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**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

## **A Corpus-based Study on Chunk-Explicitation in Interpreting: A Case Study of Chinese Leaders' Speeches under the COVID-19 Pandemic**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This study investigates the phenomenon of chunk explicitation in Chinese-English diplomatic interpretation during the COVID-19 pandemic. It focuses on high-frequency chunks employed by prominent national leaders, including General Secretary Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang, and State Councilor Wang Yi. The research utilizes monolingual corpus analysis and AntConc software to analyze six actual speech interpretations. It categorizes explicitation into four types: obligatory, optional, pragmatic, and translation-inherent explicitation. The study identifies three main motivations behind chunk explicitation in diplomatic interpretation: linguistic motivations stemming from syntactic and grammatical differences, cultural motivations arising from bridging cultural gaps, and interpreter motivations related to conveying information effectively. Additionally, the research assesses the implications of explicitation, including its impact on clarity, comprehensibility, and its role in conveying emotions and tone in diplomatic speeches. Chunk explicitation is a common phenomenon in Chinese-English diplomatic interpretation during the pandemic. It serves linguistic, cultural, and interpreter motivations, enhancing clarity and conveying emotions in diplomatic communication. The study contributes to diplomatic interpretation and provides practical guidance for interpreting learners and practitioners. Future research may expand the scope and classification of interpretation types, further advancing our understanding of this complex process. Ultimately, this research aids in promoting effective diplomatic communication and global understanding during crises.

### **KEYWORDS**

Pandemic, Corpus, Chunks of Interpretation, Explicitation, Translation studies

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### **1. Introduction**

The study of interpreting corpus originated from corpus translation, with Baker's 1993 publication pioneering the field. Shlesinger's 1998 publication, "Corpus-based Interpreting Studies as an Offshoot of Corpus-based Translation Studies," introduced the application of corpus in interpreting studies, marking a significant milestone in the academic community. Subsequently, the construction and research of interpreting corpus have become increasingly popular in interpretation and translation studies (Russo; Setton). In China, Hu Kaibao et al. made some achievements in constructing and researching interpreting corpus in 2007 (64-9). Following this call, more domestic research has been found. "Corpus-based interpretation research mainly includes three design schemes: corpus-based, corpus-driven, and corpus-informed. Specifically, corpus-embedded statistical analysis method, social statistical analysis method, and multi-database comparison and reference method are adopted" (Zhang Wei 145). International studies and discussions on interpreting corpus are conducted in European countries, Japan, and China.

The COVID-19 outbreak marked a significant global crisis, highlighting the complex nature of human society. Challenges and opportunities coexist alongside benefits and risks. The crisis highlighted the shared future and the need for global cooperation to create a peaceful, inclusive, and clean world.

Through public diplomacy, Chinese national leaders introduce China's development status during the pandemic to foreign leaders and the public, share experiences in fighting the pandemic, and explain relevant policies conducive to enhancing mutual trust and understanding between countries and strengthening friendly cooperation between two sides.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the global political, economic, and other fields, the foreign policies of various countries have also been affected and transformed to varying degrees.

"For China, turning the corner, telling the story of its fight against the pandemic, showing its image as a responsible major country, and continuing to promote and disseminate the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind have become important topics of public diplomacy regarding the pandemic." (Shi and Tong 28)

However, Western countries, led by the United States, have been plagued by racism and populism and have made all kinds of remarks to smear and attack China, which has made the situation of China's public diplomacy work, which is to gain recognition and promotion in other countries, more serious. Witnessing and changing the world unprecedentedly, China is becoming a vast "new force" against the discourse hegemony of the West led by the United States. Therefore, in the pandemic, China must conduct public diplomacy.

In public diplomacy, the main character is the national leader of each country. Leaders, at the core of the country's decision-making guidance role, as well as the primary protagonist of the national discourse in diplomatic activities, often reflect the international and domestic common expectations of the people's livelihood through their global discourse expressions, which play a decisive role in promoting national discourse, shape the excellent image of the country around the world, and carry out political communication and cultural exchanges between governments and international organizations. However, there are significant differences between Chinese and English regarding expression, culture, ideology, etc. Chinese is featured by parataxis with a highly concise language and compact sentence structure, while English is featured by hypotaxis with interlocking information, diverse sentence patterns, and complex sentences in the form of commonly used conjunctions; thus, its subject-predicate is distinct, and hierarchy is clear. The study of professional interpreters' translations reveals the relationship between the source language and target language in leaders' discourse, enabling accurate and flexible ways to convey political discourse with Chinese characteristics from both professional and official perspectives. These have important guiding significance to translation learners: "Tell China's stories well and make the voice of China heard."

### ***1.1 The Framework of Theories***

The concept of "translation universals" has gained popularity as a result of the growth of corpus translation research. Translation universals, according to Baker's idea, refer to "the normal linguistic traits in the target text rather than in the source language. These characteristics are not the product of a certain language system's meddling (243). Translation universals include explicitation, implication, simplification, and normalization, among which the research of "explicitation" has aroused much interest among experts and scholars at home and abroad. This term, first proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet, refers to "the process of making explicit what is implicit in the source language, which can be derived from the context or situation of the context" (342). Later, Blum-Kulka put forward the theory of the "explicitation hypothesis," which argues that "the translated version is often longer than the original because the interpreter tends to add to the original" (Pang and Hu 62). Beekman and Callow believed that "every text to be translated contains hidden meanings" (Gutt 83). In addition, Hou Yu and Wang Linhai summarized most of the empirical research results of explicit/implicit phenomena published in high-level journals at home and abroad from 2008 to 2015. Eventually, they confirmed that experts and scholars in this period were "to investigate the specific explicitation and implication for more languages from the intralingual and interlingual aspects of text types" (124-25).

