

Research Article

Explicitation in Generative AI Translation: A Comparative Analysis of ChatGPT and DeepSeek in Translating a Chinese Policy Text

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Abstract

With the rapid development of generative AI, increasing attention has been paid to its potential in translation practice. This study aims to investigate generative AI's use of explicitation in translation. It compares the official English translation of an international publicity text on China's green and low-carbon industrial transition, released by the State Council Information Office, with translations generated by ChatGPT and DeepSeek. Drawing on focus-point analysis, the study first identifies focus points through a comparison between the Chinese source text and its official English translation to examine explicitation use, and subsequently examines how the two generative AI models address these points. The findings reveal that ChatGPT and DeepSeek demonstrate a tendency towards explicitation, with their outputs showing considerable similarity to the official translation. Both models are effective in making implicit linguistic relations explicit, including omitted subjects, possessive relations, and logical connections between linguistic elements. However, generative AI's explicitation is primarily concentrated at the linguistic level. Compared with the official translation, the two models show limitations in preserving the stylistic features of the international publicity text and providing culture-specific background information. These findings suggest that while generative AI may serve as an effective tool for initial translation drafting, human involvement remains important for stylistic refinement and culturally informed decision-making. The study contributes to a better understanding of the capabilities and limitations of generative AI in Chinese-English translation and offers implications for the broader use of generative AI in international communication.

Keywords

Explicitation, Generative AI Translation, Chinese-English Translation, Policy Translation, ChatGPT, DeepSeek

1. Introduction

Recent advances in generative AI (GenAI), particularly the emergence of large language models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT and DeepSeek, have brought new possibilities to translation practice and attracted increasing attention in translation studies. Compared with more traditional neural machine

translation (NMT) systems, LLMs demonstrate enhanced capabilities in generating fluent and contextually appropriate translations. In addition to overall translation quality, their outputs also display distinctive linguistic features that warrant further investigation. One such feature is explicitation, a long-

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standing concept in translation studies that refers to the rendering of implicit information in the source text (ST) as explicit in the target text (TT) [1-4].

Although explicitation has been extensively examined in Translation Studies, its manifestations in GenAI translation remain underexplored. Investigating how GenAI employs explicitation can provide insights into the linguistic mechanisms and communicative potential of GenAI translation. The present study selects a text on China's green and low-carbon industrial transition for international communication and conducts a comparative analysis of its English translations generated by ChatGPT and DeepSeek. The official English translation published by the State Council Information Office is also examined as a reference. By comparing explicitation in the two GenAI translations and the official translation, this study identifies similarities and differences in their use of explicitation. The findings contribute to a better understanding of the linguistic features of GenAI translation and its potential and limitations in international communication.

1.1. Established Research on Explicitation in Human Translation

The term 'explicitation' was first formally introduced by Vinay and Darbelnet [1], who defined it as:

A stylistic translation technique which consists of making explicit in the target language what remains implicit in the source language because it is apparent from either the context or the situation.

Explicitation is a common feature of translated language widely investigated by scholars [5]. Explicitation can take various forms, including the addition of conjunctions [6, 7], an increase in the number of personal pronouns [8], the use of more specific reporting verbs [9], and the addition of background information [10, 11]. In some cases, explicitation is attributable to grammatical differences between the source and target languages and is therefore obligatory, leaving translators no choice [12]. In other cases, however, translators can decide whether to make implicit information explicit.

A substantial body of research has examined how implicit information is made explicit in translation. Blum-Kulka found that translated texts tend to exhibit a higher degree of cohesive explicitness and proposed the Explicitation Hypothesis [2]. Øverås compared literary translations between Norwegian and English and found evidence of explicitation shifts in all texts examined [13]. Olohan and Baker used the Translational English Corpus (TEC) and the British National Corpus (BNC) to investigate the use of the optional conjunction *that* after the reporting verbs SAY and TELL [14]. They found that translated English used *that* more frequently than original English, suggesting a higher degree of syntactic explicitness in translated language. Klaudy and Károly examined reporting verbs in translations between Hungarian and English and revealed translators' preference for semantically more specific verbs

[15]. Jiménez-Crespo provided evidence of greater explicitness in translated Spanish web texts by comparing them with original Spanish texts [16]. Focusing on conjunctions, Beikian et al. identified explicitation in Mehdi Ghabraei's Persian translation of *The Kite Runner* [17]. In a study of Chinese-English business translation, Feng et al. reported greater simplicity and explicitness in translated texts, reflected in a higher proportion of free combinations and literal collocations and a lower use of bound collocations, idioms, and delexical collocations [18].

