

Contextualizing the Translation and Reconstruction of “Zhengqueyiliguan” in Promoting China-Africa Diplomatic Discourse

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Abstract : China’s diplomatic discourse is a complicated system underpinned by divergent translations. As such, the concept of “Zhengque Yi Li Guan” (or zhèngquè Yì Lì Guān in Pinyin), like numerous other Chinese concepts, is not well appreciated due, mainly, to the dearth of a uniform official translation and poor interpretation. So, the paper seeks to draw awareness to this vital issue that has been neglected in the China-Africa diplomatic discourse. As a way of filling this gap in the literature, the author argues that literal translation is not enough in diplomatic discourse. To identify the English equivalent of “Zhenque,” “Yi,” “Li,” and “Guan,” searches of Chinese classical works were carried out. Based on the scope of this paper, emphasis will be placed on “Yi” because it plays a critical role in the “zhèngquèyìlìguān” concept and has been the term with the most controversial interpretation. From a diplomatic-linguistic standpoint coupled with the help of the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) developed by Norman Fairclough and Teun A. van Dijk as this paper’s theoretical framework, this paper seeks to address the above issue by exploring the philosophical translations and interpretations of ZqYLG in China-Africa diplomatic discourse, with emphasis place on the discourse reconstruction of “Yi.” As a way of reconstructing “Yi” to fit the present reality of China-Africa diplomatic discourse, the author argues that “justice” (meaning impartiality) is a better translation for “Yi.”

Keywords : Africa, diplomatic discourse, reconstruction, translation, 利益, interests

Conference Title : ICIT 2023 : International Conference on Interpreting and Translation

Conference Location : Beijing, China

Conference Dates : April 03-04, 2023