

# Research on the Characteristics of China's Foreign Energy Discourse

Chu Yan<sup>1</sup>, Liu Dongyu<sup>1\*</sup>, Qin Yuxuan<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup>English Department, Foreign Language School, North China Electric Power University, Baoding, Hebei, ChinaDOI: [10.36348/sijll.2022.v05i04.005](https://doi.org/10.36348/sijll.2022.v05i04.005)

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\*Corresponding author: Liu Dongyu

English Department, Foreign Language School, North China Electric Power University, Baoding, Hebei, China

## Abstract

This article focuses on the research of the characteristics of foreign energy discourse from the perspective of "One Belt One Road". Combined with the current international economic background, the international energy cooperation language discourse and activities relevant documents reading are carried out through a horizontal and vertical comparative analysis. It is mainly about the language itself to analyze energy discourse development, existing problems and improvement measures. From the case analysis of scientific knowledge competition and discourse construction in the international energy field, it can be seen that adding the scientific and technological discourse perspective to study energy transition is conducive to a deeper understanding of the future energy strategic pattern and direction. It is also advantageous to the huge driving force contained in energy transition to promote China's development and international system change. It requires us to consider the international background work understanding and the language plan itself. We are supposed to analyze the current political hotspots reasonably such as the situation in Russia, Ukraine and related energy development strategies, and conduct in-depth exploration of energy academic discourse studies socially and contemporarily. Besides, it is significant to highlight the times development theme to promote global energy governance.

**Key words:** One Belt One Road; foreign energy discourse; language features.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Combining the background of current international energy economic cooperation and analysis of current affairs hotspots, this article introduces the Chinese voice of energy discourse and external energy discourse from the perspective of "One Belt One Road". It is effective to use Corpus of Contemporary American English to ensure the energy academic discourse analysis. The research discusses China's foreign energy academic discourse characteristics, and the prospective study of external energy academic discourse, as well as national energy foreign discourse system construction value.

## 2. Background of current international energy cooperation

The economic foundation determines the superstructure, and energy is an important part of the economy, which is related to the national economy and people's livelihood, national security, and the survival and development of human beings. It is the foundation and driving force for the progress of human civilization. The importance of promoting economic and social development and improving people's well-being is self-evident.

Throughout history, two energy crises led to economic recession in developed countries in the West, the outbreak of the oil crisis hit the world economy hard, and international public opinion began to pay attention to the issue of the world energy crisis; many Western countries exploited oil resources to meet their vested interests, resulting in frequent wars in the Middle East; Russia political conflict in Ukraine has made the international situation tense, and the United States and Europe have imposed a new round of sanctions on Russia, causing international oil and gas prices to rise; the instability and uncertainty of the international situation are prominently manifested in the energy sector, and the normalization of the new crown epidemic has hit hard. The fragile world economy has pushed the oil and gas market into a downturn. Disputes and challenges caused by energy issues continue, and opportunities for mutual benefit and win-win are also lost. In the context of economic globalization, China has actively responded to international energy cooperation, carried out projects such as the "One Belt One Road" initiative, actively built a platform for international energy cooperation and exchanges, and maintained a global free trade system and an open world economy in energy development. The National

Natural Science Foundation of China has funded the "One Belt One Road" related cooperation and supported the scientific research exchanges of young scholars at home and abroad; the construction of the China-Russia eastern natural gas pipeline is progressing smoothly; China has invested 3.5 billion US dollars to build the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the Karachi Project.

In recent years, global energy governance has increasingly become a hot topic. In addition to energy itself, global energy governance also involves the development trend of international politics and economy, and is closely related to issues such as environmental protection, fairness and justice. Under the new normal of the global energy economy, in addition to the early establishment of the International Energy Agency, OPEC and other traditional intergovernmental organizations, various countries have successively established energy research institutions such as the U.S. Energy Information Administration, China Petroleum Economics and Technology Research Institute, etc. It provides a series of important services such as evaluation, auditing, forecasting, etc. The development of productivity and the improvement of comprehensive national strength have provided a guarantee for China to play a more important role in the global governance system. As the world's second largest economy, China actively participates in global governance and accelerates the globalization of large-scale energy companies 1. Oil, State Grid and other large energy companies have formulated clear plans for their globalization strategies to enhance the core competitiveness of domestic energy companies. China has contributed innovative governance thinking in the fields of traditional energy and environmental issues to achieve progress in the fields of economy, market, and technology, promote energy transformation, and mobilize innovation capabilities. China, India and other countries have low participation as emerging actors, due to geographical reasons 1. Issues such as resource competition and conflict of interests caused by politics will be resolved in the advancement of global energy governance 1.