1.2. Emerging Perspectives on Explicitation in GenAI Translation

Over the past few years, GenAI models have become increasingly common in translation practice. Numerous studies on GenAI translation have primarily focused on translation quality assessment (TQA), comparing the translation performance of GenAI models with that of NMT models. A substantial body of this research relied on automatic evaluation metrics, including BLEU [19], TER [20], and ChrF [21] or ChrF++ [22], or on a combination of automated metrics and qualitative evaluation, to assess the translation quality of GenAI models represented by ChatGPT in comparison with NMT systems such as DeepL and Google Translate [23-28]. Other studies assessed translation quality manually [29-33].

Although explicitation is a well-established perspective in Translation Studies, how GenAI models employ explicitation remains relatively understudied. Sun investigated the translation accuracy of ChatGPT and DeepL through the lens of implied subjects [30]. The study examined whether and how certain implicit subjects in the ST were rendered explicitly in the TT, but its primary focus was on translation quality. In their investigation of the applicability of ChatGPT in translation tasks, Du et al. noticed that ChatGPT barely represented explicitness appropriately at the discourse level [34]. To the best of my knowledge, Zhao and Lin are among the few scholars to have focused specifically on explicitation in GenAI translation [35]. They examined the optional conjunction *that* in English translations of a Chinese political text and found that ChatGPT exhibited a stronger tendency towards explicitation than both the expert translation and original English text. Their analysis suggested that ChatGPT was less sensitive to contextual factors and that the linguistic patterns observed in ChatGPT's TT were attributable to algorithmic logic. Their study demonstrated the value of explicitation as a distinct dimension in the investigation of GenAI translation.

The present study builds on and complements this emerging line of research. It identifies potential focus points of explicitation by comparing the Chinese ST with its official English TT. The focus points are then used to examine whether and how GenAI models employ explicitation when translating the same ST. The present study addresses the following research questions:

How is explicitation used in GenAI's English translations

of the Chinese policy text, with reference to the official translation?

- 1) What is the overall extent of explicitation in ChatGPT's and DeepSeek's English translations of the Chinese ST?
- 2) In what ways do ChatGPT and DeepSeek align with or differ from the official translation in their deployment of explicitation?
- 3) What does this comparison reveal about ChatGPT's and DeepSeek's use of explicitation in translation?

By addressing these questions, the study contributes to the emerging body of research on GenAI translation from an explicitation perspective. The focus-point approach complements existing research that focuses on preselected linguistic elements by adopting a broader analytical scope. As the focus points encompass different manifestations of explicitation, this approach offers a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of how GenAI-mediated translation negotiates explicitness across languages and communicative contexts. Moreover, rather than examining individual elements in isolation, the study considers the selected text as a whole, enabling an examination of how explicitation is used throughout the text and how it interacts with other translational decisions. The findings also offer insights into the practical implications of GenAI translation in communicating policy-related information across languages and cultures.

2. Materials and Methods

The Chinese ST selected for this study is 专栏 5: 中国产业绿色低碳转型为世界作出巨大贡献 (Panel 5 *China's Green and Low-Carbon Industrial Transition Has Made Significant Contributions to the World*). The text is an excerpt from Section 6 of Chapter 3 of the white paper 构建更加公正合理的全球治理体系: 中国的理念、倡议与行动 (*More Just and Equitable Global Governance: China's Principles, Proposals and Actions*), released by the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China on 17 June 2026. The English data comprise the official English translation released by the State Council Information Office on the same day, as well as English translations generated by ChatGPT (GPT-5.6 Luna) and DeepSeek (DeepSeek-V4-Pro). Given that prompt design may influence GenAI translation outputs [36-38], a deliberately concise and straightforward prompt was adopted to minimise the potential influence of additional instructions. The prompt was: 'Translate the text into English: [Chinese ST].' Web search was enabled when the outputs were generated, although neither model appears to have searched the web during translation. Both translations were retrieved on 5 September 2026. The Chinese ST and English TTs are presented in the Appendix.

