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Stance Mediation in Translating News: A Case Study of *The Paper*'s Translation of Foreign News

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Abstract

This study examines translated news from foreign media published by *The Paper*, a Chinese news portal that features a column dedicated to translations of China-related reports released by foreign news agencies. The research aims to investigate how international news is transmitted or even manipulated through translation from the source texts, and to identify the changes made and how attitudinal positioning is realized through linguistic choices. The study adopts the Appraisal Theory proposed by Martin and White (2005) as the theoretical framework for analysis. Data are collected from the "Translating China" column in *The Paper*, with the source texts written in English. The study reveals that in the translated texts, changes are realized through various translation methods such as omission, amplification, generalization, specification, and diction. Possible factors influencing translation decision-making may include the selection of news reports, target readership, the stance of the news agency, and traditional Chinese thought. It is hoped that the findings of this study will shed light on news translation, particularly on how to examine stances and attitudes in the translation of media discourse.

Keywords

News translation; attitudes; stance; media discourse; Appraisal Theory

1. Introduction

News translation plays a significant role in the transmission of information, but whether translated news should be faithful to the original texts is a long-debated topic (Valdeón, 2020). Recently, *The Paper*, a Chinese news portal with a column focusing on translating China-related news from foreign news agencies, was criticized for "translating news selectively" by deliberately adding, deleting, or modifying important information in the source texts to purposefully misguide readers into accepting a distorted stance promoted by the agency. Based on this background, this study focuses on news translated by *The Paper*, aiming to find out whether and how the translated international news is manipulated.

Previous studies have probed into the field of news and its translation from different perspectives. Bennett (1983: 125) believes that news is "information that is timely, relevant to the concerns of its audience, and presented in a form that is easy to grasp". In his book *News as Discourse*, van Dijk (1998: 4) defines news as "a text or discourse… in which new information about recent events". Although the above definitions describe news from different angles, the information is the key value in news reports. Besides, van Dijk's definition of news provides a discoursal perspective for the current study, in which, by combining the core value of the above definitions, the news is taken as a kind of discourse in which information about the events happening or going to happen is talked about.

Based on the abovementioned research, the trueness or objectivity of news reports has long been questioned (Pan, 2012). As Fowler (1991, p. 10) points out "anything that is said or written about the world is articulated from a

particular ideological position". It is the same with news translation. Despite the fact that some scholars argue that the faithfulness of translated news to the source text (Xu, 2003, p. 26; Zhu, 2008), more researchers believe that faithfulness may not be the priority of news translation. When discussing news translation, Stetting (1989, p. 371) comes up with the word "transediting" to refer to the "grey area between editing and translating" Bassnett (2005) points out that news translation is "at no stage is a text likely to be translated in the traditional sense of the term", because in the process of translating global news, translation is only one element of the complex process in which information is transmitted through various sophisticated procedures. Therefore, "the traditional concept of equivalence does not seem to hold any value in this area (Zhang, 2013)". Therefore, in current research, faithfulness or equivalence is not the question to be probed into. The term "news translation" would refer to the process dealing with news whether it is translating, editing or rewriting.

As for the stance of journalistic discourse, Martin and White (2008, pp. 163-164) regard it as the "more delicate distinctions among voices" and "sub-selections of evaluative options within text". Mediation in translation, on the other hand, refers to "the process of incorporating into the processing of utterances and texts one's own assumptions, beliefs, etc." (Hatim & Mason, 2005, p. 190). Mediation shares something in common with the concept of manipulation to some degree. Manipulation, according to Hermans (2014, pp. 10-11), can be considered as an "approach to translation" and an "interest in the norms and constraints that govern the production and reception of translations". Zhang (2013) links the concepts of mediation and manipulation in the process of transediting news headlines, and regards mediation as "the transeditor intervenes, rewrites or manipulates in the transediting process, with an effort to accommodate in the target text stances dissenting from those in the original text." By following the abovementioned concepts of stance and mediation, the current study considers mediation in translation news as a translation process in which various translation methods are adopted to deal with the sub-system of evaluative options, that is, attitudinal resources.

When comes to the specific methods in translating news, different scholars have come up with their opinions. Stetting (1989, p. 377) suggests three methods in news transedition: cleaning-up transedition which aims to adapt the target text to a standard of efficiency in expression; "situational transedition" whose purpose is to achieve to the intended function of the translated text in its new social context: "situational transediting" and "cultural transediting" is the Adaptation to the needs and conventions of the target culture. Valdeón (2008) makes comment on the ideology of news translation with reference to translation methods such as omissions, additions and permutations. Bielsa and Bassnett (2011) discuss five detailed methods in news translation: change of title and lead, elimination of unnecessary information, addition of important background information, change the order of paragraphs and summarizing information. In other words, information would be added, deleted or altered in the process of news translation. When comes to the current study, the attitudinal resources in news translation will be viewed from five translation methods: amplification, omission, diction, generalization and specification.

Therefore, this study will resort to the Appraisal Theory with special focus on the probing into the sub-system of Attitude as major analytical support, so as to investigate how the attitudinal resources are altered in translated news and explain the causes of the alteration.

2. Attitude in Appraisal Theory

Appraisal Theory was proposed by Martin and White (2005) upon the basis of the interpersonal function of Systemic Functional Linguistics (hereinafter SFL), which offers a systemic of techniques to analyse the stance and evaluation in texts (White, 2002, p. 1). The notion of "appraisal" is closely related that of the term "evaluation" (Zhang, 2013) which was first come up with by Thompson (1996, p. 65) with a definition of "a central part of the meaning of any text and that any analysis of interpersonal meaning of a text must be taken into account". Later, the notion of evaluation was developed into "the broad cover term for the expression of the speaker or writer's attitude or stance towards, viewpoints on or feelings about the entities or propositions that he or she is talking about (Thompson & Hunston, 2000, p. 5)".