Based on various research of experts and scholars, I know that Kinga Klauzy was the earliest scholar to classify explicitation. She divided explicitation into four types, namely, "obligatory explicitation," "optional explicitation," "pragmatic explicitation," and "translation-inherent explicitation."

Obligatory explicitation involves adjusting translations to conform to grammar and syntax rules in the target language. Optional explicitation allows translators to add or remove implicit information from the source language, as target readers already accept it. Pragmatic explicitation involves supplementary explanations based on cultural differences, helping target readers understand the source language's meaning. Translation-inherent explicitation differs from other classifications due to the translation process's nature. (Tang 60)

Since then, other scholars have also classified explicitation. House and Becher used the three meta-functions of language in functional linguistics to classify them. "House further subdivided Klaudy's optional explicitation into three categories: 'optional explicitation related to the conceptual function of language, related to the interpersonal function of language, and related to the textual function of language.' Becher divided the explicitation into 'interpersonal explicitation, cohesive explicitation, and referential explicitation' according to the characteristics of business text translation" (Tang 60-1).

In this century, "chunks" have gradually become the focus of scholars in second language acquisition. Becker first put it forward, and then various researchers named it into different terms according to their research purposes. "Pawley and Syder called it 'sentence stem', Nattinger and DeCarrico called it 'lexical phrase', Biber and other scholars called it 'lexical bundle', and Schmitt and Carter called it 'formula sequence'" (Jin 71). According to Wray's research in 2002, he found that the academic community has more than 50 terms for this "multi-word unit". Wray believed that the storage characteristics of "chunks" are influenced by psychological processing and formal features, hence she defined them as "a sequence, continuous or discontinuous, of words or other elements, which is, or appears to be, prefabricated: that is, stored and retrieved whole from memory at the time of use, rather than being subject to generation or analysis by the language grammar" (9). Many Chinese scholars have defined it. Diao Linlin regarded linguistic chunks as "a linguistic phenomenon consisting of two or more complete continuous or discontinuous high-frequency words" (35). According to Jin Hongxia, "chunks are units of meaning that form sentences or utterance and are stored in users' memory in multi-word form, fixed or semi-fixed" (72).

Lewis, a famous linguist, also divided chunks into five categories, which are "words," "multi-word items," "polywords," "collocations," and "institutionalized expressions" (91-4). In 2004, Biber classified the functions of discourse chunks in the domain, dividing them into "stance bundles," "discourse organizers," and "referential bundles." In addition, from the perspective of structural type and discourse function, Biber concluded that "stance bundles" are mostly "dependent clause fragments," "reference bundles" are mostly "noun phrase or prepositional phrase fragments," "prediction or intention positional bundles" are "verb phrase fragments," and "discourse organizers" are the only functional classes that use all three of the above structural types (381-98).

## **1.2 Aims and Objectives**

### **1.2.1 To Analyze Chunk Explicitation Phenomena**

- Examine the occurrence of chunk explicitation in Chinese-English diplomatic interpretation during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Categorize explicitation into four types: obligatory, optional, pragmatic, and translation-inherent explicitation.
- Identify high-frequency chunks employed by national leaders in their speeches.

### **1.2.2 To Explore Motivations for Explicitation**

- Investigate linguistic motivations rooted in syntactic and grammatical differences between Chinese and English.
- Explore cultural motivations arising from the need to bridge cultural gaps between the two languages.
- Understand interpreter motivations related to conveying information accurately and effectively.

### **1.2.3 To Assess the Implications of Explicitation**

- Evaluate the impact of explicitation on the clarity and comprehensibility of diplomatic interpretations.
- Examine how chunk explicitation contributes to conveying emotions and tone in diplomatic speeches.
- Investigate the role of explicitation in promoting China's public diplomacy efforts, particularly in a global crisis.

### **1.2.4 To Provide Guidance for Interpreting Learners and Practitioners**

- Offer practical insights and recommendations for interpreters navigating chunk explicitation challenges.
- Help to interpret learners better understand the motivations and techniques behind explicitation in diplomatic contexts.

### **1.2.5 To Contribute to Research on Diplomatic Interpretation**

- Please contribute to the body of knowledge on diplomatic interpretation and its role in global communication during crises.
- Advance our understanding of how linguistic and cultural factors influence the interpretation process.

### **1.2.6 To Suggest Directions for Future Research**

- Identify potential areas for future research, such as expanding the text analysis scope and classifying different interpretation types.
- Encourage further exploration of chunk explicitation in the field of diplomatic interpretation.

- Through this research, we aim to provide valuable insights into the complexities of diplomatic interpretation during a global crisis and shed light on the motivations and implications of chunk explicitation, ultimately contributing to enhancing diplomatic communication and global understanding.