This study adopts the focus-point analysis employed by Hjort-Pedersen and Faber [39]. In their study, Hjort-Pedersen and Faber closely analyzed a selected passage and identified

specific linguistic units that required translators to infer implicit information in the ST, including nominalisations, passive constructions, and culturally loaded items. Building on their approach, the present study compares the Chinese ST with its official English TT to identify instances where information that is less explicit in the ST is made explicit in the TT. This ST-TT comparison allows the study to capture actual instances of explicitation rather than infer potential points of explicitation from the ST alone. These instances are then treated as focus points for examining ChatGPT's and DeepSeek's use of explicitation. This study investigates both obligatory explicitation arising from linguistic differences and non-obligatory explicitation associated with factors such as stylistic preferences and cultural considerations. Including both types enables a more comprehensive analysis of how the two GenAI models employ explicitation.

A close comparison of the Chinese ST and the official English TT identified 14 instances of explicitation, which were consequently established as 14 focus points. These comprised nine instances in which the conjunction *and* was added to make implicit coordinating relations explicit; two instances in which the subject *it* was added to specify the logical subject omitted in the Chinese ST; two instances in which the determiners *its* and *China's* were added to make the implied relationships between the products and their origin explicit; and one instance in which background information was provided to explain a Chinese political term. According to Microsoft Word's automatic word count, the ST consists of 261 words. Yet the official translation contains 14 instances of explicitation, demonstrating the prevalence of explicitation in translation. The identified focus points cover several well-established manifestations of explicitation, and the relatively short length of the ST makes it possible to examine all instances of explicitation in depth.

The study examines the two GenAI models' use of explicitation through the lens of the identified focus points, investigating whether and how explicitation is employed in translating these points. It also compares the models' translations with the ST to explore whether explicitation occurs in other parts of the translations beyond the identified focus points. The overall frequency of explicitation in each model's output is calculated to assess the extent to which the models employ explicitation. The explicitation strategies adopted by the two models are then compared with each other and with the official English translation. The comparison highlights similarities and differences in their translation choices and reveals distinctive features of GenAI's use of explicitation.

3. Results

3.1. Overview

A total of 14 and 13 instances of explicitation were identified in ChatGPT's and DeepSeek's translations, respectively.

These numbers are either identical to or very close to the number of instances in the official translation, which contains 14 instances. Moreover, nine instances of explicitation in both ChatGPT's and DeepSeek's translations correspond exactly to the explicitation instances identified in the official translation. These nine instances consist of seven additions of the conjunction *and*, one addition of the subject *it*, and one addition of the determiner *China's*. Among the remaining five focus points, ChatGPT adopts the same explicitation strategy as the official translation in two cases, both involving the addition of *and*. DeepSeek corresponds with the official translation in one case, involving the addition of the determiner *its*. At the other two

focus points, ChatGPT's and DeepSeek's outputs are the same, but differ from the official translation. Specifically, while the official translation adds *it* as the subject of the third sentence, both ChatGPT and DeepSeek use the more specific subject *China*. Moreover, the official translation explicitly provides the time period covered by the *14th Five-Year Plan*, whereas neither ChatGPT nor DeepSeek includes this information. [Table 1](#) presents the translation strategies adopted by the two AI models at each of the 15 focus points, comparing their treatment of explicitation with that of the official translation. It also includes instances in which the AI models introduce additional explicitation beyond that found in the official translation.

Table 1. Comparison of the Two AI Models' Translation Strategies at the 15 Focus Points against the Official Translation.