However, Martin (2000, p. 143) believes that attitude expressing should be an interpersonal matter instead of merely a personal one. Upon this basis and following SFL's methodology of systemically interpreting language, appraisal resources are divided into three sub-systems, namely attitude, engagement and graduation (Martin & White, 2005). According to Martin and White (ibid, p. 35), attitude "is concerned with our feelings, including emotional reactions, judgments of behaviour and evaluation of things" and consists of three elements, namely affect, judgment and appreciation, which are respectively considered as "emotion, ethics and aesthetics" in traditional way. Affect "is

concerned with registering positive and negative feelings: do we feel happy or sad, confident or anxious, interested or bored?", which includes "un/happiness, in/security and dis/satisfaction"(ibid, p. 42, p. 49); judgment "deals with attitudes towards behaviour, which we admire or criticise, praise of condemn" , which can be divided into "social esteem" and "social sanction" (ibid, p. 42, p. 52); and appreciation "involves evaluations of semiotic and natural phenomena, according to the way in which they are valued or not in a given field", which contains "reaction, composition and valuation" (ibid, pp. 42-3, 56). In other words, affect deals with the emotions or feeling of a person, judgement investigates into the assessment of person(s) behaviour and appreciation with evaluation to an object or a phenomenon.

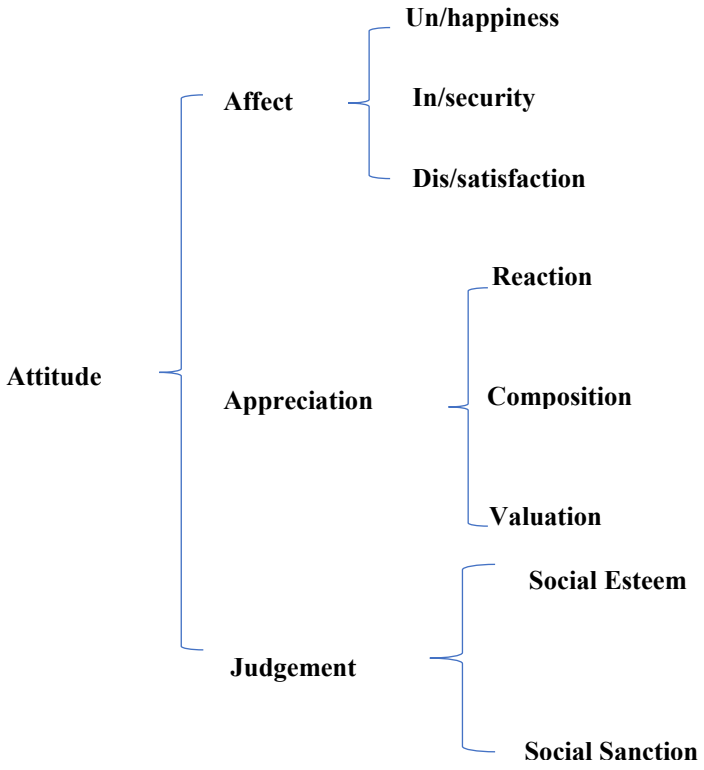


Figure 1. An Overview of Attitude in Appraisal Theory.

In this study, value position is one of the major investigation parameters of the attitudinal resources. According to Martin and White (2005), value position can be referred to the authorial voices describing an evaluative resource to be positive or negative. Positive value positions are the traits we like, admire or appreciate while negative ones are those attitudes of dislike, accusation or antipathy. In this sense, the value position can be regarded as a reference through which we can detect the stance of the journalistic discourse.

There have been translation-related researches conducted within the framework of Appraisal Theory. Zhang (2002) explored the translators' attitude position in the process of translating different text types; Pérez-González (2007) utilized the concept of 'appraisal' from Martin's (2000) modelling of exchange in his examination of dubbed conversation. Qian (2011) investigated the alignment between the writer/translator and the putative reader respectively in the media texts and their translation within the framework of Attitude and Engagement. Pan (2012) discussed about the stance mediation in news translation by utilizing Appraisal Theory and Critical Discourse Analysis. Zhang (2013) examined the mediation of stance in translating global news headlines of four international events through the lens of Attitude, a sub-system of Appraisal Theory by drawing special focus on the Judgement perspective. Qin and Zhang (2020) adopted the attitude and engagement sub-systems to probe into the mediated stance in the Chinese transedited news headlines from English versions on the 2018 China-U.S. trade conflict. Pan and Liao (2021) drew on the Appraisal Theory to examine the positioning in the news translation of the regional conflicts in 2008. Zeng and Li (2023) employed Appraisal Theory to investigate the Chinese image constructed via news translation. Xi (2023) resorted to the Appraisal Theory to conduct an ethnographic study of online news viewers' affective comments. Zhao and Yan

(2023) used the Appraisal system to examine the relationship between the translation of personal pronouns and the construction of the national image. Zhu and Feng (2024) conducted a contrastive study of affect resources in *Song of Mulan* and their translation effects.

Based upon the above discussion, the following case study will be conducted by taking attitudinal resources and their value positions as analytical target, so as to investigate into the mediation of the stance in news translation by the translator through utilization of different translation methods.

3. Case Analysis

3.1 Data Collection

This study aims to explore the manipulation of foreign news by probing into the deviation of attitude resources through linguistic choices and to find out the possible factors causing these changes. With this in mind, 40 pairs of news reports are chosen, of which the source texts (hereinafter ST) are selected from different foreign news agencies such as BBC, VOA and so forth, whose reports are written in English so as to secure the source texts of the data are actual foreign news in English. The respective target texts (hereinafter TT) are all from the "Translating China" column of *The Paper*. Materials under investigation are regarded as China-related news because all the selected news is concerned with the events relevant to China or Chinese people. The data are chosen from 4 topics, namely economy, education, politics and social culture, so as to on one hand cover the most representative themes of the news reports in *The Paper* and on the other hand to compare the deviations in different topics. The date of the news ranges from April 2014 to March 2015 to ensure the reports are about the relatively latest events about China.

