

Features of Translating Diplomatic Discourse

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Abstract: The article aims to explore diplomatic discourse translation's complexities, crucial for effective communication in state and governmental activities concerning foreign, domestic, and strategic policy implementation. Diplomatic discourse aims to foster international confidence through peaceful resolution of disputes, utilizing official texts and institutional communication. Unlike political argumentation and negotiations, it encompasses both written and oral exchanges, employing monologues, dialogues, and polylogues. The authors outline diplomatic discourse's primary objectives, including information dissemination, representation, manipulation, regulation, appeal, and propaganda. They also examine its extralinguistic functions, such as persuasion, influence, and intelligence gathering. This analysis highlights the pivotal role of diplomatic discourse in facilitating diplomatic relations, shaping policies, and advancing national interests on the global stage.

1 INTRODUCTION

Diplomatic operations constitute a core aspect of state and governmental affairs, encompassing inter-state relations, concerns over internal and external security, and regulations guiding collaborative efforts. Dating back centuries, diplomacy stands as an art of negotiation and consensus-building, reflected in diverse scholarly interpretations. These interpretations define diplomacy as the science governing relationships between sovereign entities, the strategic conduct of foreign and international policies to safeguard national and global interests, and the primary function of state leaders and governmental bodies in advancing foreign policy objectives and safeguarding national interests abroad. Despite variations, these definitions converge on diplomacy's role in representing both internal and external state interests, facilitated by effective communication underpinned by legal frameworks. Thus, investigating the utilisation and efficacy of linguistic tools and translation methods in diplomatic communication emerges as a pertinent endeavour.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

The phenomenon of communication aimed at influencing the recipient is termed as "discourse", negotiations, and argumentation (Volkova, 2007). These encompass various aspects such as sociocultural context, participants, and communicative intentions, with political, legal, military, and economic dimensions, mirroring mass media information content. Specifically, political negotiations involve interactions between political entities or their representatives to coordinate interests and resolve conflicts (Anikina, et al., 2016). Political argumentation involves logical reasoning to establish or challenge a thesis, aiming to persuade recipients of its significance (Anikina, et al., 2016).

We adopt a broad interpretation of political communication, encompassing oral and written texts, including monologues, dialogues, and polylogues, thus referring to it as "diplomatic discourse". Notably, diplomatic discourse combines these communication forms, serving as a persuasive, informative, and influential tool within public institutions.

3 DISCUSSION

The term "diplomatic discourse" encapsulates a formal, business-like style of speech evident across various written and spoken communication formats, including notes, memos, communiqués, negotiations, and declarations. Linguistically identifiable by its unique vocabulary, politeness maxims, clichés, and specific lexical and grammatical structures, diplomatic discourse serves the purpose of peacefully resolving contentious issues and fostering international trust between nations and governments. It encompasses several key functions, such as appellative, communicative, representative, manipulative, regulatory, and propagandist, each crucial for maintaining national and international interests, managing disputes, and influencing public opinion.

At its core, diplomatic discourse navigates the intricate landscape of international relations, addressing concerns impacting bilateral and multilateral relationships, collaboration across different domains, and the operations of international organizations. These topics represent the primary focus areas of a state's diplomatic efforts within the broader framework of international relations. Fundamental to every state and government, diplomatic endeavours are shaped by mutual relations between states, concerns regarding internal and external security, and regulations governing cooperative operations.

The proficiency of political science is an essential qualification for a qualified translator tasked with translating diplomatic materials. A deep understanding of the main points made in political figures' speeches is imperative for ensuring accurate and effective translations. Given the broad scope of diplomatic communication, it is often referred to as "diplomatic discourse." This formal business speech style, exemplified by a variety of written and spoken communication tools, is characterized by its specific vocabulary, politeness maxims, clichés, and lexical and grammatical constructions, all aimed at influencing the listener.

A key aspect of translating diplomatic materials involves adhering to strict guidelines for using standard language templates. Translators must demonstrate proficiency in corporate manners and navigate the use of acronyms and abbreviations commonly found in diplomatic texts. Additionally, translators must consider various linguistic characteristics of diplomatic discourse, including phraseological units, neologisms, speech clichés, borrowed terminology, and idiomatic expressions.

Cultural studies, history, and other related fields also play a crucial role in ensuring accurate translations.

Stylistically, diplomatic documents exhibit impartiality, generality, clarity of information, logical organization, and adherence to diplomatic ethics. These stylistic elements influence the translation process, dictating the choice of translation techniques and approaches. Furthermore, word choice in diplomatic texts is carefully considered, with the use of clichés, semantic fields, terminological vocabulary, euphemisms, abbreviations, and designations all contributing to the overall tone and meaning of the text.

To achieve accuracy in translation, translators employ various transformation methods, as outlined by scholars in the field. These methods include lexical, grammatical, stylistic, and mixed transformations, each serving a specific purpose in conveying the intended meaning of the original text. Lexical translation transformations are particularly important when dealing with non-standard words, terms, clichés, proper names, and cultural concepts.

An analysis of translation methods used in diplomatic discourse reveals several common approaches. For instance, the method of regular correspondences, omissions, generalization, modulation, tracing, transliterations, specifications, and implications are frequently employed to ensure fidelity to the original text while adapting it to the target language and audience.

Consideration of specific examples from diplomatic texts further illustrates the application of translation methods. For instance, logical substitution, omission, generalization, modulation, and transliteration are all employed to convey the nuanced meanings and tone of the original text accurately.

In conclusion, diplomatic discourse represents a complex and multifaceted form of communication essential for navigating the intricacies of international relations. Translating diplomatic materials requires careful attention to linguistic nuances, cultural context, and stylistic elements to ensure accuracy and fidelity to the original text. By employing various transformation methods and drawing on established translation methodologies, translators can effectively convey the intended meaning and tone of diplomatic discourse across languages and cultures.

4 CONCLUSION

The analysis of diplomatic discourse has shed light on its linguistic and extra-linguistic features, as well as

the methods employed in translating lexical units. The predominant method observed in translation was that of regular correspondences, indicating the existence of numerous matches between the source and target languages, providing translators with choices. Conversely, less frequently utilized methods such as transliteration, specification, and implication were identified, typically employed when regular relationships between units in the original and translated texts were absent. Moreover, the generalization method emerged as a strategy to mitigate negative connotations associated with certain lexical units.

In essence, the examination of diplomatic discourse and its translation methods underscores the nuanced nature of cross-cultural communication within international diplomacy. By understanding and effectively applying translation techniques, translators play a crucial role in ensuring accurate and culturally sensitive communication across linguistic boundaries. Moving forward, continued research and analysis in this field will contribute to further enhancing the effectiveness and precision of diplomatic communication in an increasingly interconnected global landscape.

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