Focus Point	Location	Official Translation	ChatGPT's Translation	DeepSeek's Translation
1	Title	Adding <i>and</i>	Same strategy	Same strategy
2	Sentence 1	Adding <i>and</i>	Same strategy	Same strategy
3	Sentence 2	Adding <i>it</i>	Same strategy	Same strategy
4	Sentence 2	Adding <i>and</i>	Same strategy	Same strategy
5	Sentence 2	Adding <i>and</i>	Same strategy	Different strategy
6	Sentence 2	Adding <i>and</i>	Same strategy	Same strategy
7	Sentence 3	Adding <i>it</i>	Different strategy	Different strategy
8	Sentence 3	Adding <i>and</i>	Same strategy	Same strategy
9	Sentence 3	Adding <i>and</i>	Same strategy	No explicitation
10	Sentence 4	Adding <i>its</i>	No explicitation	Same strategy
11	Sentence 4	Adding <i>and</i>	Same strategy	Same strategy
12	Sentence 4	Adding <i>and</i>	Same strategy	Same strategy
13	Sentence 4	Adding (2021-2025)	No explicitation	No explicitation
14	Sentence 4	Adding <i>China's</i>	Same strategy	Same strategy
Other	Sentence 2	Not applicable	Adding <i>China</i>	Not applicable
Other	Sentence 4	Not applicable	Adding <i>China</i>	Not applicable
Other	Sentence 4	Not applicable	Not applicable	Adding <i>this</i>

The overall frequency analysis of explicitation indicates that the two GenAI models are highly similar in terms of the extent to which explicitation is employed. ChatGPT contains slightly more instances of explicitation than DeepSeek and shows a closer correspondence with the official translation in this respect. Generally speaking, the two models adopt largely similar approaches to explicitation and demonstrate a certain degree of alignment with the official translation. Nevertheless, differences remain among the three translations. The official translation exhibits some explicitation features that are not present in either AI-generated translation, particularly in the

provision of background information.

3.2. Detailed Analysis of Explicitation in GenAI Translation

To examine the specific differences between the two GenAI models in their use of explicitation, the study conducts a sentence-by-sentence analysis of how ChatGPT and DeepSeek address each focus point.

- 1) 专栏 5: 中国产业绿色低碳转型为世界作出巨大贡献。
Official Panel 5 China's Green and Low-Carbon Industrial

Transition Has Made Significant Contributions to the World.

ChatGPT Column 5: China's Green and Low-Carbon Industrial Transformation Makes a Major Contribution to the World.

DeepSeek Box 5: China's Green and Low-Carbon Industrial Transformation Makes Significant Contributions to the World.

Focus Point 1 in the caption concerns the addition of the conjunction *and* in the translation of 绿色低碳 ('green low-carbon'). The Chinese ST does not typically require an overt conjunction to indicate the relationship between the two elements. English, by contrast, tends to rely more heavily on explicit coordination markers to signal such relationships. The addition of *and* makes the implicit coordination relation explicit in the TT. The official translation and the translations generated by ChatGPT and DeepSeek all adopt this strategy.

2) 中国是绿色发展的坚定行动派、重要贡献者。

Official China is a steadfast champion of and a major contributor to green development.

ChatGPT China is a staunch advocate and active contributor to green development.

DeepSeek China is a steadfast doer and a major contributor to green development.

This sentence contains Focus Point 2. In translating 坚定行动派、重要贡献者 ('a steadfast champion, a major contributor'), the official translation adds *and* because they are two coordinated nominal phrases that, in accordance with English usage, require an explicit conjunction to link them. The translations produced by ChatGPT and DeepSeek follow the same approach.

3) 建成了全球最大、发展最快的可再生能源体系，形成了全球最大、最完整的新能源产业链，为世界贡献了约四分之一的新增绿化面积。

Official It has built the world's largest and fastest-growing renewable energy system and the largest and most complete new energy industrial chain, contributing about one-quarter of the world's newly increased green areas.

ChatGPT It has built the world's largest and fastest-growing renewable energy system and developed the world's largest and most complete new energy industry chain. China has contributed approximately one-quarter of the world's increase in green coverage.

DeepSeek It has built the world's largest and fastest-growing renewable energy system, formed the world's largest and most complete new energy industrial chain, and contributed about one-quarter of the global increase in greening area.