## **2. Methodology**

### **2.1 Data Collection**

This study selected six speeches delivered by Chinese national leaders during the COVID-19 pandemic to build a self-constructed interpreting corpus. The six speeches include Xi Jinping's remarks at the G20 Leaders' Summit, the opening of the 73rd World Health Assembly, his keynote speech at the China-Africa Summit on COVID-19 solidarity, Li Keqiang's speech at the ASEAN Plus Three Summit, and a statement by H.E. Wang Yi at the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs Extraordinary Meeting and the High-level Video Conference on Belt and Road International Cooperation.

The State Council Information Office of China's White Paper states that speeches were delivered in March 2020, marking the fourth stage of the COVID-19 pandemic. The theme is "Wuhan and Hubei- An Initial Victory in a Critical Battle." China has continued to take ongoing prevention and control measures (17). In this way, this study will show national leaders' initial response and image to the world.

This study will take "chunks," a frequently occurring and continuous multi-word unit, to analyze its explicitation phenomenon and motivation in Chinese-English diplomatic interpretation during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Based on frequency and distribution range, this study extracted machine-cut continuous 3-6 chunks or lexical bundles to highlight their frequent use in natural language.

The three different structural categories of lexical chunks are as follows: "You do not have to" and "you know it was" fall under Category I verb phrase fragments, "I do not know if" and "if you have a" fall under Category II-dependent clause fragments, and "a little bit about" and "as far as the" fall under Category III noun phrase and prepositional phrase fragments. This classification is representative since it is solely based on how spoken and written chunks are distributed differently. (Biber, Conrad and Cortes 381)

In this study, the on-site interpreters selected for the six national leaders' speeches have similar learning and working backgrounds, and they are all high-level interpreters who can represent the professionalism and specialization of government agencies. With high-quality interpretation and the homogeneity of the target language, the reliability and validity of the corpus can be ensured.

AntConc software is used to analyze complementary chunks. AntConc's developer, Dr. Laurence Anthony, is a professor at the School of Science and Engineering at Waseda University in Japan. This software, a monolingual corpus analysis research tool he developed during his doctoral degree, automatically analyzes text at the sentence and discourse level. The software has functions such as "Concordance," "Concordance Plot," "File View," and "Clusters"/ "N-Gram."

Used the software to quickly split the typical high-frequency speech chunks for further text analysis, so the function used first is "N-gram." N-gram is a fundamental concept in natural language processing. It can evaluate the rationality of a sentence and the degree of difference between two strings in a particular corpus.

In the study, set the maximum number of words in the N-gram Size as 6, the minimum number of words as 3, the minimum distribution as 2, and the minimum frequency as 4. (See Operation 1 below) "The process of setting frequency cut-points is somewhat arbitrary and is designed to distinguish how 'frequently' a chunk is used" (Biber et al.; Wei).

### Operation 1

After the above process, we studied the results automatically extracted by artificial filtering AntConc software. Excluding closed class structures, such as "belt and road," "solidarity and cooperation," and broken sentence structures, such as "and Road Cooperation" and "and supply chain," the final statistics show that the number of chunks types is 47 and the number of class tokens is 270. The distribution and typical chunks of the three classifications are shown in Table 1.

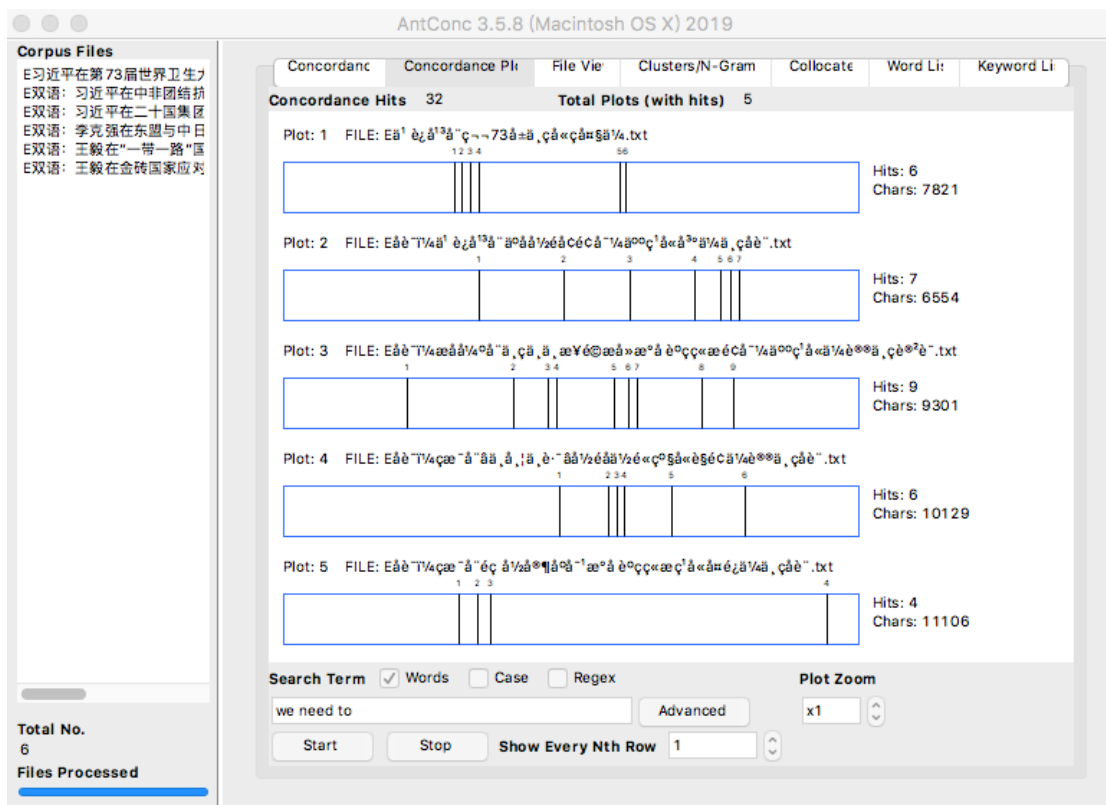
**Table 1 The distribution and typical chunks frequently occurred.**

