as a temporary storage unit for information that is constantly generated as the conversation proceeds. Mental space is a conceptual package that individuals create while reading, thinking, and writing. The formation of mental space is inseparable from people's behavior, thinking, and feeling (Ungerer, 2008). Within mental space are conceptual areas that individuals are already familiar with, such as running, swimming, or watching movies. Any social activity or phenomenon has the potential to establish a mental space, which comprises multiple specific areas of knowledge.

The appearance of Mental Space Theory at the Florence Academic Conference in 1978 was noticed by semanticists Hans Camp and Franz Geithner. Since then, the theory is used for semantic analysis and is distinct from concepts like possible worlds and cognitive domain. Jachendoff (1985) proposed the concept of virtual space or mental space to differentiate between reality and representation. Fauconnier published a monograph on Mental Space Theory, in which he provided a comprehensive introduction to the theory. Later, Fauconnier (1996) collaborated with Sweetser applying Mental Space Theory to study semantic and grammatical issues. In 1997, Fauconnier's second monograph, *Mapping of Thoughts and Languages*, was published. This book explores the mapping between cognitive domains, which is at the core of people's cognitive abilities to generate, communicate, and process meaning (Langacker, 2008).

(b). *Conceptual Integration Theory*

Fauconnier and Turner developed Conceptual Integration Theory in 1996 as an extension of Mental Space Theory, which is a cognitive theory of meaning construction. Its purpose is to reveal the cognitive rules and principles behind the meaning construction of networks through the mapping and projection relationships between different mental spaces (Evans, 2006). Conceptual Integration Theory explores the integration process of meaning. It believes that human beings can establish mental space through thinking, and integrate new meanings by mapping and merging different mental spaces (Roberts, 2018).

Coulson's (2001) analysis delves into the frame transformation of conceptual integration, highlighting the crucial role played by Mental Space Theory and Conceptual Integration Theory in language production and comprehension. Moreover, the study verified the theoretical construction of mental reality through cognitive and neurological experiments. Based on Mental Space Theory, *The Way We think* comprehensively explains the Conceptual Integration Theory, and further explains the internal structure and constraint principles of mental space and concept integration, making the theory one of the important research paradigms of cognitive linguistics (Croft, 2004).

III. BASIC IDEAS OF CONCEPTUAL INTEGRATION THEORY

A. *Mental Space*

The study of the mapping between cognitive domains has become a significant topic in cognitive science. Conceptual integration refers to the process by which the construction of meaning is facilitated through a set of non-structural processes, leading to the formation of an emergent structure. According to Fauconnier and Turner (1998), conceptual integration happens in the conceptual integration network, which enables the speaker to create a mental space. A typical conceptual integration model is comprised of four thinking spaces.

B. *Cognitive Operations*

According to Fauconnier and Turner (2002), the generation of novel structures during conceptual integration relies on three distinct cognitive operations: composition, completion, and elaboration. These cognitive processes effectively compress different elements and their corresponding relationships within the blend space.

Composition: The process of composition involves taking information from different input spaces and merging them to create new relationships that were not present in any individual input space. A good example of this is the game of "waste paper basketball". In the game, the combination creates an abstract concept in which someone throws something into a container. Fusion is a type of composition that allows for the relevant components and relationships to be fused or separated in the blend space.

Completion: To complete the integration process in the blend space, people utilize their background knowledge and structure. Even when a part of an element is not clearly indicated, the integration process will automatically refine it and bring it into the blend space. This completion process in integration adds a wide range of information to the blend space. Fauconnier and Turner (2002) highlighted that "completion allows the blend space to be composed, making the blend space a concrete example of a specific familiar framework, which is the premise of elaboration" (p. 44).

Elaboration: The principles and logic of the blend space are used by cognitive constructors to manage the blend space through mental simulation and imagination. This allows them to "live in integration" and further explore the structure of integration. One could analyze the composition of the integration process as a "continuous integration" which encompasses the cognitive behavior involved in the integration.

A novel concept cannot be formed in a single step, rather it requires going through a series of integration processes, which involve composition, completion, and elaboration. Integration is a fundamental approach for fusing events, and it is instant, inventive, and generated swiftly.

C. *Governing Principles*

Fauconnier and Turner (1998) put forth five principles of optimality, namely, integration, topology, network, unboxing, and good reasons. Integration implies that the combination of the input spaces must be rigorously integrated, and the relationships of the elements in the input space must also apply to the corresponding components in the blend space. Network indicates that the blend space and the input space should be closely connected, and the elements in each space have an anaphoric relationship. Unboxing means that integrations can be unpacked or rebuilt, and input spaces can be rebuilt, and mapping can be done across spaces. The principle of good reasons requires that each element in the blend space has a good reason, implying that there are related connections and functions in the blend space with other spaces. These five principles play a critical role in conceptual integration and help establish a conceptual network.