This example contains Focus Points 3-6. Focus Point 3 concerns the addition of the subject *it* at the beginning of the sentence. Chinese frequently allows subjects to be omitted when they are readily recoverable from context. The ST begins directly with the predicate, with Chinese readers able to infer *China* as the subject. English, by contrast, generally requires an overt grammatical subject in a complete declarative sen-

tence. The official translation therefore introduces the pronoun *it* to refer back to *China* mentioned earlier, making the subject explicit. The translations produced by ChatGPT and DeepSeek use the same strategy by adding *it* as the subject. Focus Points 4 and 6 are similar to Focus Point 2 discussed in Example 2, as both involve the addition of *and* when translating two coordinated nominal phrases. Like the official translation, the two models' translations also add the conjunction to make the coordination relation explicit.

Focus Point 5 likewise involves the addition of *and*, but differs from the preceding cases in that *and* connects clauses rather than words or phrases. In the official translation, the three clauses separated by commas in the ST are reorganised: the first two are coordinated with *and*, while the third is rendered as a result adjunct. This adjustment not only conforms to English syntactic conventions but also clarifies the relationship between the action and its outcome, contributing to a more coherent and formal style. More importantly, this rendering smoothly shifts the communicative focus from China's domestic achievements to their implications for global benefits. ChatGPT likewise uses *and* to connect the first two clauses. However, in its translation, the third clause is presented as a separate sentence, with *China* added as its subject. Although this restructuring enhances readability by making sentences shorter, it makes the relationship between the preceding action and its consequence less explicit than in the official translation. DeepSeek, by contrast, inserts *and* between the second and third clauses, presenting the three clauses as a parallel sequence rather than foregrounding their causal relationship. This creates a more monotonous sentence rhythm, whereas the official translation uses greater structural variation and more effectively retains the rhetorical momentum of the ST.

4) 同 100 多个国家和地区广泛开展绿色能源项目合作，持续为全球尤其是广大发展中国家提供优质高效的能源低碳装备产品。

Official It has carried out extensive cooperation on green energy projects with more than 100 countries and regions, consistently providing high-quality and efficient low-carbon energy equipment and products to the world, especially to developing countries.

ChatGPT China has carried out extensive cooperation on green energy projects with more than 100 countries and regions, continuously providing high-quality and efficient low-carbon energy equipment and products, particularly to developing countries.

DeepSeek China has carried out extensive cooperation on green energy projects with more than 100 countries and regions, continuously providing high-quality and efficient low-carbon energy equipment to the world, especially to developing countries.

This sentence involves Focus Points 7-9. As with Focus Point 3 discussed in Example 3, Focus Point 7 follows a similar pattern: the omitted subject in the ST is made explicit in translation. The official translation uses *it* as the subject, whereas ChatGPT and DeepSeek both introduce *China* as the

subject. The official translation follows the English stylistic convention of referring to an established referent through a pronoun. Since *China* has already been clearly introduced in the preceding context, English readers can readily identify the referent of *it*. The use of *China* in ChatGPT's and DeepSeek's translations may be somewhat redundant by comparison. It may draw additional attention to the agent of the action rather than the action itself, potentially weakening textual cohesion and deviating from the English preference for pronominal cohesion.

Focus Point 8, 优质高效 ('high-quality efficient'), is structurally similar to Focus Point 1 in Example 1, 绿色低碳 ('green low-carbon'). The official translation and the two GenAI translations all add *and* to connect the two coordinated adjectives. Focus Point 9, 装备产品 ('equipment products'), can be interpreted as a modifier-head structure, in which 装备 ('equipment') modifies the head noun 产品 ('products'). In the official translation, the phrase is rendered as *equipment and products*, where the conjunction *and* presents the two terms as coordinate elements rather than preserving the modifier-head relationship of the ST. This rendering suggests a semantic distinction between the two terms: *Equipment* foregrounds devices or apparatus, whereas *products* highlights manufactured goods or commodities. By coordinating the two terms, the official translation captures the semantic range of the ST more comprehensively. ChatGPT adopts the same strategy. DeepSeek, however, translates it simply as *equipment*. Since *products* is omitted, the additional conjunction *and* is not required. DeepSeek's translation is more concise and readable, but it does not fully represent the semantic scope conveyed in the ST.