Nvivo10, a qualitative software, is utilized to facilitate the analysis of the data in accordance with the deviation parameters. Following are major steps for the use of *Nvivo10* to conduct the analysis: First, an e-project is established to store the texts collected for the current research in the container. Second, tree nodes are created by referring to the attitudinal resources, value positions in ST and TT, as well as deviation parameters before coding any linguistic resource. For instance, with regard to attitudinal resources, nodes with names of affect, judgment and appreciation in both ST and TT are created. The same step goes with the deviation parameters by creating tree nodes with the names such as amplification, omission, diction, generalization and specification. Third, the attitudinal resources are coded into correspondent nodes and then further coded into the nodes created in terms of the deviation parameters. Fourth, the function of matrix query can be adopted to discover the correlations between different nodes. For example, with this function, the occurrences of the linguistic resources with co-existing codes can be displayed (see Figure 2). Last, the results of the query can be output into software like Microsoft Excel to generate visual figures and tables.

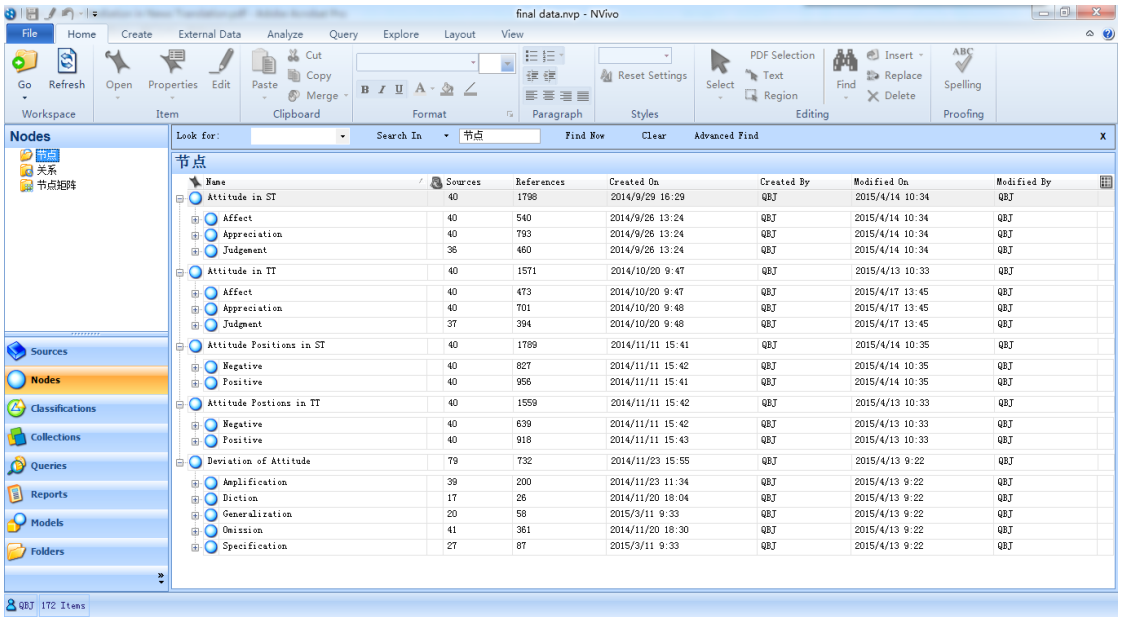
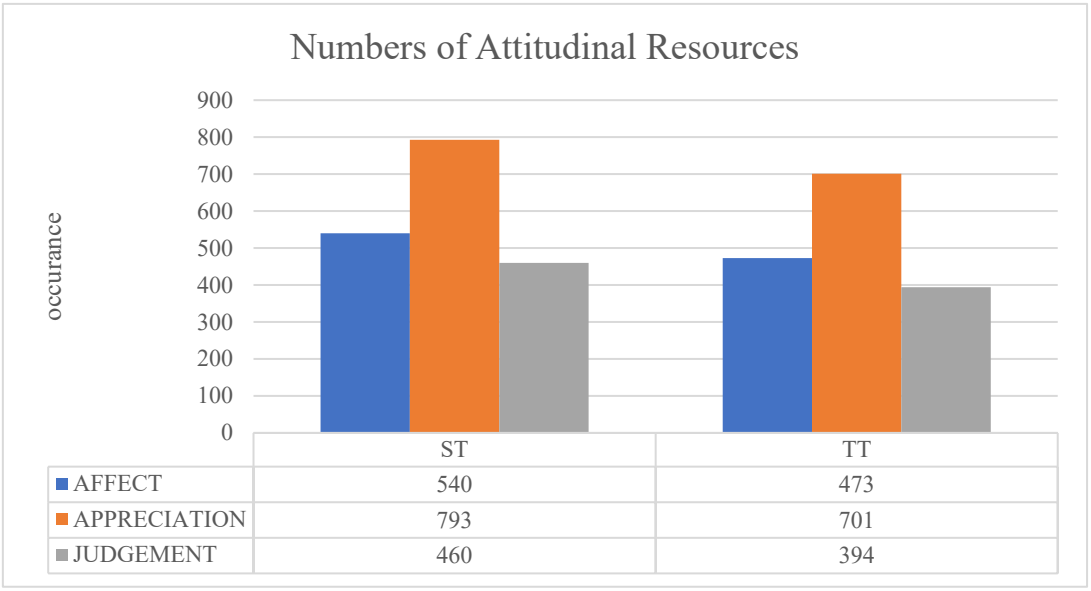


Figure 2. Interface in *Nvivo10*.

