



## Review Article

# A Study of Conceptual Metaphors and Metaphor Translation Strategies in the Report on the Work of the Government (2002-2022)

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**Abstract:** As an authoritative political text that conveys China's voice, promotes China's ideas and shapes China's image, the rich metaphorical expressions used in *the Report on the Work of the Government* plays an important role in strengthening China's political publicity and promoting cultural exchanges with foreign countries, which are widely noticed and interpreted by people at home and abroad. This study took the 2002-2022 *Report on the Work of the Government* (bilingual version) as the research subjects, summarized the types of metaphors in the report, and explored the strategies used in metaphor translation, so as to provide new and effective references and ideas for the conceptual metaphors' translation in political texts. The study drew the following conclusions: (1) The metaphors in the report are various and rich, with 14 types of metaphors included: architectural metaphor, artifact metaphor, war metaphor, journey metaphor, personification metaphor, transportation metaphor, and so on. Among them, the most frequently used metaphor types are first four types; (2) the translation strategies of conceptual metaphors in the report are mainly three ones, namely, retaining metaphor, translating metaphor by deleting metaphor but conveying the meaning, and replacing metaphor with another. The first two translation strategies are used more frequently.

**Keyword:** *Report on the Work of the Government* (2002-2022), Conceptual Metaphor, Translation Strategy

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## 1. Introduction

As an authoritative and representative political text, *the Report on the Work of the Government* is an important medium for the international community to understand China's national political concepts and policies, as well as one of the ties for China to make political and cultural exchanges with foreign countries. *The Report on the Work of the Government* is an official document, highly reflecting the will of state and our government's concept and ideology of governance. Shaping the political attitudes of the audience, building a good image of the country and promoting political and cultural exchanges with the outside world rely heavily on the expression of language, relying on different rhetorical techniques. Conceptual metaphor, as a powerful rhetorical device, can reflect the ideology of discourse constructors to a

certain extent and is one of the important means to construct reality and produce meaning [1]. In *the Report on the Work of the Government*, conceptual metaphors appear frequently, making complex and abstract political concepts concrete and visualized. Effective translation of conceptual metaphors can stimulate public emotion and shorten distance with the public, and is related to the accurate propagation of national policies and the effective dissemination of political culture, so the study of metaphor translation in *the Report on the Work of the Government* is conducive to strengthening the understanding of China and the grasp of China's general policies, promoting the exchange of experience and sharing of governing wisdom between Chinese and foreign governments, and further accelerating the cultural "going out" strategy. Therefore, this study will use the bilingual versions of *the Report on the Work of the Government* from 2002 to 2022 as the research corpus, identify and count the

types of conceptual metaphors in the text and analyze their translation strategies in depth, with the aim of enriching researches in this field and promoting the effective translation of such political texts, so as to better export the voice of China.

## 2. Literature Review

Conceptual Metaphor Theory was introduced by Lakoff & Johnson in *Metaphors We Live By* [2]. They considered metaphor not only as a linguistic phenomenon or stylistic feature, but also as a universal way of thinking and a basic cognitive device that exists in all aspects of language use [2], and defined it as a mutual mapping between two cognitive conceptual domains, i.e., the concrete and relatively familiar Source Domain is used to understand the Target Domain which is abstract and difficult to understand. That's to say, metaphor can be used as a way to establish interconnection between two cognitive domains. As a cognitive mechanism, metaphor can combine people's understanding of common experiences in daily life with cultural values that contain strong emotions [3], and it has a strong explanatory function and is an effective means to promote cultural communication, disseminate governing ideas, and guide public opinions.

