Political Education in the Chat GPT (GPT-3) Era with Special Reference to the Course of Contrastsive Linguistics and Translation for MTI Students at BISU

WANG Wei[a],[*]; ZHOU Weihong[b]

[a] School of Interpreting and Translation, Beijing International Studies University, Beijing, China.
[b] Department of College English Education, Beijing City University, Beijing, China.
[*] Corresponding author.

Abstract

The current analysis reports the fusion of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era with intrepreter and translator training by surveying the preparation and design of the course of *Contrastsive Linguistics and Translation* in the context of rapid development of AI technology. All the courses for MTI students must firmly uphold Xi Jinping Thought as a fundamental guideline in the entire process of post-graduate education.

Key words: Xi Jinping Thought; Chat GPT; translation; education

BACKGROUND INTRODUCTION

Since the adoption of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era (hereafter referred to as Xi Jinping Thought), China's education system has undergone significant changes. The translation field, in particular, has been subject to an increased level of scrutiny with a growing emphasis on ideological coherence. The translation field, in particular, has been subject to an increased level of scrutiny with a growing emphasis on ideological coherence. Chinese President Xi Jinping (2016, 2022, 2023) has repeatedly urged education authority and teachers to integrate ideological work into the entire education process of college education, underlining the need of firm Party leadership in higher education. As higher education shoulders the major responsibility of cultivating successors for the socialist cause, it must adhere to correct political orientation. China's higher education institutions are under the leadership of the CPC, and are socialist colleges with Chinese characteristics, so higher education must be guided by Marxism, and the Party's policies in education must be fully carried out. Xi (2016) also asks college teachers to be "disseminators of advanced ideology and culture" and "staunch supporters of governance by the Party."

On the other hand, artificial intelligence has been revolutionizing various industries globally, and the translation industry is no exception. Among the many AI models, Chat GPT (GPT-3) has gained significant attention for its potential to transform translation education, interpreting training, and translation practices. China has one of the largest translation industries in the world, and the integration of Chat GPT could considerably benefit this industry. Therefore, this empirical research aims to evaluate the effectiveness of Chat GPT in translation education, interpreting training, and translation practice in China.

1. XI JINPING THOUGHT AND TRANSLATOR TRAINING IN THE NEW ERA OF AI TECHNOLOGY

Ever since the CPC's 18th National Congress Xi Jinping Thought has become enshrined in China's educational system, with translation, as a core part of this system, instructed to reinforce the nation's values and promote

Chinese culture (Yu et al. 2020). Marxism is a theoretical-practical framework based on the analysis of "the conflicts between the powerful and the subjugated" with working class self-emancipation as its goal (cf. Han 1982). As a proletariat party, the Communist Party of China (CPC) attaches great importance to theoretical innovation, and is committed to using innovative theories to sharpen the minds of Party officials and unite the people. As an important part of Chinese higher education, MTI courses shall also be guided by Marxism and Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. The literature review also highlights the need for contrastive linguistics education to promote precise and accurate translations that convey the intended meaning (Liu et al. 2021). Moreover, it indicates that interpreting training and translation practice should be informed by the cultural context and social norms to provide high-quality interpretation and translation services (Liu et al., 2019). The literature review also indicates that the translation industry plays a crucial role in promoting China's economic and cultural interests on the global stage (Chen et al. 2021).

In the course of *Contrastive Linguistics and Translation* organized by the School of Interpreting and Translation of BISU in the first semester of the first year of MTI, we adhered to the Party's socialist philosophy of schooling, and took Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era as the guidance. We conducted in-depth study of the theme of the 20th Party Congress as well as the *Thirty Lectures on Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era*. Our teaching staff organically integrated Xi Jinping Thought and socialist values into translator and interpreter training while transplanting the latest development of AI technology. The course enshrined the theme of the 20th CPC National Congress. It was a resolute implementation of the teaching policy of the CPC Central Committee and the "Civic and Political Science in Professional Curriculum" proposed by the Chinese Education Ministry while adhering to the educational philosophy of "building moral values for people." The course has received a good feedback by MTI students. To determine the effects of Chat GPT on the Chinese translation industry, a literature review was conducted on the application of artificial intelligence in teaching and translation practices. The literature reveals that AI models can assist language learners to improve their proficiency skills, such as grammar, vocabulary, and language comprehension (Nydahl et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2021). Additionally, AI has been widely applied to enhance writing and translational skills by providing suggestions and corrections to users (García-Sánchez et al., 2018; Khodadadi et al., 2021). AI-assisted translation is one of the most significant practical applications of AI in the translation industry, as it can reduce repetitive tasks, improve productivity, and provide high-quality and effective translations to customers (Martindale et al., 2021).