D. *Network Models*

Fauconnier and Turner (1998) also proposed various categories of conceptually integrated networks, including the simple network, mirror network, one-scope network, and two-scope network. Such studies augment the internal framework of the integration theory and provide a fundamental basis for its practical applications.

The simplex network is characterized by the presence of a blank frame within input space I, while input space II lacks any frames and only includes the specific elements used to complete the blank frames. As an illustration, consider

the sentence “Ye Huimei is the mother of Jay Chou.” In this instance, input space I comprises a “mother-son, blank frame,” whereas input space II consists of two elements, namely “Ye Huimei” and “Jay Chou”. By way of cross-space mapping, the elements contained in input space II are utilized to complete the blank frame located in input space I.

The mirror network employs two input spaces that feature identical frames but differ in their specific elements. As an illustration, Kant was rendered speechless by the probing questions posed by Feng Youlan. By applying techniques such as “composition, completion, and elaboration”, a resulting structure is derived which leads to the conclusion that Feng Youlan surpasses Kant in terms of capability.

The one-scope network involves two input spaces that feature distinct frames, with one of the spaces being projected into the composition space and remaining active within it. For instance, Lenovo hits Dell, where input space I represents the frame of a boxing match, while input space II represents that of a commercial competition; thus, the frames are entirely dissimilar. Through the application of methods such as “composition, completion, and elaboration,” an emergent structure is eventually attained.

A two-scope network differs from a one-scope network in that it utilizes two input spaces that provide different frames. However, the unique feature of a two-scope network is that the organizational framework of the two input spaces is projected onto a synthesis space, where it can be processed simultaneously. For instance, “The surgeon is a butcher”. This statement contains two distinct frames, one depicting “a surgeon applying a scalpel to a patient” and the other “a butcher applying a scalpel to livestock”. These frames serve opposite purposes and produce different results. By integrating parts from each frame, a new structure emerges: “The surgeon’s operation was very poor”.

TABLE 1
A SUMMARY OF THE INTEGRATION NETWORK (BASED ON FAUCONNIER & TURNER, 2002)

Network	Input	Blend
Simplex	Only one input contains a frame	Blend is structured by the frame
Mirror	Both inputs contain the same frame	Blend is structured by the same frame as inputs
One-scope	Both inputs contain different frames	Blend is only structured by one of the input frames
Two-scope	Both inputs contain different frames	Blend is structured by both of input frames

IV. APPLICATION OF CONCEPTUAL INTEGRATION THEORY IN THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF CULTURE-LOADED TERMS IN THE GOVERNMENT WORK REPORT

A. *Mental Space in the English Translation of Culture-Loaded Terms*

Conceptual Integration Theory plays an important role in real-time reconstruction and understanding of meaning (Taylor, 2002). The process of translating such terms involves the reconstruction and interpretation of meaning. Therefore, the primary objective of this theory is to examine the mechanisms and principles of mental space in the comprehension of texts. The integration process of translating these terms is introduced below (see Figure 1).

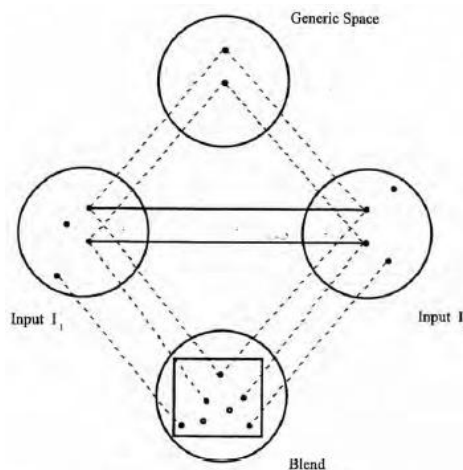


Figure 1. Network of Conceptual Integration Theory (Fauconnier & Turner, 1998, p. 143)

The input space I, referred to as the original Chinese-specific term space, encompasses the original culture-loaded terms and their grammatical and conceptual structures. On the other hand, the input space II, known as the translator space, is generated by the translator. The generic space is established by the shared features between the original terms and the translator space. These similarities are achieved through cross-space mapping, which facilitates the translation process across languages. The blend space creates two Chinese input terms with integrated input spaces, which are not exact replicas of the original input spaces but rather their re-creations.

(a). *Two Input Spaces*

In the process of term conversion, there are two input spaces called the original terms space and translator space. The

original terms space displays the grammatical representation and conceptual structure of the terms, such as the term “三去一降一补(cutting overcapacity, reducing excess inventory, deleveraging, lowering costs, and strengthening areas of weakness)”. Its conceptual structure in the original terms space is that [agent behavior] leads to [object deletion, reduction, and addition]. Additionally, the original elements, “三去(de-capacity, destocking and deleveraging)”, “一降(cost reduction)”, and “一补(insufficient replenishment)”, indicate that three areas should be deleted, one aspect reduced, and one aspect added. This term is an important reform measure and is often mentioned at various conferences. As the readers of the original language understand its content, the terms are expressed in Chinese for ease of communication. In the translator space, “三去”, “一降”, and “一补” are equivalent to “three aspects deleted”, “one aspect reduced”, and “an aspect added”. The concepts of “三去”, “一降”, and “一补” have conceptual equivalence to “destocking”, “deaccumulation”, “cost reduction”, and “undersupply”.

