

Article

A Functionalist Perspective on the English Translation of Sino-Russian Energy Cooperation Texts

Cheng Liu ^{1,*}

¹ Southwest Petroleum University, Chengdu, Sichuan, China

* Correspondence: Cheng Liu, Southwest Petroleum University, Chengdu, Sichuan, China

Abstract: Amid the evolving global energy landscape and the Belt and Road Initiative, China-Russia energy cooperation has become a key pillar of their strategic partnership. Accurate English translation of related policy documents is crucial for international understanding and discourse dissemination. These texts are not merely linguistic artifacts but convey political, technical, and communicative intentions, requiring careful balancing of policy meaning, terminological precision, and audience comprehension. Grounded in Functionalist Translation Theory, this study analyzes representative energy cooperation texts and their English versions, focusing on translation purpose, communicative function, and audience orientation. Through comparative analysis of style, syntax, and discourse strategies, it demonstrates how functionalist principles guide effective translation of politically and economically specialized texts. The findings suggest that translators can enhance communicative effectiveness and international acceptability through stylistic adjustment, syntactic refinement, and terminological reconstruction, ensuring that policy intentions are accurately conveyed while meeting target readers' cultural expectations. The study contributes both theoretically-by extending functionalist translation theory to political and economic discourse-and practically-by offering concrete strategies for translating international energy policy documents, thereby supporting global communication and promoting the visibility of Sino-Russian energy cooperation.

Keywords: functionalist translation theory; Sino-Russian energy cooperation; English translation; cross-cultural communication; translation strategies

1. Introduction

In recent years, with the steady advancement of the Belt and Road Initiative and the continuous transformation of the global energy landscape, energy cooperation between China and Russia has become a major driving force for economic connectivity across the Eurasian region. As two of the world's leading energy producers and consumers, the two countries have deepened collaboration in oil and gas development, pipeline transportation, and the transition to green energy. Their policy documents and joint statements have emerged as key vehicles for demonstrating the depth of their strategic partnership. The English translation of these texts serves not only as a tool for policy communication but also as an instrument for international discourse dissemination and national image building.

Despite the growing significance of this field, academic research on the English translation of Sino-Russian energy cooperation texts remains limited. On the one hand, existing studies mainly focus on legal, trade, or literary texts, with relatively few analyses dedicated to political and policy-oriented energy cooperation documents. On the other hand, such texts are characterized by a high degree of politicization and technicality, which makes it difficult for traditional equivalence-based translation theories to address their complex communicative functions and cultural dimensions. Against this

Published: 27 November 2025



Copyright: © 2025 by the authors. Submitted for possible open access publication under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

background, Functionalist Translation Theory offers a new theoretical lens for translating political and policy-oriented texts.

Proposed by German scholar Hans J. Vermeer, Functionalist Translation Theory is founded on the Skopos Rule, which posits that translation should be guided by its intended purpose. In this view, both form and content of the target text must serve the communicative aims and expectations of the target readership. The theory moves beyond the traditional constraints of "faithfulness" and "equivalence," emphasizing instead the translator's active role as an intercultural mediator. For texts concerning energy cooperation, translation is not merely about linguistic accuracy but also about achieving effective communication in political and international contexts-balancing the informative function (conveying policy content), the expressive function (projecting cooperative stance), and the appellative function (encouraging understanding and action).

From the translator's perspective, the English translation of Sino-Russian energy cooperation texts presents three main challenges.

First, stylistic differences-Chinese source texts tend to favor macro-level policy discourse and a collective tone, whereas English readers expect logical coherence and explicit expression.

Second, terminological complexity-the energy sector involves a vast array of technical and policy-specific terminology, requiring precision without compromising readability.

Third, cross-cultural communication-translations must align with the cognitive and cultural expectations of international audiences, avoiding potential misinterpretation or semantic dilution.

Functionalist Translation Theory provides a flexible analytical framework that enables translators to adapt their linguistic strategies according to the communicative purpose of the text, thus maximizing its effectiveness in international dissemination.

This study selects representative Sino-Russian energy cooperation documents and their English versions as the research corpus. Through an analysis focusing on translation purpose, stylistic adaptation, terminological reconstruction, and audience orientation, the paper aims to address the following questions:

1. How can Functionalist Translation Theory guide the English translation of energy cooperation texts?
2. How can translators balance political intention and communicative function within specific discourses?
3. What translation strategies can best serve the international communication goals of energy policy?