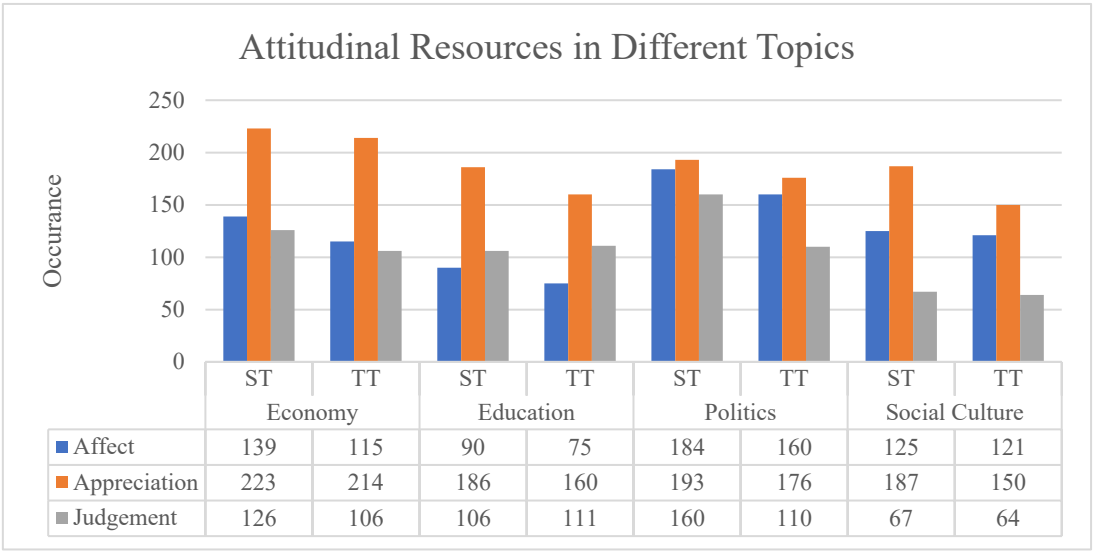
With the assistance of software *Nvivo10* and Microsoft Excel, a result of the quantified attitudinal resources in both ST and TT is presented in bar charts so as to give a general picture of data to be analysed. As can be seen in Figure 3, among all the attitudinal resources, appreciation and affect are the two most frequent ones in both ST and TT. While judgment, on the other hand, is also utilized in a considerable amount.



	ST	TT
AFFECT	540	473
APPRECIATION	793	701
JUDGEMENT	460	394

Figure 3. Attitudinal Resources in ST and TT.

In terms of the correlations between the occurrences of the attitudinal resources and the topics of news reports, appreciation is the most popular attitude resource in all the topics of both ST and TT, while affect comes second in all the topics expect for education, as indicated in Figure 4.



	ST	TT	ST	TT	ST	TT	ST	TT
	Economy		Education		Politics		Social Culture	
Affect	139	115	90	75	184	160	125	121
Appreciation	223	214	186	160	193	176	187	150
Judgement	126	106	106	111	160	110	67	64

Figure 4. Attitudinal Resources in Different Topics.

Among these statistics results, it seems that different value positions tend to be preferred in different topics. As is demonstrated in Figure 5, attitudinal resources of positive value are prevalent in topics of economy (n = 332, 67.1% in ST and n = 319, 73.5% in TT) and social culture (n = 214, 58.2% in ST and n = 194, 58.4% in TT); while in education (n = 196, 51.2%) and politics (n = 307, 58.8%) topics, negative value is the most frequent used in the ST. But situation changes in TT of education and politics topics where positive attitudinal resources are slightly more preferred by the translator.

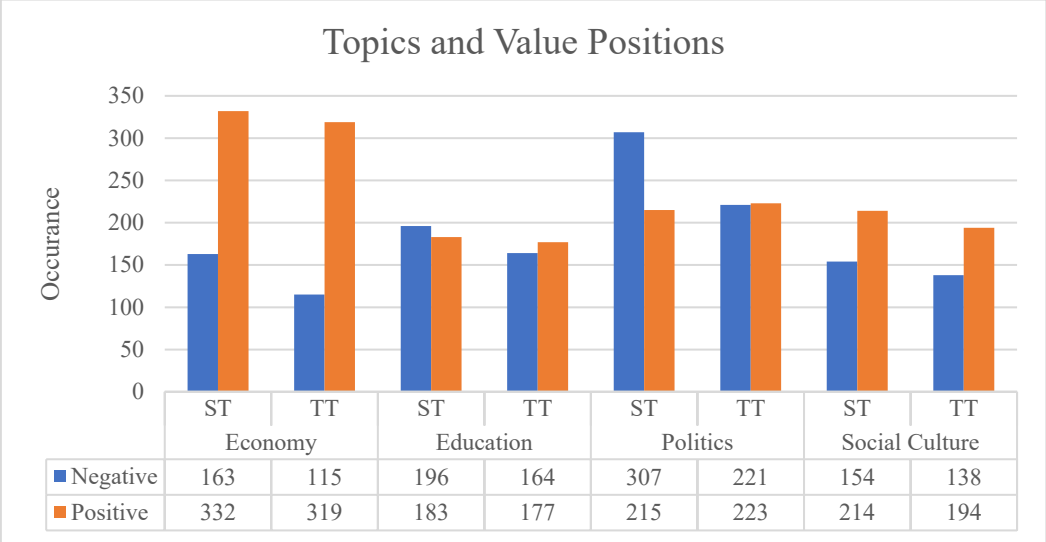


Figure 5. Topics and Value Positions.

3.2 Mediation of Stance Through Translation Methods

With the general picture of statistics in mind, the mediation of stance in news translation can be analysed with reference to the translation methods in different deviation parameters such as value positions.