With the introduction of Conceptual Metaphor Theory, more and more scholars at home and abroad began to combine metaphor with translation. The investigation of metaphor translation began in the middle of the twentieth century. The research on conceptual metaphor translation can be traced back to the controversy over its translatability and untranslatability [4, 5]. Then, Newmark [6] explored metaphor translation methods in terms of linguistic form and semantic equivalence, and proposed seven metaphor translation methods, which were highly influential and instructive [7]. Gideon Toury regarded metaphor as a translation unit, and proposed six translation methods including the non-metaphor into metaphor method [8]. Schäffner summarizes three highly regulated, descriptive translation paradigms and discusses three translation methods, namely, transliteration, paraphrasing and deletion [9]. Some studies on conceptual metaphor translation have also been conducted in China, which are quite fruitful. Zhang Peiji proposed three idiomatic translation methods in his *English-Chinese Translation Course*, which included the exploration of metaphor translation methods, namely, literal translation, transliteration method, and free translation method [10]. Liu Bingquan and Zhang Lei considered mapping equivalence and offset equivalence as the two main methods to achieve metaphor translation [11]. Xiao Jiayan and Li Hengwei considered metaphor translation as a cognitive process based on the translator's cultural knowledge and proposed three methods of metaphor translation, namely, literal translation method, paraphrasing method and compensatory translation method [12]. Guo Yingzhen compared Chinese-English conceptual metaphor translation based on pragmatic and cultural perspectives, and proposed a metaphor translation method, that is, the

combination of literal translation and free translation [13].

In recent years, there are no shortage of scholars who have explored metaphor translation in political texts. Based on a parallel corpus of Chinese-English political texts, Zhu Xiaomin and Zeng Guoxiu explored metaphor translation strategies based on travel metaphors in the texts and summarized three metaphor translation strategies: retaining the original source domains, replacing the original source domain with those similar to the source domains in the target language, and discarding the original source domains but with explanations [14]. Yang Linlin studied metaphor interpretation in a parallel corpus of government press conferences and found that the most frequently used metaphor interpretation strategy was literal translation, followed by the metaphor explanation method, the metaphor omission method and the metaphor transformation method [15].

The conceptual metaphor translation in *the Report on the Work of the Government* has also attracted more and more attention from scholars. Most of them took the one-year Report as the research object to conduct metaphor translation research [16-19] and discuss metaphor translation strategies or ideologies in English translation texts. However, few scholars have conducted a diachronic study on metaphor translation in *the Report on the Work of the Government* based on the corpus approach. Only Shi Lihua and Zhu Chunxia conducted a diachronic study on the translation and distribution of a certain type of metaphor in *the Report* [20-21]. At present, no scholar has made comprehensive research on the conceptual metaphor and translation strategies in *the Report* based on the corpus, which is still a blank field. Therefore, this study intends to select *the Report on the Work of the Government* (bilingual version) from 2002 to 2022 as the search source, establish a Chinese-English parallel corpus, identify and count the types of conceptual metaphors in it, deeply analyze its translation strategies and explore the reasons that affect the translator's choice of strategies for metaphor translation, with a view to providing reference for metaphor research and English translation in such politic texts, thereby effectively promoting the spread of Chinese culture and promoting the construction of China's foreign discourse power.

## 3. Research Design

### 3.1. Research Subject

As the most authoritative political text representing China's national conditions, *the Report on the Work of the Government* aims to convey China's policy guidelines, political ideas and domestic situation, and is an important reflection of the Chinese livelihood, as well as an important way for the international community to fully understand China's political and economic development in all aspects. In the report, government leaders often use metaphors to convey abstract and vague ideologies and values to the public so that the "lofty" political ideas become vivid and easy to

understand. The appropriateness of its English translation is related to the effective dissemination of China's policies and the shaping and promotion of China's national image. Therefore, the translation of conceptual metaphors in the report is particularly important. Therefore, this study takes the bilingual version of *the Report on the Work of the Government* from 2002 to 2022 as the research corpus, and the Chinese and English version are obtained from the official websites of the Chinese government website (<http://www.gov.cn/>) and the National People's Congress of China website (English) (<http://en.npc.gov.cn.cdurl.cn/>) respectively. After purifying the texts including deleting the titles and preambles, the total number of words obtained was 386,864 in Chinese and 308,918 in English. This study intends to take the conceptual metaphors of the *Report* as the research subject and explore the translation strategies of various conceptual metaphors.

