Translation Transformations of Xi Jinping's Speeches

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses the speech portrait of Xi Jinping and its features, as well as their translation transformations into Russian. In the course of the work, the authors considered theoretical scientific works on the speech portrait. The translation transformations and mechanisms used in the process of interpreting the text were analyzed, which allowed us to conclude that it is necessary to recreate the information provided in the translation process most fully. Based on the research done, the classification of translation transformations was determined, on the basis of which the translations of Xi Jinping's speeches were analyzed. During the work, various speeches and reports of the president of the People's Republic of China from 2013 to 2020 were analyzed. When considering the speeches of Xi Jinping, were revealed the distinguishing features of his speech portrait, the widespread use of metaphors, chengyu, yanyu, quotations during his speeches. A study of the translations of speeches by the head of the PRC made it possible to consider the features of the speech portrait of a linguistic personality in two different languages, to analyze the use by translators of certain translational transformations during the interpretation of the text. The study also shows how, when translating Xi Jinping's reports and public speeches into Russian, the historical and cultural context is often not enough to accurately convey the meaning of the features of his speeches.

Keywords: speech portrait, language personality, Xi Jinping, translation transformations, text interpretation, lexical transformations, grammatical transformations.

1. Introduction

In the modern world, the People's Republic of China plays a huge role in international relations. The figure of Xi Jinping, head of state, is of interest not only from a political, but also from a linguistic point of view. Since he is the representative and the first person of the whole country, his position, expressed in speeches, plays an important role in the course of economic, social and political processes. The Chairman of the PRC is known for his oratory, his speech portrait can be characterized by brilliance and brightness, as well as the ability to capture the attention of the audience and convince the public of the importance of his words. At this stage in the development of Russian-Chinese relations, the figure of Xi Jinping plays an important role, and his reports' translation into Russian gives an idea to Russian-speaking people about China, their intentions and plans, as well as about Chairman Xi as the head of the most populous country in the world.

The relevance of the course work is that between Russia and China are developing friendly relations, characterized by a wide range of areas of cooperation, so the study of the features of the speech portrait of Xi Jinping and their translation transformations into Russian allows us to understand not only the specifics of China in politics, but also see the identity of Chinese culture and traditions.
An analysis of the transformations of Xi Jinping's speeches also reveals the similarities or differences in the image of this politician in two different countries. In addition, by examining the speech portrait of the head of the PRC, we can identify ways to control the opinion of Chinese society, which is not only important in the international sphere, but also of interest from the point of view of political linguistics.

The object of study is the speech portrait of Xi Jinping. The subject of the research is the features of the speech portrait of Xi Jinping and their translation transformations into Russian.

The aim of the research is to analyze and identify the features of the speech portrait of Xi Jinping and the translation transformations of his characteristic features into Russian.

The purpose of the work determined the solution of the following tasks:
1. to explore the speech portrait of a linguistic personality and general approaches to its study;
2. to study the specifics of translation transformations and mechanisms used in the process of text interpretation;
3. to analyze the speech portrait of Xi Jinping, to identify its features;
4. to consider the translation mechanisms used in interpreting the features of the speech portrait of Xi Jinping, to identify the differences that exist between his speech portrait in Russian and Chinese.

2. Methods

The fundamental research method is a synchronic approach to language learning. This method allowed us to consider various speeches, reports and speeches of Xi Jinping and their translations into Russian simultaneously. The use of this method made it possible to identify common and distinctive features in the speech portrait of the head of the PRC in Russian and Chinese.

The comparative historical method allows us to highlight the features of Xi Jinping as a linguistic personality in close connection with the social and political situation in the country in the 21st century. It also helped to compare historical facts and events with the characteristic artistic and expressive means used by Chairman Xi in his speeches.

The next research method is descriptive. The application of this method made it possible to identify artistic expressive means characteristic of Xi Jinping's speech portrait, in particular, chengyu, metaphors, yanyu and quotes from canonical texts, to study their quantitative properties, as well as their relative frequency of appearance in public speeches of the head of the PRC.