3.2.1 Amplification in News Translation

According to Loh (1958, p. 122), amplification is to add in necessary words "to make the target text correct and clear". He also points out that amplification can be utilized for the sakes of syntactic conformation and semantic completion. In the current research, amplification on one hand focuses on the addition of words/phrases, which shares something in common with Loh's definition; one the other hand, however, the translation method of amplification is not aimed to fulfil the syntactic or semantic goal but the deviation of attitude and mediation of stance instead.

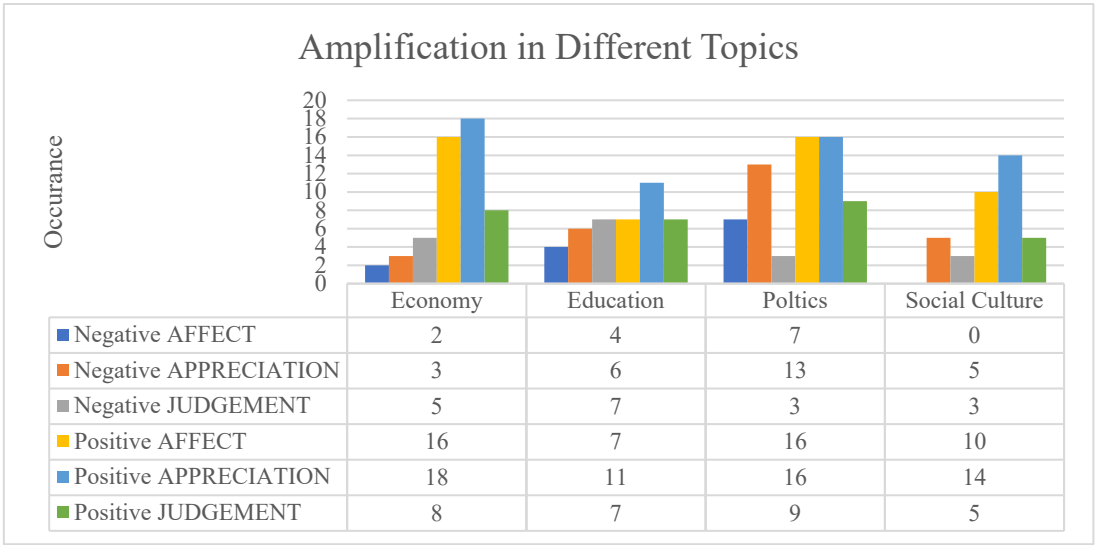


Figure 6. Addition of Different Value Positions in Different Topics.

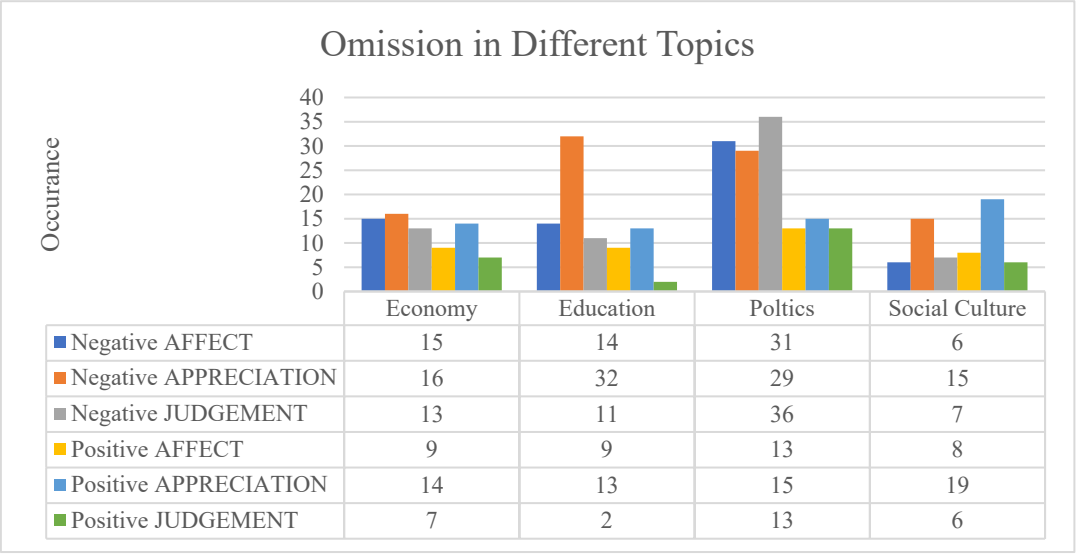
As can be seen in Figure 6, topics of economy and politics are the two kinds of news reports that witness the most amplifications in attitude resources. Translators tend to utilize extra positive attitudinal resources when translating news reports from English to Chinese. Example 1 (see in the Appendix) involves the ST and TT as well as the back-translation (hereinafter BT) of a section in a news report categorized in the politics topic. Both ST and TT discuss

the significance of the anti-corruption movement to ordinary Chinese people. However, the English report tends to describe the usefulness of the money per se by just mentioning the money saved could be "useful", and the emphasis of this report seems to lay more on the economic significance of the anti-graft movement. The addition of the value-laden attitude of "means much more" is a positive evaluation towards the importance of the anticorruption movement led by President Xi, the Chinese president who earned his fame by cracking down the domestic corruption. It focuses more on the importance of the anti-corruption movement and the well-being of the ordinary people as a whole.

3.2.2 Omission of Attitudinal Resources

Omission, according to Loh (1958, p. 96), is aimed at solving the "apparent paradox" in which "what is necessary, indispensable and even a characteristic feature in one language may be deemed useless, superfluous, and even a stumbling block in another". Loh discusses this method from the view of speech parts such as subjects, articles, and so forth. In this study, however, the focus of omission lies on the value-laden linguistic resources, through which a mediation of stance is realized.