### 3.2. Research Questions

This study will answer the following questions:

- (1) What conceptual metaphors are present in *the Report on the Work of the Government*?
- (2) What metaphor translation strategies are used in *the Report on the Work of the Government*?

### 3.3. Research Methods and Steps

This study takes the Chinese-English bilingual version of *the Report on the Work of the Government* (2002-2022) as the research subject, and adopts quantitative and qualitative research methods to identify and count the conceptual metaphor types in texts and qualitatively analyze the translations of all conceptual metaphors, so as to summarize the practical translation strategies. In the metaphor identification stage, we first read the corpus carefully and identify the candidate metaphors with reference to the Metaphor Identification Procedure (MIP) proposed by Pragglejaz; then, we determine the metaphor keywords according to the context where the words are used and record

them in categories; Finally, Antconc 4.1.0 was used to retrieve the conceptual metaphors, and the actual frequency of each metaphor keyword was counted by manually screening and excluding non-metaphor words. After identifying and counting the various conceptual metaphors, all the English translations of the metaphors were analyzed to summarize the translation strategies adopted for each type of metaphor and to explore the socio-cultural and cognitive factors behind them.

## 4. Types of Conceptual Metaphors and English Translation Analysis

### 4.1. Types of Conceptual Metaphors

After identifying and counting the conceptual metaphors in the report, this study finds that there is a rich use of conceptual metaphor types in the report, mainly including 14 metaphor types including architectural metaphors, artifact metaphors, war metaphors, journey metaphors, anthropomorphic metaphors, transportation metaphors, plant and animal metaphors, river metaphors, chess metaphors, medicine metaphors, nature metaphors, book metaphors, food metaphors, and performance metaphors, with 347 metaphor keywords and a total frequency of 7460, as shown in Table 1 below. Secondly, according to the source domain resonance value (source domain resonance value = metaphor keywords  $\times$  frequency of occurrence, indicating the frequency of a certain type of metaphor used in the corpus), the distribution of these 14 conceptual metaphor types is uneven, among which, architectural metaphor is used most frequently, reaching 40.2%, followed by artifact metaphor (26.26%), war metaphor (11.8%), and journey metaphor (7.44%), and these four types metaphors account for 85.7% of the total number of metaphors, which is much higher than the sum of other metaphors, and plays an important role in conveying the concept of China's governance, spreading social culture and shaping the country's image.

Table 1. Statistical table of conceptual metaphor types.

Metaphor types	Examples of metaphor keywords	Total number of metaphor keywords	Total frequency of metaphors	Source domain resonance value
Architectural metaphor	实施 (implement), 建设 (development), 开拓 (open), 巩固 (consolidate), 调整 (adjusting), 形象工程, 政绩工程 (ostentatious projects)	31	3445	106795
Artifact metaphor	小金库 (off-books accounts), 瓶颈 (bottlenecks), 包袱 (baggage), 一刀切 (apply control measures too rigidly), 铺新摊子 (preventing indiscriminate construction of new facilities), 红线 (cross the line)	53	1316	69748
War metaphor	战略 (strategy), 新胜利 (new successes), 生力军 (are playing a vital role in), 队伍和作风建设 (building a contingent of public servants with a fine work style), 领军人物 (leaders)	47	667	31349
Journey metaphor	阔步前进 (strode forward), 步伐 (new advances were made), 指导 (to be guided), 路 (maintaining sustainable development), 迈进 (march towards), 里程碑 (milestone)	26	760	19760
Anthropomorphic metaphor	迎接 (greet), 对话与谈判 (dialogue and negotiation), 交往和对话 (the development of cross-straits relations), 面貌 (appearance), 精力 (concentrated an immense amount of energy on), 主要力量 (main participants)	65	278	18070
Transportation metaphor	轨道前进 (the national economy maintained a sustained, rapid and sound development), 安全线 (within safe limits), 后劲 (increased the capability for our	35	293	10255