The method of a systematic approach to the study of the topic allows us to consider the main components of the features of the speech portrait of Xi Jinping and their interaction in the text and phrases. All the main artistic means and paths used most often do not exist in isolation, but in interaction with other units of the language.

Generalization method made it possible to establish general properties and signs of translation transformations and mechanisms and combine them into main groups — grammatical, morphological, semantic, lexical, stylistic and syntactic.

In general, the various methods that were used in this work made it possible to study the characteristic features of Xi Jinping's speech portrait and their translation transformations into Russian, as well as to trace the difference between this linguistic personality in Russian and in the original language.

3. Results and Discussion

During the work, the speech portrait of Xi Jinping was analyzed and the features of his translation transformations into Russian were revealed. During the writing of this work, theoretical scientific papers on the speech portrait were examined in detail, during which it was revealed that the study of the speech portrait involves the study of social, historical and other characteristics of the linguistic personality that affect its speech behavior, as well as certain aspects of linguistics (phonetics, grammar, vocabulary, morphology, syntax), allowing to determine the speech features of the linguistic personality. This helped to identify that when studying a speech portrait, researchers resort to fragmenting the individual's language system to describe the most striking features of speech, while the choice of fragments for analyzing a speech portrait depends on the purpose, area and nature of the study material. One of the tasks of creating and studying a speech portrait is considered to be the ability to reflect the uniqueness of the speech of a linguistic person in certain communication conditions. Moreover, it is in the analysis of the discourse that it becomes possible to create a speech portrait of both a separate linguistic personality and a collective one. Thus, a speech portrait as a characteristic of the speech of an individual or a collective is a multifaceted subject of research.

An analysis of the translation transformations and mechanisms used in the process of interpreting the text allows us to conclude that when translating it is necessary to recreate the provided information as fully as possible, for which certain structural or semantic changes are applied. These changes, which are the result of lexical and grammatical differences in languages, are called transformations in translation. The following classification of translation transformations was defined: grammatical, morphological, semantic, lexical, stylistic and syntactic. Using
this classification, we examined the translations of Xi Jinping’s speeches and their features, as well as possible semantic changes that occur during the transformation of the text.

A study of the speech portrait of Xi Jinping helped reveal that the head of state mainly speaks on behalf of all citizens, using the pronoun “我们” (wǒmen, we) in speeches, which emphasizes the commonness of the Chinese people. Also, under this pronoun, the President of the PRC also means the entire Communist Party of China, thus speaking about himself as an integral part of the CCP and the voice of the entire Chinese people. Nevertheless, this does not deny the appearance of his own voice and opinion, which may affect the policy of a statesman – this is expressed by the increasingly frequent use of the singular form of the first person “我” (wǒ, I). The words of Xi Jinping are understandable to all citizens of the PRC. It was also possible to identify the main linguistic turns and speech “stamps” of the speaker – these are chengyu, metaphors, yanyu, as well as quotes from various Chinese works of different eras. Such a variety of means of artistic expression is a characteristic feature of the speech portrait of Xi Jinping. In general, all the appeals and reports of the Chinese leader affect the audience and convince the population of the correctness of their conclusions and ideas. It also encourages people to take certain actions that contribute to the prosperity of the state, and for more influence, the most effective and memorable language tools that are appropriate for the time and place of speech are chosen.

We also identified lexical and morphological translation transformations used in translations of the speeches. The frequent use of lexical translation transformations is due to the fact that the volume of meanings and connotations of the lexical units of the Chinese and Russian languages does not coincide. Morphological transformations involve the replacement of one part of speech with one similar or several other parts of speech, which in translation is necessary to preserve the meaning of the original. Grammatical transformations were also used by translators in the studied examples – the structures of expressions and sentences were transformed in the translation in accordance with the norms of the Russian language.