In the translation of the collected news reports, as we can see in Figure 7, there is a trend that translators tend to omit attitudinal resources of negative value position when they render the news reports into Chinese from English. Especially in the journalistic discourse of political topics, negative value-laden linguistic items are much more likely to be omitted than positive ones. Take Example 2 for instance.



	Economy	Education	Poltics	Social Culture
Negative AFFECT	15	14	31	6
Negative APPRECIATION	16	32	29	15
Negative JUDGEMENT	13	11	36	7
Positive AFFECT	9	9	13	8
Positive APPRECIATION	14	13	15	19
Positive JUDGEMENT	7	2	13	6

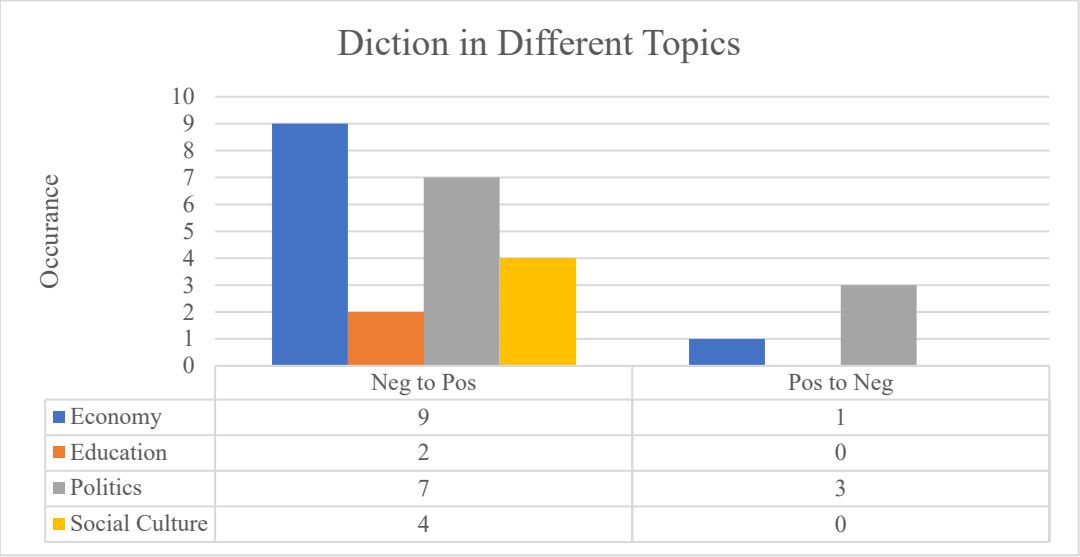
Figure 7. Omission of Different Value Positions in Different Topics.

It is a description of the agreement between China and Japan and the meeting of the political leaders from these two countries. Due to the territorial and historical dispute, the relationship between these two countries has been worsening for a few years. In the meeting, President Xi was reluctant to shake hands with Abe Shinzo, the Japanese Prime Minister. In front of the cameras, President Xi held a very displeased expression when he finally had to shake hands with Premier Minister Abe. The report from the Economist uses the words "withering" and "puckery" to describe the situation at that time, expressing an embarrassing atmosphere during the meeting. But in the translation of this report, these value-laden attitudinal resources are omitted by the translator so as to avoid spreading the awkwardness of the head of China.

3.2.3 Diction in Attitudinal Resources

Diction refers to selecting the right word to construct meaning. In the translation process, the translator would choose different linguistic resources to render a single word in the source text. In this sense, this study considers diction as the change of value position of the attitudinal resources when translating news from English to Chinese. As is shown in Figure 8, *The Paper* prefers to alter negative value-laden discourses into positive ones. Although the amount of this kind of variation is not as considerable as that of others, there is an obvious trend that news reports on economic and political topics are the ones in which diction is most likely to be utilized. Take example 3 as an instance.

The fast development of China's high-speed railway industry has been astonishing in recent years. Some people believe that it should be attributed to China's "technology theft" instead of the country's capability of innovation and development. In BBC's report, the accusation towards China was denied by the Chinese government with an emotion of wrath, which can be regarded as a negative effect and an impairment towards China's image. In the translation, however, the translator describes China's response to the accusation as solemn and just. It on the one hand proves the suspect from the outside world towards the development of China's high-speed railway is entirely groundless and on the other hand, maintains China image as a solemn and just country taking no illegal advantage of other countries.

