

Translation Strategies and Techniques in Chinese-to-English Military Translation: A Case Study

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Abstract

This study examines translation strategies and techniques employed in Chinese-to-English military translation through a case study of Chapters 7 and 8 of Science of Military Strategy 2020. Using a qualitative and quantitative corpus-based approach, the research analyzes 128 military Terms, and strategic expressions translated from Chinese into English. The study categorizes the translations into three major strategies: domestication, foreignization, and hybrid translation. The findings reveal that domestication is the most frequently employed strategy, accounting for 53.12% of the corpus, indicating the translator's preference for readability and accessibility for English-speaking audiences. Foreignization constitutes 30.47%, reflecting efforts to preserve distinctive Chinese strategic culture, ideological discourse, and PLA doctrinal terminology. Hybrid strategies account for 16.41%, demonstrating a balanced approach combining conceptual preservation with target-language fluency. The study highlights the complex linguistic and ideological challenges involved in translating Chinese military discourse and argues that effective military translation requires balancing doctrinal accuracy, cultural specificity, and strategic readability. The research contributes to Chinese-English military translation studies, strategic discourse analysis, and cross-cultural military communication research.

Keywords: Chinese-English military translation, translation strategies, PLA discourse.

1. Introduction

With the rapid rise of China as a major military and strategic power, the translation of Chinese military texts into English has become increasingly important for global strategic studies, defense analysis, and cross-cultural military communication. RD Yates (1988) argues that Chinese military texts first appeared in 500 B.C. and that the earliest extant text is ‘The Art of War’ (Sunzi Bingfa). Certain techniques and ideas, such as Xingming (“form and name”) first appeared in military contexts and were later adopted by political philosophers. Chinese military manuals and texts differ from Western military tradition through their emphasis on strategic philosophy and holistic warfare approach. While Western texts often focus on tactical procedures, Chinese works like Sunzi’s “*The Art of War*” highlight psychological influence and indirect strategies. (Valor archive, 2024)

Military translation presents typical challenges. Chinese military writings typically integrate technical, political, and ideological discourse. Their production is shaped by institutional mediation, Party supervision, and multi-layered editorial processes within the PLA and CCP propaganda systems. Literal or surface-level translation is not adequate to carry the deep institutional meanings. As a result, intent, doctrine, or capability may be misinterpreted. When these translations are used for intelligence and policy formulation, literal translation can mislead analysis, weaken credibility assessments and thus lead to wrong strategic judgments.

The Research Objectives for the study are to examine the translation strategies and techniques uses in Chinese-English Military translation and find instances of domestication and foreignization in the English translation of Chapters 7 and 8 of Science of Military Strategy (2020).

Against this backdrop, the present study tries to examine the translation strategies and techniques employed in Chinese-to-English military translation. It addresses the following research questions:

- a) Which translation strategies are most commonly used in rendering Chinese military texts into English, and why are

certain strategies preferred in military and strategic contexts?

- b) What domestication and foreignization strategies are employed in the English translation of Chapters 7 and 8 of *Science of Military Strategy* (2020)?

The study is significant for both theory and practice. It contributes to translation studies by advancing an empirically grounded analysis of military translation as a specialized and strategic form of discourse mediation. At the same time, it offers practical insights for OSINT practitioners, intelligence analysts, and defence professionals, highlighting how informed translation choices can enhance analytical accuracy and strategic understanding.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Military Translation and Strategic Communication

L. L. Nelyubin defines Military translation as:

“Military translation is a type of special translation with a clearly manifested military communication function. A distinctive feature of the military translation is the heavy terminological saturation and extremely precise, clear presentation of the materials with the relative absence of figurative and emotional expressive means (Nelyubin 2008).”

Military translation has long been recognised as a specialised domain in which linguistic accuracy is inseparable from strategic interpretation. Contrasting general translation, military translation contains doctrinally loaded expressions, highly institutionalised terminology, and deliberate ambiguity designed to achieve both purposes i.e. information disclosure and strategic signalling (Munday, 2016; Baker, 2019). Military texts are not only descriptive but performative, shaping perceptions of intent, capability, and resolve among both domestic and foreign audiences (Clausewitz, 1832). As a result, translation errors can have results extending beyond linguistic misunderstanding to analytical and policy misjudgement.

Regarding the nature of military language Inese Kocote and Tatjana Smirnova state that:

Military language, or army and warfare language, is one of the oldest types of Language for Special purpose (LSP), and it has been rapidly evolving in tandem with the advancement of military and security technology, the modernization of military forces, and the creation of new arms. The use of military language has become a defining aspect of both military and military-related texts as time has passed. Apart from standardised terminology, the latter often use military jargon and slang as an integral part of informal military communication. Overall, military language exhibits heterogeneity and hybridity... Terminology in any domain is created as a controlled variety of language to perform several predetermined functions, the most important of which is to reflect the conceptual system of a specific field of knowledge. Traditionally, words are expected to be succinct, straightforward, and stylistically neutral, with mononym and monosemy properties within a specified domain. (2016, 109)

PLA military discourse shows distinctive characteristics engrained in Marxist–Leninist ideology, party–army relations, and Chinese strategic culture. PLA doctrinal language frequently merges technical military terminology with political rhetoric, abstract metaphors, and evaluative formulations that poses a challenge to render direct equivalence in English (Mulvenon & Yang, 2002; Fravel, 2008). Layered meanings are embedded in the Terms like 作战体系 (operational system), 信息化/智能化战争 (informationised/intelligentised warfare), and 体系对抗 (system confrontation) which evolved over time and across various documents. When translating these terms, translators besides requiring strong linguistic competence also need in-depth knowledge and understanding of doctrinal context and their institutional usage.

Strategic ambiguity is a prominent characteristic of PLA communication and pose a serious challenge for translators. (Cheng,

2016; Mulvenon, 1999; Pillsbury, 2015). Chinese military texts at times use vague modality, and indirect expressions to maintain flexibility and avoid clear commitments (Shambaugh, 2013; Johnston, 2019). Example- 采取一切必要措施维护国家主权和领土完整 “take *all necessary measures* to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity.” Here ‘*all necessary measures*’ is deliberately ambiguous. This ambiguity is intended, on one hand let Chinese authorities signal resolve, on the other hand maintain deniability. Johnston further argues that recent scholarship on strategic interaction suggests that autocracies often employ rhetoric as “bluster”—that is, the use of implicit threats with no intentions of subsequently conducting escalation. (2019) If translators use literal or overly explicit translations, they risk removing this ambiguity, thereby changing the strategic meaning of the original text. Translation scholars warn that such “semantic clarification” may unintentionally enforce Western analytical frameworks onto Chinese strategic discourse (Baker, 2006; Wang, 2010).

Recent scholarship has progressively linked military translation to open-source intelligence (OSINT) and strategic analysis. Accurate translation is regarded as a foundational step in intelligence production, guiding how analysts interpret threat perception, intent, and doctrinal change (Tou, 2000; Yang et al. 2023). However, studies have unveiled the limitations of machine translation in rendering discourse-level coherence, rhetorical nuance, and ideologically loaded language which is very common in PLA texts. Therefore, Fan et al. emphasize the need for human–AI collaborative translation model, where human translators validate terminology, preserve strategic ambiguity, and contextualise doctrinal language to ensure analytical dependability (2022).

The functional text typology developed by Katharina Reiss classifies three main functions of text: informative (content), expressive (authorial or aesthetic) and operative (persuasive) (Reiss, 1971; Reiss & Vermeer, 1984). Three functions tend to overlap, with Chinese military texts simultaneously fusing technical and doctrinal material along with ideological expression and operative aims for internal mobilization efforts or external coercive signaling.

