

# Corpus-based Study of the Stance Adverbials in Chinese-English Political Texts

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## 1. Theoretical background

Evaluation is the broad cover term for the expression of the speaker or writer's attitude or stance towards, a viewpoint on, or feelings about the entities or propositions that he or she is talking about (Hunston & Thompson 2000: 5). The evaluative function of language is not a new research field. In Speech Act Theory, Austin pointed out that language has illocutionary force which expresses the speaker's intention. The development of corpus linguistics changes the studies on evaluation in text from being based on linguistic intuitions to systematic observation of naturally occurring data. As a result, research findings are much more convincing. As Channell (2000) put it, corpus-based analysis is likely to introduce greater rigor into theory testing than using isolated data obtained from deductive introspection. Conrad and Biber (2000) also apply corpus-based methods to study the ways in which speakers and writers use adverbials to mark their personal stance and define three major domains: epistemic stance which comments on the certainty, reliability or limitations of a proposition; attitudinal stance conveying the speaker's attitudes, feelings or value judgments; style stance describing the manner in which the information is presented. Subclasses are defined in the major domains. For example, epistemic stance has five adverbial classes: doubt/certainty (certainly, perhaps), actuality (actually, in fact), imprecision (like, sort of), source of information (according to), limitation/perspective (generally). Iiana (2001) investigates how people talk about the status of their knowledge through an empirical study of evidential strategies in narrative retelling, and defines five categories of epistemological stance: personal experience, reportive, inferential, factual and imaginative. The above studies focus on languages in Indo-European family. The recent literature is also rich in the studies of Chinese stance adverbials. In "The pragmatic functions of stance adverbials", Qi (2003) analyses the modality adverbs in Chinese which usually have three functions, namely representative, evaluative and emphatic. The question raised is what the similarities and differences of evaluation are between Chinese and English. According to Fang Yuqing (1992: 601-602), intonation and inflection of verbs in English usually express the speaker's stance, while in Chinese, the speaker relies more on modality adverbs. However, according to "Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English" (Biber 2000), adverbs cover a wide range of semantic categories, including stance. "Linguists could further this type of corpus-based research by doing some cross-language comparisons of the marking of stance related to register in languages other than Indo-European ones" (Conrad and Biber 2000: 64).

Based on the Chinese-English parallel corpus, the present research compares the stance adverbials in Chinese political texts and their English translation texts. Biber

(2000) classifies adverbials in English into three classes: circumstance adverbials, stance adverbials and linking adverbials. Circumstance adverbials add information about the action or state described in the clause, answering questions such as “How, When, Where, How much, To what extent, and Why”. Stance adverbials convey speakers’ comments on what they are saying or how they are saying it. Rather than adding additional information to a clause, linking adverbials serve a connective function. Although the realizations of the three classes of adverbials invariably overlap, such as single adverbs, adverb phrases, noun phrases, prepositional phrases, finite or non-finite clauses, each class has its own preference for forms. For example, circumstance adverbials are more frequently realized by different prepositional phrases, while stance adverbials often take the forms of single adverbs or adverb phrases. Furthermore, each class of adverbial has a strong preference for a different position in a clause. Circumstance adverbials often occur in final position, medial position is commonly realized with the stance adverbial, and linking adverbials often appear in initial position. These features help us distinguish the three classes of adverbials and the present research only focuses on stance adverbials.

## **2. Chinese-English parallel corpus**

The parallel corpus employed in the present study is funded by the National Social Science Fund. At present, the corpus is still being compiled. The corpus has been designed to include 10 million tokens with four sub corpora: international politics, science and technology, economy and trade, and human studies. The data have been collected by means of internet downloading, scanning and typing. Text types include books, journals, newspapers, dissertations, textbooks, documents, essays, addresses, etc. In order to guarantee the text quality, we keep to the following principles while collecting data: classical works always take the priority; collect different translation versions of the same work; balance the proportion of sub corpus; balance the proportion of the original works and the translation works; balance the proportion of different text types, genres, times, forms, and sources. XML is employed in the annotation system, and the following head information is annotated: author/translator, text type, domain, time, publisher, title, language, source, and length. The compilation of the present parallel corpus is different from the previous ones. Traditionally, the first step in compiling parallel corpus is to realize the alignment between source texts and their translations in the levels of discourse, paragraph and sentence, which is quite time-consuming and laborious due to the complexity of translation. However, alignment is not the final aim of compiling parallel corpus but one step to corpus-based comparative or translation studies. The designer of the present corpus holds that single words are not the basic semantic units which are realized by multi-word units; multi-word units should be both lexical and grammatical; meaning derives from context without which the “core meaning” of words is actually ambiguous. The research ideas are as follows. 1) Based on the corpus, from bilingual perspectives, identifying corresponding lexico-grammatical sequences. These sequences are realized by not only idioms, but also collocations, fixed or semi-fixed