Metaphor types	Examples of metaphor keywords	Total number of metaphor keywords	Total frequency of metaphors	Source domain resonance value
Animal and plant metaphor	future economic development), 转轨 (institutional transition), 刹车 (not apply the brakes too hard), 壁垒 (barriers) 铲除 (were crushed), 培育 (fostering), 培植 (expand new sources of revenue), 成果丰硕 (great successes), 萌芽状态 (in the bud), 蔓延 (spread)	26	177	4602
River metaphor	枯竭 (a number of mines having exhausted their deposits), 流动 (movement), 源头 (root causes of the problems), 波动 (fluctuations), 大起大落 (without drastic fluctuations), 力量源泉 (the source of power)	16	126	2016
Chess metaphor	全局 (overall situation), 局面 (entered a new stage), 开局 (made a good start), 新格局 (new start), 全国一盘棋 (coordinating all the activities of the nation like moves in a chess game.), 扭转 (checked)	9	143	1287
Medicine metaphor	标本兼治 (persisted in seeking both temporary and permanent solutions), 打防结合, 预防为主 (combine punishment with prevention with emphasis on the latter), 隐患 (hazards), 防范 (guard against), 症结 (crucial reason), 定心丸 (reassured)	7	107	749
Nature metaphor	重于泰山 (huge), 蓝天绿地, 碧水青山 (blue skies, green land, clear water and verdant mountains), 深水区 (a deep water zone), 磐石 (unbreakable unity), 守护神 (protector)	16	28	448
Book metaphor	新篇章 (new chapter), 谱写 (write), 答卷 (good report), 成绩 (outstanding achievements)	4	66	219
Food metaphor	消化 (digestion), 米袋子 ("rice bag" (grain supply)), 菜篮子 ("vegetable basket" (non-staple food supply)), 蛋糕 (pie), 饭碗 (food supply), 啃了不少硬骨头 (tackled many tough issues)	6	29	174
Performance metaphor	舞台 (stage), 帷幕 (open), 总基调 (general work guideline), 重头戏 (highlight), 独角戏 (soliloquy), 新乐章 opening the page on a great new chapter of)	6	25	150

## 4.2. Metaphor Translation Strategies

After comparing the conceptual metaphorical expressions in the original text of *the Report on the Work of the Government* and the metaphor translation, it is found that the following three metaphor translation strategies are mainly used in the text: retaining metaphor, translating metaphor by

deleting metaphor but conveying the meaning, and replacing metaphor with another. After counting the use of English translation strategies for various metaphor types, it is found that translators adopt different translation strategies for each conceptual metaphor type, and the frequency of using the three translation strategies for the same metaphor type varies, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Conceptual Metaphor Translation Strategies.

Metaphor types	Retaining metaphor	Translating metaphor by deleting metaphor but conveying the meaning	Replacing metaphor with another
Architectural metaphor	3040	395	10
Artifact metaphor	950	363	3
War metaphor	569	97	1
Journey metaphor	607	153	0
Anthropomorphic metaphor	148	121	9
Transportation metaphor	209	83	1
Animal and plant metaphor	109	60	8
River metaphor	99	27	0
Chess metaphor	86	56	1
Medicine metaphor	92	15	0
Nature metaphor	11	15	2
Book metaphor	60	6	0
Food metaphor	19	10	0
Performance metaphor	5	15	5

As can be seen from Table 2, the translation strategies adopted in the report for all kinds of metaphors are mainly retaining metaphor strategy (80.48%) and the strategy of translating metaphor by deleting metaphor but conveying the meaning (18.98%), except for natural metaphors and performance metaphors, for which translators use more later strategy than the former one to translate. However, the difference is not significant. From the table, we can also see that the translation strategy of replacing metaphor with another is rarely used in the report, with a frequency of only

40, accounting for only 0.54%, and most of architectural metaphors are translated by this strategy. The following is an analysis of the typical metaphor translations in the report by way of examples.