Aside from locating equivalent components, there are many other elements in translator space. The translator’s familiarity with the goal, language and social culture have limited his reconstruction of translated texts.

During the translation of “三去一降一补”, the translator was aware that the content referred to a supply-side reform. To address issues such as insufficient production capacity, destocking, deleveraging, cost reduction, and insufficient replenishment, specific measures needed to be implemented. Additionally, the translator had to consider the genre of the text, as the Government Work Report has its unique characteristics. Moreover, the cultural background and expression habits of the target audience had to be considered in the source language. All these factors constitute the translator space (see Figure 2).

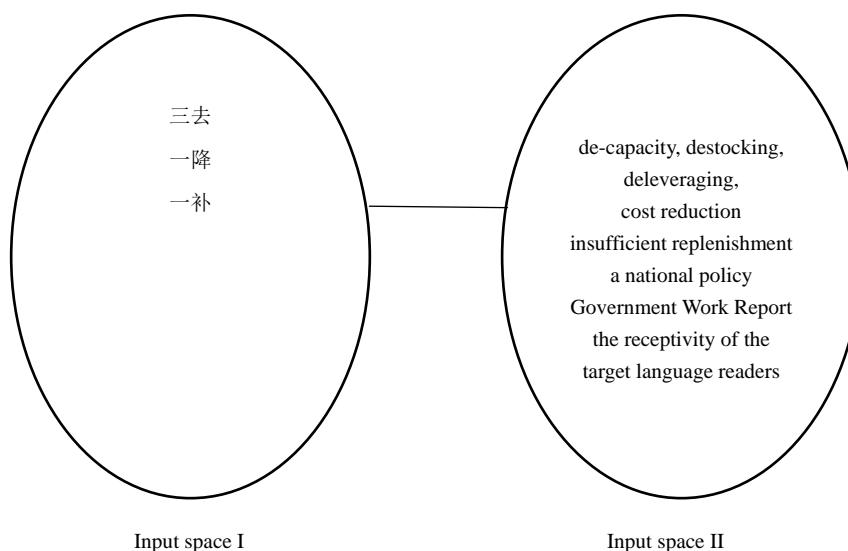


Figure 2. Input Spaces in the Translation of “三去一降一补”

(b). Generic Space

Despite having different social backgrounds and languages, individuals coexist in the same world, thereby sharing similar life experiences and emotions. The commonalities between the two input spaces form a universal space, which enables the feasibility of translation. During the conversion process, the universal space serves as a bridge by identifying the resemblances between the source and target spaces through cross-space mapping.

The divergences between two languages often pose a challenge to using grammatical structures as a conduit linking the source and target spaces. The key factor that binds the two input spaces together is the conceptual structure. For instance, “三去一降一补” is structured as NP VP, with the underlying concept being that [agent’s behavior] results in [deletion, reduction, and addition of objects]. If translators focus solely on preserving the grammatical form, the translation may end up as “three aspects deleted, one aspect reduced, one aspect added”, thereby losing the original concept. Therefore, it is relatively common to maintain the same conceptual framework during translation.

During the translation of “三去一降一补”, the frames of “去(deleted)”, “降(reduced)” and “补(added)” belong to input space I, while the frame of “supply-side structural reform” is part of input space II. Despite having different frames, corresponding elements in both input spaces are connected through cross-space mapping. For instance, “三去” is linked to “de-capacity, destocking and deleveraging”, “一降” corresponds to “cost reduction”, and “一补” is associated with “insufficient replenishment”. Similar abstract structures between the two input spaces are projected onto the generic space, where three aspects are deleted, one aspect is reduced, and one aspect is added (see Figure 3).