Through these inquiries, this research seeks to reveal the applicability and value of Functionalist Translation Theory in the English translation of policy and cooperation texts, thereby offering theoretical insights and practical implications for translation teaching and practice in related fields.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Current Research on Functionalist Translation Theory

Since its emergence in Germany in the 1970s, Functionalist Translation Theory has gradually become one of the most influential paradigms in contemporary translation studies. Its central tenet is that "a translation should serve a specific communicative purpose," emphasizing the social function and goal-oriented nature of translation activities. Vermeer proposed the Skopos Theory, which posits that the translator's primary task is to select appropriate translation strategies according to the intended communicative function rather than focusing on linguistic form correspondence [1]. Reiss and Vermeer further systematized the theory by introducing three key principles-the Skopos Rule, the Coherence Rule, and the Fidelity Rule-providing a practical framework for translation operations. Building upon this foundation, Nord emphasized the notion of

loyalty, arguing that translators should respect the author's intentions while simultaneously considering the needs and cultural background of the target audience [2,3].

In China, Functionalist Translation Theory has attracted wide attention since its introduction in the 1990s. Scholars have explored both its theoretical foundations and its applicability across various domains. Hu Gengshen pointed out that the functionalist approach offers practical guidance for scientific and business translation, allowing translators to make functional adjustments at the discourse level according to communicative purposes [4]. Li Changshuan further demonstrated the operational value of this theory in translating international documents and news texts, arguing that it effectively enhances the communicative power and persuasiveness of target texts. Overall, research on Functionalist Translation Theory has expanded from theoretical inquiry to application in multiple fields. However, empirical studies focusing on "politico-economic" genres-such as policy documents, energy cooperation texts, and joint communiqués-remain limited.

2.2. Current Research on the Translation of Sino-Russian Energy Cooperation Text

With the deepening of Sino-Russian energy cooperation in recent years, scholarly attention to the translation of related documents and policy texts has been steadily increasing. Existing research can be broadly categorized into three perspectives.

First, from a discourse perspective, scholars have examined the political and rhetorical characteristics of energy cooperation texts, focusing on their diplomatic tone and ideological implications.

Second, from pragmatic and communication perspectives, studies have analyzed the acceptability and dissemination effects of English translations among international audiences, emphasizing stylistic adaptation and discourse reconstruction.

Third, from the cross-cultural communication and discourse power perspective, researchers have explored how translation functions as a medium for national image construction and international policy communication.

Nevertheless, current research still presents several notable limitations.

Firstly, most studies focus on Chinese-Russian translation, while research on Chinese-English translation remains relatively scarce-even though the latter is more relevant for international energy discourse dissemination.

Secondly, the majority of studies adopt a linguistic approach, lacking systematic theoretical support or empirical analysis from the perspective of communicative purpose and audience reception.

Thirdly, some studies treat energy cooperation documents merely as standard policy texts, overlooking their complex hybrid nature that combines political, technical, and diplomatic dimensions. As a result, their discussions of translation strategies often lack specificity and depth.

In the international scholarly community, although few Western researchers have directly examined Sino-Russian energy cooperation texts, there is a growing body of research on the English translation of international energy discourse. For instance, House analyzed the issue of discourse adaptation in energy diplomacy from the perspective of functional equivalence, arguing that "cross-cultural functional consistency" is a key goal of policy translation [5]. Bielsa and Bassnett, from the standpoint of global communication, explored how translation mediates the circulation of international policy discourse, suggesting that functionally oriented translation strategies enhance the interlingual comprehensibility of political texts [6]. These studies indicate that functionalist approaches have already intersected with policy translation research globally. However, there remains a notable gap in applying such frameworks to the English translation of Chinese energy cooperation discourse [7].

2.3. Research Gap and Innovations of This Study

In summary, prior research on Functionalist Translation Theory has established a mature theoretical foundation, with applications extending from literary and technical translation to journalism and legal texts. However, the English translation of energy cooperation documents-particularly within the Sino-Russian context-has received limited attention. Existing studies have mainly concentrated on linguistic features and political discourse representation, without offering a systematic functionalist analysis. Moreover, few studies have adequately considered the cross-cultural communicative purposes of energy cooperation texts or evaluated the effectiveness of English translations in the global discourse arena.

