

# **The translation and interpreting of sentiment, affect and emotions in political discourse: A corpus-based analysis of decision-making processes from a risk management perspective**

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## **Abstract**

Translators and interpreters working in political settings face unique challenges, including managing uncertainty and communicative risks associated with the translation/interpreting of affect, emotions, and sentiment. The study examines the decision-making processes of translators/interpreters in political settings from a risk management perspective. It investigates the strategies employed by translators/interpreters when faced with uncertainty and communicative risks. Uncertainty risk refers to decisions about how to render an item, while communicative risk relates to the effort distribution and communicative success of the different parts of the text (Pym, 2015). The analysis draws on data samples from the Chinese/English Political Interpreting Corpus (CEPIC) (Pan, 2019), a large dataset designed for studying Chinese-to-English political translation/interpreting. The main goals of this study are to identify trends in managing uncertainty and communicative risks associated with translating/interpreting sentiment, affect and emotions, and to determine whether these aspects can serve as indicators of textual difficulty in the source text. To achieve these goals, the study utilizes AI-based tools (BERT and IBM NLU) to quantify sentiment, affect and emotions in the source and target texts, and to assess the degree of difficulty of the source text and its different sections. Unsupervised approaches are used, in order to reduce bias and ensure reproducibility of results. The findings are expected to shed light on the most common shifts used to manage the uncertainty and communicative risks inherent in political translation/interpreting. By identifying these trends, this research can contribute to the development of more effective strategies for risk management in political translation/interpreting.

## **Biography**

Mr. Fernando GABARRÓN BARRIOS is a Hong Kong PhD Fellowship student in translation/interpreting at Hong Kong Baptist University under the supervision of Dr. PAN Jun. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Translation and Interpreting from Jaume I University in Spain, and a Master of Philosophy (by research) from HKBU. After his BA graduation, he became a Research Assistant in the development of a political translation corpus at his alma mater. Next, he moved to Hong Kong to become a Research Assistant in a multidisciplinary team led by Dr. Pan, during which he received training in compiling and processing interpreting data (using methods including natural language processing and data mining) and assisted in the development of a political translation and interpreting corpus and other corpora. For his PhD, he is researching decisions made by professional translators/interpreters in political settings, from Chinese to English, under the perspective of risk management theory. He is *exploring* the current literature on risk in translation (Pym 2005, 2015) and focusing on the translation/interpreting of sensitive content (Matsushita 2015), sentiment, affect and emotions (Hjort 2017). Tapping into a large body of translation/interpreting data, the CEPIC corpus (Pan 2019), he is *investigating* the most frequent shifts made by translators/interpreters to manage communicative risks in political settings when translating/interpreting sensitive content, sentiment, affect and emotions, and whether these aspects are indicators of textual difficulty in the source text. *Explaining* trends in decisions made by professional translators/interpreters in real uncertainty or risk situations potentially facilitates an enhancement of the translation/interpreting classroom.