expressions. 2) In computer processing, giving priority to the correspondence of semantic sequences not the text alignment. 3) Constructing the database of corresponding lexico-grammatical sequences, enhancing intelligent matching while decreasing human interference. 4) Relying on the naturally occurring data and focusing on the probabilistic information in language. We follow the following procedure in compiling the parallel corpus: 1) removing the noisy information in the raw data, and standardizing the text format; 2) with the sequence identifying software, manually identifying the corresponding lexico-grammatical sequences in some data and constructing a database; 3) with the increase in the size of the database, automatically identifying sequences in more data. In order to guarantee the accuracy in identification and inter/intra consistency, we keep to the following principles for identification: 1) clear boundary in both Chinese and English; 2) endocentric constructions and exocentric constructions; 3) idioms; 4) terms; 5) discontinuous sequences. At present, the database includes 76000 types.

Based on the above data, under the theoretical framework of stance adverbial proposed by Biber, the present research compares the similarities and differences of stance adverbials between Chinese political texts and their English translations. The research first of all identifies the corresponding sequences, and then investigates their pragmatic functions by means of analyzing their extended contexts. It should be noted that some findings could not be generalized because of the comparatively small size of the database.

### **3. Findings and analysis.**

According to Biber (2000), stance adverbials fall into three major semantic categories: epistemic, attitude, and style. Epistemic stance adverbials and attitude stance adverbials both comment on the content of a proposition. The present research focuses on epistemic stance adverbials which convey the following five major areas of meaning.

#### **Doubt and certainty**

Doubt and certainty adverbials show the speaker's certainty or doubt about the proposition in the clause. They include both absolute judgments of certainty and indication of belief in various levels of probability. English expressions for this category include "*no doubt, certainly, undoubtedly, probably, perhaps, maybe, arguably, decidedly, definitely, incontestably, incontrovertibly, most likely, very likely, quite likely, of course, I guess, I think*".

In terms of positive evaluation and negative evaluation, we classify Chinese expressions for doubt and certainty. Moreover, we distinguish "high position function" from "low position function" according to the positions of these expressions in the sentence. Expressions with high position function will occur in the initial position of the sentence and be responsible for the whole proposition, while expressions with low position function will appear in the middle of the sentence,

usually after the operators, and only evaluate the predicate.

The following are the positive stance adverbials for doubt and certainty in Chinese and their corresponding translations.

1) **毫无疑问、毫无疑问义**: a) They lie in the initial position, their corresponding English translations include “beyond all doubt, it goes without saying, there is no doubt that, there is no question that” which also occur in the initial position, and “doubtless” which often appear in the middle position. b) They occur after operators and their corresponding English translations are “there is no doubt that” which occurs at the beginning of the sentence and “surely” which occurs after operator. See the following concordancing lines.

**毫无疑问义**, 中国急需把各党各派和无党无派的代表人物团结在一起.....

**Beyond all doubt**, the urgent need is to unite the representatives of all political parties and ...

**毫无疑问**, 宇宙其它地方的生物和我们不大相同

Elsewhere, beings are **doubtless** very different from us

各个部分**毫无疑问**和它们的整体保持同样的性质

**There is no doubt that** the parts retain the same nature as their whole

2) **无疑**. a) It occurs in the initial position and is translated into “without a doubt, without doubt” which also occur in the initial position and “doubtless” which occurs after the operator. b) It occurs after the operator and collocate with “什么无疑是/会如何”. Their corresponding English translations are various, including “there is little doubt that, there can be no doubt that” which occur in the initial position and “undoubtedly, easily” which appear after the operator.

**无疑**, 包含着那些直接或间接地改变自己的规则的怪圈是智能的核心

Without doubt, strange Loops involving rules that change themselves, directly or indirectly...

这些事实**无疑**是当代科学所揭示的最感兴趣的事实

These facts are **easily** the most interesting that science reveals

3) **肯定**: It often occurs after the operator and collocates with “能、要、是、会、可以”. It is often put into “I am sure, there is not doubt that” which may occur in the initial position and “bound to” occurring after the operator.