Discourse-oriented translation theory (Fairclough, 1995; Schäffner, 2004) assumes that translation necessarily involves interpretation and reframing as meaning is shaped by discursive conventions, institutional contexts, and power relations. This approach is predominantly relevant to PLA military texts, as these are produced collectively, vetted politically, and characterized by formulaic language that translates institutional intent under technical phrasing. Hence, quality translation requires finding ideological markers, explicating implicit policy assumptions, and preserving strategic ambiguity. Therefore, Chinese-to-English military translation is best considered as a form of strategic discourse analysis rather than only linguistic transfer.

Wang Xiangbing and Mu Lei opine that military translation constitutes a core component of military foreign language capability and, by extension, modern combat power. They emphasize that most of the Chinese armed forces' strategic tasks are closely associated with the foreign language and translation competence, considering military translation as both a productive force and a combat force. Military translation study is characteristically interdisciplinary, mixing linguistics and translation studies with military science, communication studies, and international relations. Contrasting general translation, military translation is highly specialized, politically sensitive, and operationally consequential. It requires the accurate communication of doctrine, operational intent, strategic culture, and institutional norms under constraints of security, confidentiality, timeliness, and precision.

Military discourse is characterized by dense terminology, compressed syntax, and strong institutional stylization, requiring strategies such as mostly literal translation supported by annotation, explication of implicit logic, and controlled paraphrasing.

2.2 Translation Strategies and Techniques: Functional, Structural, and Critical Models

Macro-level strategies and micro-level techniques are distinguished in translation studies; this distinction is especially important in specialized fields like military translation from Chinese to English. A thorough framework for examining how linguistic

meaning, institutional intent, and strategic discourse is mediated in translated military texts is provided by the theoretical contributions of Skopos Theory, Peter Newmark, Vinay and Darbelnet, Eugene Nida, Lawrence Venuti, Lu Danyang, and Yanfu.

Hans J. Vermeer's Skopos Theory emphasizes the idea that translation is a purpose-driven activity and that translation strategies and techniques should be determined by the target text's intended function (Skopos) (Vermeer, 1989). The Skopos in Chinese-to-English military translation is usually analytical, intended to help foreign analysts, policymakers, and researchers comprehend PLA doctrine and thought. It is rarely communicative in the common sense. When essential to achieve the analytical goal of the translation, this functional approach justifies deviations from pure formal equivalence, such as structural reorganization, explicitation, and annotation.

Peter Newmark (1988) suggests a strategic distinction between communicative translation and semantic translation, building on functionalist ideas. In order to accurately reproduce military terminology and doctrinal formulations, semantic translation places a high priority on closely adhering to the meaning and form of the source text. In contrast, communicative translation aims to have a similar impact on the intended audience and is frequently better suitable for military texts that are interpretive or pertinent to policy. According to Newmark, these strategic decisions are operationalized through micro-level techniques including literal translation, paraphrasing, expansion, reduction, and compensation.

Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) provide a methodical taxonomy of direct and indirect methods at the level of translation methods. Standardized military terms and institutional identifiers are sometimes subjected to direct methods, such as borrowing, calque, and literal translation. Because of the structural differences between the two languages, especially the transition from Chinese parataxis to English hypotaxis, oblique methods such as transposition, modulation, equivalence, and adaptation are frequently used in Chinese-to-English military translation. Their methodology is particularly helpful for locating lexical and syntactic translation shifts.

The importance of the target audience is further highlighted by Eugene Nida's (1964) theories of formal equivalence and dynamic (functional) equivalence. While dynamic equivalence places more emphasis on attaining similar comprehension and response across target readers, formal equivalence concentrates on maintaining source-text form and content. Because PLA military discourse is implicitly and ideologically structured, dynamic equivalence often serves as the foundation for strategies like explicitation, which allow translators to make implicit institutional assumptions understandable to English-speaking audiences.

A crucial aspect of translation strategy is introduced by Lawrence Venuti's (1995) concepts of domestication and foreignization. By bringing the text into line with target-language conventions, domestication improves readability but runs the risks of masking institutional and cultural distinctiveness. In contrast, foreignization indicates cultural differences while maintaining the uniqueness of the source text. A balanced approach is frequently needed in Chinese-to-English military translation: selective foreignization through transliteration and annotation to preserve doctrinal and ideological distinctiveness, together with domesticated syntax for clarity.

In the domain of Chinese–English military translation, the six techniques outlined by Lu Danyang (1999) (for English to Chinese translation)—omission (省译), amplification (增译), repetition (重复), conversion (词类转换), inversion (语序转换), and negation (正反译)—remain highly relevant. Whatever is omitted in ‘English to Chinese translation’ is added while translating ‘Chinese text into English’ to adopt the language norms. These techniques help to accurately render paratactic Chinese text into hypotactic English text.

Xin-Da-Ya (信达雅) by Yan Fu: Chinese-English military translation is still guided by this fundamental indigenous framework, which is still in use today. The three criteria—faithfulness (信), intelligibility (达), and stylistic propriety (雅)—acquire different operational meanings in PLA texts. Since military vocabulary

frequently conveys institutional authority and strategic signals, faithfulness goes beyond semantic accuracy to include doctrinal precision and ideological consistency. In military translation, elegance is reinterpreted as register appropriateness, which guarantees that the translated text retains the formal, bureaucratic, and strategic tone typical of official military communication, even if elegance is typically associated with literary finesse.

2.3 Translation Techniques

Literal translation, transliteration paired with glossing, paraphrasing, modulation, expansion through explicitation, and reduction or compression are common techniques used in military translations from Chinese to English. These techniques are used flexibly based on the text's analytical sensitivity and communication goal.

To make implicit logical relations clear to target audiences, translators often utilize syntactic expansion to translate Chinese paratactic sentences into English hypotactic clauses. While maintaining accuracy and adhering to English analytical and military writing traditions within an overall communicative translation strategy, such expansion improves clarity and usability without changing the underlying content.

Taken together, these models conceptualize Chinese-to-English military translation as a functional, strategic, and interpretive practice, shaped by purpose, audience, and institutional context rather than by linguistic equivalence alone.

2.4 Mediation between Chinese a Parataxis and English a Hypotaxis language.

Chinese is typically characterized as paratactic (意合): it uses fewer function words, depends heavily on contextual inference, favors topic–comment structures over subject–predicate ones, and allows flexible sentence boundaries through simple juxtaposition. As a result, relationships that would be grammatically marked in English are often implicit in Chinese. English, by contrast, is hypotactic (形合), requiring overt connectors, clear clause hierarchy,

fixed syntactic roles, and grammatical marking of tense and aspect. A Chinese text tends to have more paratactic and fewer hypotactic relations in comparison with an English text of the same genre (Yang Zijian, 1992; Xueying li, Hailing yu, 2021).

The contrast between Chinese parataxis (意合) and English hypotaxis (形合) has a profound impact on Chinese–English military translation because military discourse depends heavily on precision, hierarchy, operational logic, and doctrinal interpretation. In Chinese military texts—especially those produced by the PLA—meaning is frequently compressed, implicit, and context-dependent. English military writing, by contrast, demands explicit logical structure, clearly marked causality, and unambiguous operational relationships. Consequently, translators must act as mediators between two fundamentally different linguistic systems. (Scobell, 2003; Heath, 2018)

Example: 加强信息支援，提升体系作战能力，确保制信息权。
(No function words used)

(Literally: “Strengthen information support, enhance system combat capability, ensure information dominance.”)

English Translation (Hypotactic Style)

“By strengthening information support, the force can enhance system-of-systems operational capability in order to ensure information dominance.”