- 5) 风电、光伏、新能源汽车等产品出口到全球 200 多个国家和地区, 向全球提供了 70% 的风电设备、80% 的光伏组件设备, 推动全球风电和光伏发电成本分别下降超过 60% 和 80%, “十四五” 期间出口的风电和光伏产品累计为其他国家减少碳排放约 41 亿吨。

Official *Its* wind power, photovoltaic, *and* new energy vehicle products are now exported to over 200 countries and regions, supplying 70 percent of the world's wind power equipment *and* 80 percent of photovoltaic panels, driving down global wind and photovoltaic power generation costs by more than 60 percent and 80 percent, respectively. During the 14th Five-year Plan period (2021-2025), *China's* exported wind power and photovoltaic products reduced carbon emissions by approximately 4.1 billion tonnes for other countries.

ChatGPT Products such as wind power equipment, photovoltaic products, *and* new energy vehicles are exported to more than 200 countries and regions worldwide. *China* supplies 70% of the world's wind power equipment *and* 80% of photovoltaic modules, helping reduce the global costs of wind and photovoltaic power generation by more than 60% and 80%, respectively. During the 14th Five-Year Plan period,

China's exports of wind power and photovoltaic products cumulatively helped other countries reduce carbon emissions by approximately 4.1 billion tonnes.

DeepSeek *Its* wind power, photovoltaic, *and* new energy vehicle products are exported to over 200 countries and regions, supplying 70% of the world's wind power equipment *and* 80% of its photovoltaic modules. *This* has helped drive down global costs for wind power and photovoltaic power by over 60% and 80%, respectively. During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, *China's* exported wind and photovoltaic products cumulatively helped other countries reduce carbon emissions by approximately 4.1 billion tons.

This example contains the final five focus points. Focus Point 10 concerns the possessive determiner *its*, which is added at the beginning of the official translation. This use of *its* is closely related to that of *it*, as both contribute to maintaining referential continuity. DeepSeek adopts the same strategy by making the possessive relation explicit. ChatGPT, however, avoids the use of a possessive determiner by reordering the clause and, like the ST, conveys the relation implicitly. Focus Points 11 and 12 involve the addition of *and* when translating a series of nouns or phrases separated by enumeration markers in the ST. Both models adopt the same strategy as the official translation, making the implicit coordination relation explicit.

Focus Point 13 concerns the translation of the term 十四五 ('the 14th Five-Year Plan'). The official translation provides the specific time frame of the plan in parentheses, thereby making the relevant background information explicit. Although the term is familiar to Chinese readers and its temporal reference is well-known, international readers may not possess the same contextual knowledge. The inclusion of the years enables English readers to establish a temporal reference more immediately and facilitates comprehension. This treatment reflects the consideration of target readers' background knowledge, which helps reduce potential barriers to cross-cultural understanding. By contrast, neither ChatGPT nor DeepSeek provides additional temporal information in their translations. Focus Point 14 concerns the addition of the possessive element *China's* before 风电和光伏产品 ('wind power and photovoltaic products'). Both GenAI translations and the official translation explicitly indicate the relationship between China and the products in the same way.

It is also noteworthy that the three English versions differ in sentence segmentation. The official translation separates only the final clause describing achievements during the 14th Five-Year Plan period into an independent sentence. This separation is appropriate because the final clause introduces a distinct time frame and presents a different type of quantitative evidence, making it relatively independent from the preceding information. ChatGPT and DeepSeek, however, also divide the preceding clauses. ChatGPT presents the first clause as a separate sentence and combines the second and third clauses, adding *China* as the subject of the new sentence to make the subject explicit. DeepSeek merges the first two clauses and

introduces the demonstrative pronoun *this* before the third clause, thereby establishing a causal relationship between the two newly divided sentences. Such sentence segmentation improves readability and facilitates immediate comprehension. However, while sentence splitting may enhance readability, the relatively frequent use of this strategy may result in a more fragmented presentation of information, potentially weakening the rhetorical force and sense of completeness achieved through the use of longer sentences in formal official texts.