大家共同努力, 这个目标**肯定**可以实现

With our joint efforts, **I am sure** our goal will be achieved

苏联**肯定**要乱, 问题是中国的旗帜倒不倒

The Soviet Union **is bound to** be unrest, and the problem is whether the banner of China will fall or not.

4) 一定: It usually appears after the operator and co-occurs with “会、能、要”. The corresponding English translations include “bound to, certain to, able to, definitely, sure to, surely, undoubtedly” which are also after the operator.

法西斯侵略势力是一定要被打倒的

The forces of fascist aggression will **undoubtedly** be overthrown

全党都下这个决心，事情就一定能办好

With the firm resolve of our member, we shall **surely** accomplish this

5) 完全: In most cases, it has low position function, and is translated into “without doubt” which acts as an inserted phrase. It can also modify adjectives and the corresponding English expressions are “absolutely, perfectly, quite, completely, and entirely”.

香港同胞、澳门同胞**完全**有智慧有能力管理好、建设好香港、澳门

Our compatriots in Hong Kong and Macao, **without doubt**, have the wisdom and ability to...

这些斗争是**完全**应该的

These great struggles are **absolutely** necessary

6) 当然: a) It occurs at the beginning of the sentence and translated into “of course”. b) It occurs after the operator, and is put into “as it is only natural that, or naturally”.

**当然**，发达国家会对我们戒心更大

**Of course**, that will put the developed countries all the more on guard against us

人民群众提出的意见，**当然**有对的，也有不对的

**As it is only natural that** some opinions expressed by the masses should be correct and

7) 必然: It has only low position function, and so do its English translations which include “bound to, inevitably”.

一部分人生活先好起来，就**必然**产生极大的示范力量

If the standard of living of some people is raised first, it will **inevitably** be an impressive example to their neighbors

8) 必须: Just as 必然, it has only low position function, but its English translations are comparatively full of changes, including “it is essential to, it is highly important to” which occur at the initial position and “have to, must” which occur after the subject and “bound to, necessary to, necessarily, of necessity” which occur after the operator.

凡属正确的领导，**必须**是从群众中来，到群众中去

All correct leadership is **necessarily** from the masses, to the masses

气候变化了，衣服**必须**随着变化

When the weather changes, **it becomes necessary to** change one's clothing

9) **可能**: It often occurs after the subject, expressing guess. Its English translations include “probably” which occurs after the operator and “would or might” which occur after the subject.

总理岁数可能比较大，**一般**也是五十多岁

Prime ministers are **probably** older, but, in general, only in their 50s

10) **恐怕**: It also expresses guess and occurs both at the initial position and in the middle, but its English translations are often at the initial position.

**恐怕**我们有些老同志有这个担心

**I am afraid** some of our veteran comrades do harbor such misgivings

这个问题，世界上许多国家**恐怕**都比我们解决得好

**I am afraid that** many countries in the world are more successful in solving this problem than we are

11) **我看、我认为、我觉得、应当说**: They often occur at the initial position, expressing the personal comments on the proposition, and are often put into “I think that, I think we can say that”.

**我觉得**现在我们的中央是个成熟的中央

**I think that** the current Central Committee is experienced

**应当说**，这一次在解决新老交替问题上迈出了相当大的一步

**I think we can say that** this is a great step forward in our effort to ensure that the old are succeeded by the young

Some of the above stance adverbials can express the speaker's negative attitudes towards the proposition.

1) **肯定**: It is often after the subject and collocates with “不可能、不会”. It is often translated into “it is certain that, definitely, absolutely”.

我们可以再等一、二年宣布，但**肯定**不能拖延更长的时间了

We can wait another year or two, but **definitely** not longer

联合声明确定的内容**肯定**是不会变的

**It is certain that** the contents of the Joint Declaration will not change

2) **决然**: It is often located after the subject and occurs with “别、不、甭”. Its corresponding English translations include “certainly, undoubtedly”.

我们**决然**得不到什么完全的知识

**Certainly**, no all-round knowledge can be acquired by us

3) 决: It often occurs after the subject and collocates with “不”. It is often put into “decidedly, never, certainly, in no way”.

提倡实事求是**决**不能离开马列主义、毛泽东思想的基本原理

Our advocacy of it can **in no way** be construed to mean that we can separate ourselves from the basic tenets of Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thoughts

4) 不必: It is after the subject and translated into “there is no need to”.

总要总结，但**不必**匆忙去做

However, **there is no need** to do so hastily

5) 当然: Sometimes, it can be used to express the speaker’s negative comments.