### 4.2.1. Retaining Metaphor

Although the two languages are vastly different, there are also commonalities between the two languages because the source and target domain groups have similar or identical life experiences and cognitive experiences about certain things. Therefore, in such cases where the conceptual mapping of the

source and target domains is similar or equivalent, the translation strategy of retaining the metaphorical imagery of the original text can be chosen to make the translation closer to the original text, achieve maximum equivalent translation, bring the readers of the target language closer to the readers of the source language, shorten the distance between the two, reach a consistent cognitive understanding, so as to achieve better cultural communication and exchange.

(1):整顿规范金融秩序, 筑牢金融风险“防火墙”。(architectural metaphor)

Translation: We will ensure order in the financial sector and *build a firewall* against financial risks.

(2):必须毫不动摇坚持以经济建设为中心, 推动科学发展, 妥善应对风险挑战, 使中国经济这艘巨轮破浪远航。(transportation metaphor)

Translation: We must remain committed to economic development as our central task, endeavor to promote sound development, and respond effectively to risks and challenges so as to ensure that China's economy, *like a gigantic ship, breaks the waves and goes the distance*.

(3):体制机制弊端和结构性矛盾是“拦路虎”。(Plant and animal metaphor)

Translation: Systemic, institutional, and structural problems have become *tigers in the road holding up development*.

In example (1), building a "防火墙(firewall)" is seen as a powerful measure to prevent and resolve financial risks, which means that resisting financial risks is seen as a great project to build. Financial risk is one of the major risks. Prevention and resolution of financial risk is a matter related to the overall economic and social development of the country and the safety of people's property. The original meaning of "防火墙(firewall)" refers to the wall used to prevent the spread of fire, and later its meaning derives to the network security measures. Using "防火墙(firewall)" to prevent financial risk reflects that dealing with financial risks is still difficult and emphasizes that the prevention of financial risks can not be taken lightly, can not be delayed, and can not expect to complete the task in one go, should be persistent and unrelenting. Since Chinese and foreigners has same cognitive experience about the concept of "防火墙", the translator directly translates it into "firewall", which retains the imagery of the original text and achieves the equivalent effect.

In example (2), China's economy is compared to "一艘巨轮(a gigantic ship)", which is a concrete manifestation of the transportation metaphor, expressing great confidence in the future development of China's economy and a good vision of the future development of China's economy when breaking the waves and moving steadily forward, showing the strong resilience and great potential of China's economy, and the necessity to adhere to the policy of "economic construction as the center". In the translation, the translator directly translates it as "like a gigantic ship, breaks the waves and goes the distance", which retains the imagery of the original text and accurately conveys the profound hope for China's economic development and expressed the support for the

policy concept that suits the national conditions.

In example (3), "体制机制弊端 (institutional shortcomings)" and "结构性矛盾 (structural contradictions)" are likened to "拦路虎(tigers in the road holding up development)" in the process of economic development, using animal metaphors to vividly point out the obstacles and difficulties on the road of economic development. It shows that the "体制机制弊端 (institutional shortcomings)" and "结构性矛盾 (structural contradictions)" pose serious constraints and threats to the stable and healthy development of the economy, indicating that solving these two problems has become an urgent task. The translation directly translates them as "tigers in the road holding up development", which not only retains the metaphor of the original text but also conveys the real situation of China's economic development.

In conclusion, the metaphor translation strategy of retaining metaphors can preserve the imagery of the original text, accurately convey China's concepts of governance, values and ideology, and ensure effective cultural export and exchange. Translators should take into account the socio-cultural knowledge and cognitive experience of both the target language and the source language readers when making translations, faithfully reproduce the imagery of the original text as far as possible, and realize equivalent translation.

#### 4.2.2. Translating Metaphor by Deleting Metaphor But Conveying the Meaning

Since the Chinese and English languages have great differences due to cultural differences, there are bound to be cases that it is difficult to find metaphorical imagery in the target language that is similar to the original metaphor, i.e., the case of metaphors missing. In translating such metaphors, the translator can deleting the metaphor but conveying the meaning directly, that is, using different expressions to make the readers of the target language have similar or the same cognitive experience of the same concept as the readers of the source language, so as to achieve the purpose of accurately conveying the meaning of the original text to help the readers of the target language understand.