In analyst-oriented and OSINT contexts where doctrinal precision and interpretive caution are essential, annotated translation is used as a core strategy in Chinese–English military translation. Rather than resolving ambiguity within the translated text itself, annotation helps translators to preserve source-language formulations while providing explanatory notes concerning polysemous terminology, ideological concepts, institutional references, and strategic ambiguity. This approach is especially important in PLA discourse, where compressed expressions and politically embedded terminology often carry meanings not fully depicted through literal translation alone. By separating translation from interpretation, annotated translation improves analytical transparency, supports longitudinal doctrinal

analysis, and reduces the risk of interpretive distortion while maintaining fidelity to the original military source (Schäffner, 2004; Heath, 2018).

Example of Annotated Translation

“Advance the development of ‘system-of-systems operations’ capability.” *Annotation*: “体系作战” refers to an operational concept emphasizing integrated coordination among reconnaissance, command, communications, firepower, cyber, electronic warfare, and support systems within a unified combat network. It does not simply mean “operations involving systems.”

2.5 Chinese Military Discourse

Resalaiti Abulaiti et. al opine that military discourse is a critical lens for examining how nations construct and project power, shaping both domestic unity and international perceptions. In China, this discourse is deeply rooted in historical and cultural traditions, particularly those encapsulated in Sun Tzu’s *The Art of War*. (2025) Chinese military discourse is shaped by distinctive linguistic and institutional features that significantly affect both interpretation and translation. Linguistically, it favors parataxis, relying on implicit logical relations rather than explicit connectors, which makes meaning highly context-dependent and often condensed.

This technical density is evident in specialized terms such as “综合联合作战integrated joint operations” or “信息化战争informatized warfare,” which compress complex doctrinal concepts into formulaic expressions. At the same time, the discourse exhibits strong ideological encoding: politically charged phrases align military objectives with Party authority, and translations like 积极防御 rendered as “active defense” frame strategic posture as defensive rather than expansionist.

Discussing Military and diplomatic texts Lesya Sergienko argues:

Military and diplomatic texts make extensive use of indirect speech acts and vague or coded expressions, which accordingly require careful contextual reconstruction and cultural filtering by the translator to preserve the intended meaning. (2025)

Strategic ambiguity further characterizes official texts, with broad formulations such as “necessary measures” preserving policy flexibility while signaling resolve. Institutionally, PLA documents are rarely the product of individual authorship; instead, they undergo layered editorial and approval processes that enforce terminological standardization and politically sanctioned phrasing—such as consistently translating 军民融合 as “military-civil fusion.” PLA discourse reflects Party ideology, institutional signaling requirements, and standardized political language, often encoding intent indirectly and requiring contextual and doctrinal awareness beyond surface semantics (Mulvenon & Yang, 2002, pp. 15–18; Shambaugh, 2013, pp. 75–82; Fravel, 2008, pp. 45–48).

2.6 Challenges in Chinese-English Military Translation

Previous studies (Cheung, 2012; Li, 2018) highlight recurring challenges: polysemy in Chinese military terms, culturally embedded expressions, political rhetoric, and the lack of one-to-one equivalents in English. Furthermore, sensitive terms relating to doctrine, nuclear policy, or military strategy may require contextualized interpretation.

2.7 Characteristics of Chinese Military Texts and their Translation Implications

Chinese military texts exhibit unique linguistic, rhetorical, and ideological peculiarities that have important consequences for translating into English. Translators must combine linguistic proficiency with contextual and institutional understanding since these characteristics represent broader cultural patterns of expression and ideological standards within the People's Liberation Army (PLA) (Mulvenon & Yang, 2002; Shambaugh, 2013). Especially noteworthy are four interconnected characteristics:

First, dense nominalization and serial modification render Chinese military texts compact yet syntactically complex. Multi-layered constructions such as 信息化条件下局部战争的作战样式演变

compress several semantic relations into a single nominal chain. In English, such structures typically require transposition and syntactic modulation to ensure readability (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995). For example, 信息主导的体系作战能力建设 is more naturally translated as “building system-of-systems operational capabilities under information dominance,” where implicit relations are made explicit.

Second, polysemy and terminological multiplicity present persistent challenges. Core doctrinal terms such as 体系, 系统, and 构架 overlap semantically but carry distinct conceptual meanings depending on context. In authoritative doctrinal works such as ‘The Science of Military Strategy’, inconsistent rendering of these terms risks distorting analytical interpretation (Peng & Yao, 2005). Translating 体系 as “system of systems” and 系统 as “system,” supported by consistent glossary use and subject-matter consultation, is therefore essential for maintaining terminological precision (Li, 2018).

Third, ideological framing and diplomatic hedging permeate PLA discourse. Expressions such as 为维护国家主权、安全、发展利益提供战略支撑 simultaneously convey operational objectives and political legitimacy. Translators must preserve evaluative tone and hedging devices to avoid over-assertion or unintended policy signaling (Cheung, 2012). For instance, 中国始终坚持防御性国防政策 is appropriately rendered as “China has consistently adhered to a defensive national defense policy,” retaining both nuance and diplomatic restraint.

Finally, metaphorical and imagistic expressions play a central role in conveying doctrinal innovation. Concepts such as 信息化作战 (“informatized warfare”) and 智能化战争 (“intelligentized warfare”) represent evolving models of warfare rather than stylistic embellishments (Xu & Zhang, 2020). Such metaphors should generally be retained through literal-plus-explanatory translation, as in rendering 电磁信息之海 as “the sea of electromagnetic information,” contextualized as the electromagnetic operational environment.

A study conducted on the analysis of the corpus of Chinese military-related text reveals:

The results of data analysis show that the density of military terms in military-related texts is 11.43%. In the translation of military terms literal translation was used in 80.09% of cases, followed by the modulation method at 13.84%, remaining methods like borrowing, calque, transposition, equivalence and adaptation were least used at 1.25%, 1.21%, 1.03%, 0.75% and 1.81% respectively. In the syntactic analysis of military-related texts, the strategy of division and combination of Chinese sentences was investigated and the results show that while translating from Chinese sentences into English, the division strategy was widely used resulting in an increase of English sentences by 24%. While carrying out syntactic analysis based on Loh Dian Yang's principles of translation, it was found that amplification was used in 26% of cases followed by inversion at 6%, omission at 3.43%, and conversion at 2.29% and repetition at 1.14%. It was found that amplification is the most widely used principle in Chinese-to-English translation. (Gupta, 2023, 250)

Chinese-to-English military translation employs a combination of macro-level strategies and micro-level techniques to preserve doctrinal accuracy while ensuring readability and analytical usability. The most important strategies include domestication, foreignization, and hybrid translation. Domestication improves fluency and accessibility for English-speaking audiences, whereas foreignization preserves distinctive Chinese ideological, cultural, and doctrinal concepts. Hybrid strategies combine both approaches to balance clarity with conceptual fidelity. Functional theories such as Skopos Theory, semantic and communicative translation, dynamic equivalence, and Xin-Da-Ya guide translators in adapting texts according to purpose, audience, and institutional context.

At the technical level, commonly used techniques include literal translation, transliteration with glossing, paraphrasing, explicitation, modulation, transposition, amplification, inversion, omission, and

annotation. Because Chinese military discourse is highly paratactic, compressed, and context-dependent, translators often expand syntax and clarify implicit logical relations when rendering texts into hypotactic English structures. Annotation is especially important in preserving strategic ambiguity and doctrinal nuance in PLA discourse. Overall, military translation functions not merely as linguistic transfer but as strategic discourse mediation requiring doctrinal knowledge, contextual interpretation, and cultural sensitivity.

2.8 Case Studies in Specialized Translation

There is a growing body of literature on specialized translation in domains such as law, medicine, and science, emphasizing the need for domain knowledge and genre awareness (Montalt & González Davies, 2007). However, fewer case studies exist for military translation, particularly in the Chinese-English context. This paper seeks to contribute to filling that gap.

3. Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative descriptive research design employing comparative textual analysis to examine the English translation of Chapters 7 and 8 of *Science of Military Strategy* (2020). The research focuses on identifying and analyzing the translation strategies of domestication and foreignization used in rendering Chinese military-strategic discourse into English.

3.1 Theoretical Framework

The study is primarily based on Lawrence Venuti's theory of domestication and foreignization. According to Venuti, domestication refers to a translation strategy that adapts source-language expressions into culturally familiar target-language forms to improve readability and accessibility. In contrast, foreignization preserves the linguistic and cultural distinctiveness of the source text, allowing readers to encounter foreign concepts and structures.

3.2 Data Source

The primary data for this study consists of the Chinese source text and English translation of Chapters 7 and 8 of *Science of Military Strategy* (2020,) the parallel corpus is taken from the Interpret China website <https://interpret.csis.org/> . These chapters were selected because they contain extensive discussions on, Chinese thinking on Military Strategy, Military Crisis and Strategic deterrence, making them highly relevant for military translation analysis.

The AI tool ChatGPT was utilized for brainstorming, idea generation, and the development of preliminary hypotheses. All AI-assisted outputs were critically reviewed, post-edited, and verified by the author before incorporating them into the study. ChatGPT was at times used for polishing the written texts.

4. Analysis of the English Translation of Chapters 7 & 8 of *Science of Military Strategy* (2020)

The Chinese texts of Chapter 7, *Prevention and Handling of Military Crisis*, and Chapter 8, *Strategic Deterrence*, along with their English translations, were analyzed to identify the use of domestication, foreignization, and hybrid translation strategies. The analysis identified 68 translation cases in Chapter 7 and 60 cases in Chapter 8, resulting in a total corpus of 128 examples. These examples were systematically examined to understand how Chinese military, political, and strategic concepts were rendered into English. The complete dataset is provided in the Appendix, while a selection of representative examples from both chapters is presented below for detailed discussion and analysis.

4.1 Representative examples from Chapter 7

Ser. No.	Chinese Text	Pinyin	Official English Translation	Translation Strategy	Analytical Notes
1	第一时间反应	dì yī shí jiān fǎn yìng	First response time	Domestication	Uses familiar crisis-management terminology instead of literal

Ser. No.	Chinese Text	Pinyin	Official English Translation	Translation Strategy	Analytical Notes
					rendering “the very first moment.”
2	力求趋利避害	lìqiú qūlì bìhài	striving to seek advantages while avoiding disadvantages	Domestication	Expands compact Chinese idiom into explanatory English prose.
3	危中谋机	wēi zhōng móu jī	seeking opportunities in danger	Foreignization	Retains Chinese strategic pairing of danger and opportunity.
4	始终掌握战略主动权	shǐzhōng zhǎngwò zhànlüè zhǔdòng quán	always grasping the strategic initiative	Foreignization	Preserves PLA doctrinal language and strategic rhetoric.
5	保持多渠道、多层次、多方式联系	bǎochí duō qúdào, duō céngcì, duō fāngshì liánxì	maintain multi-channel, multi-level, and multi-method contacts	Domestication	Chinese parallel structure adapted into smoother English administrative style.
6	防止误读误判	fángzhǐ wùdú wùpàn	prevent misreading or misjudgments	Domestication	Natural English diplomatic-security phrasing replaces literal repetition.
7	可官民并举	keguān mǐn bìngjǔ	Both officials and citizens can be used	Foreignization	Retains Chinese governance-oriented institutional framing.
8	第二轨道沟通	dì èr guǐdào gōutōng	track two dialogue	Foreignization	Preserves institutional diplomatic

Ser. No.	Chinese Text	Pinyin	Official English Translation	Translation Strategy	Analytical Notes
					terminology from strategic discourse.
9	把握沟通的艺术	bǎwò gōutōng de yìshù	understand the art of communication	Hybrid	Literal metaphor retained while rendered fluently in English.
10	隐蔽意图	yǐnbì yìtú	concealed intentions	Foreignization	Reflects strategic vocabulary common in PLA operational thinking.

4.2 Representative examples from Chapter 8

Ser. No.	Chinese Text	Pinyin	Official English Translation	Translation Strategy	Analytical Notes
1	战略威慑	zhànlüè wēishè	Strategic deterrence	Domestication	Uses established Western strategic studies terminology familiar to English readers.
2	谋”势”	móu “shì”	seeking “potential”	Hybrid	Retains the Chinese strategic-philosophical concept of 势 (shì), only partially naturalized.
3	营造战争气氛	yíngzào zhànzhēn	Create an atmosphere	Domestication	Natural English military phrasing

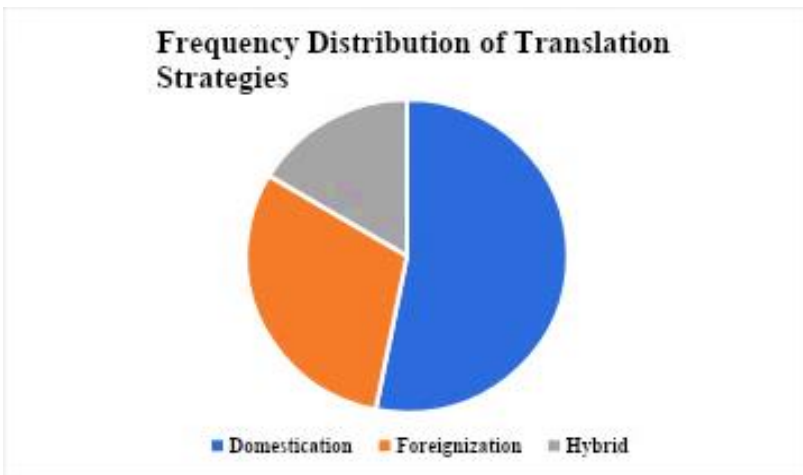
Ser. No.	Chinese Text	Pinyin	Official English Translation	Translation Strategy	Analytical Notes
		g qìfēn	of war		replacing literal “construct war atmosphere.”
4	一触即发的战争氛围	yīchùjífā de zhànzhēng fēnwéi	atmosphere of imminent war	Domestication	Idiomatic rendering for readability.
5	舆论战、心理战、法律战	yúlùn zhàn, xīnlǐ zhàn, fǎlǜ zhàn	public opinion, psychological and legal wars	Hybrid	Preserves Chinese “Three Warfares” conceptual structure literally with fluency.
6	人民防空	rénmín fángkōng	people’s air defense	Foreignization	Retains socialist-political flavor of “people’s.”
7	保交保护路	bǎo jiāo hù lù	road protection	Domestication	Functional interpretation rather than literal wording.
8	展示先进武器	zhǎnshì xiānjìn wǔqì	Display of advanced weapons	Domestication	Smooth military English equivalent.
9	精确制导武器	jīngquè zhìdǎo wǔqì	precision-guided weapons	Domestication	Standard NATO/Western military term adopted.
10	新概念武器	xīn gàiniàn wǔqì	new concept weapons	Foreignization	Literal rendering reflecting Chinese doctrinal terminology.

5. Results

5.1 Frequency Distribution of Translation Strategies

Translation Strategy	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Domestication	68	53.12%
Foreignization	39	30.47%
Hybrid	21	16.41%
Total	128	100%

5.2 Graphical Presentation



5.3 Interpretation

- Domestication emerges as the most frequently used strategy, accounting for approximately 53.12% of the corpus. This indicates that the translator often prioritizes readability, accessibility, and fluency for English-speaking audiences.
- Foreignization constitutes nearly 30.47% of the examples, demonstrating a strong tendency to preserve distinctive

Chinese military, political, and strategic discourse characteristics.

- Hybrid strategies account for about 16.41%, showing that in many cases the translator balances doctrinal preservation with target-language readability.