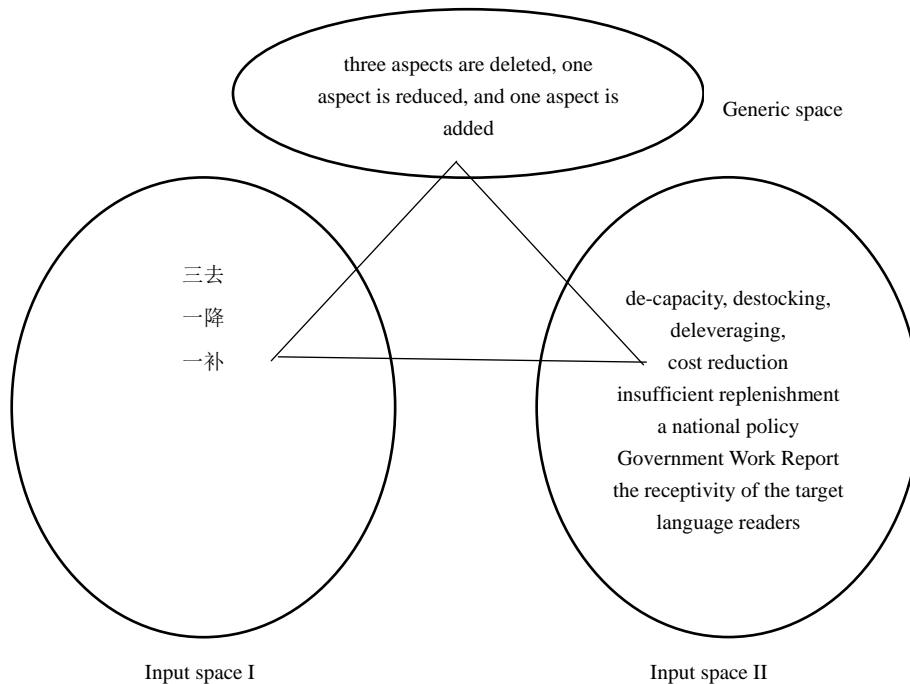


Figure 3. Generic Space in the Translation of “三去一降一补”

(c). *Blend Space*

As proposed by Fauconnier and Turner, there exists a relationship between generic spaces and blend spaces. Translating these terms necessitates not only breaking down the original terms, but also identifying suitable expressions in the target language that can evoke relevant cognitive associations. The blend space leverages and enhances the linkages between corresponding elements in the two input spaces to amalgamate related events into a more intricate event. To ensure that the translation aligns with the cognitive habits of the target language readers, it is imperative for the translator to engage with the social and cultural context of the target language.

By simply synthesizing, “三去一降一补” is translated into “three aspects are deleted, one aspect is reduced, and one aspect is added”. Following this, the translator must employ their political knowledge and understanding of the target language readers to provide a detailed translation, such as “cutting overcapacity, reducing excess inventory, deleveraging, lowering costs, and strengthening weakness” (see Figure 4).

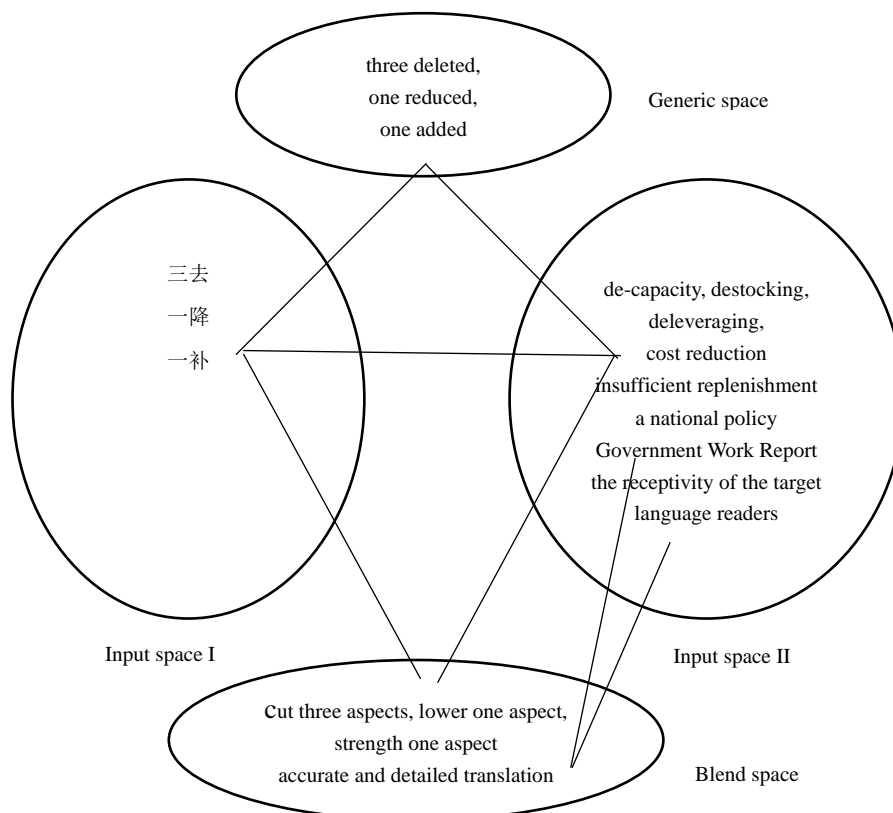


Figure 4. Blend Space in the Translation of “三去一降一补”

The creation of emerging structure is a central aspect of the conceptual integration theory, whereby a dynamic cognitive process synthesizes and perfects the information patterns that are stored in an individual’s long-term memory and background knowledge.