(4):让金融成为一池活水, 更好地浇灌小微企业, “三农”等实体经济之树。(river metaphor, plant metaphor)

Translation: We will ensure that financial services *play an active role in* meeting the needs of the real economy, including small and micro businesses, agriculture, rural areas, and farmers.

(5):腐败现象的一个共同特征就是权力寻租, 要以权力瘦身为廉政强身, 紧紧扎住制度围栏, 坚决打掉寻租空间, 努力铲除腐败土壤。(anthropomorphic metaphor)

Translation: As rent-seeking is a feature common to all types of corruption, *we will shed powers to make government cleaner*, truss up the institutional fencing, and resolutely eliminate any room for rent-seeking, thus eradicating the breeding grounds of corruption.

(6):必须紧紧依靠人民群众, 以壮士断腕的决心, 背水一战的气概, 冲破思想观念的束缚, 突破利益固化的藩篱,

以经济体制改革为牵引，全面深化各领域改革。

Translation: We must rely fully on the people, break mental shackles and vested interests *with great determination*, and pursue economic structural reform as the key step to deepen comprehensive reform in all areas.

In example (4), finance is seen as “一池活水 (a pool of living water)” and the real economy is compared to “需要浇灌的树木 (a tree that needs to be watered)” to express the role of financial services to the real economy as water to the nourishment of trees. 活水 (Living water) refers to the water that is still flowing or the water that has a source of water that is always flowing, and is used to refer to the financial development that is always dynamic, clear and transparent, and the inexhaustible power of economic development. At ancient times, rivers, lakes and seas have been the cradle of Chinese civilization, so river metaphors are common in various texts [22-24], but river metaphors are not common in foreign cultures, so translators remove the imagery when translating and just use the simple phrase “play an active role in” to translate the deep inner relationship between the two, which accurately explains the meaning conveyed by the metaphor.

In example (5), the two metaphor keywords “瘦身 (slim)” and “强身 (strong)” are anthropomorphic metaphors, which are used to refer to anti-corruption phenomenon and the construction of clean government in China, making the project of purging the lazy and mediocre government vivid and concrete, expressing the feasibility of our anti-corruption actions and giving the public confidence in the country's determination to build a government based on the rule of law and a clean government, and also shows the public that the fighting against corruption will continue to maintain a high pressure situation and never stop. The translation is simple and clear, ensuring the readability of the translation.

In example (6), the metaphor of war “壮士断腕，背水一战 (a brave man breaks his wrist, be forced to stand and fight)” is used to express China's determination and vigor to comprehensively deepen reform in various fields, showing the fearless spirit and persistence of our national leaders in promoting development through reform. The expressions “壮士断腕，背水一战 (a brave man breaks his wrist, be forced to stand and fight)” are both unique to China, and are often used to describe the courage to fight to the death in a desperate situation, but there is no corresponding expression in foreign history and culture, which is culturally missing, so the translator simply translates them as “with great determination” to ensure the meaning of the original text is conveyed.

In conclusion, when dealing with the situation of “metaphor inequivalence”, the translator chooses the translation strategy of deleting the imagery of the original text and interpreting the metaphorical meaning to achieve the effect of faithfulness to the original text, smoothly conveying the content of the original text, and helping the readers of the translated language to understand, but this translation strategy will inevitably make the translation lose its “elegance” after the deletion of the culturally rich imagery, which is not conducive to the preservation of Chinese

cultural characteristics and the foreign dissemination and communication of our culture.

#### 4.2.3. Replacing Metaphor with Another

Since the Chinese and English peoples have different cultural systems, language as a cultural carrier is bound to be constrained and influenced by cultural factors [14]. Two peoples have different social and cultural backgrounds, historical traditions, religious beliefs, and different cognitive experiences of the same thing, and people will use different expressions to refer to the same concept, so there is bound to be metaphor inequivalence between the two languages, then the translator can choose to replace the target domain expressions with those similar to the source domain concepts to make the target language metaphorical expressions conform to the target language readers' cognition, more authentic and easier to understand.