**当然**，这个参与不是背景方面参与

**Of course**, I don’t mean participation by Beijing

6) 恐怕: It is often used to express negative negation and put into “I think not, I am afraid that, probably”.

**恐怕**苏南大部分地方的人都不往外地跑

**Probably** in most parts of southern Jiangsu Province the people are happy with their lives and have no wishes to leave their hometowns

The above data show that in Chinese political texts, stance adverbials of the category “doubt and certainty” are flexible for a range of usages. They may occur at the initial positions or after the subject or the operator and thus perform different functions. However, some stance adverbials demonstrate preference for positions. For example, “毫无疑问、无疑、当然” tend to occur at the beginning of the sentence. Moreover, it has been found that in Chinese political texts, there are more stance adverbials expressing positive meaning than those which show the speaker’s negative evaluation. As for their corresponding English translations, they are various in types, including adverbs, adverbial clauses, prepositional phrases, noun phrase or sentence stems, and flexible in positions. Although there exists overlapping in their translations, some Chinese stance adverbials have relatively fixed translations. For example, “当然” corresponds to “of course”, and “恐怕” corresponds to “I am afraid”. Moreover, “certainly and it is certain that” are in most cases used in negative propositions.

### 3.2 Actuality

Actuality and reality adverbials comment on the status of the proposition as real-life fact. In English, stance adverbials of this type include “in fact, really, actually, in actual fact, for a fact, as a matter of fact, in effect, in practice”. In Chinese, such adverbials are “其实、实际上、真正、的确、事实上、实则”.

1) 其实: In most cases, it is at the initial position, and its corresponding English translations include “in fact, in reality, indeed”. Sometimes it will occur after the subject and put into English modal verbs such as “would, may”.

其实，这种人十个有十个要失败

**In fact**, ten out of ten of them will meet with failure

其实，国民党反动派是蠢得可怜的

**In reality**, the Kuomintang reactionaries are pitifully stupid

这样两种可能性**其实**是等同的

The two possibilities **may** be equivalent

2) 实际上: It is quite flexible in position. Its corresponding English translations include both adverbs such as “actually, really, indeed” and prepositional phrases such as “in fact”.

说他们**实际上**有三个政府

Saying that **actually** they have three government

这种状况**实际上**是软弱的表现

Such actions are **really** signs of weakness

3) 事实上: It demonstrates obviously high position function and separates with the main proposition with a comma. Its corresponding English translations have the same preference for position and includes “as a matter of fact, actually, in actual fact, in effect, in fact, in point of fact, in practice, indeed, the fact remains that”.

**事实上**，我的事情还进行得相当好

**In fact**, things were going rather well for me

**事实上**，这个问答证明是正确的

**Actually**, the answer proves to be correct

4) 的确: It has low position function, and is put into “actually, indeed, really, it is true that”.

要把这个班带好的**的确**不容易

It is **indeed** not easy to lead this squad well

关于真理标准问题的争论的**的确**是个思想路线问题

The debate about the criterion of testing truth is **really** a debate about ideological line

5) 真正: It occurs in the data frequently, and only appears after the subject. The corresponding English translations include “really, truly, actually”.

这是**真正**坚持社会主义

That is **truly** upholding socialism

到会的人，应是**真正**有经验的中级和下级的干部

Those attending such meetings should be **really** experienced cadres of middle and

lower ranks

6) 实则: It is put into “in fact”.

看似好平常, 实则严重地妨碍着党的统一

It seems common, but **in fact** seriously obstructs the unity of the Party

The above data show that as the first category, the stance adverbials of this category are flexible in translations which include not only adverbs, but also prepositions and sentence stems. However, the positions of the Chinese stance adverbials and their corresponding English translations are relatively consistent.

### 3.3 Source of knowledge

Adverbials of source of knowledge show the source of the information reported in the associated proposition. These adverbials include “evidently, apparently, reportedly, reputedly, according to, as someone notes/says” which allude to evidence supporting the proposition. In Chinese, besides some stance adverbials such as “看来、显然、显而易见”, there are some other expressions such as “按照、参考、根据、依照、在...看来, 正如...所说/知道/解释/观察、据、按、照”.

1) 看来: It is flexible in position and its corresponding English translations include “seem, appear, seemingly, apparently, it seems/appears to/that”.

看来我们前十年的势头可能超过百分之七点二

**It now seems that** the average growth rate for the 1980s may exceed 7.2 percent

看来也没有起什么作用

**Apparently**, my remarks on that occasion had no great effect

“看来” has some variations which have almost the same pragmatic function such as “在/依据...看来”. Their English translations include “in one’s opinion, in one’s view, in the eyes of, in the mind of, in the view of, in this respect, in this perspective, for someone”.