Therefore, this study aims to fill this research gap by applying the principles of Skopos Theory and Loyalty within Functionalist Translation Theory. Representative texts-such as joint statements and memoranda of cooperation-will be selected as case studies. The analysis will compare the Chinese source texts and their English translations, focusing on how translators adjust discourse structure, stylistic features, and information reorganization according to the intended communicative purpose to achieve optimal dissemination. By examining the functional orientation of English translations in Sino-Russian cooperation texts, this study seeks to verify the applicability of Functionalist Translation Theory to policy and energy-related translations and to propose practical strategies and paradigms for English translation of Chinese policy documents in international communication contexts.

3. Methodology

3.1. The Guiding Role of Functionalist Translation Theory in Translating English Energy Cooperation Texts

Functionalist Translation Theory emphasizes a Skopos-oriented approach, asserting that the purpose of the target text and the needs of the intended audience should guide translators' strategic decisions. In the context of translating China-Russia energy cooperation documents into English, this theory provides a systematic framework for balancing linguistic accuracy with communicative effectiveness, particularly for politically, economically, and technically complex content [7].

The three main branches of functionalist theory-Reiss's text typology, Nord's Skopos theory, and Mantari's cultural-functional model-inform translation practice in three ways:

1) Identification of Text Function:

Energy cooperation documents serve hybrid purposes: conveying policy information and facilitating international dialogue. Translators must maintain political accuracy while ensuring readability and acceptability for global audiences.

2) Audience Analysis:

The primary English-speaking audience includes international energy organizations, foreign enterprises, and academic institutions. Translation should thus embody diplomatic formality, logical clarity, and cross-cultural adaptability [8].

3) Purpose Orientation:

The ultimate goal is not mere linguistic transfer but effective dissemination and recognition of policy information internationally. Translators must maximize acceptability to ensure the translation is perceived as authoritative and credible.

3.2. Balancing Political Intention and Communicative Function: A Textual Analysis at the Sino-English Level

Energy cooperation texts combine political messaging with international communicative intent. Translators must remain faithful to national positions while enhancing clarity and acceptability for the target audience. Functionalist Translation Theory emphasizes purpose-driven translation to achieve functional equivalence at the communicative level.

For example, a passage from the 2024 China-Russia Joint Statement illustrates this:

Source Text (Chinese):

Shuangfang jiang jixu jiaqiang zai nengyuan lingyu de hezuo, tuidong youqi, meitan, dianli, ke zaisheng nengyuan deng lingyu de wushi hezuo, zhichi zai nengyuan zhuangbei zhizao, nengyuan jishu chuangxin deng fangmian de jiaoliu yu lianhe xiangmu, cujin nengyuan gongying lian anquan yu ke chixu fazhan (Pinyin used here to represent the original Chinese text without using Chinese characters, as required by the journal's English-only format. The same applies to subsequent occurrences of pinyin and will not be repeated).

Target Text (English, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs):

The two sides will continue to enhance cooperation in the energy sector, promote practical cooperation in such areas as oil and gas, coal, electricity, and renewable energy, support exchanges and joint projects in energy equipment manufacturing and energy technology innovation, and contribute to ensuring the security and sustainable development of energy supply chains.

Key Functionalist Principles Applied:

1) The Skopos Rule

According to the Skopos principle, a translation must serve its intended communicative goal. The audience here includes international energy organizations, foreign governments, and media outlets. Thus, the translation must accurately reflect China's policy stance while adopting a neutral and internationally acceptable diplomatic tone [9].

The Chinese source uses assertive expressions such as “jiaqiang hezuo” (strengthen cooperation), “tuidong” (promote), and “cujin” (advance), which convey a mobilizing tone. The English version, however, employs verbs like enhance, promote, support, and contribute to—lexical choices typical of international diplomatic documents. This adjustment tempers the assertiveness of the source text, balancing fidelity with cross-cultural acceptability and ensuring smoother communication.

2) The Coherence Rule

The coherence rule emphasizes that the target text must be understandable and logically consistent within the target culture. Here, the translator improves readability through textual restructuring [10].

The Chinese sentence adopts a paratactic structure (“tuidong(promote)... zhichi(support)... cujin (advance)...”), emphasizing coordination of actions, whereas the English translation follows a hierarchical progression: enhance cooperation → promote practical cooperation → support exchanges and joint projects → contribute to ensuring...

This logical sequencing aligns with the rhetorical conventions of international policy documents, yielding a more cohesive and reader-friendly text for English audiences.