This distribution suggests that the translation of Chapters 7 and 8 of *Science of Military Strategy* adopts a balanced but domestication-leaning approach, while still retaining substantial elements of Chinese strategic and ideological discourse.

6. Discussion

The analysis of translation techniques used in *Science of Military Strategy*'s Chapters 7 and 8 demonstrates the intricate relationship between doctrinal preservation and linguistic adaptation in military translations from Chinese to English. The results show that in order to maintain the ideological and strategic distinctiveness of the original Chinese text, the translator takes a mostly domestication-oriented strategy while also keeping a significant amount of foreignized and hybrid renderings.

The frequency distribution shows that domestication constitutes 53.12% of the corpus, making it the dominant translation strategy. This predominance suggests that the translator prioritizes clarity, readability, and accessibility for English-speaking readers, particularly those from military, academic, or policy-making backgrounds unfamiliar with Chinese linguistic structures and strategic discourse. Domestication is especially evident in the translation of standard military terminology and operational expressions such as “strategic deterrence” (战略威慑), “military exercises” (军事演习), and “special operations” (特种作战). In these cases, the translator employs widely accepted Western military terminology to ensure communicative effectiveness and immediate comprehension. Such choices reduce linguistic and cultural barriers, allowing the target audience to engage more efficiently with the strategic content of the text.

The strong presence of domestication may also reflect the functional nature of military translation itself. Unlike literary translation, military translation prioritizes precision, operational clarity, and strategic intelligibility. Translators often avoid excessive literalism when it risks ambiguity or misunderstanding in target-language military discourse. Expressions such as “一触即发的战争氛围” rendered as “atmosphere of imminent war” and “调整军事部署” translated as “adjustment of military deployment” demonstrate how semantic equivalence and readability are favored over strict lexical fidelity. This tendency aligns with functionalist translation theories, particularly Skopos Theory, which emphasizes that translation strategies should serve the communicative purpose of the target text.

At the same time, foreignization accounts for 30.47% of the corpus, indicating a deliberate effort to preserve culturally and ideologically significant aspects of Chinese military discourse. The translator retains many Chinese strategic concepts, political formulations, and doctrinal expressions that do not possess direct equivalents in English military terminology. Examples such as “谋势” (seeking “potential”), “人民战争威慑” (people’s war deterrence), and “止战慑战” (stop war by deterrence) preserve the distinctive conceptual framework of Chinese strategic thought. These translations maintain the ideological and philosophical dimensions embedded within PLA discourse, thereby allowing English readers to encounter the conceptual uniqueness of Chinese military thinking rather than merely its functional meaning.

The use of foreignization is particularly significant in the context of strategic and political terminology associated with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and PLA doctrine. Terms such as “集中统一领导” (centralized and unified leadership), “舆论法理斗争” (legal and public opinion struggle), and “法律武器” (legal weapons) retain their original ideological character through relatively literal translation. Such renderings reflect an attempt to preserve the political discourse embedded within Chinese military texts, even when the resulting English expressions appear less natural or rhetorically unusual. This preservation is important because many

PLA concepts are deeply rooted in Chinese political culture, Marxist-Leninist terminology, and traditional strategic philosophy. Excessive domestication of such terms could dilute or distort their original strategic implications.

Hybrid translation strategies constitute 16.41% of the corpus and represent a mediating approach between domestication and foreignization. Hybridization occurs when translators simultaneously preserve key Chinese conceptual elements while adapting the syntax or terminology into readable English forms. Examples such as “electromagnetic momentum” (电磁造势), “all-round deterrence posture” (全方位的威慑态势), and “information deterrence” (信息威慑) illustrate this balancing strategy. In these cases, the translator preserves distinctive PLA doctrinal concepts while using recognizable English military vocabulary to maintain accessibility.

The presence of hybrid strategies is particularly important because it demonstrates the translator’s awareness of the dual challenge inherent in military translation: preserving doctrinal authenticity while ensuring target-language intelligibility. Chinese military discourse frequently combines ideological rhetoric, classical strategic concepts, and technical military terminology within a single expression. Pure domestication risks erasing Chinese strategic characteristics, whereas excessive foreignization may hinder comprehension for English readers. Hybrid strategies therefore emerge as an effective compromise that maintains conceptual fidelity without sacrificing readability.

The overall distribution of strategies suggests that the translation adopts a balanced but domestication-leaning orientation. This balance reflects the broader communicative objectives of translating Chinese military texts for international audiences. Since the target readership likely includes foreign analysts, scholars, policymakers, and defense professionals, the translator must ensure that operational and strategic concepts remain understandable within the conventions of English military discourse. However, because the source text originates from a distinct ideological and strategic tradition, preserving Chinese conceptual features is equally important for accurate interpretation.

The findings of this study also highlight the broader role of translation in shaping international perceptions of Chinese military thought. Translation is not merely a linguistic process but also an interpretive and geopolitical act. The choice between domestication and foreignization can influence how foreign audiences understand PLA doctrine, strategic intentions, and political ideology. A domesticated translation may make Chinese strategy appear more compatible with Western military frameworks, whereas foreignized renderings emphasize its distinctiveness and indigenous intellectual foundations. Thus, translation strategies play a significant role in cross-cultural military knowledge production and strategic interpretation.

Furthermore, the study demonstrates that Chinese-to-English military translation requires not only bilingual competence but also specialized knowledge of military affairs, strategic studies, and political discourse. Many Chinese military expressions contain layered meanings derived from historical experience, strategic culture, and CCP ideology. Translators must therefore negotiate between linguistic accuracy, doctrinal precision, and audience comprehension. The frequent use of hybrid strategies in the corpus indicates that successful military translation often depends on this multidimensional interpretive process.

Overall, the analysis reveals that the translation of *Science of Military Strategy* employs a nuanced combination of domestication, foreignization, and hybridization to convey complex Chinese military concepts to English-speaking audiences. While domestication remains dominant due to the functional requirements of military communication, the substantial use of foreignization and hybrid strategies ensures that important elements of Chinese strategic culture and doctrinal identity are retained. This balanced approach enhances both the readability and the analytical value of the translated text, making it accessible while preserving its original strategic character.

This study is limited by its reliance on a small set of representative parallel texts and a largely qualitative analytical approach, which restricts broader generalization and quantitative validation. Future research could expand this work through corpus-

based analyses of large Chinese–English military translation datasets, experimental studies on how translation strategies affect analytical judgments, and comparative research across other military language pairs. Such approaches would enhance understanding of translation as an analytical variable and strengthen methodological rigor in OSINT and defense studies.

7. Conclusion

Military translation occupies a unique and strategically significant position at the intersection of language, security, and national defense. As modern warfare and military competition increasingly extend into cognitive, informational, and discursive domains, the role of translation has expanded beyond linguistic transfer to encompass strategic interpretation, knowledge mediation, and analytical support. The quality of military translation directly affects the accuracy of intelligence assessments, the effectiveness of military diplomacy, and the credibility of international military communication.

Chinese-to-English military translation uses both macro-level strategies and micro-level techniques to balance doctrinal accuracy with readability. The major strategies are domestication, foreignization, and hybrid translation. Functional theories such as Skopos Theory, dynamic equivalence, and 信-达-雅 (Xin-Da-Ya) guide translators according to purpose and audience. Common techniques include literal translation, paraphrasing, explicitation, modulation, transliteration, and annotation. Because Chinese military discourse is highly compressed and implicit, translators often clarify logical relations while preserving strategic ambiguity and doctrinal nuance.

This study examined the translation strategies and techniques employed in the Chinese-to-English translation of Chapters 7 and 8 of *Science of Military Strategy* through a corpus-based qualitative and quantitative analysis. The findings reveal that domestication is the dominant strategy, accounting for 53.12% of the corpus, indicating a clear tendency toward improving readability, fluency, and accessibility for English-speaking audiences. The frequent use

of standardized Western military terminology demonstrates the translator's effort to align PLA strategic discourse with internationally recognizable military vocabulary.