在武松看来, 景阳冈上的老虎, 刺激它也是那样, 不刺激它也是那样, 总是要吃人的

**As Wu Song saw it**, the tiger on Chingyang Ridge was a man-eater, whether irritated or not

在恐怖分子看来, 这场战争早在 911 事件以前很久就开始了

**In the mind of the terrorist**, this war began well before September the 11<sup>th</sup>

2) 显然: Just like “看来”, “显然” shows the source of knowledge indirectly. It is flexible in position. Its corresponding English translations include both adverbs such as “obviously, apparently” and sentence stems such as “it is clear that, it is obvious that, it is apparent that”.

美国人民显然都不会批准

**It is obvious that** the American people would not have sanctioned it

很显然，目前的尤其是今后的根据地的战争情况

**It is clear that** the present and still more the future war situation in the base area

3) 显而易见: In most cases, it will occur in the expression “什么是显而易见的”. Sometimes, it will occur at the initial position of the sentence and be put into “evidently, apparently, obviously”.

显而易见，为了判断辐射在产生物质粒子中的效益

Evidently, in order to judge the effectiveness of radiation in producing material articles

4) 据说、据知、据认为: Occurring at the beginning of the sentence, they show the source of knowledge indirectly. They are often translated into “I have learned that, it has been suggested that, it is said that, it was known that, it was thought that”.

据说，美国很愿意送些给它在中国的第五纵队

**It is said that** the United States is and will be quite willing to give money to the fifth column in China

据说，苏联是百分之二十的国民生产总值用于国防

**I have learned that** the Soviet Union allocates 20 percent of its gross national product to national defense

5) 正如...所说/知道/解释/观察: Occurring at the initial position of the sentence, they demonstrate the precise source of knowledge. They are often put into “as/just as someone say/know/explain/observe/put it, according to, as mentioned/indicated”.

正如你们所见，过去 20 年的开发模式和能源使用模式

**As all of you can see**, the development pattern and energy use pattern in the past 20 years

正如上面所指出的，奇点定理的真正重要性在于

**As indicated above**, the real importance of the singularity theorems

6) 按照、依据、根据: They show the precise source of knowledge, and express evidentiality. They are often put into “according to”.

按照国际通行标准，中国人口年龄结构已经进入老龄化阶段

**According to** the generally acknowledged international standard, the age structure of Chinese population has entered the ageing stage

依据有关法律，职工代表大会具有五项职权

**According to** these related laws, the conference of workers and staff has five functions and rights

根据本世纪初相信的经典定律，你不允许透支

**According to** the classical laws that were believed at the beginning of the century,

you weren't allowed to be overdrawn

According to the above data analysis, stance adverbials of source of knowledge can be classified into two types: imprecise and precise. They are in most cases translated into prepositional phrases, sentence stems, and even clauses.

### 3.4 Limitation

Stance adverbials of this type can mark the limitation of the proposition. These adverbials in English include “generally, in general, largely, mainly, typically, in most cases, to some degrees”.

1) 一般、一般来讲、一般地说、一般来说、一般而言、一般说来、一般讲、一般认为: They indicate that there is exception to the application of the proposition. Their corresponding English translations include “as a general rule, as a rule, generally, generally speaking, in general, on average, it is believed that, it is generally accepted that, when people discuss” which all occur at the beginning of the sentence.

一般地讲, 老年人习惯势力多一点

**In general**, old people tend to be conservative

一般地说, 应当先行减租减息, 后行分配土地

**Generally speaking**, the reduction of rent and interest should come first and land distribution later

It should be pointed out that “一般” may occur after the subject, and is responsible for the state or action. It is often translated into “in general, generally” which function as inserted clauses, occurring after the operator.

总理岁数可能比较大, 一般也是五十多岁

Prime ministers are probably old, but, **in general**, only in their fifties

2) 总体上: It will usually occur after the subject, but the position of its English translations is comparatively flexible.

人民生活总体上达到小康水平

A relatively comfortable standard of living has been achieved for the people **as a whole**

13 亿中国人民生活总体上达到了小康水平

The general living standard of the 1.3 billion Chinese people has, **in general**, reached the moderately well-off level

未来五年国际环境总体上对我国发展有利

**On the whole**, the international environment will be conducive to China's development in the coming five years

3) 总的说、总的来说、总的来讲、总的说来: They indicate that the following

proposition is to sum up the previous statements. They often occur at the initial position, and so do their English translations which include “all in all, generally speaking, in general, on the whole”.