3) The Fidelity Rule

The fidelity rule requires that translators preserve the integrity and intended meaning of the source text while achieving functional effectiveness.

Key policy terms such as “nengyuan gongying lian anquan yu ke chixu fazhan” are accurately rendered as the security and sustainable development of energy supply chains, preserving both the logical relation and semantic scope of the original. Similarly, energy technology innovation and energy equipment manufacturing reflect standardized international terminology, ensuring semantic precision and terminological consistency. These choices enhance the text's credibility and reduce potential ambiguities for foreign readers.

Summary of Functionalist Analysis

A synthesis of the three principles reveals that:

The translator adjusted stylistic register in line with the text's communicative purpose, ensuring appropriateness for international dissemination;

Textual restructuring improved coherence and logical flow;

Terminological fidelity preserved the policy's core meaning and authority.

This case demonstrates the practical value of Functionalist Translation Theory, which not only provides translators with a theoretical foundation but also strengthens the international communicability and discursive influence of energy cooperation texts.

3.3. Translation Strategies for Effective International Communication

Under the guidance of Functionalist Translation Theory, English translations of energy cooperation texts can employ the following three strategies to improve global dissemination and reception:

1) Terminological Standardization

Energy cooperation documents contain numerous technical terms such as “nengyuan anquan” (energy security), “di tan fazhan” (low-carbon development), and “youqi kan tan” (oil and gas exploration). Translators should refer to established terminologies in documents from international bodies such as the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Examples include:

“nengyuan anquan” → energy security

“di tan zhuanxing” → low-carbon transition

“nengyuan hezuo weiyuanhui” → Energy Cooperation Committee

This approach prioritizes the informative function, ensuring terminological accuracy and enhancing the professional and authoritative tone of the translation.

2) Register Adaptation

The English translation should conform to the stylistic norms of international policy discourse, using passive constructions and nominalized expressions to achieve the tone of formal institutional communication.

Example:

Source: “Shuangfang yizhi renwei ying tuidong qingjie nengyuan hezuo.”

Translation: It is agreed that cooperation in clean energy should be advanced.

This stylistic adjustment aligns the text with the linguistic conventions of global policy documents and improves its acceptability among international audiences.

3) Cultural Neutralization and Semantic Reconstruction

For expressions with strong Chinese political or cultural connotations—such as “goujian renlei mingyun gongtongti” and “gao zhiliang fazhan”—semantic reconstruction helps ensure cross-cultural intelligibility:

“goujian renlei mingyun gongtongti” → to build a community with a shared future for mankind (official translation)

“tuidong gao zhiliang fazhan” → to promote high-quality and sustainable development

This strategy follows the Skopos and cultural-functional principles of Functionalist Translation Theory, preserving semantic essence while adapting expressions to the international communicative context [11].

3.4. Summary

This chapter establishes a theoretical and methodological foundation for translating China-Russia energy cooperation texts. Key takeaways include:

- 1) Translators should follow a purpose-oriented operational framework, modeling output on authentic target-language policy discourse to ensure fluency, naturalness, and coherence.
- 2) Balancing political intention with communicative function requires flexible application of register and cultural adaptation strategies rather than rigid syntactic imitation.
- 3) Employing terminological standardization, register adaptation, and cultural neutralization enhances accuracy, readability, and international communicability.

Functionalist Translation Theory thus provides both conceptual guidance and practical tools for improving the global dissemination and discursive influence of energy cooperation documents.

4. Analysis and Discussion

4.1. Overview

This chapter applies Functionalist Translation Theory—particularly the Skopos, Coherence, and Fidelity principles—to analyze six selected Chinese-English parallel excerpts from official documents, including the China-Russia Joint Statement, communiqués on bilateral meetings, and State Council English press releases. These texts pertain directly to energy cooperation, and their official English translations reflect the authoritative external discourse of both nations.

The analysis examines how translators navigate the tension between political intent (national discourse) and communicative function (international accessibility), while identifying strategies that enhance the global dissemination of China's energy policy [12-14].

4.2. Case Analyses

Example 1

Source text (excerpt):

“Shuangfang jiang jixu jiaqiang zai nengyuan lingyu de huli hezuo, tuidong youqi, meitan, dianli, ke zaisheng nengyuan deng lingyu de wushi hezuo... cujin nengyuan gongying lian anquan yu ke chixu fazhan.”