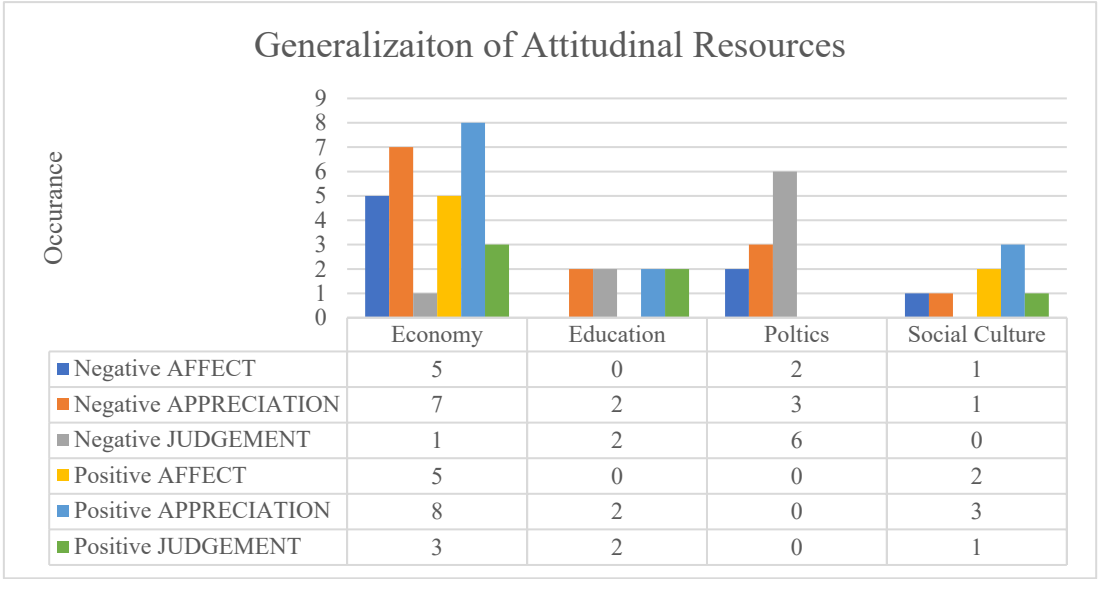


	Neg to Pos	Pos to Neg
Economy	9	1
Education	2	0
Politics	7	3
Social Culture	4	0

Figure 8. Diction of Attitudinal Resources.

3.2.4 Generalization of Attitudinal Resources

In common sense, generalization in the translation process is to render one language into another thorough abstraction of the linguistic resources. When comes to the attitudinal resources, the generalization in this study will be considered as a translation method through which the focus or the force of value-laden discourse is less intense. In Figure 9, we can conclude that in the process of news translation, negative attitudinal resources are more likely to be generalized and this kind of translation method is most frequently applied in the news of economy topic.



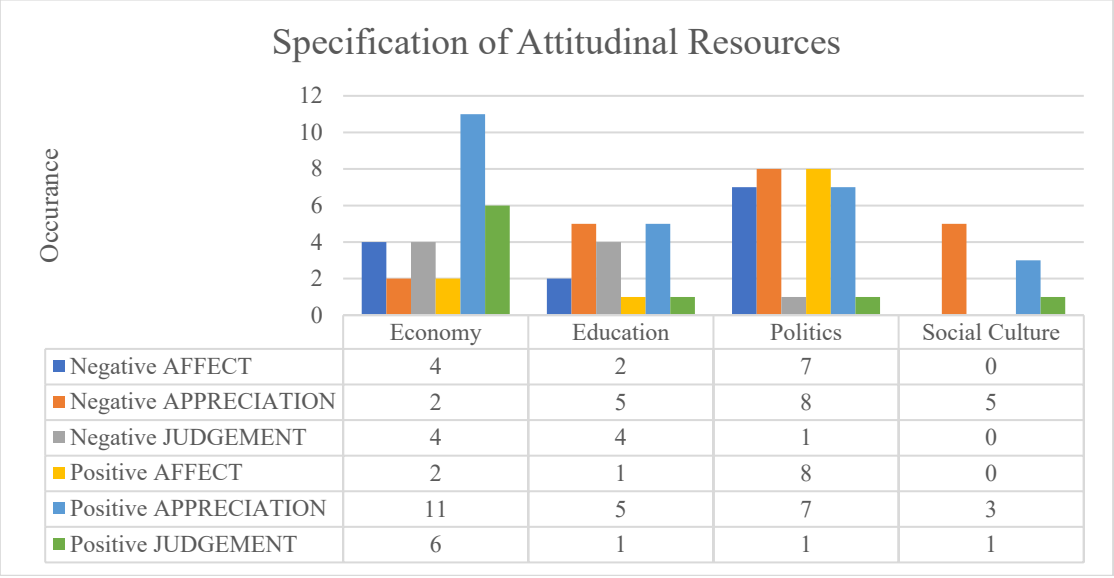
	Economy	Education	Poltics	Social Culture
Negative AFFECT	5	0	2	1
Negative APPRECIATION	7	2	3	1
Negative JUDGEMENT	1	2	6	0
Positive AFFECT	5	0	0	2
Positive APPRECIATION	8	2	0	3
Positive JUDGEMENT	3	2	0	1

Figure 9. Generalization of Attitudinal Resources.

Example 4 is extracted from a news report by *Forbes*, discussing the increasing influence of China on Latin America. The reporter believes that China is now selling goods of minor quality to the Latin American market so as to rake in a large sum of profits. In ST, the reporter uses the word "junk", which is a negative appreciation describing the poor quality of Chinese goods in an exaggerated way. In TT, however, "junk" is rendered into "goods that are below American or European quality standards" thorough a process of generalization. In the translated text, a negative appreciation is still utilized though, the degree of negative attitude is much less intense. Besides, in ST, the word "junk" implies that Chinese goods are totally worthless, but in TT, "below the American or European quality standards" may have the implication that these exported Chinese goods have met the quality demands in Latin America and China does not seize illegal profits from Latin America by selling them goods of poor quality.

3.2.5 Specification of Attitudinal Resources

On the contrary to generalization, in this study, specification is regarded as a translation method through which the extent of an attitude resource is strengthened. As is indicated in Figure 10, the translation method of the specification is most used in news reports on economy and politics topics.



	Economy	Education	Politics	Social Culture
Negative AFFECT	4	2	7	0
Negative APPRECIATION	2	5	8	5
Negative JUDGEMENT	4	4	1	0
Positive AFFECT	2	1	8	0
Positive APPRECIATION	11	5	7	3
Positive JUDGEMENT	6	1	1	1

Figure 10. Specification of Attitudinal Resources.

Example 6 discusses the cause of the war between China and India that broke out in 1962 at the borders of the two countries. A classified report which was leaked in the Internet regarded Indian government's "forward policy" against China is the major cause to the outbreak of the war. Due to the wrong policy implemented by Indian government and the gradually increasing Chinese army in these disputed areas, the situation seems to be at a dangerous status. The TT agrees with the judgment in the ST and further describes China's advantage in the contested areas by scaling up the degree of the Indian government's concerning about the worsening situation, with using metaphor to depict the status.