### 3. Energy discourse, Chinese voice

The research on the discourse characteristics of the country's external energy discourse from the perspective of the "One Belt One Road" is an integral part of the construction of the national energy discourse system. The organic combination of the application of data information technology and the dissemination of energy academic texts gives full play to the advantages of 3E (English, energy and education). The cultivation of compound talents and the improvement of the national energy discourse status can also promote the English majors to better integrate into the relevant policies of international economic and cultural exchanges and cooperation and the development of energy itself.

Energy English language features mainly include three aspects: formality, logic and rigor, formality represented by nominalization and passive voice, logic represented by coherence of clues, rigor represented by fuzzy expression, all of these have specific performance in the energy academic English text. The following two example sentences are from the Fossil Fuels section of the Encyclopedia Britannica Production Series:

"New methods of using *biomass energy* (nominal), by burning plant matter or producing ethanol and other fuels from crops and agricultural wastes, *were also investigated* (passive voice), and more electric and gasoline-electric hybrid automobiles *were introduced* (passive voice)."

"With burial of the sediment beneath succeeding deposits, bacterial activity ceases, and the organic matter *is transformed into* (passive voice) kerogen, an insoluble product with a complex macromolecular structure 3."

It is not difficult to find that the expression of energy academic English texts is very rigorous and scientific. In addition, the phenomenon of nominalization can also be concluded through the search query of the Corpus of Contemporary American English corpus. Taking combustion (the Chinese interpretation of combustion) as an example, it is not difficult to see that combustion chamber (combustion chamber) is a common energy English noun phrase The use of it can appear more in media reports (see the figure below).

MAG	Ars Technica	🔍	🔍	🔍	lot of intricate plumbing to pump the right mixture of fuel and oxidizer into the <b>combustion chamber</b> . Those propellants can be a pain to
MAG	PopMech	🔍	🔍	🔍	engine: When the piston rises in the cylinder, it compresses fuel in the <b>combustion chamber</b> above it and creates a vacuum that pulls the next
MAG	PopMech	🔍	🔍	🔍	the piston back down, pushing exhaust out and forcing the fuel up into the <b>combustion chamber</b> for the next ignition. THROTTLE TRIGGER LO
FIC	ParisRev	🔍	🔍	🔍	landline? " Blue exhaust blurts from the truck's tailpipe. Oil in the <b>combustion chamber</b> , a bad thing. Sidney had taught her that. " Why did

Fig 1: Word frequency information retrieval in corpus [10]

Followed by logic, however, consequently, in addition and other connectives frequently appear in most energy English texts, so as to ensure the logical level and coherence of the discourse structure; rigor is mainly manifested in modal verbs such as could, might,

should or Fuzzy expressions of adverbs. The following is a brief analysis and demonstration of the energy discourse in China Daily:

"The geographical distribution of these investments reflects a growing focus on emerging markets,

particularly (adverb) countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative. However (The logical turn of the connective list), the track record of these investments in terms of environmental, economic and debt sustainability has at times been called into question.”

“Many of the countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative are roughly (table rigorously) adverb) where China was two decades ago in terms of income per capita, with great potential for rapid growth. If they follow a traditional approach to development with a narrow focus on physical capital accumulation fueled by the extensive use of fossil fuels—polluting first and cleaning up later—the consequences for the whole world would be (fuzzy expression)devastating 4.