Official English translation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs):

“The two sides will continue to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in the energy sector, promote practical cooperation in such areas as oil and gas, coal, electricity, and renewable energy ... and contribute to ensuring the security and sustainable development of energy supply chains.”

Functionalist analysis:

Skopos (Purpose Rule): The target audience includes international policymakers, enterprises, and media. The translator focuses on communication and persuasion, opting for standard diplomatic English — “strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation; promote practical cooperation” — to minimize comprehension barriers for English-speaking readers.

Coherence Rule: The Chinese parallel structure is reorganized into a logically connected English sequence (promote...; support...; contribute...), improving readability and cohesion.

Fidelity Rule: Core policy terms (energy supply chains; renewable energy) are retained with internationally accepted terminology, ensuring accuracy and verifiability.

Summary strategy: Terminological standardization, discourse restructuring (logical reordering of parallel items), and neutral register for global acceptance.

Example 2

Source text (excerpt):

“Gongtong tuijin Zhong-E liangguo qiye luoshi daxing nengyuan xiangmu, bing zai kezaisheng nengyuan, qingneng hetan shichang deng qianjing lingyu shenhua hezuo.”

Official English translation (MFA/State Council):

“Jointly promote the implementation of major energy projects by Chinese and Russian enterprises, and deepen cooperation in promising fields such as renewable energy, hydrogen energy and carbon markets.”

Functionalist analysis:

Purpose: The translation emphasizes actionability — “promote the implementation” and “deepen cooperation” — to project feasibility and attract foreign investors.

Coherence: The Chinese clause “bing... shenhua hezuo” is rendered into two coordinated verb phrases, making the logical sequence (“implementation → expansion”) explicit.

Fidelity: Specialized terms (hydrogen energy; carbon markets) are translated with global industry terminology for easy reference.

Summary strategy: Action-oriented verbs (promote; deepen) to enhance operative force; direct translation of professional terms for industry alignment.

Example 3

Source text (excerpt):

“Bingchi huli yuanze, zai xiandaihua jianshe guocheng zhong chixu shenhua he tuozhan wushi hezuo, shixian gongtong fazhan he fanrong.”

Official English translation (MFA):

“Adhering to the principle of mutual benefit, the two sides will continuously deepen and expand pragmatic cooperation during the process of modernization to achieve common development and prosperity.”

Functionalist analysis:

Purpose: The translation conveys both a value proposition (mutual benefit) and a diplomatic stance (common development). Key ideological terms are preserved but expressed in globally familiar English forms.

Coherence: The original implicit logical chain is clarified through English coordination and infinitive structure (to achieve), creating a smooth argumentative progression.

Fidelity: Political concepts like mutual benefit and common development are fully retained. The translator supplements the omitted subject (“the two sides will...”) for grammatical and rhetorical completeness.

Summary strategy: Value-term retention and enhanced logical connectivity via explicit linking devices.

Example 4

Source text (excerpt):

“Zhichi zai nengyuan zhuangbei zhizao, nengyuan jishu chuangxin deng fangmian de jiaoliu yu lianhe xiangmu.”

Official English translation (State Council/MFA):

“Support exchanges and joint projects in energy equipment manufacturing and energy technology innovation.”

Functionalist analysis:

Purpose: To clarify that cooperation covers both upstream (manufacturing) and innovative segments, appealing to international enterprises and research institutions.

Coherence: Word order aligns with English collocational norms—equipment manufacturing before technology innovation—facilitating quick recognition.

Fidelity: The information remains intact, and terms follow industry standards.

Summary strategy: Clear sectoral positioning and consistent technical terminology for sectoral integration.

Example 5

Source text (excerpt):

“Nuli quebao guoji nengyuan shichang wending qie kechixu, weihe quanqiu nengyuan chanye lian gongying lian de wending he renxing.”

Official English translation (MFA):

“Make efforts to ensure the international energy market is stable and sustainable, and maintain the stability and resilience of global energy industry and supply chains.”

Functionalist analysis:

Purpose: The sentence projects a sense of responsibility and commitment to global stability. The neutral tone (be stable and sustainable) matches international policy discourse conventions.

Coherence: The compound concept “chanye lian gongying lian” is split into industry and supply chains, mirroring English idiomatic structure and easing comprehension.

Fidelity: All key elements—stability, sustainability, resilience—are retained and globally recognizable.

Summary strategy: Conceptual segmentation and stylistic neutralization to align with international diplomatic style.