Classification	Types	Tokens	Typical chunks frequently occurred (Frequency)
<b>Category I</b>	8	68	we need to (32)、China will work with (8)、I wish to (6)、we also need to (6)、conduct joint research (4)、defeat the virus (4)、fight against the (4)、will continue to (4)、 (There are two chunks with "family resemblance": "we need to" and "we also need to.")
<b>Category II</b>	7	32	work together to (7)、stay committed to (5)、need to enhance (4)、to build a (4)、to step up (4)、work together to build (4)、work with the (4) (There are two chunks with "family resemblance": "work together to" and "work together to build.")
<b>Category III</b>	32	170	of the world (13)、around the world (8)、community with a shared future (8)、a community with a shared future (7)、response to COVID-19 (7)、of the People's Republic of China(6)、of the virus (6)、in the face of (6)、of the World Health (6)、the

			World Health Organization (6)、and health of (6)、the virus and (6)、in the face of COVID-19 (5)、of medical supplies (5)、of the global (5)、future for mankind (5)、together to build (5)、a shared future for mankind (4)、research and development of drugs (4)、at such a (4)、between China and (4)、community of health for all (4)、community with a shared future for (4)、General of the (4)、global response to (4)、in an effort to (4)、the international community to (4)、the life and health of (4)、of the World Health Organization (4)、the People's Republic of China Beijing (4)、spread of the virus (4)、the spread of (4)  (There are several chunks with "family resemblance," such as "community with a shared future," "a community with a shared future" and "future for mankind.")
<b>Total</b>	47	270	

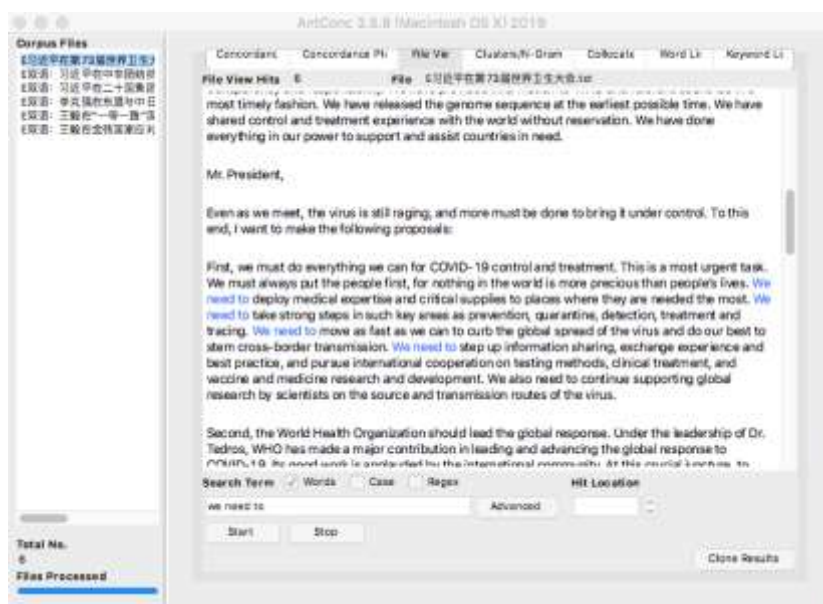
In the distribution of chunks, there are chunks with "family resemblance," which are similar in structure and semantics. "By joining and combining, these chunks can be transformed into longer, multi-word units. This feature reflects that interpretation takes chunk as a larger unit of meaning, and the co-occurrence frequency of high-frequency chunks is high, which can be used for overall storage and extraction, facilitating the translator's psychological processing on the site of the conference" (Li and Zhang 165).

After manually filtering the data automatically split by the software, click each chunk to check its "Concordance Plot" and observe the number of times and distribution positions of chunks in the document (See Operation 2 below).



## Operation 2

Click the vertical bar, and It can jump to "File View" (see Operation 3 in the figure below). After viewing the context, It can go back to the original bilingual text for comparative analysis.



## Operation 3

This study only discusses the complementary explicitation in the context due to the absence of corresponding source language, excluding the explicitation used for lexical illustration. This study takes chunks as the translation unit. The explicitation is divided into complete and partial addition (see Table 2). "φ" indicates that the source language lacks information corresponding to the chunk. The italics and underlines indicate the chunk's addition and literal translation corresponding to the source language's occurrence.