The characteristics of energy English discourse mainly include three aspects: formal analysis, content analysis and social situation analysis. Form analysis represented by word frequency and collocation, and content analysis represented by index and structural framework are also included in energy academic English discourse. In terms of formal analysis, taking resource, coal and energy as examples (see the figure below), the query application of the corpus can more clearly and objectively present the application rules of the discourse characteristics of energy English, which is an important reference for scientific and accurate use of energy English vocabulary in the energy English chapter.

1. Resource

CENTER	1402	
MANAGEMENT	1365	
COUNCIL	721	
DEFENSE	657	
USE	449	

Fig-2: The resource of the corpus energy word frequency collocation retrieval [11]

2. Coal

★ MINE	739	83858	0.88	7.71	
★ MINING	619	13032	4.75	10.14	
★ MINES	559	8212	6.81	10.65	
★ MINERS	552	5635	9.80	11.18	
★ PLANTS	544	59591	0.91	7.76	
★ INDUSTRY	512	126054	0.41	6.59	
★ CLEAN	448	81808	0.55	7.02	
★ BURNING	396	29351	1.35	8.32	
★ MINER	370	2365	15.64	11.86	
★ COMPANIES	246	146933	0.17	5.31	

Fig 3: The coal of the corpus energy word frequency collocation retrieval [12]

3. Energy

1	★ RENEWABLE	4793	8275	57.92	10.81	
2	★ EFFICIENCY	2258	21389	10.56	8.35	
3	★ SOURCES	2013	64519	3.12	6.59	
4	★ CLEAN	2009	81808	2.46	6.25	
5	★ SOLAR	1998	37856	5.28	7.35	

Fig 4: The energy of the corpus energy word frequency collocation retrieval [13]

As for the analysis of form, content and social context, the excerpt from The Energy English chapter in China Daily is taken as an example to refine and clarify the above language features of energy English: "The impact of the Russia-Ukraine crisis is heightening concern about global supply chains as Europe's benchmark gas and oil prices continued to rise. Key gas listings on the United Kingdom's trading markets jumped as much as 27 percent and later settled up 5 percent on Monday, reflecting increases across Europe. The crisis has caused oil prices to soar above \$100 a

barrel for the first time in nearly a decade, the Reuters news agency said. This is six times higher than a year ago. The Times newspaper reported that Russian gas supplies (The formality of nominalization) to Europe may be interrupted as (formality, preciseness) a consequence of sanctions against President Vladimir Putin's regime. Russia historically provides around 40 percent of the European Union's natural gas supply and approximately (preciseness) 50 percent of Germany's, noted the Oil price.com news site. An analyst at Goldman Sachs, quoted by The Times, said markets

must reflect "the risk that Russian commodities eventually fall under Western restrictions". A 65-kilometer long Russian military convoy was heading toward the Ukraine capital Kyiv on Tuesday after ceasefire talks between Russia and Ukraine failed to reach a breakthrough, said Reuters. An oil market analyst, quoted by Reuters, said prices could (preciseness) continue to rise. "The fragile situation in Ukraine and financial and energy sanctions(formality)against Russia will keep the energy crisis stoked and oil well above \$100 per barrel in the near-term and even higher if the conflict escalates further," said Louise Dickson, from Rystad Energy. Fossil fuel prices will inevitably impact costs for consumers and businesses, said The Times, which noted that UK households were already bracing for a 54 percent jump in energy bills, to almost 2,000 pounds (\$2,680) a year from April. The paper noted that the UK has no direct pipeline links to Russia, but partly depends on Russian supplies into Europe. It said any disruption to the European supply would increase the continent's demand for liquefied natural gas shipments."

The italics of the above text are the recurring keywords in paragraphs, which are important indexes to indicate the topic content of energy English texts 5.

Behind the linguistic phenomenon of English language discourse features in energy academics is the exploration of the reasons for the comparative analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of energy academic discourses, and it is also an important test of national energy security strategic planning and game thinking in the energy field. The country's policy guidance and emphasis on energy, the international energy academic discourse exchange and technical cooperation capacity ratio, as well as the country's innovation drive and structural adjustment on specific issues such as energy reserves exploitation, will all influence the national energy academic discourse power significant impact.