Example 6

Source text (excerpt):

“Tuidong qingjie nengyuan he ditan fazhan xiangmu, zhuli quanqiu nengyuan anquan yu ke chixu fazhan.”

Official English translation (State Council/SCIO):

“Promote clean energy and low-carbon development projects, and help advance global energy security and sustainable development.”

Functionalist analysis:

Purpose: The translation explicitly connects China’s initiative to global climate governance, using internationally resonant terms (clean energy; low-carbon; sustainable development).

Coherence: The concise and declarative structure facilitates media dissemination.

Fidelity: The verb help advance retains the promotive sense of “zhuli” without exaggeration, maintaining diplomatic objectivity.

Summary strategy: Integration with global discourse (SDG-aligned terminology); moderated and balanced tone (help advance instead of assertive verbs).

4.3. Summary of Findings

Analysis of the six cases reveals consistent application of functionalist principles:

- 1) Purpose Orientation (Skopos Priority): Translations adopt an audience-centered approach, systematically transforming policy-dense Chinese expressions into globally intelligible diplomatic English. Lexical choices and syntactic structures emphasize neutrality and universality (e.g., mutually beneficial, promote, contribute to ensuring).
- 2) Textual Coherence and Reorganization: To enhance comprehensibility, translators often restructure paratactic or elliptical Chinese clauses into well-organized English coordination or subordination, sometimes introducing explicit subjects or verb tenses (as illustrated in Examples 1–2).
- 3) Faithful yet Adaptive Rendering (Fidelity with Adaptation): Core political concepts and technical terms are preserved while stylistically neutralized to strike a balance between accuracy and acceptability (see Examples 3, 5, and 6).
- 4) Operational Strategies: Three primary techniques are employed—terminology standardization, register adaptation, and cultural neutralization (semantic reconstruction)—which facilitate effective mediation between policy communication and international reception.

Overall, Functionalist Translation Theory provides translators with a robust framework to navigate the dual imperatives of fidelity and international comprehensibility, enhancing the discursive influence of China-Russia energy cooperation texts.

5. Conclusion

This study, grounded in Functionalist Translation Theory, analyzes the English translations of representative official Chinese texts concerning China-Russia energy cooperation. Using the principles of Skopos, Coherence, and Fidelity, it systematically explores the translation characteristics of such policy-oriented materials. Through comparative and case-based analysis, the study reveals how translators navigate the balance between political intention and communicative function in international contexts

and how strategies of lexical selection, discourse restructuring, and register adjustment enable the globalized expression of China's policy discourse.

First, the findings demonstrate that the English translations of China-Russia energy cooperation texts embody a distinctly functional orientation. When translating politically sensitive and policy-driven content, translators focus not merely on linguistic correspondence but on communicative effectiveness within the target-language context. The English versions tend toward the "objective, neutral, and cooperative" style typical of international diplomatic documents. By minimizing culture-specific rhetoric and enhancing logical cohesion and syntactic clarity, translators successfully adapt policy discourse for global audiences. For instance, expressions such as "huli gongying" and "wushi hezuo" are rendered as "mutually beneficial cooperation" and "pragmatic cooperation" respectively-maintaining the core diplomatic semantics while aligning with idiomatic English political phrasing. This reflects the practical application of the Skopos principle-purpose before form.

Second, the Coherence Rule proves crucial in ensuring textual clarity and readability. As Chinese policy documents often feature paratactic or accumulative structures, direct translation may hinder comprehension for English readers. Translators address this by employing logical reorganization and syntactic simplification. For example, "jiaqiang youqi, dianli, meitan, ke zaisheng nengyuan hezuo" is rendered through coordinated and logically connected English clauses, effectively categorizing and sequencing policy items. Such restructuring enhances textual coherence and aligns with the international communication norms of clarity and operational transparency.

Third, the Fidelity Rule reflects the translator's ethical and professional responsibility in handling politically charged content. When national strategic positions or policy concepts are involved, translators maintain a high degree of fidelity, ensuring that core meanings and political implications are neither distorted nor diluted. Key terms such as carbon markets, energy security, and supply chain resilience are standardized according to internationally recognized equivalents, preserving both the integrity of the source message and the global recognizability of China's energy discourse. This "faithful yet adaptive" approach exemplifies limited fidelity under purpose priority-retaining semantic authority while optimizing communicative effectiveness.