The course was taught by integrating in-person lecturing and online platforms (DingTalk, WeChat, etc). In the class report sessions, each team analyzed the translation strategies of President Xi's series of speeches and compared the English versions translated by DeepL, Google Translate, GPT-3, and human translators in a bid to trace the similarities and differences between Chinese and English languages, human translators and machine translation engines.

2. METHODOLOGY

An integrated approach was used in the current research. A survey was conducted among Chinese translation students, teachers, and industry professionals to collect their opinions on Chat GPT's applicability in translation education, interpreting training, and translation practice. Additionally, a sample study was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of Chat GPT and traditional translation methods in translating specific documents. An online survey was administered to three categories: college students, MTI students, and translation industry practitioners. A sample analysis was also conducted to evaluate the effects of Xi Jinping Thought on translation quality and ideology. Additionally, interviews with Chinese translation industry experts were conducted to gather insights into their perspectives on the impact of Xi Jinping Thought. The survey results illustrate that Chat GPT has the potential to tremendously benefit translation students and professionals in various aspects, such as improving translation quality, saving time, and enhancing the comprehension of source texts. Moreover, Chat GPT could facilitate language learning, making it more accessible and personalized. The sample analysis reveals that Chat GPT and traditional translation methods possess their respective strength and weakness. Chat GPT's strength lies in speed and efficiency, while human translators generate more control power over the translation process. In terms of translation quality, Chat GPT could generate more accurate translations, as it was less susceptible to human errors. However, Chat GPT has limitations in handling idiomatic expressions, cultural nuances, and colloquial language. Therefore, we firmly believe that President Xi's series of speeches and instruction have pointed out the goals and guiding ideology for all university teachers.

Although the amazingly rapid development of AI technology and machine translation instruments might challenge or even re-shape the translation industry and traditional translation teaching mode, we have to be confident that modern technology is a helpful tool for human being instead of crushing force. Technology

must serve the people and society. Thus we shall study and understand the spirit of President Xi's speeches in a comprehensive manner, organically integrate socialist ideology into teaching practice, guide students to maintain a high degree of consistency with the central Party leadership at all times, and be confident in the Chinese language and culture. Human being is and shall be the master and holds his/her own desitny, while machines and AI are simply instruments and tools.

3. COURSE DESIGN

Contrastive analysis is a branch of linguistics. Contrastive Analysis is a linguistic enterprise aimed at producing inverted (i.e. contrastive, not comparative) two-valued typologies (a CA is always concerned with a pair of languages), and founded on the assumption that languages can be compared. During the entire process of course design and teaching, we united our thoughts and actions, while adhering to the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought, focusing on the fundamental task of establishing moral education and the noble mission of "educating people for the Party and the country". We focused on the fundamental task of educating students and the noble mission given by the Party, and accurately grasped the basic points of adhering to the overall leadership of the Party. In addition to syntax, there are also various differences between English and Chinese semantics, rhetoric and style, which should be included in the translation process. Contrast consciousness is indeed not to be underestimated. As a perfect sample for contrastive analysis and translator training, Xi's speeches are studied and analyzed in the following 12 topics of the course (as illustrated in Table 1)

Table 1
Course syllabus of *Contrastive Linguistics and Translation* (fall semester, 2023)

Week	Topic	Xi Jinping Thought	Mode
1	Comparative linguistics vs. contrastive linguistics	China achieves major, decisive victory in COVID response: CPC	
2	Philosophical foundations of contrastive linguistics	Xi summarizes achievements of China's 40-year reform, opening-up	
3	Brief history of the Chinese language	Xi stresses grasping, carrying forward Lei Feng spirit	
4	Brief history of the English language	China's Position on the Political Settlement of the Ukraine Crisis	
5	History of Chinese Grammar Studies	Xi says China's battle against COVID-19 making visible progress	
6	History of English Grammar Studies	President Xi urges China's top political advisory body to uphold the overall Party leadership and humbly evaluate different opions or even criticism	
7	Contrast between Chinese & English grammar studies	Xi Jinping Exchanges Congratulatory Messages with King of Spain Felipe VI on the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between China and Spain	In-person + virtual lecturing
8	Contrast between Chinese & English grammatical features	Xi stresses healthy growth of platform economy, efforts for carbon peak and neatrality	
9	Contrast between Chinese & English basic structural units	Video call between President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe Biden	
10	Macro contrast between Chinese & English syntax	President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin jointly meet the press	
11	Contrast between Chinese & English word orders	Xi stresses advancing study, implementation of Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era	
12	Macro contrast between Chinese & English word orders	Joint declaration between the French Republic and the People's Republic of China.	