At the same time, the substantial presence of foreignization (30.47%) reflects the importance of preserving uniquely Chinese military, political, and ideological concepts such as *shi* (势), people's war (人民战争), and new concept weapons (新概念武器). These terms embody distinctive characteristics of Chinese strategic culture and cannot always be fully naturalized without loss of meaning. The use of hybrid strategies (16.41%) further demonstrates that military translation often requires a balance between doctrinal accuracy and target-language comprehensibility.

The study highlights that Chinese military translation is not merely a linguistic activity but also a strategic and cultural process involving ideological interpretation, doctrinal adaptation, and cross-cultural communication. Translators must navigate complex challenges arising from strategic ambiguity, political discourse, rhetorical compression, and culturally embedded military concepts. Therefore, effective Chinese-to-English military translation requires not only linguistic competence but also deep knowledge of PLA doctrine, strategic studies, political discourse, and military terminology.

Overall, this research contributes to the growing field of Chinese-English military translation studies by providing empirical evidence on the practical application of domestication, foreignization, and hybrid strategies in PLA discourse translation. The study also offers insights for translators, defense analysts, scholars, and policymakers engaged in interpreting contemporary Chinese military writings. Future research may expand the corpus to include additional PLA doctrinal texts, intelligentized warfare studies, cognitive warfare literature, and emerging Chinese military-technological discourse to further examine evolving translation patterns in modern Chinese strategic communication.

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Appendix

Analysis of the English Translation of Chapters 7 & 8 of Science of Military Strategy (2020)

Analysis of Chapter 7

No.	Chinese Text	Pinyin	Official English Translation	Translation Strategy	Analytical Notes
1	第一时间反应	dì yī shíjiān fǎnyìng	First response time	Domestication	Uses familiar crisis-management terminology instead of literal rendering “the very first moment.”
2	力求趋利避害	lìqiú qūlì bìhài	striving to seek advantages while avoiding disadvantages	Domestication	Expands compact Chinese idiom into explanatory English prose.
3	危中谋机	wēi zhōng móu jī	seeking opportunities in danger	Foreignization	Retains Chinese strategic pairing of danger and opportunity.
4	始终掌握战略主动权	shǐzhōng zhǎngwò zhànlüè zhǔdòngquán	always grasping the strategic initiative	Foreignization	Preserves PLA doctrinal language and strategic rhetoric.
5	保持多渠道、多层次、多方式联系	bǎochí duō qú dào, duō céng cì, duō fāng shì lián xì	maintain multi-channel, multi-level, and multi-method contacts	Domestication	Chinese parallel structure adapted into smoother English administrative style.
6	防止误读误判	fǎngzhǐ wù dú wù pàn	prevent misreading or misjudgments	Domestication	Natural English diplomatic-security

No.	Chinese Text	Pinyin	Official English Translation	Translation Strategy	Analytical Notes
					phrasing replaces literal repetition.
7	可官民并举	keguān mín bīngǔ	Both officials and citizens can be used	Foreignization	Retains Chinese governance-oriented institutional framing.
8	第二轨道沟通	dì èr guǐdào gōutōng	track two dialogue	Foreignization	Preserves institutional diplomatic terminology from strategic discourse.
9	把握沟通的艺术	bǎwò gōutōng de yìshù	understand the art of communication	Hybrid	Literal metaphor retained while rendered fluently in English.
10	隐蔽意图	yǐnbì yìtú	concealed intentions	Foreignization	Reflects strategic vocabulary common in PLA operational thinking.
11	信息和盘托出	Xìnxī hé pán tuō chū	careless disclosure of all information	Domestication	Chinese idiom paraphrased into explanatory English.
12	争取国内国际支持	zhēngqǔ guónèi guójì zhīchí	Strive for domestic and international support	Domestication	Uses conventional international-relations terminology.
13	抢占国际道义的制高点	qiǎngzhàn guójì dàoyì de zhìgāodiǎn	seizing the commanding heights of international morality	Hybrid	Military metaphor preserved while adapted into familiar English political

No.	Chinese Text	Pinyin	Official English Translation	Translation Strategy	Analytical Notes
					rhetoric.
14	争取国际舆论	zhēngqǔ guójì yúlùn	winning international public opinion	Domestication	Uses standard English diplomatic expression instead of literal rendering.
15	孤立和打击对手	gūlì hé dǎjī duìshǒu	isolating and striking down opponents	Foreignization	Maintains direct confrontational strategic rhetoric.
16	别人说不如自己说	biérén shuō bùrú zìjǐ shuō	others explaining it is worse than explaining it myself	Domestication	Chinese rhetorical repetition converted into readable English prose.
17	不给敌对势力和别有用心者炒作、误导的空间	bù gěi díduì shìlì hé bié yǒu yòngxīn zhě chǎozuò, wùdǎo de kōngjiān	Do not give hostile forces and people with ulterior motives room for hype or misinformation	Foreignization	Retains ideological-political rhetoric characteristic of PRC discourse.
18	寻求行动合法性	xúnqiú xíngdòng héfǎxìng	Seek the legitimacy of action	Domestication	Uses familiar legal-political terminology in English.
19	不留后患	bù liú hòuhuàn	does not leave behind future troubles	Domestication	Idiomatic Chinese phrase expanded for clarity.
20	在法律上授人以柄	Zài fǎlǜ shàng shòu rén yǐ bǐng	grant others legal cause of action	Domestication	Chinese idiom adapted into legalistic English explanation.
21	国家利益高于	guójiā lìyì gāoyú yíqiè	national interests are above all	Foreignization	Preserves ideological

No.	Chinese Text	Pinyin	Official English Translation	Translation Strategy	Analytical Notes
	一切		else		emphasis and absolutist political tone.
22	一把“双刃剑”	yì bǎ shuāng rèn jiàn	a “double-edged sword”	Hybrid	Literal metaphor naturally exists in English.
23	恰当运用军事力量	qiàdàng yùnyòng jūnshì lìliàng	Appropriate use of military power	Domestication	Uses familiar military-strategic terminology.
24	军事危机处置说到底 是实力与心理的较量	jūnshì wēijī chǔzhì shuō dàodǐ shì shí lì yǔ xīnlǐ de jiàoliàng	military crisis handling is a contest between strength and psychology	Foreignization	Preserves Chinese philosophical framing of strategic competition.
25	以小战止大战	yǐ xiǎo zhàn zhǐ dà zhàn	stop a war with a small battle	Foreignization	Literal preservation of strategic logic and rhetorical compactness.
26	不能唱独角戏	bùnéng chàng dújiǎoxì	cannot sing a one-man show	Foreignization	Retains Chinese theatrical metaphor directly.
27	周边环境	zhōubīān ānquán huánjìng	surrounding security environment	Foreignization	Reflects Chinese geopolitical framing of 周边.
28	对手的国情、社情、军情、民情	Duìshǒu de guóqíng, shèqíng, jūnqíng, mínqíng	conditions of the opponent's nation, its society, its military, and its populace;	Domestication	Expands concise Chinese parallel political terminology into explanatory English.
29	善于拨开迷雾，看清	shànyú bōkāi míwù, kànqīng dàjú	adept at removing the fog, seeing the	Hybrid	Metaphorical imagery retained while