In a blend space, the elements of the two input spaces are integrated. If only the elements from the original space were integrated with their corresponding elements from the translator space, the translation would be “cutting three aspects, lowering one aspect, strengthening one aspect”, which would not be comprehensible to the target language readers. To ensure that the target readers understand the specific content of “三去一降一补”, the translator must add specific details, resulting in a translation such as “cutting overcapacity, reducing excess inventory, deleveraging, lowering costs, and strengthening weakness”. This translation not only explains the specific content but also highlights that this is a specific policy (see Figure 5).

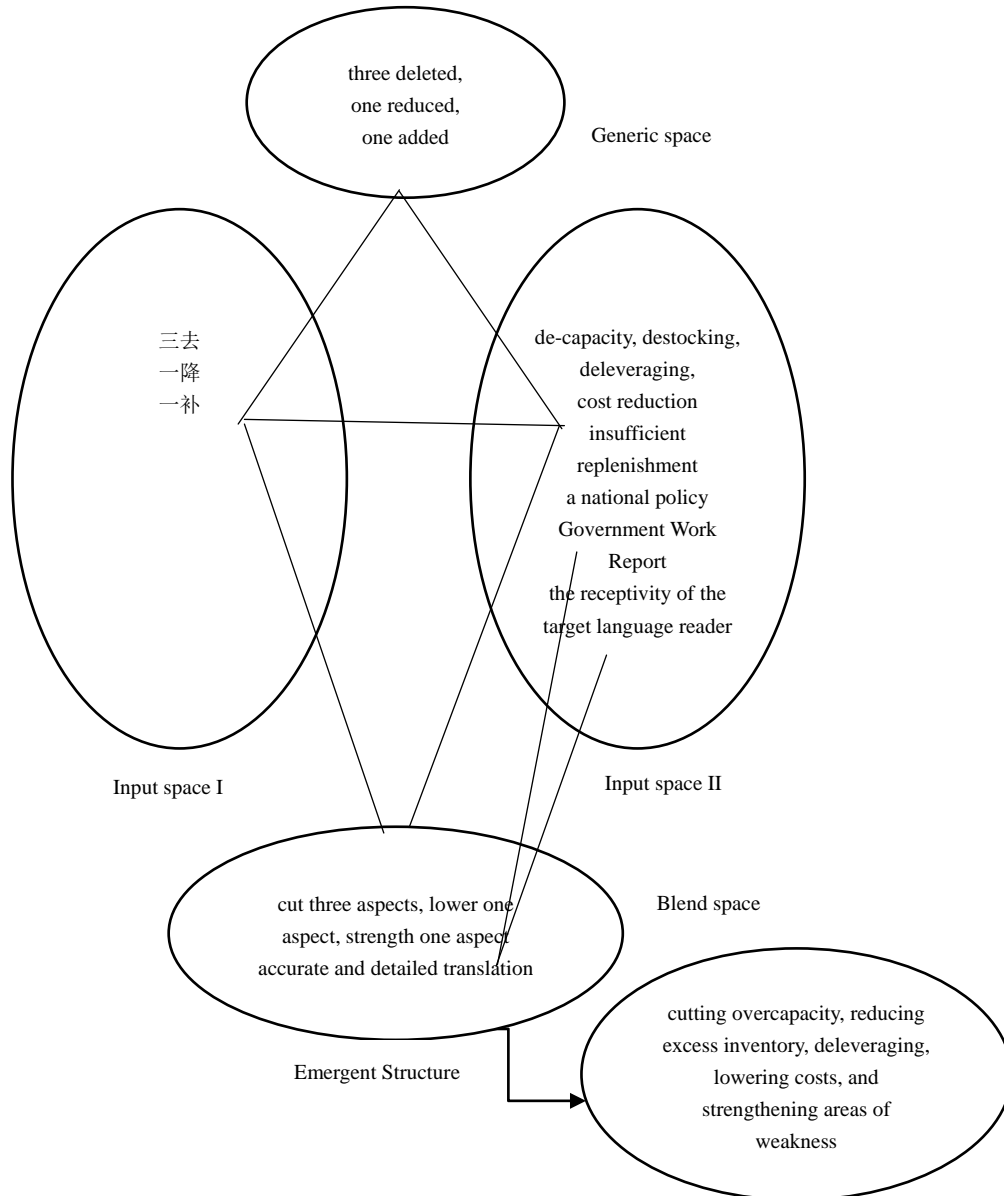


Figure 5. Emergent Structure in the Translation of “三去一降一补”

B. Networks in the English Translation of Culture-Loaded Terms

Conceptual Integration Theory proposes four types of integrated networks, namely simplex, mirror, one-scope, and two-scope networks. In translation, the input space, which is the original text, should have its own conceptual structure and grammatical representation to establish its own framework. These terms are often associated with history, culture, politics, and national policies. Therefore, translators need to deconstruct these terms before translating, which may involve adding extra information. In addition, the translator space also has its own framework, which may differ from the framework of the original space, and is influenced by factors such as the translator’s background and knowledge.