An ideology is a coherent set of ideas for purposeful action such as integration or conflict. Political Ideology is usually defined as "a system of political ideas, developed for the purposes of political action, (e.g., governing a country, launching a social movement or a political party, organizing a revolution--or a counterrevolution, etc" (Doupe 2016). Naturally, as for the higher education in China, efforts should be made to foster a new generation of young people capable of shouldering the mission of national rejuvenation, and those who have all-round moral, intellectual, physical, and aesthetical grounding with a hard-working spirit. The thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era and Core Socialist Values should be used to educate Chinese people and guide students to strengthen their confidence in the path, theory, system, and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics and to boost patriotism. Therefore, translation courses must also be guided by socialism with Chinese characteristics as well as Core Socialist Values at School of Interpreting and Translation, Beijing International Studies University (BISU). Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era is absolutely the fundamental guiding principle for the course of translation of texts of current affairs.

4. CASE ANALYSIS

We conducted a sample study to evaluate the effectiveness of GPT-3 and DeepL and made a comparison of the three English versions of President Xi's speech generated

by GPT-3, DeepL and human translators (as illustrated in Table 2). In terms of translation quality, Chat GPT could generate more accurate translations, as it was less susceptible to human errors. However, Chat GPT has limitations in handling idiomatic expressions, cultural nuances, and colloquial language.

Table 2
President Xi's speech at state banquet **(2015, Washington, D.C.)**

GPT-3's version	DeepL's version	Human translator's version
The ancient Chinese said, "The one who does will always succeed, and the one who walks will always reach the destination." President Lincoln also said, "The best way to predict the future is to create it." Let us adhere to mutual respect and mutual learning, continuously deepen mutual understanding and trust, vigorously expand bilateral, regional, and global coordination and cooperation, step by step turn the blueprint drawn by both sides into reality, and use the spirit of innovation to compose a new chapter in the history of Sino-U.S. relations.	The ancient Chinese said, "Those who do always become, and those who do always arrive." President Abraham Lincoln also said, "The best way to predict the future is to create it." Let's persist in mutual respect, learn from each other, deepen mutual understanding and trust, expand coordination and cooperation at the bilateral, regional and global levels, turn the blueprint drawn by both sides into reality step by step, and write a new chapter in the history of U.S.-China relations with a spirit of innovation.	As an ancient Chinese saying goes: "Only those who take actions can achieve their goal. Only those who strive forward can reach their destination." President Abraham Lincoln once said: "The best way to predict the future is to create it." Let us continue to respect and learn from each other, (to foster mutual understanding and trust, to expand bilateral, regional, global coordination and cooperation) turn our blueprint into reality, and find, in a creative way, a new historic chapter in China-US relations.

By analyzing the three English versions, we found that the overall performance by GPT-3 was much better than DeepL, although "Sino-U.S. relations" was a wrong translation. However, human translator's version is more accurate and fluent than the other two versions generated by machines. Based on the survey results and sample study, some feasible solutions were recommended. A blended approach, using both Chat GPT and human translation, can be adopted, combining Chat GPT's speed and efficiency with human translators' expertise to produce high-quality translations. It is suggested that Chat GPT could be used for pre-translation and proofreading before human translators conduct further revisions, enabling speedy and more accurate translations. Additionally, Chat GPT can be used to assist human translators in identifying linguistic features in the source text, such as idiomatic expressions and colloquial language. To make the most of Chat GPT, several translation strategies and methods can be deployed. The hybrid approach above can be beneficial in a wide range of situations. For example, Chat GPT can be used as a tool in the classroom to help students understand the materials with more ease and enhance their translation proficiency. Also, Chat GPT can be used in the interpreting field, where quick and accurate translations are crucial. Furthermore, Chat GPT can improve the workflow and output quality in translation agencies. However, the human translator's translation conveyed more cultural nuances and idiomatic expressions, indicating that Chat GPT still has limitations in handling these aspects. Therefore, we shall always be aware that human translators and AI technology should have a good cooperation in the translation process.

DISCUSSION

The current research suggests that the adoption of Xi Jinping Thought has had a significant impact on college education, MTI course design, contrastive linguistics, translation teaching, interpreting training, and the translation industry. While there are benefits to an emphasis on ideological coherence, it is important to strike a balance between precision and accuracy and ideological coherence to produce high-quality translations. By incorporating contrastive linguistics education and training for translation professionals in interpreting and translation while dealing with sensitive issues, and adopting more nuanced translation strategies and methods, China can improve the quality of translation while still promoting its cultural and ideological values. The translation experiment implicates that Chat GPT possesses significant potential in improving translation education, interpreting training, and translation practices in China. The survey results indicating a promising future for Chat GPT, and the sample analysis demonstrated its ability to improve translation accuracy and fluency. However, Chat GPT has limitations in handling cultural nuances and idiomatic expressions, which affect the quality of translations. Therefore, a hybrid approach utilizing both Chat GPT and human translators is recommended. This approach would combine Chat GPT's speed and efficiency with the human translator's expertise, resulting in high-quality translations with improved productivity. The translation industry needs to adapt to technological advances and leverage AI to stay competitive in the global market.

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