(7): 要扶上马，送一程。 (animal and plant metaphor)

Translation: We need to *give them a leg up* to get them going.

(8): 各级政府必须厉行节约，反对浪费，坚持过紧日子。 (anthropomorphic metaphor)

Translation: Governments at all levels must practice economy, eliminate waste, and *tighten their belts*.

(9): 各级政府都要节用为民，坚持过紧日子，确保基本民生支出只增不减，助力市场主体青山常在，生机盎然。 (nature metaphor)

Translation: We at every level of government should practice fiscal frugality in the interests of the people. We should continue to tighten our belts, ensure continued increases in spending to meet basic living needs, and help sustain and *energize* market entities.

In example (7), according to the context, this sentence means helping and guiding small, medium and micro enterprises' innovation work. The phrase “扶上马，送一程 (help sb. onto a horse and give his a lift)” is a folk saying in China, which refers to providing some help to people in need. The animal metaphor is used in this sentence. However, the translation does not continue to use the animal metaphor, but activates the anthropomorphic metaphor, replacing it with “give them a leg up” which has the meaning of “do sb. a favor”, and the use of localized expressions avoids cultural conflicts to a certain extent, reduces cultural discomfort and enhances the sense of identity of the target language readers.

In example (8), it is mentioned that government cadres at all levels should implement the spirit of General Secretary Xi's important instruction, that is, setting a good example to practice frugality, resist waste, and insist on saving for the improvement of people's livelihood. The phrase “living a tight life” is an anthropomorphic metaphor used to refer to the habit of reducing expenses and being frugal. The translation does not translate “practice fiscal frugality”, but activates the artifact metaphorical frame of “tighten their belts” in the target audience's mind to replace it, which achieves the same effect.

In example (9), the phrase “the green hills are everlasting and vibrant” activates the nature metaphor, which is used to

express the longevity and endurance of things, and is used in the report to refer to the fact that China's economy is full of strong vitality and continues to flourish. The translator does not retain the imagery of the original text, but replaces it with the traffic metaphor "energize" to express the idea of successfully helping market players and allowing the market to develop like a tiger.

In conclusion, replacing metaphor allows the target readers to understand the basic information of the original text while obtaining metaphorical expressions similar to the original text, satisfying their cognitive experiences and value judgments, but this translation strategy has a high requirement for translator, who need to have a rich bilingual cultural knowledge background and master the unique expressions in both languages. Therefore, when translating metaphors, translators should take into account the bilingual culture and the acceptability of the readers of the translated language in choosing the appropriate expressions.

## 5. Conclusion

This study summarizes the conceptual metaphor types in the *Report on the Work of the Government* (2002-2022) by using corpus analysis methods and quantitative and qualitative approaches, and discusses metaphor translation strategies. The study finds that, firstly, the report is rich in metaphor types, including 14 metaphor types, such as architectural metaphor, artifact metaphor, war metaphor, journey metaphor, anthropomorphic metaphor and transportation metaphor, and the metaphors are unevenly distributed, with the first four types being used most frequently. Secondly, the large number of metaphors in the report also makes translation difficult. The translators grasp the metaphorical meaning of the original text on the basis of a variety of contexts and adopt appropriate translation strategies for the metaphors in the text, mainly three kinds: retaining metaphor, translating metaphor by deleting metaphor but conveying the meaning, and replacing metaphor with another, with the first two translation strategies most frequently used. In conclusion, the choice of translation strategies for metaphors in political texts is closely related to the cultural differences behind the two languages and the cognitive experience of the audiences. Therefore, translators should consider all factors to analyze the differences between Chinese and English and adopt flexible translation strategies to ensure that the metaphorical meaning can be conveyed and the complex abstract political ideas can be explained in a simple and clear way, so as to achieve the purpose of political and cultural communication.

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