To study the language and discourse characteristics of the country's foreign energy discourse, it is necessary to fully understand and think about the current situation and future trends of China's energy development. In 1997, the 15th National Congress of the Communist Party of China identified sustainable development as a strategy that must be implemented in China's modernization drive. The development and construction of energy is in line with the development trend of the country and the theme of the times. It adheres to the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and adheres to the work of the central government. Leadership is what the people want. According to the National Energy Administration, the new energy storage will enter the stage of large-scale development from the initial stage of commercialization in 2025, so as to achieve deep integration and development with all aspects of the power system.

From the perspective of recent energy security assessment, vigorously promoting the construction of a modern energy system during the "14th Five-Year Plan" is beneficial to my country's long-term development. Our country ranks first in the world in coal resources and water resources, and ranks 11th in oil resources in the world 5. Solar and wind energy resources are abundant and have great potential for utilization. In 2021, energy consumption will increase by 2.7% and there is still much room for growth. Our country is the world's largest energy consumer. For energy sources such as coal and oil that pollute the environment, the state proposes energy strategic transformation and implements "double control of energy consumption", which not only saves energy use, but also reduces the emission of pollutants and greenhouse gases. Natural gas, as a kind of clean energy, has less pollution to the environment and requires active policy support from the state, so as to speed up the healthy and stable development of the natural gas industry.

The strengthening of China's energy academic discourse power is conducive to the promotion of China's cultural soft power and the special development in the field of energy academic English. It takes the initiative in the comparison of energy innovation and utilization and the development of energy-related industries among countries to drive economic growth. Better performance in exchanges and talks in the energy field.

#### 4. Discourse Features of China's Foreign Energy Discourse

With the continuous enhancement of China's comprehensive national strength, the world economy cycle has also changed from the traditional single cycle of "center-periphery" to a "dual circulation" with China as the pivot point system. Since the 1990s, China's energy reform and development, especially the sustainable energy supply issue in China and its possible impact on the world energy situation, once became a debatable topic in some developed countries 6. In this regard, the country's policy adjustment and emphasis on energy is particularly critical 7. "One Belt One Road" has become a new strategy for China to promote regional cooperation and accelerate economic transformation since Xi Jinping proposed the vision of building the "New Silk Road Economic Belt" and the "21st Century Maritime Silk Road" in 2013 8.

Studying and promoting the project could actively respond to the construction strategic planning, the new era development, the global energy Internet construction, commonalities exploration in diverse energy discourses, cultural innovation, visions and perspectives in the international community field of energy. This research can integrate energy language service resources more systematically and strive to create an energy language services normal system with

Chinese characteristics. In addition, serving energy discourse texts translation is also conducive to the country's training of more high-quality professional translators in the energy field. The academic discourse system could be better used to promote China's development.

It is widely known that language is an objectively existing phenomenon and a conventional symbol system in human society. To realize the energy academic English language itself, it is necessary to adapt to the times development and requirements, explore technological transformation and innovation of energy English language expression application. We are supposed to take Chinese energy discourse as the main body and absorb positive and positive factors in the exchange of energy academic discourse in European and American countries advantages to enrich China's energy academic discourse system.

Apart from macro areas such as national strategies, it is also necessary for Chinese youth to exert subjective initiative to explore in the field of energy academic research. Consequently, we are obliged to promote the transformation of China's energy academic language and energy economic development from traditional to new. Consider the educational role of energy academic discourse and academic exchanges application comprehensively. Focus on the development opportunities and long-term planning of energy academic English. Take the energy utilization's science education and environmental issues into account. Use academic theory to guide practice, compare and analyze the practical application performance pros and cons between energy sources and make optimal trade-offs. Strive to achieve energy economy development practicability are of equal importance.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Energy reserves and utilization efficiency are related to national security and strategic planning. The energy academic discourse development is a vital part of national cultural soft power and a support for the great powers game. The country's external energy discourse research features and national energy discourse system construction should be taken into consideration by foreign language scholars. The energy discourse output conveys value concept and Chinese energy development wisdom plan in the new era. It is

hoped that this article could provide a useful reference for China's energy English development planning .

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