4. Discussion

The analysis demonstrates that GenAI translations exhibit a certain level of competence in the use of explicitation. The two AI-generated translations contained a total number of explicitation instances comparable to that of the official translation, with many individual instances overlapping with those identified in the official version. This indicates that GenAI is capable of recognising implicit semantic and syntactic relations in the ST and rendering them explicit through linguistic resources such as connectives, subjects, and possessive attributives. At the linguistic level, GenAI generally produces translations that are grammatically acceptable and logically coherent. This finding is consistent with Sun's observation that ChatGPT can effectively infer implied subjects and make them explicit, suggesting a fairly good capacity for handling implicit information [30].

Nevertheless, the differences between the GenAI translations and the official translation suggest that GenAI's use of explicitation is primarily confined to the linguistic level, while its responsiveness to cross-cultural communicative needs appears to be comparatively limited. Unlike GenAI, the official translation does not merely transfer linguistic information but also provides additional contextual information that may facilitate target readers' understanding. It explicitly specifies the time frame of the 14th Five-Year Plan, whereas the GenAI translations do not provide such contextual enrichment. This suggests that GenAI may still face challenges in incorporating audience-oriented and culture-specific considerations into translation. This observation echoes Du et al.'s finding that, although ChatGPT's translation performs well at the linguistic level, human translation demonstrates greater sensitivity to target readers' needs and makes more appropriate decisions about what information to add or omit [34].

Furthermore, GenAI translations differ from the official translation in terms of stylistic management. The AI models tend to enhance immediate readability by segmenting long sentences. While the strategy may improve accessibility in general translation contexts, it may fail to preserve the formality, textual cohesion, and rhetorical effects of the ST. Although GenAI demonstrates considerable capability in linguistic transfer, its ability to reproduce stylistic features and discourse conventions in political texts intended for international communication requires further improvement. This resonates with Zhao and Lin's finding that, although ChatGPT can generate

grammatically well-formed TT and demonstrate explicitation effects to some extent comparable to those found in human translation, it lacks the capacity to consciously adapt translation strategies to social contexts and communicative purposes and does not yet employ explicitation as flexibly as professional translators [35].

As a small-scale exploratory study, this research represents an initial application of focus-point analysis to the fine-grained examination of explicitation in GenAI translations. Future research could build on this initial investigation by examining a larger sample of texts of the same type to explore whether the present findings also emerge from a broader range of data. Further research could then extend the analysis to texts covering a wider range of themes and genres to investigate whether text type and communicative purpose influence GenAI models' use of explicitation. Moreover, the limitations of GenAI translation identified in the present study may be partly attributable to the use of the minimal prompt. These limitations may potentially be addressed through prompt engineering. Exploring how prompt engineering might help overcome the limitations identified in this study and enhance translation quality could be a direction for future research. In addition, comparative studies involving more GenAI models, different versions of the same model, repeated generation attempts, and varied prompting strategies could further elucidate the evolution, stability and variability of explicitation in GenAI translation. Finally, future studies could incorporate empirical approaches such as reader acceptance studies to evaluate the communicative effects of different types of explicitation in GenAI translation.

5. Conclusion

Drawing on an external publicity text concerning China's green and low-carbon industrial transition, this study compares its official English translation with the translations generated by ChatGPT and DeepSeek to investigate explicitation in GenAI's translation. The focus-point analysis suggests that both GenAI models exhibit a tendency towards explicitation, with their use of explicitation sharing certain similarities with that of the official translation. Both models are effective in supplying linguistic elements required by English grammar, such as logical connectors and explicit subjects. However, in terms of broader stylistic considerations or cross-cultural mediation, GenAI's use of explicitation may be limited.

The findings suggest that generative AI may serve as a useful tool for the initial drafting stage of translation, while human involvement remains crucial for stylistic refinement and culturally informed decision-making. During post-editing, particular attention should be paid to stylistic issues such as redundancy and excessive sentence segmentation. For culture-specific policy terms and concepts, translators should evaluate, in accordance with the communicative purpose of the text, whether additional explanatory information is required to enhance target readers' understanding.

Abbreviations

GenAI	Generative AI
LLMs	Large Language Models
NMT	Neural Machine Translation
ST	Source Text
TT	Target Text
TEC	The Translational English Corpus
BNC	The British National Corpus
TQA	Translation Quality Assessment

administration, Resources, Validation, Visualization, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing

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Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest.