总的来说，我们的成绩还是不错的

**All in all**, we have not done badly

总的说来，我们没有多大发展

**On the whole**, we did not make striking progress

4) 在某种程度上 (to some degree/extent)、在一定程度上 (to a certain degree)、在很大程度上 (to a considerable/large/significant/very major extent/degree, for the most part, largely, mainly)、从某种程度上讲 (to some extent) : These prepositional phrases can mark the limitation of the proposition, and often occur in the middle of the sentence.

从某种程度上讲，这是影响他们同中国的关系的因素之一

This, **to some extent**, affects their relations with China

这篇报告在很大程度上是引用了该作者自己的漂亮的工作

**To a considerable extent**, it refers to that author's own beautiful work

5) 在...情况下: There are a lot of variations of this prepositional phrase such as “在通常情况下、在一般情况下、在许多情况下、在正常情况下、在任何情况下、在目前情况下”, and their corresponding English translations include “in...cases, in...circumstances, in...situations, under...conditions, under...circumstances, generally”. In most cases, they all occur at the beginning position of the sentence.

在通常情况下，各中央局和下面的联系必须力求密切

**In ordinary circumstances** a bureau of the Central Committee should strive to keep in close contact with its subordinate organizations

在有些情况下，复制有误差

**In some cases**, there would be errors in these productions

According to the above data, in Chinese political texts, stance adverbials of limitation are often realized by some verb phrases or prepositional phrases whose pragmatic functions have been intensified. Their corresponding English translations are also some prepositional phrases which show the speaker's subjectivity.

### 3.5 Imprecision

A number of stance adverbials are used to show that the proposition being conveyed is somehow imprecise. In English, such expressions include “sort of, if you can call it that, about, kind of, roughly, so to speak”. In Chinese, the number of such expressions is comparatively small, mainly including “大体上、大约、大致、相当于” which resemble the degree adverbs.

1) 大体、大体上: They occur after the subject or the operator, and so do their English translations which include “about, roughly, approximately, more or less, on the whole”.

该程序大体上就是完全不理睬这一行，而就跳到正文的下一行

The procedure is, **more or less**, to ignore that line completely and to skip over to the next actual line of the text

这个比率在很长的一段时间内一直大体保持稳定

This ratio has been **roughly** constant for a very long time

“大致、大约” are similar to “大体”. According to the data, “大致” is often put into “generally, approximately, roughly, probably, more or less”, while “大约” into “about, around, approximately, roughly, seem to”.

性大约是 20 亿年前产生的

Sex **seems to** have been invented around two billion years

任何有群众的地方，大致都有比较积极的、中间状态的和比较落后的三部分人

The masses in any given place are **generally** composed of three parts, the relatively active, the intermediate and the relatively backward

2) 相当于: It shows the imprecision of the proposition, and is followed by noun phrases. Its corresponding English translations are “about, something like, as...as”.

7 度相当于整个地球圆周 360 度的 1/50

Seven degrees is **something like** one-fiftieth of three hundred and sixty degrees, the full circumference of the earth

一个中等的省相当于欧洲的一个大国

A medium-sized province is **as big as** a large European country

1994 年民族自治地方人均国内生产总值相当于全国人均的 63.5%

In 1994, the per-capita GDP of these areas was **equivalent to** 63.5 percent of the national per-capita figure

According to the data, stance adverbials of precision in both Chinese and English are all with low position function.

#### 4. Summary

Based on a Chinese-English parallel corpus, the present research has investigated the stance adverbials in Chinese political texts and their corresponding English translations. It has been found that in Chinese political texts, besides some modality adverbs, some verb phrases, prepositional phrases and adverbial phrases are employed to perform the function of stance adverbials, showing the speaker's subjective comments on the proposition. Although their positions are flexible, some stance adverbials also show obvious preference for positions. Moreover, for all the stance

adverbials surveyed in this research, we can find the corresponding translations in English texts. However, it should be noted that the positions and the linguistic forms between Chinese original stance adverbials and their English translations are not necessarily consistent. For example, a Chinese adverb may be put into an adverb, an adverbial phrase, a prepositional phrase, or even a sentence stem. There is no absolutely correspondence in linguistic forms between Chinese stance adverbials and their translations. Overlapping may occur when translating Chinese stance adverbials of the same category. Because of the comparatively small size of the present corpus, all the findings in this research are tentative and need further validation in large quantity of empirical data.

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