At the theoretical level, this study confirms the applicability of Functionalist Translation Theory to policy and energy-related translation. Whereas traditional theories emphasize linguistic equivalence, functionalism offers a purpose-driven perspective that empowers translators to make justified and context-sensitive choices in political texts. The empirical findings illustrate that the flexibility of Skopos Theory accommodates the multifaceted functions of political discourse, particularly in mediating between national image construction and international audience reception.

Practically, the study provides valuable insights for future translation of energy policy, international cooperation documents, and Belt and Road-related materials. Translators should apply function-oriented strategies that include:

1. Terminological standardization to ensure conceptual precision and global interoperability;
2. Syntactic and discourse reorganization to improve logical flow and textual cohesion;
3. Register adaptation toward objective, rational, and cooperative tones suitable for international readership.

Nonetheless, this study has certain limitations. The corpus is primarily drawn from Chinese government-issued bilingual texts, without extensive comparison to Russian or third-party English translations. Moreover, while Functionalist Translation Theory effectively explains macro-level strategies, micro-level linguistic decisions could be further examined through pragmatic or discourse-analytical approaches. Future research might expand the corpus to explore functional variations across different translators and

institutions, and assess how translation choices influence international media reception and policy perception.

In conclusion, the English translation of China-Russia energy cooperation texts from a Functionalist perspective not only illuminates the internationalization of China's energy diplomacy discourse but also provides the

References

1. H. J. Vermeer, and A. Chesterman, "Skopos and commission in translational action," In *The translation studies reader*, 2021, pp. 219-230. ISBN: 9780367235970.
2. K. Reiß, and H. J. Vermeer, "Grundlegung einer allgemeinen Translationstheorie," *Walter de Gruyter*, vol. 147, 2010. ISBN: 9783484301474.
3. C. Nord, "Translating as a purposeful activity: Functionalist approaches explained," *Routledge*, 2014. ISBN: 9781315760506.
4. G. Hu, "Eco-translatology: Research foci and theoretical tenets," In *Eco-Translatology: Towards an Eco-paradigm of Translation Studies*, 2020, pp. 47-85. doi: 10.1007/978-981-15-2260-4_3.
5. J. House, "Translation as communication across languages and cultures," *Routledge*, 2015. ISBN: 9781315668956.
6. E. Bielsa, and S. Bassnett, "Translation in global news," *Routledge*, 2008. ISBN: 9780203890011.
7. K. Reiss, C. Nord, and H. J. Vermeer, "Towards a general theory of translational action: Skopos theory explained," *Routledge*, 2014. ISBN: 9781315759715.
8. I. K. Trisnawati, "Skopos theory: A practical approach in the translation process," *Englisia: Journal of Language, Education, and Humanities*, vol. 1, no. 2, 2014. doi: 10.22373/ej.v1i2.186.
9. F. Pöchhacker, "Simultaneous interpreting: A functionalist perspective," *HERMES-Journal of Language and Communication in Business*, no. 14, pp. 31-53, 1995. doi: 10.7146/hjlc.v8i14.25094.
10. X. Wang, and L. Zhou, "Research on English-Chinese Translation Techniques Based on the Skopos Theory," *Transactions on Comparative Education*, vol. 5, no. 2, pp. 1-5, 2023. doi: 10.23977/trance.2023.050201.
11. S. Trainor, "Cinema skopos: Strategic Layering and Kaleidoscopic Functionality in Screenplay Translation," *Palimpsestes. Revue de traduction*, no. 30, pp. 15-46, 2017. doi: 10.4000/palimpsestes.2393.
12. Y. Zhang, "International law in the China-Russian energy partnership: mapping the partnership-based relational approach," *Journal of International Economic Law*, vol. 26, no. 4, pp. 737-755, 2023. doi: 10.1093/jiel/jgad041.
13. C. Yang, "A study of Sino-Russian energy cooperation from the perspective of theories of International Relations," *Journal of China and International Relations*, vol. 1, no. 2, 2013. doi: 10.5278/ojs.jcir.v1i2.534.
14. R. Liu, "Sino-Russian New Energy Cooperation in the Context of 'Dual Carbon' Goal," *Problemy Dalnego Vostoka*, no. 3, pp. 52-66, 2025. doi: 10.31857/S0131281225030046

Disclaimer/Publisher's Note: The statements, opinions and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of the publisher and/or the editor(s). The publisher and/or the editor(s) disclaim responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions or products referred to in the content.