Author Contributions

Rui Sun: Conceptualization, Data curation, Formal Analysis, Funding acquisition, Investigation, Methodology, Project

Appendix

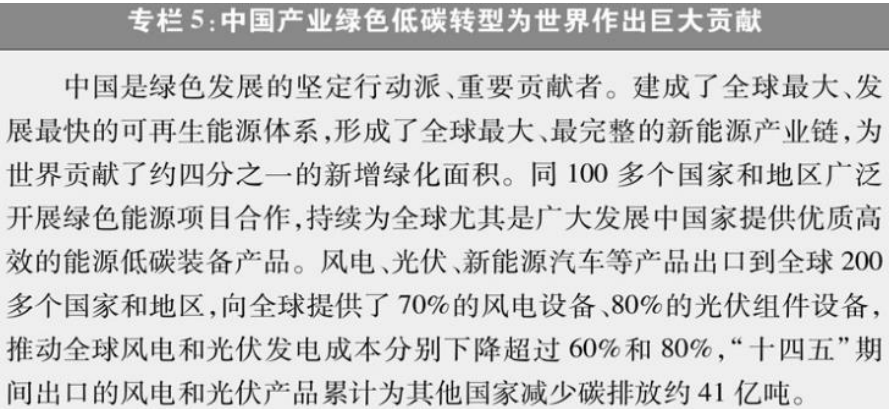


Figure 1. Chinese ST.

Panel 5 China’s Green and Low-Carbon Industrial Transition Has Made Significant Contributions to the World

China is a steadfast champion of and a major contributor to green development. It has built the world’s largest and fastest-growing renewable energy system and the largest and most complete new energy industrial chain, contributing about one-quarter of the world’s newly increased green areas. It has carried out extensive cooperation on green energy projects with more than 100 countries and regions, consistently providing high-quality and efficient low-carbon energy equipment and products to the world, especially to developing countries. Its wind power, photovoltaic, and new energy vehicle products are now exported to over 200 countries and regions, supplying 70 percent of the world’s wind power equipment and 80 percent of photovoltaic panels, driving down global wind and photovoltaic power generation costs by more than 60 percent and 80 percent, respectively. During the 14th Five-year Plan period (2021-2025), China’s exported wind power and photovoltaic products reduced carbon emissions by approximately 4.1 billion tonnes for other countries.

Figure 2. Official TT.

Column 5: China's Green and Low-Carbon Industrial Transformation Makes a Major Contribution to the World

China is a **staunch advocate and active contributor to green development**. It has built the world's largest and fastest-growing renewable energy system and developed the world's largest and most complete new energy industry chain. China has contributed approximately **one-quarter of the world's increase in green coverage**.

China has carried out extensive cooperation on green energy projects with more than **100 countries and regions**, continuously providing high-quality and efficient low-carbon energy equipment and products, particularly to developing countries. Products such as **wind power equipment, photovoltaic products, and new energy vehicles** are exported to more than **200 countries and regions worldwide**. China supplies **70% of the world's wind power equipment and 80% of photovoltaic modules**, helping reduce the global costs of wind and photovoltaic power generation by more than **60% and 80%**, respectively.

During the **14th Five-Year Plan period**, China's exports of wind power and photovoltaic products cumulatively helped other countries reduce carbon emissions by approximately **4.1 billion tonnes**.

Figure 3. ChatGPT's TT.

Box 5: China's Green and Low-Carbon Industrial Transformation Makes Significant Contributions to the World

China is a steadfast doer and a major contributor to green development. It has built the world's largest and fastest-growing renewable energy system, formed the world's largest and most complete new energy industrial chain, and contributed about one-quarter of the global increase in greening area. China has carried out extensive cooperation on green energy projects with more than 100 countries and regions, continuously providing high-quality and efficient low-carbon energy equipment to the world, especially to developing countries. Its wind power, photovoltaic, and new energy vehicle products are exported to over 200 countries and regions, supplying 70% of the world's wind power equipment and 80% of its photovoltaic modules. This has helped drive down global costs for wind power and photovoltaic power by over 60% and 80%, respectively. During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China's exported wind and photovoltaic products cumulatively helped other countries reduce carbon emissions by approximately 4.1 billion tons.

Figure 4. DeepSeek's TT.

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