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TERMINOLOGY IN CHINESE MILITARY TECHNICAL TERMS: AN ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

The study of military technical terms in Chinese is essential for understanding the linguistic and semantic frameworks that underpin military communication and documentation in China. This paper aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the terminology used in Chinese military technical contexts, exploring its historical development, linguistic characteristics, and the challenges associated with translation and interpretation. Through a detailed examination of specific terms and their applications, this study highlights the complexities and nuances of Chinese military terminology, offering insights for linguists, translators, and military professionals.

KEYWORDS

Chinese military terminology, Military technical terms, Translation challenges, Linguistic characteristics, Logographic, complexity, Conciseness, Compound words, Semantic ambiguity, Cultural nuances.

INTRODUCTION

Military technical terms are a crucial aspect of any military language, providing precision and clarity in communication. In the context of the Chinese military, these terms are deeply rooted in the country's linguistic, cultural, and historical traditions.

Understanding Chinese military technical terminology requires an appreciation of the unique characteristics of the Chinese language, including its logographic writing system, tonal variations, and rich historical context.

Historical Development

The evolution of Chinese military technical terms can be traced back to ancient military treatises such as Sun Tzu's "The Art of War" (孙子兵法) and the various military strategies documented throughout Chinese history. Over time, these terms have evolved to incorporate modern technological advancements and contemporary military strategies. The influence of foreign military technologies and the need for interoperability with international forces have also played a significant role in shaping the current terminology.

Linguistic Characteristics

Chinese military technical terms exhibit several distinct linguistic features:

1. **Logographic Complexity:** The Chinese writing system uses characters that often combine semantic and phonetic components, making the terms visually complex and rich in meaning.
2. **Conciseness:** Military terms in Chinese tend to be concise, often comprising two or three characters. This brevity is essential for efficient communication in military operations.
3. **Tonal Variations:** The tonal nature of the Chinese language means that the same syllable can have different meanings depending on its tone. This characteristic necessitates precise

pronunciation in spoken military communication to avoid misunderstandings.

4. **Compound Words:** Many Chinese military terms are compound words, formed by combining two or more characters to create a specific meaning. For example, the term for radar (雷达) combines the characters for "thunder" (雷) and "reach" or "arrive" (达).

Challenges in Translation and Interpretation

Translating Chinese military technical terms into other languages, particularly English, poses several challenges:

1. **Semantic Ambiguity:** The multifaceted meanings of Chinese characters can lead to ambiguity in translation. A single character may have multiple interpretations based on context, making it challenging to convey the exact meaning in another language.
2. **Cultural Nuances:** Chinese military terminology is often imbued with cultural and historical references that may not have direct equivalents in other languages. Translators must have a deep understanding of Chinese culture and history to accurately convey these nuances.
3. **Technical Specificity:** Military terms are highly specific and require precise translation to maintain their technical accuracy. This

precision is crucial for ensuring interoperability and effective communication between Chinese and foreign military forces.

4. **Evolving Terminology:** As military technology and strategies continue to evolve, so does the terminology. Keeping up with these changes requires continuous learning and adaptation by translators and military professionals.

Case Studies

To illustrate the complexities of Chinese military technical terminology, this paper examines several specific terms and their translations:

1. **战略导弹 (Strategic Missile):** This term combines "strategy" (战略) with "missile" (导弹), indicating a missile used for strategic purposes. The translation must convey both the military and strategic implications of the term.
2. **信息战 (Information Warfare):** Comprising "information" (信息) and "war" (战), this term refers to warfare conducted through information technology and cyber operations. Translators must ensure that the technological and tactical aspects are accurately represented.

3. **电子战 (Electronic Warfare):** Combining "electronic" (电子) and "war" (战), this term denotes warfare conducted using electronic means. The translation must capture the technical nature of electronic warfare.

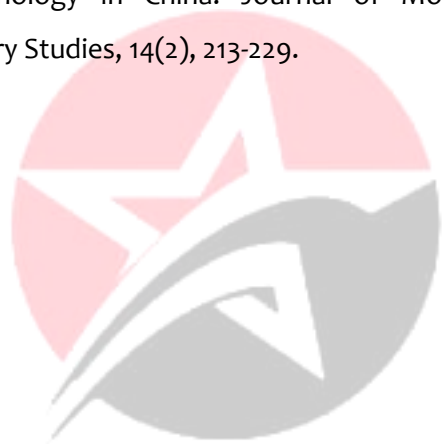
CONCLUSION

The terminology used in Chinese military technical contexts is a vital component of the broader military language, reflecting the unique linguistic, cultural, and historical dimensions of China. Understanding these terms requires a multidisciplinary approach, encompassing linguistics, history, technology, and cultural studies. As China continues to play a significant role in global military affairs, the accurate translation and interpretation of its military technical terms will be increasingly important for fostering international cooperation and enhancing mutual understanding. Future research should focus on the ongoing evolution of these terms and the development of standardized translation practices to facilitate clearer and more effective communication between Chinese and international military forces.

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