As each input space has its own frame, the simplex network, which only has a frame in one input space, is not suitable for translating these terms. The remaining three networks, however, are more appropriate and will be further explained below.

(a). Mirror Network

The mirror network involves both the original and translator spaces having the same frame. Through cross-space mapping, elements in the original space can be matched to corresponding elements in the translator space. These elements have the same conceptual and grammatical structures. As a result, the original space retains certain cognitive connections with the translator space, and the elements in the translator space can activate the same cognitive associations as those in the original space. With the translator’s accumulated knowledge, a precise translation can be produced.

The “System of River Chiefs” is used as an illustration. The original space consists of the elements “河(river)”, “长

(chief)” and “制(system)”, which indicate a kind of systems for river. In the translator space, the corresponding words in the target language can be found directly: “河” corresponds to “river” and “长” corresponds to “chief” and “制” corresponds to “system”. However, other information in the translator space must also be taken into account. Through cross-space mapping, the elements of “河”, “长” and “制” are connected to “river”, “chief” and “system”. Similar abstract frameworks from the two input spaces are projected into the generic space, which results in a specific system. In the blend space, the first round of composition begins. Subsequently, “河长制” is translated into “river chief system”. Since the “river chief system” is a proper noun in the original language, the first letter of each word must be capitalized and modified with a definite article to indicate that it belongs to the target language. Therefore, “河长制” is accurately translated into “the System of River Chiefs”.

Numerous other examples of such terms include 沪港通 (Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect), 深港通 (Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect) and 债券通 (Bond Connect). In translating these terms, the general consensus is that both the original and translation spaces possess matching organizational framework. Every element within the original space can be identified within the translator space. These elements correspond both grammatically and conceptually, thus satisfying the target audience’s comprehension.

(b). *One-Scope Network*

Describing the same world with different languages may result in distinct understandings due to the differences in cultures. For instance, in the translator space, there might be a lack of corresponding elements to those in the original space, particularly in terms that typically convey Chinese ideology. In such cases, the translator selectively projects frames from the two input spaces into the blend space. This translation process can be both effectively presented using the one-scope network and two-scope network.

The one-scope network involves input spaces that have different organizational frameworks. During translation, frames from either the original or the translator space are projected into a hybrid space to produce translations of culture-loaded terms. This results in two possible types of monocular network translations: original culture-loaded terms space-oriented translation and translator-oriented translation.

The translation process sometimes involves projecting the conceptual structure or grammatical representation of the original space into the blend space, as corresponding elements in the target language may be absent. As a result, the translated terms may not trigger the same cognitive association as the original for target language readers. However, the translations can still convey the intended thoughts and ideologies and even enhance the target language. For instance, many English-speaking countries have adopted the important concepts of the Scientific Outlook on Development, while retaining their Chinese form, cultural connotation, and ideology.

Taking “一带一路(Belt and Road Initiative)” as an example, the original space includes the elements “带(belt)”, “路(road)” and “一(one)”, and provides related information: the belt related to the Silk Road and the road related to the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. To translate the term, the translators’ political knowledge was essential to recognize that “一带一路” represents the abbreviation of “丝绸之路经济带(the economic belt of the Silk Road)” and “21世纪海上丝绸之路(the 21st century Maritime Silk Road)”. However, direct translations of “带” and “路” into English did not create the desired cognitive association for the target language readers. Thus, the translator employed cross-space mapping to link “road” to the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and “belt” to the economic belt of the Silk Road. Similar summaries from the two input spaces are projected into the generic space. The translator then transfers the organizational structure from the original space into the blend space, preserving the form of the original term. Consequently, the term “一带一路” is translated into a rough approximation of “a belt and a road” in the blend space, which refers to a Chinese national policy. To convey its exclusivity, the definite article is added, resulting in a better translation of the “Belt and Road”. Initially proposed in China to showcase its innovative spirit, the policy has been further elaborated and translated into “Belt and Road Initiative”.

Other examples include the 五位一体 (Five-Sphere Integrated Plan) and the 四个全面 (Four-Pronged Comprehensive Strategy). Through the conversion process, readers of the target language are able to not only grasp the linguistic form of the terms, but also gain insight into their cultural connotations.

The translator may encounter situations where they cannot find direct counterparts to the original elements in the translator space. However, conceptual equivalents that convey the same meaning can be found. In such cases, the translator can opt to prioritize conveying the meaning of the text over maintaining formal equivalence, and project the conceptually equivalent objects into the blend space. This approach may result in changes to the language form, but it is still understandable and acceptable to the target language readers.