4. Discussion: Possible Factors of the Stance Mediation

The above analysis demonstrates that there is a trend of stance mediation in the translation of foreign news through the deviation of attitudinal resources by adopting different kinds of translation methods. This section will discuss the possible factors that may influence the mediation of the stance in translated news.

Based on the above discussion, one of the factors causing the mediation of stance in news translation is the selecting of materials in the process of translating news. As Bielsa and Bassnett (2011, p. 57) point out "translation is not conceived as a separate from other journalistic tasks of writing up and editing". In this sense, the selecting of material would have some influence on the process of translation for they are positioned in an integrated process. As mentioned in the above section, the materials translated by *The Paper* can be divided into four topics of which the economy and politics categories are the two that contain most attitudinal resources. News reports in these two topics

witness the most deviations when being translated from English to Chinese because most of the appraised targets are the most senior officials of the Chinese government such as President Xi and the then Premier Li. Some of the source materials utilizes attitudinal resources such as negative judgement to express a subjective opinion to China's leadership or to sensitive events in China. The translator has to adopt different translation methods so as to on one hand transmitting the information of the news and on the other hand properly mediate the stance of the reports.

One of the most important functions of news translation is to allow the reader to get informed of the on-going event in the outside world. When comes to this study, the major function of translating news is to tell the readers about the attitude of the outside world towards China-related affairs, which means that the target readership is a significant factor that the translator cannot ignore when translating foreign news on domestic events. In the news translation process, the translator needs to utilize different deviation patterns to mediate the stance and make it correspond to that of the target readership.

The third factor leading to the mediation in translating news is the stance of the Chinese news agency. *The Paper* is an Internet news portal launched by Shanghai United Media Group which is the incorporation of Jiefang Daily Group and Wenhui-Xinmin United Press Group. Jiefang Daily Group was the corporation that issues the official newspaper of Shanghai municipal committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Wenhui-Xinmin United Press Group is also a news corporation led by the CPC committee. In other words, *The Paper*, to a large extent place itself in the same stance with Chinese government and CPC.

The forth factor causing the deviation of attitudinal position is the influence of Chinese traditional thoughts. As a country with a long history, many traditional thoughts have been popular from generation to generation and are now still playing important roles in Chinese everyday life. As Chinese, the translator may be influenced by the traditional believes and incorporates his/her understandings toward a certain event when translating China-related news.

5. Conclusion

Based upon the analysis of 40 pieces of China-related news reports from different foreign news agencies and their translation from *The Paper*, it is demonstrated that when translating China-related foreign news, translation methods such as amplification, omission, diction, generalization, and specification can be utilized to deal with the attitudinal resources so as to realize the mediation of stance. The possible factors leading to these deviations can be investigated from the perspectives of material selection, target readership, agency stance and Chinese traditional thoughts.

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Appendix

Example	ST	TT	BT
1	Xi Jinping recently saved my family 20,000 renminbi. That's $3,255 — useful money. He saved the family of a man I met in Zhuhai last week 30,000 renminbi — even more useful money.	近些日子，习近平为我的家庭节省了 2 万人民币，意味着给我腾出了宝贵的 3255 美元留作他用。他还给我上周在珠海遇到的一位工人节省了 3 万元人民币的开支，而这些对于一个工人的家庭意义更为重大。	Xi Jinping recently saved my family 20,000 renminbi, which means $3,255 precious money for other purpose. He saved the family of a worker I met in Zhuhai last week 30,000 renminbi, which means much more to a working family.
2	Yet on November 7th China and Japan announced a four-point agreement to reduce tensions (see article). The signal agreement was later sealed when Mr Xi met Mr Abe for the first time as president. Admittedly, the withering handshake and puckery expression he offered Mr Abe lent the impression of a dog owner obliged to pick up another pooch's turd.	然而，11 月 7 日，中日宣布达成四点原则共识，以缓解紧张局势。该声明在习近平会见安倍晋三后得以签署，这是安倍再度担任日本首相后双方的首次会见。	However, on November 7, China and Japan announced they had reached a four-point principle consensus to ease tensions. The announcement was signed after Xi Jinping met with Shinzo Abe, the first meeting between the two sides since Abe reassumed the role of Prime Minister of Japan.
3	But now, China has begun building its own bullet trains and indignantly denies suggestions that its advances owe anything to stolen technology.	但是现在，中国已经开始建设自己的子弹头火车。中国已经严正否认窃取外国技术这一说法。	But now, China has begun building its own bullet trains and denies with solemn and just the suggestions that its advances owe anything to stolen technology.
4	China sends Latin America junk it wouldn't dare send to the U.S. or Europe, charging as much or more.	文章称，中国卖给拉美很多达不到美欧质量标准的商品，因为成本要高很多。	The report claims that China sells many goods that are below American or European quality standards for it charges a lot more.
5	But Henderson Brooks made plain that the conflict was provoked in part by a botched "forward policy" adopted by India to position small garrisons along the disputed borders in both the Aksai Chin, where an area the size of Switzerland is contested, and in the eastern sector, where territory three times larger—what is now Arunachal Pradesh—is at stake.	但亨德森·布鲁克斯(Henderson Brooks)却认为,战争的爆发某种程度上是由于印度施行的愚蠢的“前进政策”：向两块争议地区的边界—和瑞士一样大的阿克赛钦(Aksai Chin)及有瑞士三倍大的东北省份阿鲁纳恰尔邦（译者注：中国藏南地区），派遣小批驻防军队。如今，这里的情况危如累卵。	But Henderson Brooks made plain that the conflict was provoked in part by a foolish "forward policy" adopted by India to position small garrisons along the disputed borders in both the Aksai Chin, where an area the size of Switzerland is contested, and in the eastern sector, where territory three times larger—what is now Arunachal Pradesh (translator's note: south Tibet area of China) — is in an extremely precarious situation as the piled eggs which will fall and break at any moment.