No.	Chinese Text	Pinyin	Official English Translation	Translation Strategy	Analytical Notes
	大局		overall situation		rendered fluently in English.
30	防止主观臆断	fǎngzhǐ zhǔguān yìduàn	prevent subjective assumptions	Domestication	Uses natural English analytical terminology.
31	圆满全胜的理想境界	yuánmǎn quánshèng de lǐxiǎng jìngjiè	the ideal state of complete victory	Domestication	Chinese philosophical phrasing simplified into conventional English.
32	目标定位要清晰	mùbiāo dìngwèi yào qīngxī	determination of the objective must be clear	Domestication	Uses standard strategic-planning vocabulary.
33	留下衔接误差	liúxià xiánjiē wùchā	leaving errors of cohesion	Foreignization	Closely follows Chinese bureaucratic phrasing.
34	资源配置	zīyuán pèizhì	resource allocation	Domestication	Conventional management terminology in English.
35	军地协调机制	jūn dì xiétiáo jīzhì	military-to-local coordination mechanism	Foreignization	Retains Chinese institutional structure instead of “civil-military coordination.”
36	新建、依托、组合、改造	xīnjiàn, yītuō, zùhé, gǎizào	new construction, support, association, and transformation	Foreignization	Closely mirrors Chinese organizational terminology.
37	社会安抚	shèhuì ānfǔ	calming society	Foreignization	Preserves governance-centered Chinese

No.	Chinese Text	Pinyin	Official English Translation	Translation Strategy	Analytical Notes
					political vocabulary.
38	实施和调整方案	shíshī hé tiáozhěng fāng'àn	Implementing and adjusting the plan	Domestication	Uses standard English policy-management phrasing.
39	来势汹汹的危机态势	Láishì xiōngxiōng de wéijī tàishì	menacing crisis situation	Domestication	Chinese idiom paraphrased into readable English.
40	瞬息万变	shùnxī wànbiàn	rapidly-changing	Domestication	Idiomatic Chinese expression simplified into concise English adjective.
41	暗流涌动	ànliú yǒngdòng	undercurrent surging behind the surface calm	Foreignization	Preserves metaphorical imagery and strategic tone.
42	讨价还价进行利益交换	tǎojià huánjià jìnxíng lìyì jiāohuàn	bargain and exchange benefits	Domestication	Adapted into standard negotiation terminology.
43	不拘一格	bùjū yīgé	flexibly and adaptably	Domestication	Chinese idiom rendered through explanatory prose.
44	妥协的艺术	tuǒxié de yìshù	the art of compromise	Hybrid	Literal metaphor retained in idiomatic English.
45	激烈博弈	jīliè bóyì	intense game	Foreignization	Retains game-theory style strategic rhetoric from Chinese discourse.

No.	Chinese Text	Pinyin	Official English Translation	Translation Strategy	Analytical Notes
46	危中搏机	wēi zhōng bó jī	capturing opportunities from danger	Foreignization	Preserves Chinese strategic-philosophical formulation.
47	害中取利	hài zhōng qǔ lì	making profits from harm	Foreignization	Literal rendering preserves rhetorical symmetry.
48	遏止危机	èzhǐ wēijī	Stopping the crisis	Domestication	Translation prioritizes readability over literal “contain crisis.”
49	给危机处置留有更大的回旋余地	gěi wēijī chǔzhì liúyǒu gèng dà de huíxuán yúdì	leave more room for maneuvering	Domestication	Uses familiar strategic expression in English.
50	将其限制在原发领域	jiāng qí xiànzhì zài yuánfā lǐngyù	limiting it to its original domain	Foreignization	Preserves Chinese systems-oriented vocabulary.
51	外溢到其他领域	wàiyì dào qítā lǐngyù	spillover into other domains	Hybrid	Chinese policy term rendered through accepted IR terminology.
52	武器禁运、经济制裁、军事封锁、最后通牒	wǔqì jìnyùn, jīngjì zhìcái, jūnshì fēngsuǒ, zuìhòu tōngdié	arms embargoes, economic sanctions, military blockades, or ultimatums	Domestication	Uses internationally standardized diplomatic-security terminology.
53	把对手逼入墙	bǎ duìshǒu bīrù qiángjiǎo	pushing opponents into a	Hybrid	Preserves metaphor that

No.	Chinese Text	Pinyin	Official English Translation	Translation Strategy	Analytical Notes
	角		corner		also exists naturally in English.
54	得不偿失	dé bù cháng shī	would not pay off	Domestication	Chinese idiom simplified into natural English evaluative phrase.
55	上一次取胜的硕果往往就是下一次冲突的祸根	shàng yīcì qǔshèng de shuòguǒ wǎngwǎng jiùshì xià yīcì chōngtū de huògēn	the fruit of the last victory often becoming the root of the next conflict	Foreignization	Strong preservation of Chinese rhetorical parallelism and metaphorical structure.
56	因势利导	yīnshì lìdǎo	making good use of the situation	Domestication	Chinese strategic idiom adapted into explanatory English.
57	顺势而为	shùnrshì ér wéi	taking advantage of the situation	Domestication	Rendered into conventional strategic English phrasing.
58	转危为机	zhuǎn wēi wéi jī	turn crises into opportunities	Foreignization	Preserves core Chinese strategic-philosophical concept.
59	化害为利	huà hài wéi lì	turn harm into gains	Foreignization	Literal preservation of rhetorical structure.
60	使坏事变好事	shǐ huàishì biàn hǎoshì	turn bad things into good things	Domestication	Simplified colloquial English prioritizes readability.
61	危中取	wēi zhōng qǔ	Taking	Hybrid	Chinese idiom

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	利	lì	advantage of the crisis		partially adapted into strategic English explanation.
62	借机谋利	jièjī móulì	take the opportunity to make a profit	Domestication	Uses conventional English strategic-economic terminology.
63	转移压力	zhuǎnyí yālì	shift pressure	Domestication	Natural English political terminology replaces literal rendering.
64	凝聚国内民心士气	níngjù guónèi mínxīn shìqì	buoy the morale of the domestic populace	Domestication	Chinese political expression paraphrased into fluent English.
65	搁置危机	gēzhì wēijī	Shelving the crisis	Hybrid	Literal metaphor retained while still understandable in English diplomacy.
66	冷搁置	lěng gēzhì	cold shelving	Foreignization	Direct translation preserves Chinese strategic terminology.
67	热搁置	rè gēzhì	hot shelving	Foreignization	Literal rendering preserves conceptual symmetry from source text.
68	核心利益	héxīn lìyì	core interests	Foreignization	Direct preservation of

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					major PRC strategic-policy terminology.

Analysis of Chapter 8

Ser. No.	Chinese Text	Pinyin	Official English Translation	Translation Strategy	Analytical notes
1	战略威慑	zhànlüè wēishè	Strategic deterrence	Domestication	Uses established Western strategic studies terminology familiar to English readers.
2	谋”势”	móu “shì”	seeking “potential”	Hybrid	Retains the Chinese strategic-philosophical concept of 势 (<i>shi</i>), only partially naturalized.
3	营造战争气氛	yíngzào zhànzhēng qìfēn	Create an atmosphere of war	Domestication	Natural English military phrasing replacing literal “construct war atmosphere.”
4	一触即发的战争氛围	yīchùjífā de zhànzhēng fēnwéi	atmosphere of imminent war	Domestication	Idiomatic rendering for readability.
5	舆论战、心理战、法律战	yúlùn zhàn, xīnlǐ zhàn, fǎlǜ zhàn	public opinion, psychological and legal wars	Hybrid	Preserves Chinese “Three Warfares” conceptual structure literally with fluency.
6	人民防空	rénmín fángkōng	people’s air defense	Foreignization	Retains socialist-political flavor of “people’s.”