Table 2 Criteria and examples for chunk explicitation

Criteria	Source Text (ST)	Target Text (TT)
<p><b>Full addition</b> (Integral addition, no corresponding source.)</p>	<p>我们要落实好去年 ① 高峰论坛联合公报中关于加强卫生领域合作的承诺，分享抗疫经验，合作推进抗疫物资的援助与供应，药物、疫苗的研发生产， ② 加快共建“健康丝绸之路”。</p>	<p><i>As part of the efforts to</i> follow through on the health cooperation commitment set out in the Joint Communiqué of last year's <b>Belt and Road</b> Forum, we need to share our experience in the COVID-19 response and make concerted efforts for the assistance and provision of containment supplies and the research and production of therapeutics and vaccines. <b>All this will help</b> push forward the development of a "Silk Road of health."</p>
<p><b>Partial addition</b> (The italic part of the added translation has no corresponding source language, but the underlined part corresponds to the source language.)</p>	<p>① 加强政策协调，<u>统筹</u> ② 疫情防控和经济社会发展。</p>	<p><i>We need to</i> step up policy coordination and <u>maintain the right balance between proper</u> COVID-19 containment and sound socio-economic development.</p>

### 3. Data Analysis

National leaders conducted diplomatic activities in Chinese in six speeches. However, due to differences in grammar and syntax, interpreters had to add omitted source language information to the context of the leaders' speeches to ensure it was grammatically and syntactically correct and in line with the target language.

#### 3.1 Full Addition

(1) ST：各位同事，大家好！在全球抗疫的关键时刻，拉夫罗夫外长倡议召开此次外长会，具有特殊重要意义。① 感谢俄方 ② 所做的大量工作。

——王毅在金砖国家应对新冠肺炎疫情特别外长会上的发言

TT：Good evening. We are meeting at a crucial moment in the world's battle with COVID-19. Such timing has given Minister Lavrov's initiative to hold a BRICS Foreign Minister's Meeting special significance. **I wish to** thank the Russian side for its tremendous work **to assemble this meeting**.

The second sentence of the source language in the example is a typical Chinese sentence without the subject, which is a shared imperative sentence in Chinese leaders' speeches. A chunk in Category I is added in the target language: "I wish to." In this way, we can add the subject and conform to the target language's grammar and other rules and habits. At the same time, it is combined with the predicate verb "thank," which both shows the sincerity of Chinese gratitude and highlights the inheritance of modesty and courtesy in the profound Chinese culture. In this example, "to put this meeting together," wholly added to the target language, explains the ultimate goal of the Russian work. It is a pragmatic explicitation, which is conducive to understanding the target language audience.

(2) ST：面对突如其来的新冠肺炎疫情，中国政府、中国人民不畏艰险，① 始终把人民生命安全和身体健康摆在第一位。

——习近平在二十国集团领导人特别峰会上的发言

TT：Facing the COVID-19 outbreak that surprised us all, the Chinese government and people have been undaunted as we took on this formidable task. **From day one of our fight against the outbreak**, we have prioritized people's lives and health.



Chinese and English often use different lengths of sentence structures to express the same meaning. Chinese often use run-on sentences, which unfold a series of clauses in a straight narrative with concise words and rich implied information. English, however, generally does not use overly lengthy sentence patterns but pays attention to concise sentence patterns and straightforward semantics. In instantaneous interpretation, interpreters should be able to flexibly deal with the length change and the expression of connotation in converting sentences between different languages to add and delete information correctly. "From day one of our fight against the outbreak" is the complete addition to the target text. Its corresponding content is the presupposition of "始终" in the source language. The missing time premise in the source language is "from the first day of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic" rather than "from the first day of the COVID-19 pandemic". These two meanings are slightly different. Therefore, the interpreter breaks sentences to supplement and explain the missing time premise of the source language before "始终," forcing it to reveal its true meaning and reducing the pressure on the interpreter to produce the accurate target language.

### 3.2 Partial Addition

(3) ST : 我们要开展创新合作, 为全球可持续增长注入新的动力。创新就是生产力。φ 要抓住此次疫情带来的各种新业态、新模式, 加强 5G、大数据、人工智能、云计算等领域合作, φ 加快共建“数字丝绸之路”。

——王毅在“一带一路”国际合作高级别视频会议上的发言

TT : Let us cooperate in innovation to inject fresh impetus into sustainable global growth. Innovation spurs productivity. **We need to** harness new industries and business models **engendered during the COVID-19 response**, strengthen cooperation in 5G, big data, artificial intelligence, and cloud computing, **and** push forward the building of the digital Silk Road.

The source language comprises three sentences; the third has no subject. Chinese sentences without subjects are common in political texts and leaders' speeches, and the sender of action is naturally omitted. The expression in Chinese is relatively implicit, and the audience of the source language has the same thinking and expression habits. The subject-free sentences in the source language don't align with the target language's grammatical rules. To improve comprehension, the target language "we" should be added to the subject "我们" in the source language, making obligatory explicitation. The purpose is to promote the image of the democratic progress of the Chinese government and the determination to cooperate with other countries to fight the pandemic and overcome the difficulties.