For example, the translation process of the term “双随机, 一公开 (the random selection of both inspectors and inspection targets and the prompt release of results)” will be discussed below. The original space includes the elements “双随机” and “一公开”, which indicate that two aspects should be random and one should be public. However, the formal equivalence elements in English cannot fully convey the same meaning to the target readers as the original readers. Instead, conceptual equivalence elements can do this. The two input spaces are connected by cross-space mapping, and an abstract framework is projected into the generic space. “双随机” means that two aspects should be

random and “一公开” means that one should be public. A rough translation is then synthesized in the blend space, which is further elaborated to the final translation of “the random selection of both inspectors and inspection targets and the prompt release of results”.

Other examples, such as 大水漫灌式强刺激(a deluge of strong stimulus policies) and 绿水青山就是金山银山 (Lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets), also use the blend space method in translation. The blend space is crucial to the translation process, as it ensures the cognitive relevance of the original terms is preserved to the greatest extent in the final translation. The translations of these terms achieve conceptual equivalence with the original terms with this method.

(c). *Two-Scope Network*

Translators often aim to achieve both formal and conceptual equivalence, which involves projecting conceptual equivalents that can evoke the same cognitive associations in the linguistic form of the original space and the translator space into the blend space. In the blend space, the linguistic form and conceptual equivalent of the terms are fused together through composition, completion, and elaboration. The goal is to strike a balance between form and concept, and to converge the original terms with the translated terms. The resulting translations may sometimes be closer to the original terms and other times closer to the translated terms, depending on the context and goals of the translation.

The process of translating the Chinese term “三大攻坚战” into English using a combination of formal equivalence and conceptual equivalence. The original terms space includes elements such as “三”, “大”, “攻坚”, and “战”, which convey the information that there are major struggles against potential risks, poverty, and pollution. In the translator space, the formal equivalent elements are “three”, “major”, “difficult”, and “battle”. Meanwhile, the translators’ knowledge leads it to a conceptual equivalence of “three major difficult battles” referring to the battles against major risks, poverty, and pollution. The two input spaces are mapped, and the abstract structure of “three major battles” is obtained in the generic space. In the blend space, various elements are synthesized and roughly translated. After completion and elaboration, the final translation is “three critical battles against potential risks, poverty and pollution”.

There are other examples, such as 九二共识(1992 Consensus) and “放管服”改革(delegate powers, improve regulation, and strengthen services). The process of translation involves projecting the linguistic form of the terms in the original space and the corresponding conceptual equivalents in the translator space into the blend space. This ensures that the translated terms preserve the linguistic form of the original terms as well as their cognitive relevance.

Based on Conceptual Integration Theory, four mental spaces are used to analyze the cognitive process of these terms, and three networks are used to analyze different types of these terms. During the translation process, the construction of the four mental spaces is the first step. Then, through cross-space mapping and projection in the integrated network, the translated terms are composed, completed, and elaborated in the blend space.

Upon analysis, the author discovered that different translation versions can be produced for the same term using different networks. For instance, the term “三大攻坚战” has two translations, namely “three critical battles” created in a one-scope network and “three critical battles against potential risk, poverty, and pollution” created in a two-scope network. These networks facilitate a more intuitive translation process. Particularly when one term has two translated versions, the translators’ cognitive process can be presented quickly and intuitively through these networks.

V. CONCLUSION

The Conceptual Integration Theory presents a model for understanding the cognitive process involved in translating between two languages. By combining this theory with translation studies, scholars have offered insights that guide this thesis. Translating the Government Work Report is an important means of promoting Chinese culture and shaping China’s image. However, China’s unique and lengthy history has led to the emergence of many distinct terms, which pose difficulties for translation. To improve translation, it is necessary to analyze it from a cognitive perspective, particularly with respect to these terms. To this end, the author has selected examples of typical culture-loaded terms from the Government Work Report and used network models based on the Conceptual Integration Theory to analyze their translation process, with the aim of providing inspiration for future translation practices. The major findings of this analysis are presented below.

First, this paper provides an overview of the terms and summarizes their key traits. The culture-loaded term is a product of China’s specific social context, which reflects China’s present political, economic, social, cultural, and diplomatic status and policies. It possesses unique national cultural traits and characteristics. The primary features of these terms are their broad participation and distinct cultural connotation.

The second point pertains to the presentation of translators’ cognitive process in the translation of these terms, which can be quickly and intuitively understood. This process involves the construction of four mental spaces. The original terms space represents the grammatical and conceptual structure of these terms. The translator space contains formal and conceptual equivalents that correspond to the original terms space, along with other elements such as external objective and translator subjective elements. The generic space serves as a common ground between the two input spaces, allowing for the possibility of translation. In the blend space, external objective elements and translator subjective elements can be integrated by projection.