Ser. No.	Chinese Text	Pinyin	Official English Translation	Translation Strategy	Analytical notes
7	保交护路	bǎo jiāo hù lù	road protection	Domestication	Functional interpretation rather than literal wording.
8	展示先进武器	zhǎnshì xiānjìn wǔqì	Display of advanced weapons	Domestication	Smooth military English equivalent.
9	精确制导武器	jīngquè zhìdǎo wǔqì	precision-guided weapons	Domestication	Standard NATO/Western military term adopted.
10	新概念武器	xīn gàiniàn wǔqì	new concept weapons	Foreignization	Literal rendering reflecting Chinese doctrinal terminology.
11	阅兵	yuèbīng	military parade	Domestication	Culturally adapted standard English term.
12	先进的防御和反击手段	Xiānjìn de fáng yu hé fǎnjī shǒuduàn	advanced means of defense and counterattack	Domestication	Readable paraphrastic rendering.
13	若明若暗的模糊性处理	ruòmíng ruò'àn de móhú xìng chǔlǐ	conducted behind the scenes	Hybrid	The metaphorical ambiguity of the Chinese is reduced into fluent English,
14	给对方留下揣度、想象的空间	Gěi duìfāng liú xià chuāiduò, xiǎngxiàng de kōngjiān	leaving the opponent to speculate	Domestication	Dynamic equivalence emphasizing meaning rather than wording.
15	举行军事演习	jǔxíng jūnshì yǎnxí	Conduct military exercises	Domestication	Conventional military English phrase.
16	战略战役演习	zhànlüè zhànyì yǎnxí	strategic operational exercises	Hybrid	PLA strategic term adjusted into accepted English operational

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					terminology.
17	战术演习	zhànshù yǎnxí	tactical exercises	Domestication	Standard military expression.
18	密切外交关系	mìqiè wàijiāo guānxì	close diplomatic relations	Domestication	Natural English diplomatic phrase.
19	借机适时转入实际作战行动	jiè jī shíshí zhuǎn rù shíjī zuòzhàn xíngdòng	taking the opportunity to move into actual combat operations	Domestication	Functional interpretation replacing dense Chinese syntax.
20	调整军事部署	tiáozhěng jūnshì bùshǔ	Adjustment of military deployment	Domestication	Conventional strategic English terminology.
21	战役战术导弹	zhànyì zhànshù dǎodàn	battlefield tactical missiles	Hybrid	Uses familiar Western missile terminology (“tactical missiles”) while still reflecting PLA operational categorization.
22	战略展开	zhànlüè zhǎnkāi	strategic deployment	Domestication	Established military term.
23	战役展开	zhànyì zhǎnkāi	battlefield deployment	Domestication	Readable adaptation of PLA operational term.
24	陆基、海基或空基战略核武器	lù jī, hǎi jī huò kōng jī zhànlüè héwǔqì	land-based, sea-based, or air-based strategic nuclear weapons	Domestication	Uses accepted strategic triad terminology.
25	提升战备等级	tíshēng zhànbèi dēngjí	Improve the combat readiness level	Domestication	Standard military phrasing.
26	国防教育热潮	guófáng jiàoyù rècháo	national defense education	Domestication	Omits rhetorical “surge/craze” for fluency.

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27	不惜一战	bùxī yī zhàn	not hesitate to fight	Domestication	Idiomatic reduction of strong political rhetoric.
28	实施信息攻击	shíshī xīnxi gōngjí	Implement information attacks	Hybrid	Literal rendering reflecting PLA doctrinal discourse, also naturalizes the syntax into English.
29	电磁造势	diàncí zàoshì	electromagnetic momentum	Hybrid	Retains unusual Chinese conceptual metaphor, also fluency in English.
30	佯动	yáng dòng	feints	Domestication	Standard military equivalent.
31	大兵压境情势	dàbīng yājìng qíngshì	military pressure	Domestication	Functional paraphrase rather than literal “troops pressing border.”
32	网络战力量	wǎngluò zhàn lìliàng	cyber warfare forces	Domestication	Accepted English cyber warfare terminology.
33	限制性军事行动	xiànzhì xìng jūnshì xíngdòng	Restrictive military operations	Foreignization	Close literal translation preserving Chinese doctrinal structure.
34	禁飞区（禁航区）	jìn fēi qū (jìn háng qū)	no-fly zones (no-navigation zones)	Domestication	Standard international security terminology.
35	压迫式的抵近侦察	yāpò shì de dī jìn zhēnchá	oppressive close-in reconnaissance	Hybrid	Oppressive preserves Chinese rhetorical intensity while close-in reconnaissance given in En terminology
36	兵力压境	bīnglì yājìng	Forces are under pressure	Domestication	Meaning-based rendering replacing

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					vivid military metaphor.
37	警示性 军事打击	jǐngshì xìng jūnshì dǎjī	Cautionary military strike	Hybrid	Literal doctrinal translation retaining Chinese strategic nuance.
38	震慑效果明显	zhèshè xiàoguǒ míngxiǎn	clear deterrent effect	Domestication	Smooth English strategic phrasing.
39	特种作战	tèzhǒng zuòzhàn	special operations	Domestication	Standard NATO/US military term.
40	小战方式	xiǎo zhàn fāngshì	small battles	Foreignization	Literal rendering of Chinese strategic phraseology.
41	综合优势	zònghé yōushì	comprehensive advantages	Foreignization	Preserves collectivist/systemic Chinese strategic discourse.
42	综合性斗争	zònghé xìng dòuzhēng	comprehensive struggle	Foreignization	Literal ideological wording retained.
43	集中统一领导	jízōng tǒngyī lǐngdǎo	centralized and unified leadership	Foreignization	Preserves CCP political discourse directly.
44	全方位的威慑态势	quán fāngwèi de wēishè tàishì	all-round deterrence posture	Hybrid	“Deterrence posture” is English strategic terminology, while “all-round” mirrors Chinese holistic strategic rhetoric.
45	舆论法律斗争	yúlùn fǎlǐ dòuzhēng	legal and public opinion struggle	Foreignization	Retains CCP political warfare terminology.
46	法律武器	fǎlǚ wǔqì	legal weapons	Foreignization	Literal ideological metaphor retained.
47	战略环境	zhànlüè huánjìng	strategic environment	Domestication	Widely accepted IR terminology.

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48	人民战争威慑	rénmín zhànzhēng wēishè	people's war deterrence	Foreignization	Preserves Maoist ideological terminology.
49	信息威慑	xìnxī wēishè	information deterrence	Hybrid	Literal doctrinal translation with PLA specific term.
50	空间威慑	kōngjiān wēishè	spatial deterrence	Hybrid	"Deterrence" is domesticated, but "spatial" preserves Chinese doctrinal wording.
51	综合慑敌效果	zònghé shè dí xiàoguǒ	Effects of comprehensive deterrence	Domestication	Simplified into natural English strategic terminology.
52	平时威慑	píngshí wēishè	peacetime deterrence	Domestication	Standard strategic studies term.
53	战时威慑	zhàn shí wēishè	wartime deterrence	Domestication	Conventional military expression.
54	战略权衡、比较、选择和试探	zhànlüè quánhéng, bǐjiào, xuǎnzé hé shìtàn	strategic trade-offs, comparisons, choices and tests	Domestication	Reorganized into readable English sequence.
55	尚未定下最后决心	shàngwèi dìng xià zuìhòu juéxīn	not yet set the final decision	Foreignization	Slightly literal syntactic structure retained.
56	动摇、犹豫而无法付诸实施	dòngyáo, yóuyóu ér wúfǎ fù zhū shíshī	falter and hesitate and fail to implement it	Domestication	Naturalized explanatory rendering.
57	威慑态势	wēishè tàishì	deterrence posture	Domestication	Standard strategic terminology.
58	战略预置力量	zhànlüè yù zhì lìliàng	strategic prepositioned forces	Domestication	Accepted operational phraseology.

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59	应急机 动作战 力量	yìngjí jīdòng zuòzhàn lìliàng	emergency mobile combat forces	Domestication	Readable military equivalent.
60	止战慑 战	zhǐ zhàn shè zhàn	stop war by deterrence	Foreignization	Retains concise Chinese strategic slogan-like structure.

About the Author

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