The source language uses three predicate verbs in a third subject-free sentence, while the target language adds a cohesive word "and" before the third predicate verb "加快" to improve readability. The example sentences "新模式" and "新业态" are Chinese discourses, and the interpreter adds the background "engendered in the course of COVID-19 response" for easy understanding.

(4) ST : 一是 φ 全力加强防控合作, 提升公共卫生水平。

——李克强在东盟与中日韩抗击新冠肺炎疫情领导人特别会议上的讲话

TT : First, **APT countries must enhance** all-round cooperation against the epidemic and build public health capacity.

The example sentence is a typical Chinese without a subject, implying the subject. From the structure perspective, because of the completeness and logic of English, the target language has ultimately added the subject "APT Countries" (the ASEAN Plus Three Countries). Furthermore, the word "need to" in "need to enhance," which belongs to the Category II chunk, is partly translated. In terms of connotation, the Premier once had remarkable political experiences. Even in the harsh living conditions, he still insisted on sharing wealth and woe with the people and came up with many new ideas for the people to make a living. These experiences are deeply reflected in the speech style of the Premier. They speak more for the four-word case, sonorous and powerful, and straight to the point. The partial translation of "need to" as a verb in English has two meanings. The first is "to require sth./sb. because they are essential or significant". Moreover, the second one is "used to show what you should or have to do." This partial addition contains "cherish each other" and "urgent action," these two meanings in English, which mirror "efforts to strengthen" and "cooperation" in the discourses. This obligatory explicitation applies to formal occasions, showing the Premier's good expression ability and complying with English syntax and grammar rules.

### 3.3 Optional Explicitation

Although there are differences in textual construction strategies and stylistic preferences among languages, some implicit meanings in different languages can still be understood by the target language audience without specific explanation by the interpreter. Thus, the interpreter can add or not add the implicit information in the translated text.

### 3.4 Full Addition

(5) ST : 针对这次危机暴露出的短板和不足, 我们还应推动完善全球公共卫生治理, 提升其在国际议程中的位置, **φ** 打造人类卫生健康共同体。

——王毅在金砖国家应对新冠肺炎疫情特别外长会上的发言

TT : Given the weaknesses and inadequacies exposed during this crisis, we also need to enhance global public health governance, make it a higher priority on the international agenda, **and work together to** build a community of health for all.

The source language still uses common sentences in political texts, namely sentences with three predicate verbs. In the target language, a Category II chunk "work together to" is added before the third predicate, and the cohesive word "and" is used to show the logical relationship in the sentence. The added Category II chunk "work together to" is not restricted by the target language grammar nor affected by the source language information, so it is optional explication. "Work together to" is similar to "for all" in the target text. We add chunks in front of "build" to emphasize that China and the rest of the world face challenges and share common interests. It also demonstrates China's firm position as a contributor to global development.

### 3.5 Partial Addition

(6) ST : 在此, **我 φ** 首先代表中方, 向奋战在抗击疫情一线的医护人员致以崇高敬意, 向在疫情中不幸遇难的人们表示沉痛哀悼, 向 **φ** 新冠肺炎患者和他们的家庭致以诚挚慰问。

——王毅在金砖国家应对新冠肺炎疫情特别外长会上的发言

TT : First, on behalf of the Chinese side, **I wish to** pay high tribute to the healthcare workers fighting at the front lines and express deep condolences over the lives lost to the virus. My heartfelt sympathies go to **all the** patients and their families.

The source language in the example first partially adds "wish to" in "I wish to" and then wholly adds "all the." "Wish" in English can mean "to say that you hope that sb. will be happy, lucky, etc." The Spokesman expressed different emotions to medical workers and victims: "tribute" and "profound condolences." Moreover, "wish to" here is an explication. Except for expressing the Spokesman's emotion, it also selectively manifests the care for different groups and wishes, which are implicit in the source language. "All the" has been added entirely in the following paragraph, echoing the feelings of "wish to" in the previous part and expanding the range of targets to cover all patients and their families, which are in line with the spokesperson's status as a State Councilor and Foreign Minister. As a national leader, he broadened his vision to all people, transcended national, ethnic, and linguistic barriers, and expressed his hope that more people in the world would be able to survive the pandemic safely.

(7) ST : 中方将提前于年内**开工**建设非洲疾控中心总部, 同非方一道实施好中非合作论坛框架内“健康卫生行动”, 加快中非友好医院建设和中非对口医院合作, 共同打造中非**卫生健康共同体 φ**。

——习近平在中非团结抗疫特别峰会上的主旨讲话

TT : China will start ahead of schedule the construction of the Africa CDC headquarters this year. China will work with Africa to fully deliver the health care initiative adopted at the FOCAC Beijing Summit and speed up the construction of China-Africa Friendship Hospitals and the cooperation between paired-up Chinese and African hospitals. Together, we will build a China-Africa **community of health for all**.