Third, the author finds that there are four types of cognitive processes in translation, with the simplest being the use of mirror networks. In this type, translators can easily find the English equivalents that are both formally and conceptually equivalent to the original terms. Mirror networks are employed to analyze words with the same referential and connotative meaning. If the images are familiar to the target and source text readers, then literal translation can be used. In this case, cognitive parity is easy to achieve, and the target text readers can easily understand the text. However, in some cases, literal translation is not sufficient, especially when there is no corresponding expression in the target language or when the meaning cannot be conveyed accurately. To bridge this gap, some additional information should be added to the translation, such as explanations.

Despite the author's extensive analysis of the cognitive process of translation based on the Conceptual Integration Theory, there are inevitable limitations in certain aspects. First, this paper only selects terms for analysis from the Government Work Report and its corresponding English version, leaving ample room for further investigation. Second, the author's selection of terms for research may be subjective, as it is based on conceptual understanding. Third, the paper's analysis only delves into the cognitive process of word and phrase translation, lacking exploration at the syntactic and discourse levels.

To address these limitations, future scholars interested in culture-loaded term translation can use corpus linguistics to gather more extensive and objective examples. For scholars interested in the translation of the Government Work Report, the network models of Conceptual Integration Theory can be applied to further explore the translation at the syntactic and discourse levels.

REFERENECES

- [1] Coulson, S. (2001). *Semantic Fame Shifting and Conceptual Blending in Meaning Construction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- [2] Croft, W. & Cruse, D. A. (2004). *Cognitive Linguistic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- [3] Evans, V. & Green, M. (2006). *Cognitive Linguistics: An Introduction*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- [4] Fauconnier, G. & Sweetser, E. (1996). Cognitive Links and Domains: Basic Aspects of Mental Space Theory. In Fauconnier, G. & Sweetser, E. (ed.), *Spaces, Worlds and Grammar*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- [5] Fauconnier, G. & Turner, M. (1998). Conceptual Integration Networks. *Cognitive Science*, (02), 133-187.
- [6] Fauconnier, G. & Turner, M. (2002). *The Way We Think: Conceptual Blending and the Mind's Complexities*. New York: Basic Books.
- [7] Fauconnier, G. (1998). Mental spaces, language modality, and conceptual, integration. In M. Tomasello (ed.), *The New Psychology of Language*. London: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Publishers.
- [8] Guo, Y. P. (2015). A Probe into the English Translation Features of Chinese Political Texts. *Shanghai Journal of Translators*, (4), 52-58.
- [9] Hu, K. B. & Tian, X. J. (2018). A Corpus-based Study of the Linguistic Features and Textual Effect of the English Translation of the Government Work Report. *Foreign Language and Literature*, 34(05), 1-1-1.
- [10] Jackendoff, R. S. (1985). Information is in the mind of the beholder. *Linguistics & Philosophy*, 8(1), 23-33.
- [11] Jason P. Roberts. (2018). Conceptual Blending, the Second Nai'vete, and the Emergence of New Meanings. *Open Theology*, 4(1), 29-45.
- [12] Jin, S. X. & Lin, Z. J. (2016). The Conceptual Blending Mechanism in the Construction of a Translator's Subjectivity. *Foreign Languages and Their Teaching*, (1), 116-121.
- [13] Langacker, R. W. (2008). *Cognitive Grammar: A Basic Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- [14] Li, M. & Gao, Y. Q. (2011). An Analysis of Internet Catchwords from the Perspective of Conceptual Blending Theory. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, 1(6), 635-643.
- [15] Liu, Y. F. (2017). *A Study on Translating Expressions with Chinese Characteristics from a Cultural Perspective*. Beijing Foreign Studies University.
- [16] Taylor, J. R. (2002). *Connive Grammar*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- [17] Ungerer, F. & Schmid, H. J. (2008). *An Introduction to Cognitive Linguistics*. Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press.
- [18] Xie, X. (2016). *A Study of Translation of Chinese-specific Expressions from the Perspective of Translation as Adaption and Selection*. Beijing Foreign Studies University.
- [19] Xing, J. & Gan, L. (2014). English Renditions of Culturally-loaded Chinese Words in English Media: Strategies and Influencing Factors. *Shanghai Journal of Translators*, (04), 39-44+51.
- [20] Yang, B. & Turner, M. (2022). From Mental Space to Conceptual Integration and Beyond: An Interview with Professor Mark Turner in Memory of Professor Giles Fauconnier. *Foreign Languages Research*, 39(05), 27-33.

Guobing Liu was born in Henan, China. He received the doctoral degree in corpus linguistics and computational linguistics in 2013. In recent years, he published several books and more than sixty academic papers in the key journals both home and abroad. His academic interests include corpus linguistics and foreign language teaching. Now he is a professor of Henan Normal University.

Qianwen Jiao was born in Henan, China. She will receive the master's degree in 2024. Now she studies at the Faculty of International Studies, Henan Normal University. She is interested in corpus linguistics and translation studies.