In the course of the study, the idea of a speech portrait of President Xi Jinping was expanded. The characteristic features characteristic of his speech portrait were revealed. The translation mechanisms used in the interpretation of these features are considered. The differences between his speech portrait in Russian and Chinese are also revealed. For the first time, sources in Chinese were introduced into scientific circulation, which were translated into Russian in the course of this research work for the first time.

4. Summary

As a result of a study of the translations of Xi Jinping’s speeches, the following conclusions were made. Firstly, the translation transformations of the features of Xi Jinping’s speeches into the Russian language as a whole reflect the specifics of his speech portrait and various artistic and expressive means, to which he actively resorts in his reports for a more vivid and memorable speech. Translators refer to lexical, semantic, grammatical, morphological transformations during the translation of the speeches of Chairman Xi, so that the text is understandable to Russian readers, sounds organically both in terms of the peculiarities of the Russian language and in terms of preserving the originality and uniqueness of the speeches of the head of the PRC.

Secondly, during the translation, the meanings of certain words can be changed in comparison with the original to achieve clarity of the text from the point of view of the Russian reader, while not affecting the general idea of the whole sentence or the whole speech. Some figures of speech from Chinese are translated word by word due to the lack of corresponding analogues in Russian.

Thirdly, the speech portrait of Xi Jinping itself in the course of translation transformations also undergoes changes. When considering the translational transformations of the speech portrait of the head of the PRC, it was revealed that in Russian the features of his linguistic personality differ from the features that are common for it in Chinese. The translations of his speeches do not preserve that authoritarianism and a certain distance that has appeared in the past few years between the people and Xi Jinping himself. The difference is also revealed in the colorfulness of his expressions and the artistic and expressive means used by him in his speeches. To accurately convey the meaning of these features, his speech portrait in Russian often lacks the historical and cultural context. The lack of semantic analogues of the translation, as well as the inability to use the original unit of the language due to its absence in the target language, is all reflected in the speech portrait of Xi Jinping in Russian and does not allow transforming its brightness, metaphor and relevance in the way it is presented in Chinese.

The results of this research work can be applied in practice when writing works directly related to the linguistic features of Xi Jinping, as well as in analyzing the speech portrait as a linguistic phenomenon in general. For further research in the field of the speech portrait of the head of the PRC, it is necessary to remember that the speech features of this linguistic personality are directly related to the political, economic and social situation taking place in the country and on the world stage. That is why it is important to understand that a linguistic personality develops over time and can acquire new features. In the subsequent study of this issue, it is important to analyze new public
speeches, reports and speeches by Xi Jinping, as well as their possible new features for a more complete analysis of his speech portrait.

Subsequent work on this topic should analyze other unmentioned properties characteristic of the speech portrait of the head of the PRC. A further prospect of applying this study may be related to the use of the results of publications by researchers who do their work in the field of linguistics, for instance, linguists who deal with the problem of speech portrait as a linguistic phenomenon or explore the linguistic personality of Xi Jinping.

The results of this research work can be applied in practice when translating official speeches by Xi Jinping into Russian. The conducted studies can be useful both for workers in the field of political linguistics and for translators whose work is connected with the study of political discourse. The prospect of applying the results and materials of this study is related to their use in the development of digital educational resources in linguistics, as well as in the writing of monographs and other scientific works related to the study of speech portraits.

5. Conclusions

Xi Jinping is currently one of the most significant and important personalities on the world stage. Many scholars and journalists analyze his speeches and reports, repeatedly emphasize the high oratory of the President of the PRC, his ability to hold the attention of the audience, inspire his audience with important party ideas and tasks, while staying on par with the people.

The speech portrait of Xi Jinping is of genuine interest to linguists, sociolinguists, politicians and journalists. Original, different from the speech portraits of his predecessors, simple and understandable to everyone, but at the same time filled with numerous metaphors, comparisons, quotes from canonical texts, the speech portrait of the head of the PRC reflects the linguistic features of the Chinese language and represents the voice of the whole state.

In the course of work, the tasks set were realized. Nevertheless, this topic has a great prospect for further research.

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