In this example, the Category III chunk "community of health for all" appears, in which the adverbial modifier "for all" in the chunk is partly added. When "for all" is removed, "community of health" is paired with the inverted adverb "together" at the beginning of the sentence, which still reflects the concept of "community of health" in the source language. Thus, it can be seen that "for all" here does not have an indispensable influence on the transmission of the source language content, and it belongs to optional explication. I traced the "community of health for all" through the "Concordance" function of AntConc software to the source language. I found that this chunk appeared in three of the six articles in the source language corpus, and the corresponding Chinese meaning was "卫生健康共同体." Therefore, it is concluded that the chunk is often used as a fixed chunk. I found that this chunk began to appear frequently in the public with the pandemic outbreak, and its original proposer was our President Xi Jinping. On March 21, 2020, in a message of condolence to French President Emmanuel Macron on COVID-19, President Xi Jinping expressed for the first time their willingness to work with France to "build a community of human health." Since then, this has become an initiative that has received a positive response from many countries worldwide. Hence, "for all" here is closely related

to the pandemic. "For all" expresses China's unity and inclusiveness mentality and shows China's spirit of openness, transparency, and high responsibility for global public health security. It is also a powerful symbol of the sublimation of friendship and closer interaction between people in China and the rest of the world.

### 3.6 Pragmatic Explication

Translators often provide supplementary explanations based on a thorough understanding of the source language culture, aiming to help the target audience comprehend the meaning of the source language.

### 3.7 Full Addition

(8) ST : 各位同事、各位朋友,  $\varphi$  谭德塞总干事、 $\varphi$  施泰纳署长。

——王毅在“一带一路”国际合作高级别视频会议上的发言

TT : Dear Colleagues and friends, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General **of the World Health Organization**, and Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator **of the United Nations Development Programme**.

In example 8, the words “总干事” and “署长” in the source language are translated into “of the World Health Organization” and “of the United Nations Development Programme”, respectively in Category III chunk, indicating their subordinate units. When translating terms and attendees at large international conferences, interpreters add chunks to complement information missing or omitted from the source language. If the interpreter does not add chunks of the target language but only mentions the name, it will increase the cognitive pressure of the target language audience. More importantly, in national leaders' meetings, on-site interpreters need to have a complete understanding of the identity information of the participants before interpretation, make preparations, and interpret the information entirely in the process.

(9) ST : 我们将坚定不移扩大改革开放, 加大财政货币政策调节力度,  $\varphi$  推动经济和社会发展。

——李克强在东盟与中日韩抗击新冠肺炎疫情领导人特别会议上的讲话

TT : We will persist with reform and opening up and intensify fiscal and monetary policies **to** promote economic and social development.

There are significant differences between Chinese and English in the cohesive relation. Chinese emphasizes parataxis, while English emphasizes hypotaxis. The source language context is a diplomatic speech on a political occasion. Premier Li Keqiang combined three verbs and accurately delivered an important message within a limited time. The words and sentences reflected Chinese state leaders' vigorous and resolute style. The source language adopts the form of clauses, and the audience of the source language quickly understands the sentence relation. That is, the first two short sentences represent the content of the action, and the last short sentence represents the target of the action. However, the target language emphasizes complete sentence elements and clear logical relations. Therefore, the interpreter ultimately added the Category III chunk "in an effort to" in the target language, focusing on cohesive semantics, to facilitate the audience's understanding of the connection between the source language sentences quickly.

### 3.8 Partial Addition

(10) ST : 病毒没有国界,  $\varphi$  疫病不分种族。

——习近平在第 73 届世界卫生大会视频会议开幕式上的致辞

TT : The virus does not respect borders. **Nor** is race or nationality relevant **in the face of** the disease.

The source language contains two subject-predicate parallel sentences, indicating a logical connection between them. However, due to linguistic differences between the source and target languages, the interpreter did not perform a simple literal translation, resulting in a phrase like "The virus does not respect borders. The disease is not relevant to race or nationality", but added "nor" to connect the two short sentences before and after to avoid the sentence structure being too loose. On the premise of fully understanding the culture of the source language, the interpreter added an explanation to the target language. The “种族” in the source language is partially added to "or nationality." "Race" refers to people with specific appearance characteristics, while

"nationality" refers to people with the exact ethnic origin and nationality, especially those living in non-independent countries. The connotation of "种族" in the source language is added here, reflecting the translation's seriousness. It also shows that China has been upholding a two-way, fair, proactive, win-win, comprehensive, open, and inclusive pattern as a responsible major country. The interpreter ultimately added the Category III chunk "in the face of" before the "疫病." Because the "病毒" and "疫病" in the source language have similar meanings but different expressions, the interpreter tried to replace English vocabulary unconsciously when enriching the connotation of the source language. By adding the chunk, taking the form of inversion in the second phrase, and increasing the length of the target language, the interpreter can reduce cognitive load and strive for the time of the output.

(11) ST :  $\varphi$ .非洲各国政府和人民众志成城, 非洲联盟全力协调, 采取有力举措, 有效缓解了疫情 $\varphi$ .  $\varphi$ 成果来之不易。

——习近平在中非团结抗疫特别峰会上的主旨讲话

TT : ***In the same spirit***, governments and peoples in Africa have put up a united front and, under the effective coordination of the African Union, have taken strong measures to slow ***the spread of the virus*** effectively. ***These are indeed*** hard-won results.

In the example, two places are fully added, and one place is partially added. Category III chunk "of the virus" is a partial addition of pragmatic explicitation, while "In the same spirit" is a complete addition of optional explicitation. "These are indeed" is the complete addition of obligatory explicitation. First, I analyzed the complete addition of "of the virus." By using the "Concordance" function of AntConc software, I searched the text location of "the spread of" and found that this chunk appeared together with words such as "the virus" and "infection." This chunk was found in four of the six corpus sources. It can be thought of as a set of fixed chunks. In the source language, the object of "缓解" is "the speed of the spread of the pandemic," but the target language "slow" refers to the speed, while "the virus" is only a common noun without the connotation of speed. Therefore, based on this cultural difference, the target language needs to provide a supplementary explanation by adding "the spread of" as the actual object of "slow." Secondly, "In the same spirit" here is an optional explicitation, which does not affect the expression of the content of the source language. The purpose of the addition here is to show the premise of cooperation between the governments and people of African countries and enrich the connotation of the target language. Finally, because of the addition of a broken sentence in the target language compared with the source language and the fact that the English language mostly takes the non-physical object as the subject, while the Chinese language mostly takes the physical object as the subject, the target language makes an obligatory explicitation here. It adds, "These are indeed," which is consistent with the syntactic and grammatical habits of the target language.

### ***3.9 Translation-inherent Explicitation***

"Translation-inherent explicitation is a result of the nature of the translation process. The translation-inherent explicitation of chunks are mostly simple, connected and similar cycles of the added chunks." (Li and Zhang 167).

(12) ST : 第四,  $\varphi$  加强国际宏观经济政策协调。疫情对全球生产和需求造成全面冲击, 各国应该联手加大宏观政策对冲力度, 防止世界经济陷入衰退。 $\varphi$  要实施有力有效的财政和货币政策, 促进各国货币汇率基本稳定。 $\varphi$  要加强金融监管协调, 维护全球金融市场稳定。

——习近平在二十国集团领导人特别峰会上的发言

TT : Fourth, ***we need to*** enhance international macroeconomic policy coordination. The outbreak has disrupted production and demand across the globe. Countries need to leverage and coordinate their macro policies to counteract the negative impact and prevent the world economy from falling into recession. ***We must*** implement solid and effective fiscal and monetary policies to stabilize our exchange rates. ***We need to*** coordinate financial regulation better to keep global financial markets stable.

In Example 12, "we need to" appears three times. The first addition is complete, adding the missing subject and predicate in the leader's discourses, while the second and third additions are partial additions of the subject. The three occurrences of "we need to" form a simple circle. Chinese focuses on parataxis and loose structure, and the logic in sentence patterns is not obvious. This feature is more common in the speeches of national leaders, exactly as parallelism, which is concise and comprehensive. However, English focuses on hypotaxis and mostly uses cohesive words to express the logical relationship of sentence patterns.

#### 4. Conclusion

In our in-depth exploration of chunk explicitation in Chinese-English diplomatic interpretation amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, we uncovered four key categories: obligatory, optional, pragmatic, and translation-inherent explicitation. These categories are essential in adapting source language discourse to the target language during interpretation.

Obligatory explicitation was the most prevalent Category and stemmed from subject-free sentences in Chinese speeches, common in political discourse. To ensure clarity in the target language, interpreters added subjects where necessary, bridging linguistic differences.

Optional explicitation added emotional nuances by introducing supplementary information, such as verbs or adverbials, enhancing the intended tone of the speaker.

Pragmatic explicitation addressed cultural disparities, allowing interpreters to navigate cultural defaults and ensure cross-cultural sensitivity.

Translation-inherent explicitation naturally occurs during the translation process, influenced by the nature of the task.

These explicitation categories were motivated by linguistic, cultural, and interpreter considerations. Linguistic differences between Chinese and English, cultural disparities, and the fast-paced nature of diplomatic communication drove interpreters to employ explicitation.

The implications of explicitation were far-reaching. It improved clarity and comprehension, accurately conveyed emotions and tone, and ensured effective communication in diplomatic discourse.

This study provides valuable insights into the role of explicitation in Chinese-English diplomatic interpretation during a pandemic. It contributes to cross-cultural understanding, global cooperation, and effective diplomatic communication. While this research offers significant insights, future studies can broaden the scope and classification of interpretation types to deepen our understanding of this multifaceted process and its evolving dynamics. Ultimately, our findings facilitate effective diplomatic discourse and the pursuit of a shared global future.

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**Appendix**

1. Xi Jinping's Statement at Virtual Event of Opening of the 73rd World Health Assembly  
<https://www.en84.com/9027.html>
2. Xi Jinping's Statement at Virtual Event of Opening of the 73rd World Health Assembly  
<https://www.en84.com/9258.html>
3. Xi Jinping's Keynote Speech at the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity Against COVID-19  
<https://www.en84.com/9363.html>
4. Li Keqiang's Speech at Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on COVID-19  
<https://www.en84.com/9132.html>
5. Statement by H.E. Wang Yi, State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, at the Extraordinary Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs  
<https://www.en84.com/9196.html>
6. Remarks by H.E. Wang Yi, State Councilor and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, at the High-level Video Conference on Belt and Road International Cooperation  
<https://www.en84.com/9374.html>
7. Fighting Covid-19 China in Action  
[http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2020-06/07/content\\_5517737.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2020-06/07/content_5517737.htm)